

This year has been a journey of evolution and expansion and brand new ideas. NWA is active in the community and continues to grow. We are exploring an idea for our own gallery, and, if all goes well, plan to open in the New Year. NWA looks forward to another year of exciting art events as we build on this year's successes.

We're very fortunate to have continuing patronage from **The Network Hub** at River Market (the Quay), where we have presented ongoing exhibits with seven different themes: *Touch of Winter*, *Bling! Bling!*, *Abstraction*, *Visual Verse*, *Rainbow*, *Celebrating the River*, *Black & White*, and *Best of NWA*.

Our June—August exhibition *Limitless* at the Anvil Centre was a major success.

Several artists participated in the happy annual **SAPPERTON DAY STREET FESTIVAL** in June, where we shared a tent and tables. We enjoyed the festivities and sales were fairly brisk.

At the annual **NEW WEST CULTURAL CRAWL** in August, NWA joined in with The Network Hub to feature our **Rainbow Show and Sale** and hold a **Rainbow Revel** to help support New West Pride. We were pleased to collaborate with **Renaissance Books** so we could offer a second venue for this year's Crawl. Both events were very successful.

Many NWA artists operate their own studios, which are open to the public. Individually, artists also exhibited at numerous venues around the Lower Mainland. Six artists participated in the **Trinket Market** at Century House's **Seniors Festival**. Several artists were successful exhibitors at **100 Braid Street's IAD** this October.

We eagerly anticipate our **CHRISTMAS POP-UP** at **712C Twelfth Street** from **December 1 to 31**.

Meetings have been held nearly every month, where we share information about NWA exhibits; sign up for NWA shows; announce calls to artists; promote our own work, and connect with other artists.

One needn't be a member to attend any of our meetings; however, membership is a requirement to exhibit in any NWA show. **Annual membership**, which helps cover advertising expenses, venue rentals, supplies, and some exhibition entry fees, **is currently \$25, increasing to \$30 in January 2019**. We have 60 paid-up members.

NWA is very thankful to have such a willing and dedicated executive team working with our president, **Julia Schoennagel**. Special kudos goes to Vice President **Janet Kvammen** for doing her utmost to keep our events front and foremost on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, in the local papers, and wherever else. Janet is also our primary show co-ordinator. Our secretary, **Teresa Morton**, takes our minutes and keeps us on track at our meetings. Our membership director, **Lavana LaBrey**, maintains our membership list and also helps co-ordinate shows. We all thank past treasurer, **Penny Mclvor**, for her service, and welcome **Bruce Greig** as our new tracker of funds and membership dues. In the fall, we said goodbye to **Julie Epp**, our web guru, who, after updating our outdated methods of computer communication, moved into a super new arts position with another city. We welcome techie **Kait DeWolff**, who continues transporting us into the 21st Century. **Eileen Pick** is our friendly ambassador at almost every NWA event. Exhibiting artists volunteer at every show to share the workload and we are appreciative of everyone's efforts.

Vice President Janet Kvammen notes, *"New West Artists foster diversity and inclusiveness in the community, and welcome all artists of every skill level and medium, from beginners to seasoned award winners."*

"It's exciting to belong to this eclectic group of talented artists, bringing our art and creative endeavours into the community of New Westminster in multiple ways, through connection, exhibits, and un-juried shows."

President Julia Schoennagel says, *"Being part of an expanding and thriving arts community is thrilling. The City of New Westminster is truly looking to the future and embracing arts and culture as part of a sustainable, interconnected, and vibrant society."*

In closing, we'd like to invite you to our **Christmas gathering and Best of NWA gala opening**, which will be held jointly with RCLAS (The Royal City Literary Arts Society) on **Saturday, December 8 from 3 to 6 p.m. at The Network Hub**. We'll be sharing potluck finger foods, interesting conversation, good company, and lots of laughs. Hope to see you there!

As always, we are most especially grateful for the continued support of the Arts Council of New Westminster.

Julia Schoennagel
NWA President
October 2018