

2008 AGM: Arts in Education Council of BC Report of the Co-Chair

1. The Arts in Education Council of BC continues to focus on advocating for the arts in education while collaborating with ArtStarts, an organization that is doing a symbiotic job in bringing artists to schools to work with teachers. Our joint ventures have broadened and deepened our mutual goal – the advocacy of the arts in education in BC. We are proud of our association with ArtStarts and grateful for their sharing their facility with us for our meetings.
2. This year we have succeeded in working closely with Harriet Fancott of ArtStarts to set up our own web site. The change will greatly enhance our ability to communicate with art educators of BC as well as to provide a site for current and past arts in education articles and resources, including videos of notable arts in education speakers.
3. Our funding of the Penny Milton video in conjunction with the ArtStarts 2007 Showcase and our financial support of Assembly Conference keynote speaker, Chris Tyrell, will result in the availability of these and other videos on-line as soon as our web site is completely up and running.
4. We have expanded our presence this year at education events such as the BCTF AGM and the Music Educators' AGM. We set up a table with ArtStarts at the BCTF AGM, disseminating information regarding our advocacy role, handing out cards with Elliot Eisner's 10 points and general information stressing the focus of the Arts in Education Council. We also put out a simple survey for the purposes of gauging the need and/or the effectiveness of our role as an advocate for arts in education as well as the general state of arts in education in BC schools today. It was a crudely designed tool that gave us enough information for now to encourage us to go on with our mission as well as to provide us with ideas on devising a more sophisticated survey in the future should we choose to do one.
5. Through responses from our members and reactions at our booth at art education venues/events, we feel that there continues to be a need for our type of advocacy in the future. With the new accessibility to our activities through our new web site, we hope that the arts in education community will be encouraged to become more galvanized as well as to share our passion in advocacy for the arts to be taught effectively and by qualified educators in BC elementary schools.
6. At this point in our existence, twenty-five years since our inception, we are deeply indebted to Elizabeth Lane, our Treasurer, who has kept a set of impeccable books on our finances enabling us to remain solvent and to be able to financially support several exciting ventures.

Joanne Cram has carried the Arts in Education Council's message for decades through her brilliant editorship of our "Blue Newsletter," now available online, as well as her current contribution to our web page.

Finally, we would like to extend our warmest thanks to Harriet Fancott who has freely contributed her skills and energy above and beyond her pay scale, to develop our web site. Her diligence and consistent valued input at our meetings and her passionate involvement in this, our newest venture, has been infectious.

Ron Rumak