



Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society Members Newsletter 2021

Notice is hereby given to all members that the

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

of

**The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society**

**will be held at**

**7:00 pm on June 17, 2021**

Due to the current health order, the meeting will be held virtually.

Please click on the link below to attend.

[Zoom Meeting link here](#)

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*Welcome to the eleventh edition of the Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society members' newsletter. This newsletter is designed to help keep our society members informed of what is going on behind the scenes at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre.*

## **Membership in the Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society:**

The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society operates with a membership of fifty persons or less. Invitation to apply for membership is directed at influential members of the Chilliwack arts community as well as local decision-makers and Chilliwack area residents with a strong commitment to the community.

The City of Chilliwack formed the Society to operate the physical facility of the Chilliwack Cultural Centre at arm's length. In addition to overseeing the physical plant, the Society also operates The Centre Box Office, programs a series of presentations in the two theatres, and offers a wide range of arts & crafts instruction to ensure that all forms of the arts are available to residents of the City of Chilliwack in their own community.

The Society supports the work of local not-for-profit arts organizations, including the Chilliwack Academy of Music, Chilliwack Players' Guild, Chilliwack School of Performing Arts (CSOPA), Chilliwack Visual Artists Association, Chilliwack Lions Club Music and Dance Festival and many others. Because of this, the decision was made to strictly limit the number of members of the Society so that it would not inadvertently draw members away from these other extremely important local arts organizations.

The goal with member selection is two-fold; to have a body of arts and community-specific advisors that ensure the Society does not lose sight of our mission, vision, and community support; and to build up a body of interested community members from whom future board members may be selected.

As a member, we ask that you keep an eye on our organization and raise questions with board members or our executive staff when and if you think we are moving in directions that no longer support our community. We also ask that you advocate on behalf of the arts and our organization in your dealings with other arts organizations and the community at large.

## About the Chilliwack Cultural Centre

The Chilliwack Cultural Centre is a bold, beautiful facility with stunning architecture housing two unique performance venues – The HUB International Theatre which seats 575 patrons and the Rotary Hall Studio Theatre, which accommodates 160 audience members in a flexible "black box" space with retractable seating.

The O'Connor Group Art Gallery, music instruction studios, arts and crafts studios, meeting rooms, and offices make this facility a wonderful home for the Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Society and the Chilliwack Academy of Music.

Partnerships in the Cultural Centre include The Chilliwack Academy of Music, The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society, The Chilliwack Players Guild, The Chilliwack School of Performing Arts, The Chilliwack Lions Club Music and Dance Festival, The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association, and The City of Chilliwack.

## Vision Statement

To engage, inspire and educate by providing access to quality diverse visual and performing arts, thereby enriching the quality of life in Chilliwack.

## Mission Statement

To provide the community with a gathering place for creative expression, discovery, imagination and inspiration on behalf of the City of Chilliwack. This will be achieved by effective and sustainable operation of The Centre through presentations, programs, and partnerships with the community.

## Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society Board of Directors

Jordan Forsyth – President

Jacque Simpson – Vice President

Rick Paulding – Treasurer

Mark Evered – Secretary

## Directors at Large

Melissa Geddes

Kim Harder

Karen Ireland

Kim Lawrence

Cynthia Robinson

## Ex-Officio

Jeff Shields – City Council Liaison

Ryan Mulligan – City Staff Liaison

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## Show Updates & Presentations



The past year has challenged the theatre industry in an unprecedented way, but The Society remains determined to get through this and continues to prepare for the day we can operate in a normal capacity again.

The Society's Artistic & Managing Director Michael Cade sits on the British Columbia COVID-19 task force for our industry and attends weekly virtual meetings.

The Centre from the very beginning of the Pandemic has strictly followed Public Health Orders and adapted as the orders changed. The health and safety of staff, volunteers, and patrons remains the top priority.

Click on this link for the current [Chilliwack Cultural Centre COVID-19 Safety Plan](#).

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## A Challenging Year...

The Chilliwack Cultural Centre was formally closed to the public on March 17, 2020, and re-opened in a limited capacity on June 1, 2020. The building was open to the public Monday to Friday from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm with strict safety protocols in place. On June 24, the Province of British Columbia announced the province would move into phase three of the BC Restart Plan. Under phase three, the Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre moved to a re-opening of the HUB International Theatre for select performances under strictly enhanced protocols.

Visitors, students, and instructors were required to wear face coverings at all times (a non-medical cloth mask was provided if patrons did not have their own). They were also required to sign in upon arrival with both their name and phone number. This information was being gathered solely to assist Fraser Health in contact tracing.

With the loosening of some restrictions over the summer, The Centre moved forward planning events in the HUB International Theatre with the capacity of up to 50 people. The health order also allowed for some art classes and the clay studio to re-open under strict protocols in the Fall of 2020.

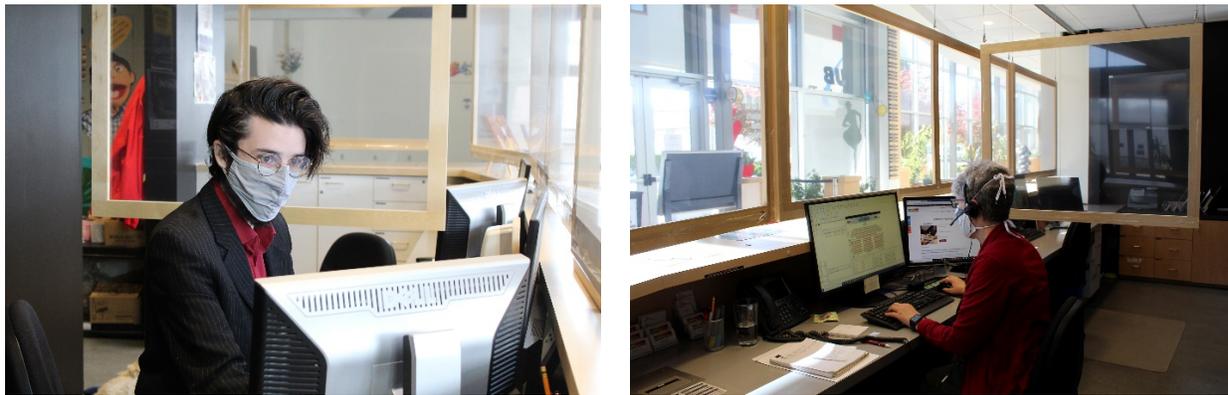
The building hours were extended at the end of September to Monday to Saturday from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. The O'Connor Group Art Gallery hours were also extended to 10:00 to 4:00 pm Monday to Saturday.

In September, the Attorney General's Office in Chilliwack rented HUB International Theatre, Rotary Hall Studio Theatre, and several other studios and rooms for a court trial with jury selection and administrative procedures for this process held on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>. The trial itself took place at The Centre from September 21 to the 25 and September 28 to October 2, 2020.

Eleven shows were scheduled for the Fall Season with a limited capacity. Four of the shows took place, delighting a starved audience. Unfortunately, with the increasing COVID-19 cases, the November Public Health order once again shut The Centre's activities down.

The Society continues to work with the artists, promoters, and instructors to schedule alternate dates for shows, events, and classes. All performer whose Society presentations had to be cancelled were still paid. Patrons were contacted for each show and class once the dates had been re-scheduled.

The Centre remains unable to offer anything other than the Gallery exhibits under the current health order. With Second and Third waves of COVID-19 taking place all events and art classes previously scheduled during December, January, February, March, April and May had to be cancelled or suspended.



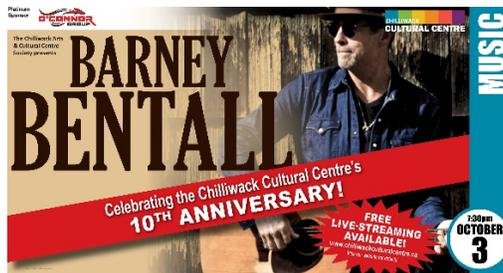
*Gavin and Anna working Box Office.*

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## Online performances and greetings - 70 videos in total!

### THE CHILLIWACK CULTURAL CENTRE'S 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

For ten years, the Chilliwack Cultural Centre has been the hub for the arts in Chilliwack, bringing performances, art classes, and gallery exhibits to the community. On October 3, 2020 The Society celebrated [\*The Centre's Tenth Anniversary\*](#) with a performance by **Barney Bentall**. This celebration concert was limited to 50 patrons and was also live-streamed for free so that everyone could celebrate this milestone anniversary. A video was also put together with congratulations from over 100 performers and community leaders which can still be viewed on The Centre's [YouTube](#) page.



## 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS WISHES

To celebrate the Holiday Season in the only way possible, The Society sent out some Holiday cheer by hiring amazing local talent to create [Twelve days of Christmas wishes](#). These were filmed in various locations within The Centre (with strict safety protocols) and posted every day up to December 25 on The Centre's [YouTube](#) and other Social Media sites. *Pianist Wesley Hawkins. Photo by Marissa Goodvin*



## ANTICIPATION CONCERT SERIES

Explosive talent took a virtual center stage as The Society introduced a new **Anticipation Concert Series!** Challenged to maintain The Society's continued goal to connect the community with the arts, this series of incredible performances from local performers was created so that our patrons could enjoy them from the comfort of home. The performances were filmed in various locations throughout the building that the public would not generally see; we pulled back the curtain so to speak. Every one was produced with strict safety protocols in place. The Anticipation Concert Series videos are posted on The Centre's website and [YouTube](#) page and can still be viewed. *Photos by Marissa Goodvin*





Several performers have also been getting creative; [Ballet Victoria's The Nutcracker](#) was shared at Christmas time; Shawn Farquhar and his magical friends produced an evening of wonder and magic video that we could share on Social Media. And a video by [The Bergmann Duo](#) was also shared in lieu of their cancelled performance.

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## Arts & Crafts Classes

Art & Crafts classes resumed in a minimal capacity in July 2020 and were moved from our regular art studios into the Rotary Hall Studio Theatre so that everyone could observe strict social distancing. Instructors and class participants were required to wear face coverings. Of the 22 classes offered between July and December, only ten were able to run. Under Fraser Health direction, no classes have been allowed since November 20, 2020.



*Class set-up during the summer months. Photos by Amber Bergeron*

## OPEN STUDIOS

The Clay Open Studio was re-opened to patrons in June. No longer available on a drop-in basis, participants had to register with the box office to ensure that the number of attendees was limited to those that could affect strict social distancing. Participants were required to wear face coverings at all times and were limited to six at a time. The Open Studio was available from 10 am to 2 pm Monday to Friday (with the exception of holidays). The Hours extended at the end of September to Tuesday to Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. On November 20, 2020 the open studio had to be shut down as per the Public Health Order.

All other Open Studio programs remained cancelled.



*Happy patrons in the Clay Studio during the short time it was re-opened. Photos by Ann Goudswaard*

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## The Building

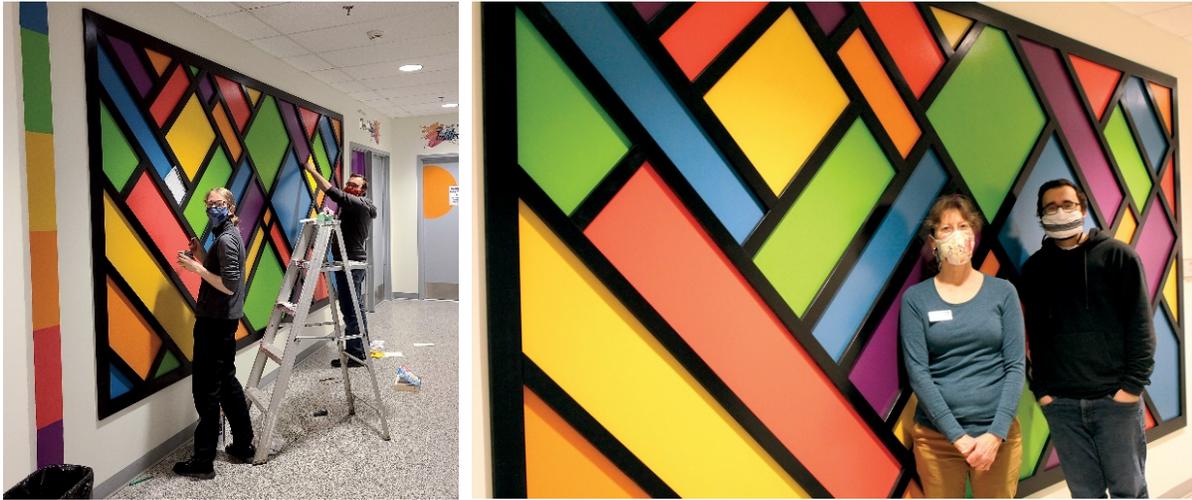
The Cultural Centre staff have been keeping themselves busy with multiple projects that there wasn't time for when we were at the peak of activity. The Society colours have been added throughout the building, and several murals have been added to brighten up spaces.



*Artist Lucas Simpson stands beside his creation in the Women's lobby washroom.  
Photos by Ann Goudswaard*



*Staff members Clare Littlejohn and Chrissie Hood next to the mural in the Men's lobby washroom.  
Concept and realization by Michael Cade. Photos by Ann Goudswaard*



*Toddler Studio Hallway. Realization by Brandon Crawford, Clare Littlejohn, and Kara Vinchoff. Concept by Michael Cade. Photos by Marissa Goodvin*



*The hallway by Rotary Hall Studio Theatre leading to Men's lobby washroom. Concept by Amber Bergeron. Designed by Ann Goudswaard. Photos by Marissa Goodvin. Installed by Prime Signs.*



*Red Chair Lounge, Arts Hallway and Front Lobby.*

*Concept by Michael Cade. Realization by Brandon Crawford, Clare Littlejohn and Kara Vinchoff.*

*Photos by Marissa Goodvin*



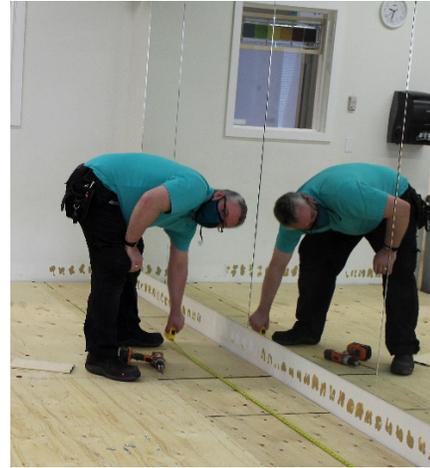
*The Arts hallway and front lobby by the Art Gallery. Photos by Marissa Goodvin*

The stage floors in the HUB International Theatre, Rotary Hall Studio Theatre, and Performance Studio C have been replaced with working floors that will allow alterations to be made to the floors accommodating various scenic needs. The previous floors were linoleum and could not be used with paint, staples or screws.



*The Centre staff working on the theatre floors.*

*Photos by Marissa Goodvin*



*Technical Director Chris Reid working on the Performance Studio C floor. Photos by Marissa Goodvin*

Almost every square inch of the building has been cleaned and cleaned again as the Pandemic wears on. Lighting boards have also been upgraded in both theatres.



*Staff member Amber Bergeron cleaning all the theatre lights and equipment. Photo by Marissa Goodvin*

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## O'Connor Group Art Gallery

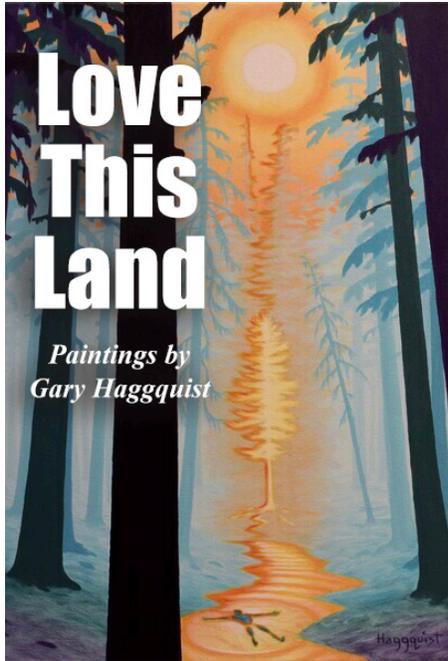
The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association, which usually curates the O'Connor Group Art Gallery, elected not to arrange the programming during the COVID-19 time period.

The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society has taken on the job of curating exhibitions in the meantime and has now re-opened the Gallery under strict safety protocols.

The Gallery managed to stay open from July to November 2020 when the Public Health order shut everything down once again. In January 2021, the Chilliwack Cultural Centre was given the authority once more by Fraser Health to re-open to the public with strict social distancing protocols in place, including a limit of 5 people at a time.

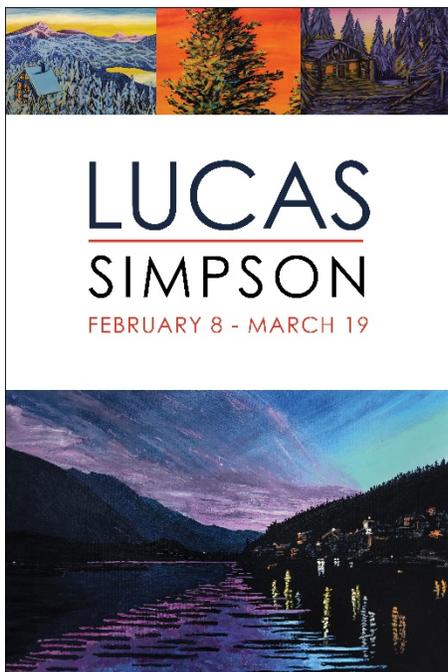
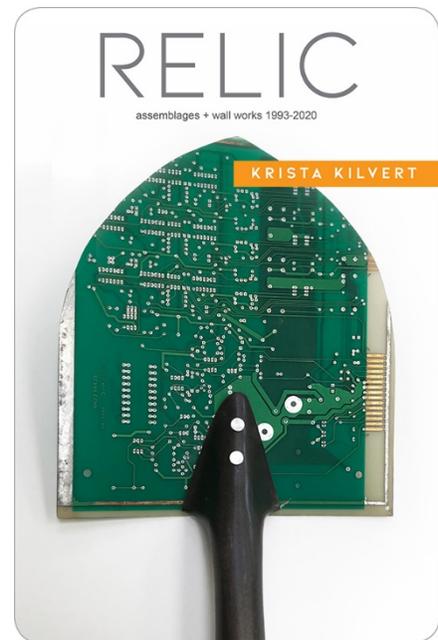
The O'Connor Group Art Gallery in the Chilliwack Cultural Centre re-opened to the public on July 8 with a stunning exhibit by Chilliwack-based artist **Chris Woods** and his famed series "**Sandstorm**"!





An exhibit showcasing the popular Cultus Lake artist **Gary Haggquist** with his "*Love This Land*" exhibit was on display from August 24 to October 4, 2020.

The Society was thrilled to bring an exhibit by the incredible mixed media artist **Krista Kilvert** with her "*Relics*" show in October which ran from the 13 to November 20, 2020.



Allowed by Fraser Health to open the Gallery once more, an exhibit showcasing the incredible talents of Chilliwack based artist **Lucas Simpson** ran from February 8 to March 19, 2021.

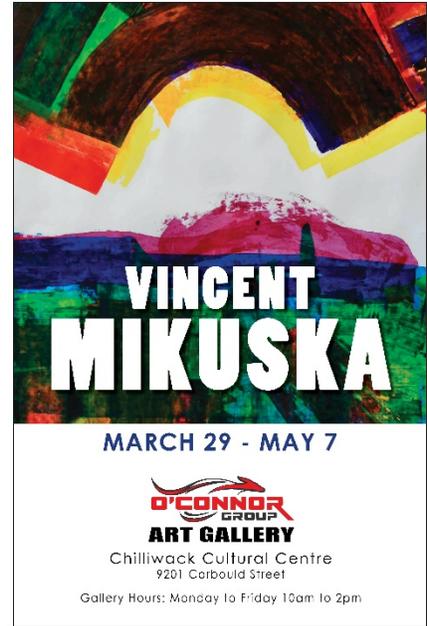
A vibrant exhibit from March 29 to May 7, 2021 displayed the incredible pieces from abstract artist **Vincent Mikuska**.

## Patricia Peters



MAY 17 - JUNE 25

**O'CONNOR GROUP**  
**ART GALLERY**  
Chilliwack Cultural Centre  
9201 Caribou Street  
Gallery Hours: Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm



Patricia Peters artwork evokes feelings of vitality with delicious colour and texture in an exhibit which ran from May 17 to June 25, 2021.

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## For the Love of Art!

Since opening, the focus has been on three main areas of development; providing world-class entertainment at accessible ticket prices; maintaining the highest standards of arts and crafts programs at prices families can afford; and ensuring the Chilliwack Cultural Centre remains the pride of Chilliwack.

In order to achieve these goals, the Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society must raise over one million dollars through earned revenue, arts grants, sponsorships, and donations each year. Consider making a fully tax-deductible donation to help us ensure that Chilliwack has access to the very best arts experiences.

The decision was made this year not to ask already struggling patrons and businesses for donations. Our supporters had other ideas. The volume of donations dramatically increased as those who love the arts and could afford to, continued to send in donations.

The generosity will make a difference, choosing to endorse The Centre as it champions artists on stage and in the studios now and in the future. The donations mean that when the time comes that we can gather again, The Centre will be ready to fulfil its mandate and bring art to the community once more. To that effect, the Board of Directors has set up a COVID Relief Fund to ensure The Centre can get back up to speed as quickly as possible once the Public Health Order allows.

Contributions help ensure a creative future for our community. [\*\*\*For the Love of Art!\*\*\*](#)



[\*\*More Support Opportunities:\*\*](#)

## **Re-opening Action Plan**

An action plan has been put into place, and a COVID Relief Fund has been set up to ensure that when the time comes that the Chilliwack Cultural Centre can open up to patrons once more, it can operate as intended connecting the arts to our community.

Ten shows will be planned for the Fall of 2021 with a limited audience size of 50 in the HUB International Theatre. Regular scheduling will resume in December with a performance by



## Take Your Seat!

Remarkable sightlines characterize each and every seat in The Centre's magnificent 575 seat HUB International Theatre. Stylish yet intimate, with simple, elegant architecture and a world-class stage, every performance is an exciting and exhilarating experience. Each seat you acquire with your \$500 gift to the Chilliwack Arts & Culture Centre



Society will give you the rare privilege of being connected with cultural excellence. Your seat's chair arm will feature your name or the name of a friend or loved one you want to honour or memorialize in a beautiful laser-etched script.

[Take Your Seat! link](#)



## Naming Opportunities

The Cultural Centre is a vital community asset and a thriving cultural institution. It is an irreplaceable source of cultural activities used by young and old and by people of all backgrounds and income levels. Its existence enhances Chilliwack as a place to live, do business in, and visit. The naming of the Cultural Centre's spaces will gain your business or organization an enormous amount of public exposure every time an event is held at this world-class facility.

This exceptional public exposure, mixed with the goodwill generated by this kind of community support, is valuable beyond calculation.

[Naming Opportunities link](#)

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## Why Art Matters - According to our Community Leaders

“Our community benefits from art in countless ways. The art form I feel most connected to would have to be music. Musicians are able to share their experiences with a wide range of people in a way that deeply resonates with me. No matter the genre, music brings people together. I can’t wait until we can all start going to live shows at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre again.”

***Mayor Ken Popove - City of Chilliwack***

“For over ten years, the Chilliwack Cultural Centre has been the hub of arts and culture in Chilliwack. I have thoroughly appreciated every opportunity I have had to enjoy an event at the Cultural Centre and am very much looking forward to when I will be able to do so again.”

***Mark Strahl - MP Chilliwack - Hope***

“Our communities are represented through their art. By giving us something to share, artists give us ways to connect, learn, and be inspired by one another. I’m so grateful to the Chilliwack Arts and Cultural Centre Society for the amazing contributions they make to our community. Our government knows how important it is to provide grants to artists and cultural societies province wide and will continue supporting organizations like these. Now more than ever, we need art to revitalize us and bring us together.”

***Dan Coulter - MLA Chilliwack***

“Arts and culture are so important in how we connect to the world around us. Over the course of this pandemic, we have faced so much uncertainty and upheaval. As we look back at this moment in history, the creations of artists is what will capture and describe the moments we are living and the world we are experiencing. I’m so grateful to organizations like the Chilliwack Cultural Centre for the way they support artists and bring art to our community.”

***Kelli Paddon - MLA Chilliwack - Kent***

The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society is beyond thankful for the amazing relationship we have with the City of Chilliwack. From the City Councilors right through to the amazing gardeners and groundskeepers we are constantly supported by this truly fantastic group of people. The staff of all of the City departments are always there to advise us and help us work through issues that come up.

We simply cannot say it enough – Thank You!

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## Website and Social Media:

Chilliwack Cultural Centre's Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter accounts are constantly being monitored and updated. Information about upcoming shows, art facts and events are added continually, and video clips and photos are always a big hit when posted. These platforms provided a fantastic means of communication with our patrons and helps build awareness in our community about what Chilliwack Cultural Centre has to offer.



[www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca](http://www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca)