

Children's Global Arts Foundation
Minutes of November 25th Board Meeting in Victoria, BC
Submitted by Secretary, Joe Karmel

Members in attendance: Nadine Cruickshanks, Joe Karmel, Geoff Spriggs, Budd Hall, Jeffrey Pitcher, Will Gordon

1) **Greetings, wine & cheese** (juice & cookies)

2) **Friends of the Foundation Update**

Nadine formally welcomed all the new Friends of the Foundation, and handed out a list indicating the names, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of 159 Friends of the Foundation. The work of the Foundation is attracting friends and board members from all walks of life. The rich diversity among Friends is viewed as a great strength of the Foundation, drawing on a broad spectrum of community members locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

3) **September 15, 2006 minutes review and approval**

4) **Follow up to September 15, 2005 Board Meeting:**

a) *Langford Fire Department Report* - Geoff Spriggs

- Langford Fire Department is keeping contact with Atiqullah Mohammadullah the fire chief from Kabul who recently paid a visit to Canada and Victoria
- Geoff Spriggs is anticipating a trip to Kabul with four other fire fighters in the near future (perhaps as soon as February, 2007). The fire department maintains connections with Canadian military personnel and Canadian diplomats on the ground. With these contacts Geoff envisions some ideas for expanding the art exchanges with the schools in this region.

b) *Charitable Status Document*

Applying for charitable status for the CGAF was approved at the September Board Meeting. Members in attendance filled in the personal information necessary for completing the application and filing process. Some discussion ensued regarding the acceptance of donations in the meantime.

c) *Media updates* (National Film Board, A-Channel, Global National, Saanich News) - See Correspondence document for updates.

d) *Events & Conferences update*

While not discussed in detail at the meeting, there are several events/conferences that the CGAF has participated in, and will be involved in, in the new year. See Events & Conferences document for updates.

e) *Projects & Initiatives*

A discussion ensued about the messages and voices coming through in the children's art displays. The messages are powerful and complex. The art work reveals some striking similarities and differences in perceptions and outlooks between children in the West and the East for the world we live in and the world we want. See Project & Initiative document for update

f) *Web site update* (see Correspondence notes)

g) *Financial report* (update from Joe Karmel)

With recent sales in CGAF DVD's and note cards, the foundation is slowly building up a source of funds to help with its activities.

5 Questions & Discussion Arising From the Foundation's Ongoing Activities:

a) Considering a home for the children's artwork: *Who does the children's artwork that is exchanged ultimately belong to?*

It was generally felt that the Foundation should stipulate that the artwork that is exchanged between school communities need homes where the art work is cared for and shared throughout a given community on an ongoing basis. This should be a condition of the exchanges arranged through the Foundation. As the art pieces represent a valuable source of authentic communication, the University of Victoria will accept the responsibility to store the work if a school cannot provide such a space, as well as help to coordinate/communicate requests for displays and exhibitions. It was also recommended that the University/Foundation should also continue to catalogue and photograph the art pieces for the web site.

b) *How do we accommodate international exchange interest (particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq)? We also have requests from educators in the USA.*

It was suggested that the Foundation not take on the role of facilitating all the art exchanges. The Foundation can offer those wishing to participate in this initiative its own experiences to date and share some of the ideas it has come up with for facilitating exchanges from the Victoria area. It was recommended that those wishing to consider exchanges could consider their own communities as potential facilitators in this initiative. Establishing a network of communication in the home community is one of the strengths, benefits, and goals of this project. The web site that is being developed and maintained by the Foundation/university is a good tool that can be used to help in this endeavour. The foundation can also contribute its knowledge, research, and support of projects and ideas.

c) *How can we better support project facilitators (teachers, community workers, parents) in carrying out the principles of the CGAF as outlined in our constitution? (i.e. child honouring, reciprocity, 'out of the box')?*

The Foundation could consider creating a list of guiding principles for those considering working with the project under the CGAF umbrella. This would include the goals and mission statement of the Foundation, as well as guidelines ('guiding principles') for introducing the initiative to children. As a Foundation, we feel it is important that a) children's visions and voices of expression are uninterfered with and a true expression of their own world view is captured (child honouring); b) projects are pursued with the understanding that *we can learn from one another* - avoiding the "poor them" syndrome that conveys the message that children here in Canada are "rich" in everything they need, while others are "poor" (reciprocity); and c) projects are not viewed as *subject matter*, but *ideas and voices that matter* (out of the box).

d) *What is a fair honorarium request for conferences and events?*

The board suggested that *travel costs plus a donation to the Foundation* would be appropriate, taking into consideration the conference or event context and hosting situation. Tim Hopper may be able to contribute further ideas as he has considered this matter in the past.

6) Global Arts Day at UVic

Nadine shared an idea put forth by Anna Nielson, a graduate student at UVic., who would like to facilitate a Global Arts Day in June, where children from Vancouver Island join together in the creation of art based on the CGA themes. She would like to get permission to put it on at UVic. Budd Hall confirmed that the university would find space for the event.

Nadine suggested that the Foundation consider putting on a fund raiser in the Spring time at the A. Wilfred John Gallery at UVic - possibly in combination with Anna's above event idea. The idea of a gallery exhibit was recommended to us by a Friend and UVic student, Roselynn Verwoord. The idea met with approval from the members present. Budd Hall suggested getting hold of Wendy Gedney of the UVic alumni to help with the organization of such an event.

The Foundation will consider if the Global Arts Day in June would also be a suitable time for the CGAF Annual General Meeting and the gallery fund raising event.

7. Other CCAF fund-raising ideas:

Lois Harvey has continued expressing interest in proposal-writing initiatives to help raise funds for the CGAF. Budd Hall suggested that funds should be raised with the idea of sustaining the plans, projects, and initiatives of the Foundation. Budd also mentioned how many donors are looking for projects such as ours to donate to - especially this time of year. It was also mentioned that once we get "Charitable status" fund raising efforts would become even easier. The safekeeping of the artwork came up again as a fund-raising mission, with the idea of having waterproof and durable traveling bags to transport the display boards and other CGA materials. The CGAF now has note/greeting cards available with 4 children's art work images made up for sale. Those present at the meeting were given a package of four cards. Orders for cards are increasing. The idea of a GCAF 2007/2008 calendar, featuring children's art might not also be a good idea as a fund raiser.

8. Other business:

a) The board is happy to welcome and announce an inspirational new board member, *Will Gordon*, an Education Coach for the Capital Mental Health Association and local artist. We look forward to working with Will and sharing our ideas, plans, and projects. Will informed us that he may be working with a group of youth early in the new year (proposal approval pending) and will consider how to incorporate Global Arts principles in his work.

b) Nadine mentioned her future plans to generate Art involvement with members of William Head Prison and the Open Door. With voices of *children, street people, and inmates* sharing their views about ‘the world we live in’, and ‘the world we want’, our communities could learn a great deal about the world in which we live and hope for. Budd mentioned how a woman named ‘Corrina’ is presently working with Rev. Al Tysick at the Open Door in an art related capacity and would be a good person to contact. Budd also reminded us of Darlene Clover’s involvement in related endeavours and feels she would also be a good contact person. Joe felt that if we could also initiate art from the *elderly population* this could provide us with other important (and silent) messages about our world.

c) Jeffrey Pitcher mentioned how he would like to start a “youth committee” to move global arts ideas forward at his school, Arbutus Middle School. Jeffrey is also interested in selling CGA note cards throughout his school community to help raise funds for the Foundation.

9. Closing: Nadine thanked everyone present for coming out on a Saturday night board meeting, and for helping to support and clarify some important questions that had come up for consideration. Our next board meeting will be held in mid-March, 2007.

Attached Documents:

- Events and Conferences Update
- Projects and Initiatives Update
- Correspondence Update Since September 15