



Fall update from the Co-Chairs, November 2020

Zoom Annual General Meeting for ECFTA

Thursday November 26, 2020 from 7-8PM

WE WELCOME YOU ALL!

Our AGM this year will be a Zoom Meeting and you will receive the Agenda and the Zoom link several days before November 26.

Staff Update

Executive Director, Lianne Carter, has done a superb job of re-opening the Centre safely, and finding ways to address the needs in our community through the creative use of our space, managing the government rent subsidy program on behalf of our tenants, ensuring artists are supported through exhibitions and our handmade artisan shop and re-starting live, safely distanced creative workshops. Judy Anderson continues in the role of Programming Coordinator & Arts Educator, focusing her efforts on the planning and operation of our expanded Supportive Arts program. Molly Kleiker continues to work with us as our grant writer, however she has accepted a new position at the University of Guelph - we wish her the very best and we are thrilled she is continuing with us. We welcomed Sonia Cheng last month as our new part-time Administrator. She comes to us with a ton of experience in event planning and financial management. We currently have a part-time Canada Jobs student, Chelsea Pieper, helping out in the gallery and doing some project preparation while she attends college.

Exhibitions & Workshops at the Centre

Sylvia Galbraith's fascinating photography **exhibition** - "Continuum" which brings a magazine feature to life on the walls of our gallery.

We've had some wonderful "live" **workshops** this fall, safely distanced in our classroom and utilizing the gallery space as needed. Our November workshops include Eileen MacArthur's painting workshop on dutch floral still life (sold out) and the second "Tell Good Stories" workshop with storyteller Brad Woods (only a few spots left, [click here](#) for info or to register).



Handmade artisan shop - please consider supporting our local artists and makers this holiday season!

Many artists and makers have suffered during Covid because their regular summer markets and craft fairs were cancelled. We have made efforts to continue to support them by keeping our artisan shop open; to feature their work and give them another opportunity to sell their handmade products. We are open and ready for the holiday season and invite you to come in for unique local shopping that supports our arts community! Gallery and shop hours are Thurs & Fri 11AM-4PM and Sat & Sun 12-5PM.

Community Use

During this time we have been actively making our space available for community use. Currently there are 7 yoga classes in the gallery every week while it is closed. There have also been several community groups who have been taking advantage of the outdoor yard this fall (outdoor yoga, Brownies group, karate, wool pop-up event and others).

Arts Programming

Our Supportive Arts program for young adults with (dis)abilities was launched mid-September with ECFTA artists and assistants taking the program "on the road" to the Live & Learn Centre in Guelph. Thanks to the transformative 3-year Ontario Trillium Foundation Grow grant, we have a wonderful opportunity to expand and grow this program. Follow our weekly updates on Facebook!

Satellite Learning & Art Stations for Students

A creative use of our creative space

We have applied to the Centre Wellington Community Foundation to help partially fund the cost of making our workshop and gallery space available to students this winter who could benefit from a place to do on-line learning with assistance and integrated art projects. This will also be our **Giving Tuesday** campaign (December 1st), so we hope you will consider giving to support this community program for college, university and high school students.



Our October Fundraiser - raised \$4,700

A HUGE THANK YOU to our board member Deept Celetti for organizing our October Indian Food Fundraiser. What a thrill to see 200 delicious, home-cooked meals prepared and delivered! And it could not have happened without a wonderful team of volunteers and our Director Lianne. We thank all of our local sponsors who donated ingredients and supported this endeavour with open arms.

Our next Fundraiser: Let's Sing About Passion | A live-stream event featuring Broadway and Mirivish stage performers!

Mark your calendars for November 15th at 2PM - and buy your ticket today!

This event supports the Actor's Relief Fund and the Elora Centre for the Arts. Tickets are \$30

Interim Strategic Plan - Highlights

- Board and Staff met for planning on September 14th, on the Wild Tart patio (thank you Geoffrey and Dominique!)
- Generally, the plan is tailored to being COVID-safe and supporting the priority activities that our Staff have developed for the next year
- Board Development plans include recruiting new board directors and planning for the transition to new officers by November 2021
- Financials - ECFTA has emerged through the first wave in solid shape with the help of donors, federal support programs, the OTF Grow grant and other small program grants
- Negotiations with Centre Wellington will continue based on the building audit findings (completed in October) and Capital Grant for 2020, our two MacDonald Fund grants, and a delegation to the 2021 Budget Process

As ever, thank you to our wide community. In countless ways you show ECFTA incredible support and help to enrich life in Centre Wellington.

We look forward to "seeing" you at the Annual General Meeting on November 26th!

Sheila Koop & Matt Ladner

Co-Chairs, Elora Centre for the Arts
