

# MANITOBA CULTURAL SOCIETY OF THE DEAF

Annual General Meeting  
June 4, 2015 at 7:00 pm  
Deaf Centre Manitoba (Affleck Room)

**First Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Cultural Society of the Deaf (MCSD)  
285 Pembina Highway, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
June 5, 2015**

**Present at AGM:**

Alice Crawford, Cheryle Broszeit, Dianne Mondor, Tim Dans, Dana Zimmer and Rick Zimmer and Suzanne St.Yves

**Members:** Bruce Koskie, Linda Koskie, Brenda Rutherford, Jessica Szacilowski, and Andrew Nelson

**Observant:** Charlene Arnold, Kenneth Anderson, Elaine Anderson, and Rita Bomak

**Interpreter:** Mandy MacDonald and Arleen An

A quorum of members was met and the Annual General Meeting was called to order.

**1. Call to Order**

R. Zimmer called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm

**2. Adoption of Agenda – June 4, 2015**

**MOTION:** To accept the agenda as distributed.

**Moved by:** Tim Dans, **Seconded by** Linda Koskie

**Carried:** Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Board Reports**

- I. Board's report (See attachment)
- II. Treasurer (See attachment)
  - i. Unaudited Financial Report
  - ii. Informal 2015-16 of budget
    1. Canada Council Arts \$20,000 (For board training)

2. Manitoba Art Council \$10,000 (for 6 Deaf photography mentors)
3. Art & Disability Manitoba Network \$5,000 (for photography classes)

#### **4. Bylaw: Feedback from members**

- I. Change the date for annual Membership from June 1 to January 1
- II. Change the name Auditors to Reviewer. MCSD needs to check with someone first to see if we will be able to get grants if the name is changed to “reviewer” or if it is required of us to hire auditors.
- III. Required to have 2 out of 3 signatures on any legal and bank documents
- IV. The number to reach a quorum for members to vote at the AGM is too large as most members do not attend the meetings. A recommendation was made to change the minimum requirement to a “minimum of 10 members at the AGM to go ahead”. Or recommend MCSD to check MAVLI’s bylaw.
- V. Where is “CCSD” in MCSD bylaws

#### **5. Vision and Mission**

##### **Vision Statement:**

MCSD’s vision is to promote insight to and develop appreciation of Deaf Manitobans’ experiences, through language, culture, and the arts so as to celebrate their achievements and contributions to the world.

##### **Mission Statement:**

MCSD’s mission is to identify and promote innovative initiatives and projects that focus on the contribution of the arts, heritage, language, and culture towards the revitalization and empowerment of Deaf Manitobans.

##### **Goals:**

- Present the Deaf community to the world in a way that brings great pride through the work of Deaf artists like The Deaf Mime Troupe
- Break down the barriers between the Deaf and non-deaf worlds
- Play an advocacy role in changing government policy around funding for interpreter services and graphic note takers to ensure that Deaf people have the same opportunities for training and funding assistance as all others do
- Explore arts grants for Deaf artists
- Inspire Deaf people through their own culture and language

Add the “Note: The definition of ‘Deaf’ to incorporate all Deaf individuals no matter their degree of hearing loss or choice of communication. This definition to be added to the Mission and Vision statements. This is to be an umbrella term to house all Deaf individuals.

**MOTION:** To accept new vision and mission statement.

**Moved by:** Alice Crawford, **Seconded by** Andrew Nelson

**Carried:** Motion carried unanimously.

## 6. Project in 2015-2016

- I. 6 Photographers for Arts mentorship in September 2015
- II. Art course with Debora Cardaci in September 2015
- III. 5 Deaf artists want to take TAMCY in September 2015
- IV. Grant for Interpretation funds for photography group and mime group
- V. Executive Director and training board members.

7. New Business (None)

8. Announcements

- I. Photography group will have another fundraising on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at Boston Pizza from 6 to 9 pm.

9. Adjournment at 8:46 pm

## MCSD's Board of Directors Report

For the past two years, the MCSD board has been working diligently to re-establish this vital organization in the Deaf community. We acknowledge and appreciate the value it brings to our community and to our youth who will one day join us to continue to bring new and exciting things to our artistic and cultural community.

We have recently been focused on revising the Bylaws as well as the vision and mission statements.

We have seen our membership grow to 66 members at large. It is great to have so many new individuals join us. Our door is always open to new members so please spread the word.

As a member of MCSD you will be:

- supporting the organization to promote Deaf culture and Deaf artists
- supporting the advocacy efforts of MCSD to ensure equal access to Arts funding and skills development
- you will be able to attend any courses or events that are being interpreted or have a graphic note taker because of the work of MCSD revitalizing Manitoba's Deaf arts community with events such as art shows, storytelling, and mime performances

Although we have seen a few changes on the board in the past, we have a lot of faces that have offered their time and energy for many years. We thank them for their

dedication to the organization but we all feel very strongly that new faces are needed. Your ideas and energy is vital to the continued growth of MCSD and so we ask you, if you are interested, please let us know. The youth is our future and without you we can only go so far.

#### Activities to date:

- Successfully secured grant funds from the Winnipeg Foundation to cover the cost for both the mime troop training as well as a part-time executive director. The part-time executive director position was unfortunately cut when the grant funds ran out. We recently secured further grant funds to recreate this position again and hope to hire shortly.
- A town hall was held on February 27, 2014 with approximately 100 people in attendance. Our Deaf artists displayed their artistic creations that night as well.
- We received a \$15,000.00 Endowment fund from Lucy A. Crawford. The annual income from this fund will go to assist with the professional development of a Deaf Manitoba artist. The applicants will be expected to submit a grant application to MCSD.
- The Manitoba government covered the interpreting fees incurred at PrairieView Photography for 10 Deaf photography students as a one-time event.
- A grant proposal was made to the Canadian Council of the Arts for funds to facilitate professional development for Deaf artists via sign language interpreters during photography and theatre instruction. Unfortunately the grant application was not approved.
- On May 2, 2014 Dame Glennie of England, who is Deaf, joined the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra for a performance. The students from the Manitoba School for the Deaf joined her for a rehearsal at which time they were asked on stage to experience the vibrations from the orchestra as well as the thrill of being on stage.
- A brownbag lunch date was started on May 2, 2014 for the Arts and Cultural Industries Association of Manitoba staff and the MCSD members. This lunch ran for 10 weeks to encourage the sharing and learning of ASL and our culture.
- The MCSD held their first Deaf Photography Art Show on July 3, 2014.
- The Deaf mime group 100 Decibels performed at the July 2014 Fringe Festival with rave reviews. Several interviews with the troupe raised awareness and was good PR. They hope to perform at the Fringe again this year.
- The De'Via workshop was held on May 20 at MSD. Joanne Cripps from CCSD came to present about Deaf art.

- A website for MCSD was in the development stages but is now complete and was launched in January 2015 along with other social media venues like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

We look forward to continued success for our Deaf artists as well as your continued support. Our belief is that if we support our community and allow them to thrive and succeed, we can show the world around us how much the Deaf community has to offer. Please consider taking an active role in our board and participating in our events to ensure all our goals become a reality, together we can do many wonderful things.  
Upcoming projects - Alice Crawford - Project Director Report 2015 AGM

1. The Art of Managing Your Career: The ASL interpreting has been partly funded for the fall course at Arts Culture Industries (ACI). This excellent and practical course by Heather Bishop, teaches you how to promote and manage your art practice. One set of 7 Deaf artists have been through the course already, myself included. The second batch of 5 Deaf artists will start in September, pending funding for interpreters. A mix of Deaf and non-deaf people allows exposure to Deaf Culture. The first class made several new friends and contacts with the hearing classmates and some of them are now working with the Deaf community.

2. The Debora Cardaci Mentorship project: This is pending. A well-known visual artist Debora Cardaci will mentor 5 Deaf Artists with 6 weekends of training (once every two months) - 5 hours per day - on a Saturday and Sunday - over the space of a year commencing this fall. Debora will teach a variety of mediums- drawing, painting and sculpting. The course is limited to 8 students who would be juried by Debora. The art supplies hopefully will be approved in the budget so this could cost nothing for the artists. The grant outlines 2 hours instruction interpreted - one hour work on your own.

We will find out later this month if the grant has come through.

3. Last fall, I attended workshops given by the Arts Disability Network Manitoba (ADNM) to talk about the needs of Disabled Artists. There were people from the government as well as local artists. I repeatedly stressed that Deaf artists need grants that allow them access to communication. They can not progress in their arts practice without communication and access to information and it's a Catch-22 because we can not get grants unless we've had experiences which is difficult to get without education.

The Deaf Photographers attended one of these workshops and did a peaceful disruption of the panel to educate about the lack of funding for ASL interpreting. After these people stepped forward, they ran into the same problems with the criteria for grant funding.

Finally, our voice is being heard! ADNM has offered to pay for interpreting for the Photographers level 2 course and has request a formal letter from us asking for the support. We are waiting to hear back from them whether they have approved our request for one or two more levels of photography courses. Awesome! Keep talking and making our case to anyone you can talk to!

4. ADNM has decided that they will pay for any ASL required by an art organization having an event requiring such, providing the organization is a member of ADNM and is a non-profit ie artist-run art organization. Aceart (an Artist Run Centre dedicated to the development, exhibition and information of contemporary art by cultural producers) is to let all of the artist-run organizations (MAWA, Martha Street, Plug in, Videopool, etc) to know about it. If an event comes up that you are interested in going to, let ADNM know and they will book an interpreter at no cost.

5. Mentoring Artists for Women's Arts (MAWA) wants to help Deaf women artists with artist mentorships or other projects that will help them develop skills to further their arts practice.

We are starting to look at ways that we can work with them providing Deaf women artists' opportunities. If anyone knows of a Deaf woman artist who wants to progress in her arts practice, please let us know.

#### 6. Wanted: Deaf Artists

If you have a project or an idea that you'd like to develop but need to apply for some money, please let us know. There are two possible grants for you to apply to. We will help you with the writing of the grant.

Canada Council of the Arts Grant application sheets.

a) <http://canadacouncil.ca/~media/files/equity/new/creativedevelopment.pdf?mw=1382>

b)

<http://canadacouncil.ca/~media/files/equity/new/professionaldevelopment.pdf?mw=1382>

2

Canada Council for the Arts is currently developing a Signed video about these two programs.