



Peace Liard Regional Arts Council
Box 27
Rolla, BC V0C 2G0

September 29, 2020

Brad Sperling, Chair
Board of Directors
Peace River Regional District
PO Box 810
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8

Dear Mr. Sperling:

Re: Peace Liard Regional Arts Council 2020 PRRD Summary Report – Multi-Year Grant (2019-2021)

On behalf of the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council, please accept the enclosed Summary Report for PLRAC's multi-year grant.

2020 brought the world Covid-19. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council was able to carry out its programming without having to cancel any activities. All programs, projects, and activities were carried out virtually.

The grant from the PRRD has greatly assisted PLRAC's programming in all its forms. In 2020, the PRRD funds helped the PLRAC leverage grants from outside the region (i.e. *Canada Council for the Arts*, *BC Arts Council*, and the *Province of BC Community Gaming Grant*), furthering the ability of the PLRAC to increase awareness of the significant arts, culture, and heritage that exists in northeastern BC.

The enclosed report summarizes the program/projects that PRRD's funding supported and the participants and community members who benefited from these programs and projects.

All funds were utilized. As the PLRAC's programming grows, the contribution from the PRRD continues to provide an essential contribution and we remain sincerely grateful for your continuing support.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Kane". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Donna Kane, Executive Director

Peace Liard Regional Arts Council 2020 PRRD Summary Report

Program/Projects Supported by Grant and Info on Participant and Community Benefits

i. ANNUAL REGIONAL JURIED ART EXHIBIT & EKPHRASTIC WRITING EXHIBIT:

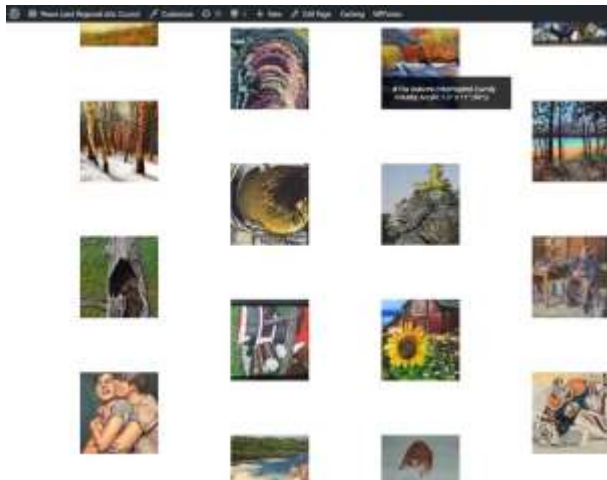
In 2020, due to Covid-19, the Regional Juried Art Exhibit (RJAE), Youth Art Exhibit and Ekphrastic Writing Exhibit had to be shifted to virtual events. Over 80 submissions were received to the RJAE, just a slight decrease from previous in-person exhibits. We did not receive submissions to the Youth Art Exhibit, but we are looking at ways to better engage youth participation in 2021 should these events remain virtual. 16 pieces of writing were submitted to the Ekphrastic Writing Exhibit which was similar in number to that of 2019. The opening of the RJAE was carried out through a Facebook Live event which reached 1,200 viewers, some from as far away as Wales, UK. The exhibit was held virtually on our website page and announcements of those who received recognition was posted on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Facebook Live Opening
(reached 1,000 people)



Virtual Award Announcements
(viewed by nearly 3,000 people)



RJAE Virtual Exhibit on the PLRAC Website

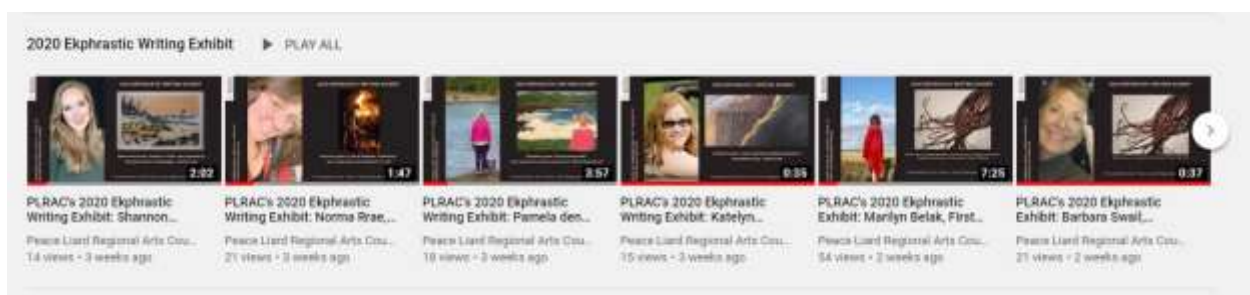


RJAE Artist Walk-Through and Talks carried out via Zoom and pre-recorded videos

Due to Covid-19, we were unable to offer a Toni Onley Artists' Project Scholarship from Island Mountain Arts, but our partnership with them remains and once we are able to resume in-person events, we hope to add this back to our RJAE Program.

Those recognized in the Ekphrastic Writing Exhibit presented their work via videos that were uploaded to the PLRAC YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNB7UpfTpPuB5Ye3WjNkWXA?view_as=subscriber



ii. PERMANENT ART COLLECTION

This year the PLRAC Board chose the work for the Permanent Art Collection which will be presented to the PRRD at the October 8th Board Meeting (Kim Ans' "Purple Sky"). An archive of this collection continues to be maintained in both print form and online.



iii. 2020 RJAE Calendar

The 2020 Regional Juried Exhibit Calendar was created and distributed as usual.



iv. MEMBER COMMUNITIES SUPPORT (MEETINGS):

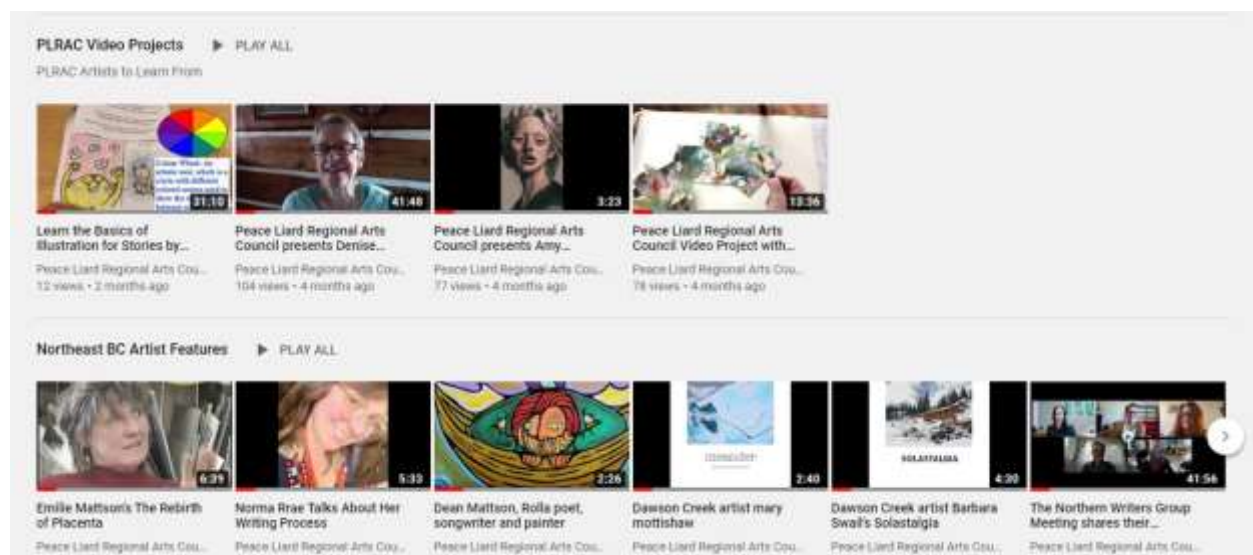
The PLRAC continued to hold meetings every two months. However, due to Covid-19, all meetings after February took place via teleconference or Zoom.

PLRAC 2020 Board Meetings

- Dawson Creek (February 8, 2020)
- Teleconference (March 21, 2020)
- Zoom (May 30, 2020)
- Zoom (August 22, 2020 via Zoom)

v. MEMBER COMMUNITIES SUPPORT (GRANTS TO THE REGION)

The PLRAC continued to provide Leadership Grants, Regional Development Grants and in 2020 created a Video Project Initiative for regional artists to create videos with a learning component as a measure to support artists during Covid-19. These videos are being uploaded to our YouTube Channel once they are created.



Note: This year's Arts BC Conference and the Northern Exposure Conference will be held online at no charge so financial support for attendance was not required in 2020.

vi. MEMBER COMMUNITIES SUPPORT (NEWSLETTER AND SOCIAL MEDIA)

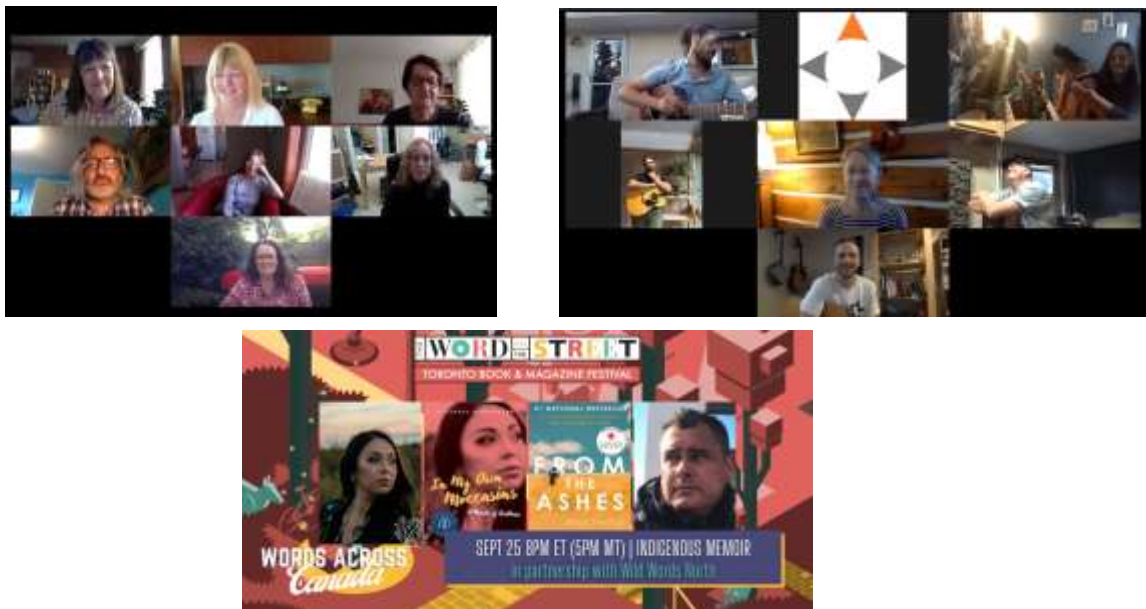
Subscriptions to the PLRAC email monthly newsletter continues to grow with nearly 500 community members subscribed from across the region and beyond. The newsletter continues to share information relating to the PLRAC, its member groups and the region's artists. As well, the PLRAC's website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts are updated regularly with news from across the region. In 2020, the PLRAC added a YouTube Channel.

vii. WILD WORDS NORTH

2020 marked the third annual and first virtual Wild Words North Writing Festival. Held from September 25-27th via the PLRAC website, Zoom Webinars, Zoom workshops, live streams to our YouTube Channel and several pre-recorded events, the festival featured 12 feature writers (Lorna Crozier, Steven Price, Sonnet L'Abbe, Joanna Lilley, Lorri Neilsen Glenn, John Vaillant, Helen Knott, Jenny Kay Dupuis, Christy Jordan Fenton, Rebecca Thomas, Jesse Thistle, Erin Moure), and 25 regional writers and songwriters who took part in 15 different events comprised of readings, performances, presentations, and panel discussions. This year, we did not hold an Art Exhibit in conjunction with the festival, but art prints featuring the work of the winners of the Ekphrastic Writing Exhibit were created and are available for purchase on the PLRAC website. The festival had an overall attendance of approximately 1,000. More information can be found on our YouTube channel and on our website

www.wildwordsnorth.com

Benefits of a virtual festival included collaborations with other festivals including Toronto's Word on the Street and engaging attendees from across the country. Attendees also cited accessibility as a benefit to this year's virtual event.



viii. ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

In 2020 the PLRAC carried out the second Artist in Residence Program along with hosting a 2019 Artist in Residence Studio Tour and, in collaboration with the Dawson Creek Art Gallery, an in-person opening of the 2019 Exhibit with strict Covid-19 protocols in place in August.



2019 Artist in Residence Studio Tour



2019 Artist in Residence Exhibit Opening

2020 Artist in Residence

Groundbirch artist Haley Bassett has been named the 2020 Artist in Residence. Due to Covid-19, visits with the mentor will have to take place via Zoom and the artist will have to work from their own studio. An in-person opening is scheduled for August 2021 at Peace Gallery North in Fort St. John.

Bassett named Peace Liard Regional Artist in Residence

Dawson Creek Mirror
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 05:17 AM



Bassett's work explores how time, place, family histories and personal histories converge as functional aspects of the self.

Haley Bassett is the 2020 Peace Liard Regional Artist in Residence.