

# **OCSDB Advisory Committee on the Arts 2006-2007**

## **Year-End Report, 20 June 2007**

Submitted by Co-Chairs, Katherine Stauble and Debbie Holzman

### **1. ACA Meetings and Membership**

The 2006-2007 inaugural meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Arts (ACA) was held on Tuesday, October 3, 2006. At this meeting, and at the November meeting, the committee elected Co-Chairs Katherine Stauble and Debbie Holzman. Arts Community member Gary Goodacre was elected Secretary, with Nancy Burgoyne as back-up. Meetings were held at Fisher Park School Staff Room, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month, from October to May. The June meeting has been replaced by a social event.

Membership for the year conformed to the suggested representation in the ACA Terms of Reference, including the following individuals:

#### **Voting Members**

##### **Arts Community**

Amanda Lewis, Ottawa School of Speech and Drama  
Kelly Abercrombie and alternate representatives, National Arts Centre  
Gary Goodacre, National Gallery of Canada  
Kate Wetherow, Great Canadian Theatre Company  
Audrey Churgin, MASC  
Jim McNabb, CACDA/NAC  
Jeff Stellick, Ottawa School of Art  
Chris McLeod, Salamander Theatre

##### **City of Ottawa**

Nancy Burgoyne, Community Arts Program  
Judy Kirsh, Arts & Heritage

##### **Parents/Guardians**

Katherine Stauble  
Debbie Holzman  
Lillian Thomsen

#### **Non-Voting Members**

### **OCDSB Staff**

Dale Taylor, Arts Consultant, Curriculum Services  
Heather Flinn, teacher, Nepean High School/Music Subject Council  
Suzanne Denney, teacher, John Young E.S.  
Mark Morton, Vice-principal, Earl of March S.S.  
Joanna Swim, teacher, Colonel By S.S./Visual Arts Subject Council  
Joan Doern, Lifetime Member  
Jennifer McKenzie, Trustee, Zone 10  
Peter Gamwell, Superintendent

The average attendance for monthly meetings was 12 people, which appears to be slightly up from last year. However, only once was a Board trustee able to attend a meeting, as other OCDSB meetings conflicted with the ACA meeting schedule.

## **4.2. ACA Projects**

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The ACA made a number of significant accomplishments this year.

### **1. ACA Arts Recognition Awards**

These awards are presented annually by the ACA to individuals, groups or organizations, and for special projects and events, in recognition of outstanding service in the area of arts education. Nominees include OCDSB teaching staff and community members.

The 2004-2005 Awards Ceremony took place in the presence of trustees and senior staff at the OCDSB headquarters on November 22, 2006. Award recipients were:

#### **Staff Awards**

- Elementary Dance Award – Lisa Levitan (Castor Valley E.S.)
- Elementary Integration of the Arts Award – The ROAR Committee: Robyn Warren, Jennifer Leslie, Andrea Best, Elizabeth Doering and Dahir Waberi, (Robert Bateman P.S.)
- Elementary Media Arts Award – Roger Lemelin, Michael Partridge (Emily Carr Middle School)
- Elementary Music (Primary/Junior) Award – Betty Anne Malloff (Alta Vista Public School)
- Elementary Music (Intermediate) Award – Claire Sirois (Huntley Centennial Public School)
- Elementary Visual Arts Award – Marnie Patterson (Castor Valley Elementary School)
- Secondary Drama Award – Evan Mochizuki (Merivale High School)
- Secondary Integration of Arts Award – Sheila Williams (Ottawa Technical Learning Centre)
- Secondary Media Arts – Stephen Willcock (Canterbury High School)
- Secondary Music Award – Michele LePage (Merivale High School)

- Secondary Visual Arts Awards – Kim Barclay (Merivale High School)

#### School and Community Awards

- Elementary Event Award – “The Aquarium Project” (Rockcliffe Park Public School)
- Secondary Event Award – “Bye, Bye Birdie” (Nepean High School)
- Community Award – The Music Parents’ Council (Earl of March Secondary School)
- Marjorie Loughrey Lifetime Achievement Award – Trudy Bradley (Lisgar Collegiate Institute)

## **2. Encore Instrument Donation Program**

The ACA organized its second annual city-wide collection of used musical instruments, collecting over 120 good instruments, or twice last year’s total. In addition to the increased numbers, the quality of instruments was exceptional. There were numerous guitars, violins, clarinets, and small percussion instruments, as well as flutes, trumpets, trombones, cellos and some accessories. About 60 instruments were donated to 22 OCDSB schools, including eight Beacon schools. The Arts Consultant received about 18 items, many of them small percussion instruments, for use in workshops. Approximately 40 instruments were donated to ArtsCan Circle.

ArtsCan Circle is an independent, volunteer-run group dedicated to linking creative artists with Canadian Native youth at risk. The organization supports small groups of volunteer musicians and artists who deliver instruments and workshops to northern communities. ArtsCan Circle has established musical instrument lending libraries in Natuashish and Sheshatshiu Labrador, and Mishkeegogomang, Pikanjikum and White Dog, Ontario.

Other partners in Encore provided free media exposure, including the Ottawa Citizen, CBC Radio, Saul Jacobson of The Jewel, and Cub Carson of The Bear. A number of Ottawa area car dealers and hotels acted as drop-off points, and Musicare delivered the instruments to the schools. Principal Trudy Brand-Jacobsen of Fisher Park Public School provided storage space for the donated instruments.

The ACA was very pleased with the success of this drive and is planning to run it again next year.

## **3. Accreditation project**

It was proposed by members of the ACA that the group should investigate the possibility of establishing a formal process by which OCDSB students could obtain high school credits for programs and exams completed at private arts schools. The group used as a model the Ministry of Education policy that allows for high school accreditation of high-

level Royal Conservatory of Music exams. It was proposed that the Trinity College (London) drama exams offered by the Ottawa School of Speech and Drama, and possibly the portfolio program offered by Ottawa School of Art, might qualify for such accreditation.

After much discussion and research, the ACA concluded that this level of policy was not under the jurisdiction of the OCDSB, but rather under that of the Ontario Ministry of Education. The committee decided to abandon the project.

#### **4. ACA link on OCDSB website**

With the help of OCDSB staff, the ACA created its own link on the Board website. This allows teachers and parents to access minutes of our meetings, information about upcoming events and arts education documents. This link is an excellent resource. See: [www.ocdsb.ca/Board/Arts\\_Advisory\\_Committee/Arts\\_Introduction.htm](http://www.ocdsb.ca/Board/Arts_Advisory_Committee/Arts_Introduction.htm).

#### **5. Arts Education Directory**

This year, the ACA completed work on a directory of arts enrichment opportunities for Ottawa schools. This includes student programs at many of the city's museums, theatres and concert halls, as well as artist-in-residence programs through organizations such as MASC and the Ontario Arts Council. This is a valuable resource for teachers seeking enrichment activities in or outside of school. The directory was posted online on the OCDSB website: [www.ocdsb.ca/Board/Arts\\_Advisory\\_Committee/new/NAD\\_Arts\\_Ed\\_Ottawa\\_Listing\\_Jan07.pdf](http://www.ocdsb.ca/Board/Arts_Advisory_Committee/new/NAD_Arts_Ed_Ottawa_Listing_Jan07.pdf).

#### **6. OCDSB Management Plan:**

In light of the Board's budget deficit and its proposed management plan for 2007-2008, the ACA prepared a report and presentation to Budget Committee. We urged the Board to maintain the position of Arts Consultant and to protect intermediate overlay teachers specializing in the arts. We also requested that the Board maintain the position of Arts Canterbury coordinator as well as busing for that school.

The committee is very pleased that the positions of both Board Arts Consultant and Arts Canterbury coordinator will be maintained. As this report goes to press, it is not certain what the outcome is for Arts Canterbury busing or arts overlay teachers. We are still quite concerned about the state of arts education in certain intermediate programs.

#### **7. Arts Canterbury audition funding**

The ACA discussed the problem of funding of auditions for Arts Canterbury. The committee is concerned that this school, which supports equity of access to students across the city, must struggle to provide free auditions to Grade 8 applicants. The committee concluded that it is not presently in the position to help Arts Canterbury in any meaningful way, but will continue to examine this issue in future.

### **3.3. Arts Consultant**

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The Board's Arts Consultant Dale Taylor has continued to do an outstanding job to support the delivery of the arts curriculum at elementary and secondary schools. She has continued her efforts in providing information and workshops to teachers, as well as further building the arts binders she has distributed to them. The Arts Consultant has continued her work in the Cappies Awards program, which has proven to be an exceedingly successful project, influencing hundreds of OCDSB students to strive for excellence in the arts. She has maintained very strong links with arts organizations such as the NAC, National Gallery of Canada, MASC and Ottawa School of Speech and Drama. These links have touched teachers and students throughout the board, as they have become better aware of opportunities in the arts community and have been able to take better advantage of such opportunities.

Among the Arts Consultant's new initiatives and activities of 2007-2008 is her participation in the Ministry of Education's arts curriculum revision focus group. Through this work, she has been able to communicate to the Ministry OCDSB teachers' needs and concerns. Using part of her annual budget, supplemented by a generous grant from the province, Ms. Taylor was able to purchase and distribute to classrooms a considerable number of arts materials, including rhythm kits, CDs and books for drama instruction, and assorted visual arts materials. As a result of the ACA's Encore instrument collection, she has also created a kit of percussion instruments, as well as a set of accordions, for use in workshops. New Breeze technology has helped Ms. Taylor and her colleagues to provide videotaped professional development.

The Arts Consultant continues to play a vital, fortifying role in the Board's delivery of arts education. The ACA has heard from elementary teachers who, in the past, felt unprepared to teach the arts, but who have benefited greatly from Dale Taylor's interventions. Given the specialized nature of arts instruction, the ACA upholds its conviction that the position of Board Arts Consultant is indispensable.

## **4. Arts Organizations**

The ACA has enjoyed the continued participation of representatives from the city's arts organizations, including the City of Ottawa Community Arts Program and Arts and Heritage Program, MASC, the National Gallery of Canada, the Ottawa School of Art, and the Ottawa School of Speech and Drama. We have also been delighted to welcome new

representatives from the Great Canadian Theatre Company (GCTC) and the NAC, as well as two local musicians with exciting plans to build a music program modelled on the Venezuelan Youth Orchestra.

These arts organization representatives have been able to communicate important information to the ACA about educational programs and activities such as museum tours and workshops, and student matinees. In particular, this year, GCTC sought to better develop and promote its youth activities, such as their student matinees, and created a new staff position to oversee the *Edge* education Program. MASC initiated a new series of successful professional development workshops for teachers. The National Gallery has a new PD Day program for children. The NAC is planning a new program for bringing its musicians into schools for longer-term projects.

The ACA is very excited about these new and on-going opportunities for students to be enriched by the arts.

## 6.5. Budget

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The ACA has an annual budget of approximately \$1000. The following outlines this year's expenditures.

|                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Budget:</b>                        | \$1000.00             |
| <b>Expenditures:</b>                  |                       |
| Photocopies                           | \$ 44.38              |
| Stationary                            | \$ 10.21              |
| Refreshments                          | \$ 88.21              |
| Arts Awards                           | \$ 85.00 (approx.)    |
| Year-end social                       | \$ 200.00 (projected) |
| <b>TOTAL Expenditures, projected:</b> | <b>\$427.80</b>       |

## 6. Ongoing Priorities

The group identified the following priorities for the coming school year:

- Continue Arts Appreciation Awards.
- Continue Encore Program.
- Continue to advocate for the Arts Consultant job within Central Administration.
- Continue to examine issue of auditions funding at Arts Canterbury.
- Continue to work for a more prominent and visible position on the OCDSB website. Goals include adding information on the Cappies program, arts-related articles, videotaped footage of OCDSB arts events, and photo galleries showcasing the arts in the schools.
- Update “Arts Education in Ottawa” directory.
- Activities to support visual arts, e.g. a funding drive for materials, an art supplies collection modelled on Encore, an art-a-thon, or an event to engage corporate sponsorship.
- Follow up on the Ministry of Education announcement of extra funds for arts materials and ensure that these materials are available for student use in classrooms.
- Engage support for arts education by non-arts organizations and businesses.
- Engage school councils and trustees; inform them of the current pulse on arts in the schools; improve trustee attendance at ACA meetings by requesting that OCDSB meeting schedule not conflict with ACA schedule.
- Gather data to map the city and get a picture of the arts programs in schools; address arts equity across the OCDSB; assist schools in need.

## 7. Conclusion

The ACA is very pleased with a successful, active school year, in spite of serious budget cuts at the OCDSB. The committee continues to fulfill its mandate and objectives, according to the ACA Terms of Reference. It looks forward to further strengthening of arts instruction at the OCDSB, as part of an approach that seeks excellence in public education and the academic enrichment of all students.