



Winter Update for ECFTA

January 15, 2019

Happy New Year to our wonderful ECFTA community!

We were delighted to kick off 2019 with the opening of the *Elements of Creation* exhibit in the Harris Exchange Gallery on Saturday, January 12. The diverse works of art from our resident Schoolhouse Arts Cooperative artists are a marvellous representation of sculpture, textile, pottery, charcoal sketches and paintings. Over one hundred guests came to see the show and listen to messages from each of the eight artists -- how much they value working together in their ECFTA studio, how much they learn from one another, how much they appreciate the chance to show their work. This exhibit is running until February 17th so please make sure to stop by and visit us soon! When you do so, make time for the stunning *Gestures and Geometry* exhibit in the Minarovich Gallery.

Here are some changes and some new and exciting events to preview for you:

- We welcome Kim Blair as our part-time office administrator, effective February 1, 2019. Kim comes to ECFTA with experience in the non-profit sector as the house manager and volunteer coordinator at the Chester Playhouse Theatre in Nova Scotia.
- Summer 2019 *Creative Spark in the Yard* comes to ECFTA! We are collaborating with Creative Spark Workshops, a Guelph-based arts festival group, to showcase artisans, makers and artists in Ontario. This festival will be held on the ECFTA grounds July 6 and 7, and we look forward to seeing many local artists and artisans as exhibitors/vendors. For more information you can visit our website [here](#). for more exciting details.

ECFTA and the municipality of Centre Wellington:

- **Macdonald Legacy Fund** - The agreement for the \$380,000 grant to build accessible washrooms, replace the heritage windows on the west side of the building, and enhance the front entrance has been under negotiation. Upon final signing, we will proceed with a tender process for local contractors so that these renovations can be scheduled. Many of our outreach programs will flourish once the new accessible washrooms are completed!
- **Budget Proposal** - In December 2018 the ECFTA Board submitted a proposal for the 2019 municipal budget. We have requested \$100,000 to help cover operational expenses, including the annual salary of an executive director (ED) and a part-time Fundraiser. We see this request from our municipality as crucial to the sustainability of the Centre, so that it can reach its potential for serving the community: seniors, youth, individuals with disabilities, and artists. Our submission also notes how the ECFTA is aligned with goals in the CW Strategic Plan and the potential for the Centre to be a full partner in generating revenue through tourism. Consistent management by a skilled ED will help ensure the Centre's long-term survival and growth. It will mean that the volunteer Board can focus on strategic planning and development, ensuring a vibrant future for the Centre.
- ***You can help us with this request. Please contact your [local Councillor](#) and [the Mayor](#) to support our bid for funds that will ensure the future of ECFTA. We all have a stake in this valuable community resource that has never had any regular municipal funding.***

Over the years ECFTA has forged partnerships with a roster of community groups including the Alzheimer's Society, local seniors residences, Rotary, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Optimists, Grand Abilities and all local schools. We want to expand this community outreach while we continue to attract high profile artists who can help us to discover the ways in which creativity makes our community stronger and richer.

THANK YOU!

An enormous thank you to both Lianne Carter and Judy Anderson for their commitment to keeping programming and exhibits alive at the ECFTA. They have worked incredibly hard over the last few months. Once again, the Centre is very fortunate to have staff who contribute so much.

Remember to email or call your [Councillor and Mayor Linton!](#) Thanks for your support.

Sheila Koop

Matt Ladner

Co Chairs, ECFTA

WORKSHOPS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR [WEBSITE!](#)

GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday - Friday: 12PM - 5PM

Saturdays: 10AM - 5PM

Sundays: 12PM - 4PM

Stay connected with what's going on at the Elora Centre for the Arts by visiting our website, liking us on Facebook, or following us on Instagram.

