



## ***Community Cultural Successes***

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### **A compendium of activities, events and organizations collected during the Community Dialogue public consultations held province-wide in Saskatchewan in winter 2009**

At each of the dialogue sessions, and in the online questionnaire, participants were asked to share “a positive experience that has advanced the arts, culture and heritage sector in your district.” A rich and diverse list of activities, events and organizations that make the people of Saskatchewan proud flowed from participants. Below is a summary, as described for each of the districts throughout the province. These are listed in alphabetical order by district.

#### **Agencies, Boards and Commissions (ABCs)**

- Royal Saskatchewan Museum’s (RSM) Repatriation Policy for Sacred and Ceremonial Artifacts. This policy will provide options for return or co-management of sacred and ceremonial objects in the ethnology reserve collection of the RSM to the original First Nations/Métis owners/communities.
- *Edifice and I* (a TV show that showcases Saskatchewan built heritage) – involved in the production of a TV program on the local church. The initiative built community pride because it reached outside the community and built a sense of “bigger” community.
- Claybank Brick Factory – amazing prairie story.
- Tisdale Museum – energy of volunteers is incredible.
- Blaine Lake has a driving program that draws people from a distance away to participate.
- Estevan has developed a theatre, art gallery, and summer event.
- *Clearing the Path* started small and has grown – non traditional.
- Diocese of Qu’Appelle buildings are an example of adaptive reuse with the government provide critical oversight of the project.
- Western Development Museum *Winning the Prairie Gamble* supported through provincial dollars and support.

#### **First Nations and Métis, February 27, 2009 C.U.M.F.I. (Saskatoon)**

##### Tyron Tootoosis – Stewarding the Oral Traditions

The sacred obligation rests with us. The retention of history, like the work Wanuskewin is continuing to do, should not be taken lightly. I remember the old people talking about why our people have long hair. This is an example of the kind of traditions that should be talked about at Wanuskewin. Elders have expressed pride at the grand opening of Wanuskewin and the Tee-pee Village, especially during the arrival of the Royal couple a few years back.

Be proud of who we are and our obligations: this is the obligation of Wanuskewin. It is a huge task. We have many different groups represented; the challenge will be in not making the displays and exhibits too generic.



The meaning of culture today rests on being able to articulate all of our meanings. We've heard people talking about oral history and stories that are not written down. The map is a gentle reminder of how we see the land. We are attempting to retain oral history through technology.

#### Pat Lorje – Wanuskewin Heritage Park

Thanks to the generosity, support, and financial assistance from the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, they have rescued this project, through their hard work and dedication to the preservation of the Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

A new Chief Executive Officer will soon be appointed and I am recommending a First Nations person take the helm, or at least a First Nation-friendly individual. Wanuskewin is only alive today because of the dedication of the staff, a number that has dropped from 50 to 10 people, with their passion to preserve Wanuskewin.

We are talking to the Universities about the artefacts we have at Wanuskewin. It is unique in that there is a cluster of artefacts in a small space—a high concentration which allows us to dream to reach out and expand with the assistance of the University and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, to keep telling the story of these seven tribes. It is not a “generic” historical site, and there will be an ongoing renewal of exhibits. We want to build on the creative thoughts. We will have a new restaurant and kitchen and expanded meeting space. We are strongly of the belief that we must enhance First Nations customs and beliefs, and welcome everyone to this very unique experience.

#### Shawn Ahenekeew – Royal Saskatchewan Museum:

This policy has been in the works for approximately 20 years. Update: we have had two rounds of extensive consultations with Elders and Ministry staff, resulting in a draft policy that will be eventually available on the RSM website. I will be traveling this policy around, trying not to miss any important pieces so the repatriation policy goes smoothly. The RSM currently has approximately 200 sacred objects. The policy is to the point where it is on the cusp of being made public; then we can begin the process of having people request what they wish to have returned to their communities. These items should go back where they belong, but it will not be a fast process. I hope that it can work and that people will find something in the process to bring healing to the people from where the objects belong.

*Q: What mechanism is in place, with the bands, the federal government, or the Royal Saskatchewan Museum to ensure the sacred items will go back to the people who know what they are doing? How do you know it will go to the right person? What's the difference between the RSM Repatriation Policy and the Alberta Repatriation policy?*

#### Evelyn Siegfried – Royal Saskatchewan Museum

The returning process will be one of sensitivity. There will be a request form to submit to see an object, and then the community will discuss if/when an object needs to go back. Proper protocol will have to be observed with each object.

The difference between Alberta and Saskatchewan--Alberta's was legislated and primarily directed toward the Blackfoot people. It seems to have been a more communal process for them. We haven't identified societies that wish to take the repatriation as a community action—it is a difficult process because it must be done properly. The objects are powerful—there is an

element of danger if objects are not handled with the proper protocol. The RSM is new to this process. We are working with people in Alberta.

Talking to the Elders, repatriation does not necessarily have to be the first step. First, re-acquaintance might be more of a priority to begin with before considering repatriation.

*Q: To tell a story, would the RSM consider making replicas of the repatriated pieces?*

No, the RSM does nothing of that nature.

*Q: Will the originals go back to a keeping house?*

Yes, the items need to be honoured properly; they are not where they presently are. A Keeping House would be the best solution and a perfect place for the originals.

*Q: Is there any advocacy taking place to document this repatriation legislation?*

The point is not to go as far as the Legislation as Alberta. We are looking at an internal policy with the RSM for the 200 items, without Legislation. It could go more smoothly with less formal procedures involved. This has been built into the existing policy. The policy will be on the website. The list will not be open to the general public. There are ongoing discussions to establish a Keeping House at Wanuskewin. This will mean major changes to SICC.

#### Garry Anaquod -- SICC

The museum idea is not living, even though some of the items are living. Some of these items are sacred—they have a spirit; they are alive. Some have life; some are stagnant. The Keeping House should be different; the mentality must have the essence of a living representation, not a stagnant one. A great wrong has been done to these sacred objects over the years.

#### Wes Fineday

One of the things that keeps coming out here is the stewardship of artefacts from a mainstream society to an educational facility. We need a more holistic approach to safeguarding these items. The fact that they exist is because they are still needed and must be taken care of. Stewardship is more than just housing items in a museum. They must be honoured in a different way. The same philosophy applies to the land. We must understand the natural processes of these items at these places. Decisions were made in the past and now some of the people are making decisions about things they know nothing about—they have no deep knowledge of the history of the object. The objects must be treated right.

There are aspects of culture that are not as thoroughly understood as they could be if the voice of the inhabitants of this land is included and invited to come and speak about these laws. There are traditions that have not been accommodated. But, for the first time the government is asking how they can help. It is a positive thing. The door is opened a crack—we must widen the crack and keep it open. It will take a team to guide the movements and hopefully accomplish a lot more. We have only so much time to make these changes.



## **First Nations and Métis, March 27, 2009 Best Western Harvest Inn (Saskatoon)**

Damon Badger Heit, Coordinator of First Nations and Métis Initiatives at SaskCulture Inc. also provided a list of successful projects. These are examples from projects that have been funded through the Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership grant through SaskCulture. As a requirement of the funding program, all programs have been developed and implemented through community, organization and cultural leader collaboration. Here are a few examples of projects that are either recently completed or currently underway:

**Gordons First Nations** (currently underway): Fall and winter evening youth program using multiple leaders three days a week to work with youth in beadwork/regalia and Pow wow dance workshops to prepare youth for the Gordon's First Nations Pow Wow through the direction of Pat Pratt. Pat was at the 2nd dialogue session in Saskatoon.

**Carry the Kettle First Nations** (currently underway): Community initiative to organize meetings and gatherings intended to create opportunities for Elders and youth to work together to accumulate and share traditional and cultural knowledge of the Nakoda Oyate and to maintain and preserve the culture and reclaim traditional values and support systems that will assist our people in deadline with contemporary issues. Tim Eashappie is the leader.

**Town of Arcola** (currently underway): Arcola School partnering with Pheasant Rump First Nation in program to increase knowledge of Nakota history, culture and language with Elder Armand McArthur. Essentially elder in residence funding through both SaskCulture and the Arcola school (school board).

**Friends of Batoche** (complete): Throughout the 2008 season, the grant will support Maria Campbell to provide Métis specific arts and cultural leadership for traditional seasonal demonstrations, activities and sharing of traditional language whenever feasible and appropriate. The activities will support Traditional Métis cultural celebrations such as St. Joseph Day through a proposed "St Joseph Day Traditional Picnic" and promote family through the "Mooshum and Kookum Family Gathering Day" and traditional and contemporary Métis dance during the well established "Back to Batoche Days" and other activities for the full month of July, as well as other events throughout the summer.

**Sask Writers Guild** northern playwright in residence (complete): The communities to be served by this residency include audiences of all ages of First Nations, Métis and other interested cultures, with a focus on young people working with elders. 13 northern communities hosted playwright, director and actor Mark Dieter to engage with youth in the schools in story telling/playwriting workshops.

**Sturgeon Lake First Nation** (complete/ongoing): The Sturgeon Lake First Nations Elder Advisory Council and Cultural Mentor Willie Ermine, co-hosted three community-based cultural events. Activities include language, ceremony and protocol learning in a community cultural camp setting. These invitational cultural themed events all take place on Sturgeon Lake First Nations as follows:

1. Spring Renewal Cultural Event- 30th Anniversary Cultural Camp: May 16th-19th 2008
2. Summer Cultural Family Event: Summer 2008
3. Amisk- 2 week Day Youth Camp: Summer 2008

## Lakeland District

- Melfort Amateur Dramatics: Going for 25 years; purchased the building two years ago. Renovations are almost complete for use as performance facility. They sell out every performance and are getting new sponsors and new members, and will host National Theatre Festival in 2010. One of the best, and one of few non-sport activities in town that fills social needs of the community; a dedicated core group within and outside--members change over time.
- Aboriginal Arts Music Festival: Three years in existence. Built on Province-sponsored event in 2005. It is growing local support; features performance, visual and music components; is getting youth/young performers involved. Successful because of the energy and vision of group. Members feel obligation to follow through on vision. Community has a need for expression.
- Country Music Association: In existence 20+ years and uses/obtains some external funding. Successful because of the energy and vision of group.
- Neely Lake (between Hudson Bay and Porcupine Plain): One-room log school house hosts annual fowl supper and local events (e.g. weddings, baptisms). Provides a sense of place for community.
- Missoula Drama Troupe: Touring troupe brought in for a week at a time to do performances and workshops. Attracts local kids to participate and is successful because it builds interesting youth in drama.
- Shellbrook Theatre: Local Arts Board was established to run the old theatre, a refurbished facility with new sound system, seats, etc. It hosts multiple events; also used as walking facility for locals.
- Paddockwood Show: Locally organized for years by Edgar (?) to stage drama presentations. The proceeds went towards the construction of a local rink. First professional show for many local performers.
- Thickwood Hills Studio Trails: Entering ninth year. Each artist averages 400-500 visitors; template has been used to create five or six other local tours.
- Melfort Youth Council: Youth make a work plan and engage in cultural activities. A new facility is being built in Melfort to house a 380 seat performance space, art gallery, indoor soccer, etc.
- Prince Albert Civic Arts Policy: Over 20 years old; lots of volunteers. Also drivers of the Prince Albert Downtown Street Festival for 500 visitors.
- Traditional fine crafts; preserving and selling traditional crafts (e.g. Tipi village near Shellbrook). Member of Saskatchewan Craft Council; self-driven and self-employed.
- 2003 Tisdale and District Strings: Teaches violin, fiddle, cello etc. Summer music program with 23 instructors in 23 venues; lots of volunteers. Some provincial funding.
- Tapestrama: Established in 1963. Multicultural food, entertainment, displays etc., for over 5,000 visitors; volunteer driven.
- Cultural Experiences Outdoors: First Nation cultural experience on Churchill River; over 400 youth have gone in past five years; funded through Community Initiatives Fund.
- Common Weal: Provincial organization that ties the arts to youth at risk; provides opportunity to those that do not normally have access.



- Saskatchewan Music Alliance: The five provincial music organizations founded a music alliance (advocacy alliance) to advocate, share resources, leverage purchasing power, etc.
- Western Economic Diversification gave \$0.75 million for the celebration of Centennial.
- City of Prince Albert and Heritage Society have entered into an agreement on museums and archives. The agreement/relationship model can be used by other volunteer organizations in Prince Albert.
- Curatorial Club: Started in 2000 to tour exhibits across the province. A catalogue is in the works.
- Art Ability Program: Offers visual literacy program to youth with disabilities.
- Urbanism Show and Art Gallery of Prince Albert showcase contemporary art forms (e.g. graffiti).
- Tisdale has lots of arts, culture and heritage practitioners, including writers guild, musicians, and highland dancers.
- Indigenous People Artist Collective (IPAC) has attached itself to a national organization to do public programming for Aboriginal youth.
- Saskatchewan Music Educators have a program that offers free piano and music lessons to under privileged kids. Have 23 sites across the province, as well as in Edmonton, Ottawa and Montreal. It is self-funded.
- Nipawin Centennial Players: Drama theatre in its fifth year.
- Honey Bee Music and Dance Camp in rural northeast Sask
- Prince Albert Urban Treaty Day - Cultural sharing of TREATY, Arts - crafters asked to be at event to showcase aboriginal talent - entertainment stage of community entertainers from country/blues/rock a way of sharing our cultures and have to whole community participate, learn and enjoy....also had ceremonial tepees on the riverbank, children's activities and much visiting.....
- The creation of our EA Rawlinson Centre. This has become the hub for over 244 events per year.
- Started a new job last April at the Conservation Learning Centre.
- In my community a few individuals had to put up their own funds and energy to initiate drama and arts. It is not positive that we needed to do so much work and put up our money, but we have started awareness in our community.
- Broadway North provides a Christmas show that involves and engages professional artists and community (including youth) in the production and staging. This is only possible with significant assistance from the staff at the E.A. Rawlinson Centre.
- The Prince Albert Street Fair The Prince Albert Fine Arts Festival The Prince Albert Children's Festival I'm sure there are more but can't think of any right now
- It is currently in progress. Our community is building a new multi-use facility with a designated performing arts centre and visual art gallery.
- TheatreFest 2003 was a great success for the performing arts community Exposure to this amateur event was unprecedented. Attendance Levels were the highest in the history of this Festival
- We host almost one hundred school tours of our museums each year.
- Arts Smarts



## Northern District

- Road Side Gallery in La Ronge.
- The Arts Council brings artists into the school.
- Every four years the district holds a Culture and Games festival; includes northern spirits, a drama project.
- The district promotes funding for arts, culture and heritage projects.
- Riel Days.
- Peanut Productions.
- Youth have a space where the community gathers around a number of community activities; Elder forums, youth at risk camps, etc.
- District has begun to inventory its artists.
- We have a vibrant Arts Council in La Ronge that brings performers to our community.
- A local arts cooperative (no longer in business) called The Roadside Gallery.
- The arts council brings in some great performers to our small and remote community. The performers are sometimes contracted to perform or do workshops in the schools.
- A design firm from Chicago was hired to consult with the community to design a new high school in La Ronge.
- Winter Trapper's Festival - Children's Festival - Craft Fair - La Ronge Arts Council

## Parkland Valley District

- Parkland Valley Sport, Culture and Recreation district summer programs; train community people who go back and run programs for youth in area.
- Municipal Cultural Plan Pilot: Started November 2007; a steering committee of cultural practitioners in Yorkton meet and discuss how community events and groups can function better together. Driven by the City and SaskCulture.
- Threshermans Show: August long weekend; led by a steering committee and volunteers. 53<sup>rd</sup> annual; self-funded; crowds diminishing from 10,000 in 1980's to 1,700 nowadays.
- Yorkton Film Festival: Volunteer board with one part- time Executive Director and one part-time staff; 400 films juried; funded through Sask Lotteries, Telefilm and fundraising.
- Artist in Residence program in Esterhazy through the Concert Band Association; brought in musical theatre to the town. Three small theatre groups have sprung up from this.
- Thorrablot Festival:
  - Icelandic celebration of the end of Winter; takes place in Foam Lake every March;
  - Every year Icelandic dignitaries participate, including (in the past) the Icelandic President, Consuls General, etc. They then return home and promote Saskatchewan. "Iceland knows about Foam Lake and area";
  - "It's hard not to be proud of your community when you're having supper with a President."
  - Statue unveiled in 1988 was created by a Saskatoon sculptor;



- Foam Lake Heritage Walk: Features walking trails with Icelandic names;
- The community is making money from its Heritage.
- Yorkton School Music Program: Successful since the late 70s.
- Kelvinton Book Club: When the club wanted a known writer to participate in one of its gatherings, the book club approached the Saskatchewan Writers Guild. The Guild supported the project and brought out author, Larry Warwaruk (*The Ukrainian Wedding*). Club approached the High School; Larry spoke, to delight of the school.
- Melville Community Works: Turned a looming school closure into a community cultural centre with musicals, dinner theatre, indoor playground and meeting rooms; employs one full-time administrator.
- The Haunts of Yorkton (now defunct): Walking tour and theatrical experience centred around interesting local heritage sites, like the old Hudson Bay store, Court House, former Bronfman Building site, and different places on Broadway Street. Fell apart when the woman driving the initiative moved to Saskatoon.
- Community Mural, Yorkton: Depicts 20<sup>th</sup> century growth and development of Yorkton; second mural done in the city; economic development reason behind it, and support from Downtown Business group; local government provided funding; Liquor Board store provided the wall! Characteristics of Success: popular artist, location, theme, community connections, and support / partnership with downtown business group.
- National Gallery of Saskatchewan, Canora: National gallery established by young artists who've recently moved to Canora; artists in gallery have painted local things, like Lesia the larger than life statue of a Ukrainian Baba; gallery attracts other people interested in arts and culture. It has held openings, shows, and sales; it builds community. Characteristics of Success: community acceptance, community incorporates artists into activities, and Saskatchewan Arts Board grant funding.
- Langenburg Arts Council, Langenburg: Has been going for a while, but especially successful in past 3-4 years; successful in the sense of culture, and somewhat economically too; community movie theatre was renovated to serve as a multi-use facility (movies, performing arts centre); funding includes over \$300,000 gifts, plus \$100,000 fundraised. Not one penny of government money; there's a high degree of community pride in the accomplishment with notable highlights such as the recent purchase of a grand piano, which was paid for in 1 memorable concert. Characteristics of Success: noted the endless opportunities in the community, getting started by tackling a first challenge, starting with the right team of people (dedicated, passionate about the arts), harnessed broader enthusiasm by building a strong core group of people, learned to "just ask" for the broader community's help, and it was often given, have a good knowledge of who the community is--be open to people from more distant places, time and patience -- it takes a long time to build things, strong K-12 arts program builds interest and appreciation. The community strongly asked for arts in the school. This leads to good youth involvement.
- Melville Activities: Old school was repurposed as an arts centre; characteristics of success include key people, key volunteers with dedication, vision and passion, and comment about arts volunteerism: arts have to be in the schools to build interest. Arts, culture and heritage activities that go on at the centre include:
  - dance, gymnastics, concerts in gym
  - 2 galleries



- Artist in residence
- Art classes for all ages
- Gift shop for local artists
- Quilt club room
- OSAC
- Art club room
- Dedicated art shows every 2 years
- Melville's first mural on the building
- Dinner theatre
- Also did downtown mural for the Painted Hand Casino (it was painted in sections) – Painted hand a very supportive partner
- City of Melville also very supportive – it provides operating grant and looks after boilers, etc.
- Arts Council important in this initiative
- HRCD (or whatever they're called now) has provided grants and staff through youth-at-risk (etc.) programs, and 1 paid admin person.

## **Prairie Central District**

Saskatchewan Engagement: The relatively high public participation and engagement in arts, culture and heritage activities in Saskatchewan should be considered to be a success story. Compared to other prairie provinces, Saskatchewan participation is high.

- Meacham Ukrainian Dance Club:
  - Meacham Ukrainian Dance Club is successful in terms of its long history. It appeals to both boys and girls. Members have the opportunity to dance at home, but also attend provincial meets, and through travel have been exposed to other kids with like interests (e.g. the broader provincial dance community).
  - Success of the Ukrainian Dance Club had two components: (1) a cultural chemistry or milieu, meaning the right mix of interested people is there; and (2) facilitation, or someone willing to do the organizing.
  - For a small town, Meacham has a high concentration of artists and a thriving arts scene; however, the Meacham person sharing this story was careful to note that there wasn't necessarily a causal relationship between the high number of artists in Meacham and the success of the Ukrainian Dance Club.
- Humboldt Musical Productions:
  - Not just reliant on actors; had all components needed to mount productions (e.g. musicians, set designers and builders, costumers).
  - Leadership: Not only do you need people with a variety of specialized skills, you need leaders / directors. The shows had leadership that helped to harness the various interests.
  - Right "chemistry" present: The desire of the performers, participants, and the public interest in seeing performances "thirst for the show".
  - The productions had room for everyone to take part, from 7 to 70+ years of age.
  - They were "creative undertakings with collective outcomes".



- Humboldt Dance Festival: Successful in the number of participants – as large as many big city festivals; in the number of people who wanted to watch the festival; for raising money through both gate and non-gate funding; and for exposing participants to dance in other places by providing trips to other dance festivals or schools as prizes and scholarships. These participants return to their home communities and shared their experiences. Their mandate was clear, and accessed dancers for whom there were fewer festivals (e.g. recreational, often rural dancers who dance one hour or less per week).
- Built Heritage Conservation around Humboldt: Many prominent heritage buildings in the Humboldt area have been identified and conserved. In some cases, this conservation is the result of passionate individuals who persevere regardless of lack of general support. In other cases local organizations support the conservation efforts (e.g. support from Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation instrumental). A stable economy, strong community ties, and knowledge of history are all connected to successful conservation of heritage buildings.
- Communities in Bloom: Humboldt has participated in this in the past few years, and has seen a rapid growth in participation rates amongst citizens. Communities in Bloom participation has resulted in a high pride in the beauty of Humboldt, with a special focus on the beautiful trees, heritage gardens, and the cemetery.
- Marysburg Assumption Church Restoration: This was the vision and passion of one man, Al Gerwing (recipient of the Governors General award). When it is complete, the church will become one of only a few venues that are large enough to support the larger choirs in the area.
- Little Manitou Walking Trail: The walking trail around this lake (still being created) features plaques marking various notable points along the walk (e.g. Danceland-commissioned through the Communities in Bloom initiative, this project also incorporates First Nations content. This is a heritage project.
- Meacham: A well-known success, thanks to Dancing Sky Theatre, studios, etc. “Far enough, close enough” – it has become a popular destination and not just for Saskatoon residents. The town with a population of 80 has a mailing list of 2,500 people, although lack of high-speed internet is a major obstacle in its marketing efforts. Service is available only a few miles away; this is a huge frustration to the small business owners there.
- Kawacatoose First Nations Dance Troupe: One of the community’s hoop dancers will appear in the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Olympics. Their youth dancers are in demand in communities all over, and not just First Nations. Dance is an inclusive activity on Kawacatoose First Nation; anyone can dance in the Grand Entrances. Dance, singing (the First Nations have a number of singing groups that travel) is making a big comeback.
- Community Dinner Theatre
- The Creation of Live Five theatre season.
- Dancing Sky Theatre in Meacham
- In the community that I teach in the annual Rodeo is a huge event. It supports the agricultural culture that permeates the area. Agriculture is the primary source of income in the area, and is celebrated at the local Rodeo.

## Regina District

- African Saskatchewan Museum project of 2005: Based on a partnership with the University of Regina and the Museums Association of Saskatchewan to develop an online museum, it was successful because it provided experience and learning opportunity for board member, and led to a belief in value of / increased interest in partnerships.
- Aboriginal Leadership Program: To build youth leaders.
- Inner-city Youth and Music Program in Saskatoon to record CD's: This program built the skills of the project leader, built a legacy of engaged youth and value of mentorship opportunities, and contributed to raising the talent level of artists.
- 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Regina Folk Festival: A great number of partnerships—Arts Collective, MacKenzie Art Gallery, etc. It was a success due to an increased collaboration across local community and the increased desire to work together on projects.
- Regina Folk Festival: The only festival in Canada that offers free admission during the day, and has hit capacity (both human resources and space). Still in the downtown core and encourages accessibility.
- Hip Hop artists in Swift Current: The importance of a web-based forum that developed to connect Saskatchewan Hip Hop artists; expanded the community to create a critical mass without having to physically move from home community / supports.
- Fort Qu'Appelle has an incredible community of visual artists.
- Publication of biographies of Regina people: Important because small communities have their books and this is the urban equivalent.
- Several examples of places where artists gather and talk: 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Collective, Soul Food, 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension (old Teachers Club), Café 97, etc.
- Wikipedia: A list of Saskatchewan artists.
- Saskatchewan Arts Board.
- Neutral Ground brought artists from overseas to train and work with local artists; created presentations; created recordings. Repercussions: has contributed to a sustainable infrastructure; instilled confidence to continue on; funded a vision as well as the people/artists; this is important *not* to be seen as cultural / creative industry sector, but rather as creators.
- Media group supported by Neutral Ground through access to equipment and space (legacy of both an earlier program and an internship program). They were interviewed by *The Globe and Mail*, who learned of them through Facebook.
- Globe Theatre School: Self-funded; reached out to kids and teens; put on workshops and actor training sessions which led to future actors, sustainability and new audience members.
  - Globe Theatre: Elephant Wake (a play) -developed locally but now has generated interest from a national and international audience and will begin touring soon. It is a success because it has increased respect for Saskatchewan artists and plays both inside and outside of provincial borders.
- Online SaskBooks Archive: On-going with many partners, funded by federal government and a bit from provincial government.



- Saskatchewan Writers Guild Mentorship Program and Aboriginal Mentorship Program: Funded by the Saskatchewan Arts Board.
- The Organization for Heritage Languages: Placed language teachers in 50 language classes; funded by Sask Lotteries.
- Festival of Words Folks run Books for Kids: Funded by corporate donations and private people and gives books to youth, kids in daycare, etc. It also has a teen writers program, a week-long camp culminating with a public reading on the last day of the Festival of Words.
- Drumming Saskatchewan: African, Caribbean, Aboriginal, etc. communities run workshops for youth and also participate in Mosaic Festival. They rely heavily on volunteers and SaskCulture.
- Regina Fringe Festival: In its fifth year.
- Joe Fafard: A comprehensive traveling show across Canada—“local boy does good”.
- Ukrainian churches across the province.
- Multi-faith Saskatchewan: Worked with Sustainability Saskatchewan to designate a sacred space at the center in Craik to celebrate multi-faiths.
- Saskatchewan Historical and Folklore Society: In partnership with SCN created the Evert Baker short film.
- Guilds and societies.
- Roughriders.
- Salons at the Book Awards:
  - hosts organize salons to which fans and patrons are invited to special readings/activities;
  - participants provide donations to support salons and other events for Awards program; and
  - they are successful because:
    - they increases connections between the external and members;
    - money is raised by targeting key individuals; and
    - Salons showcase the mandate of the organization.
- Archives Week: Offers public awareness; organizers brought in a celebrity reader to draw crowds, and had 60 people in Shaunovan.
- Archives Week: Saskatchewan Council of Archives and Archivists annually organize a week focused on events related to promoting the mandate of Archives across Saskatchewan. One activity is Readers Night, which brings in readers from the community to read selections from archives materials. This is a success because it builds partnerships between Archives and the broader community, raises awareness, and promotes programs of organizations.
- Calendar Projects: Archives did one a few years ago which was very popular, and recently the MS Society did one. They are successes because they produce a tangible product people can use, and they are a good way to deliver messages and promote programs. They should not be viewed as revenue generators.
- Saskatchewan Writers Guild: Membership is increasing by about 50 per year, over the past few years. This is a success story because the organization “sticks to knitting” and remains focused on writers working with and for other writers. It promotes mentorship and sharing,



which is of interest to members and prospective members. It has established an endowment foundation to support writers:

- based with funds to support specific activities for members;
  - new, yet have gotten significant money in place; and
  - success, because a need was identified (money for projects) and decision was made to think big and to undertake big project, rather than series of small projects with limited impact.
- Gravelbourg and Duck Lake Military Days.
  - OSAC celebrating 40 years:
    - Creativity Temple at Connect Festival;
    - Very little paperwork required of members of our organization so as not to burden volunteers – just enough to ensure checks and balances re funding. For example, a newspaper article will suffice that the event happened;
    - OSAC operates on an ongoing understanding of best practices by listening to members; and
    - OSAC fall conference always includes a workshop re volunteers.
  - St. Walburg has simple but effective succession planning of volunteers by taking sections of the phone book each year as one-to-one requests to volunteer. Ensures not phoning same people too often.
  - Creative Avenue Collective: Creates temporary locations / situations / events. After three years, disbanded because creativity and diversity mandate was fulfilled; stimulated the community.
  - Société historique de la Saskatchewan: Celebrates 30 years of books, magazines, websites due to synergy of the community.
  - Saskatchewan Genealogical Society: Celebrating 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; largest genealogy lending library in Canada and known as the go-to group re: cemeteries. Over four million entries in their database; they work with Genealogical Society of Utah to digitize records.
  - 2006 Crossfiring @ Claybank Brick Plant (Saskatchewan Arts Board, Canada Council for the Arts, Sask Lotteries, Saskatchewan Heritage).
  - 2008 Windblowing in Ponteix.
  - Ice and Fire Carnival: In downtown Regina; hibernating until 2010 Olympics (private sector, arts and culture organizations).
  - Regina Arts Commission.
  - City of Regina funds arts groups in Regina.
  - Saskatchewan Arts Board.
  - Regina Symphony Orchestra 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (donors, patrons, book sales).
  - Sask Music Festival Association (Sask Lotteries, membership fundraising).
  - Wollaston Lake community play program and Black Lake elders hand game video.
  - Fiddles in the North.
  - The Club and The Exchange: Community culture centre in a heritage building.
  - CARFAC Mentorship Program (CDIF, SaskCulture, Saskatchewan Arts Board).



- Arts Smarts.
- Street Culture Kids: City of Regina.
- 2005 symposium for Saskatchewan African Canadian Museum. (University of Regina partner, Museums of Saskatchewan, Sask Lotteries).
- Arts Alliance efforts from 2001 to Present to improve the Status of the Artist.
- ACTRA: Has a fund from producers to fund (a) training workshops for actors and (b) incubate, through small equity contributions, small film projects in the province. The current director of *Little Mosque on the Prairie* received some funding from this source.
- SOUL: A pilot with Public School Board to send a mentor to teach multiculturalism and languages to teachers, so they can teach them.
- The area around Victoria Park has been designated a heritage conservation district.
- International Mother Language Day (SOUL): Invites the public and tapes the event for distribution after the event. Funded by the public sector.
- Visual Arts Mentorships: Visual artists work with other visual artists to expand their professional abilities; working on a “best practice” standards for visual artists to govern how we treat arts, culture and heritage others.
- SCIDC: Cultural industry working together to sponsor export forums and looks at how we can move more work across international al borders.
- LANE Project: Support for emerging / contemporary artists to enable them to showcase their work; culminates in the GRAD show in the cathedral area.
- “Landscape as Our Muse” documentary series has taken Saskatchewan to the national and international marketplace.
- SCN’s *Fifteen Minutes of Fame – Citizen Journalism*: People apply to speak on whatever they wish to speak on; won the Mayor’s Award in Arts and Innovation.
- Nature Quest: Takes the conservation measure to northern Saskatchewan to save the boreal forests; a forum where artists, storytellers, and forest experts deliver the message.
- RCMP Heritage Centre: Raised funds from the private sector; broke the formula as to eligibility and are prepared to show others how they did it.
- SCN Artist in the Workplace: Mirrors the Artist in Residence concept.
- Performance from community organizations, specifically music groups
- The offering of free arts workshops to inner city youth through All Nations Healin' Thru Artz.
- Outreach programmes provided by sector organisations, and funded provincially and federally that brought the arts into my school.
- 2004 Cultural Capital designation
- 'Forget Summer Arts Festival' a wonderful grassroots event in the tiny town of Forget.
- Local aboriginal artists work is showcased in local community and surrounding area
- The yearly Cathedral Arts Festival in Regina is an excellent forum for the advancement of arts and culture.
- New Dance Horizons has promoted contemporary, high-calibre dance performances for many years.



- Annual Archives Week celebrations.
- Each year a choir from within Saskatchewan is chosen to represent the province at Unisong on Canada Day in Ottawa.
- I think the SAB has done a lot to recognize different areas in need of attention such as traditional Indian art.
- The inauguration in 2001 of CJTR, Regina Community Radio, which has effectively and successfully promoted the alternative (and mainstream) arts and music scene in Regina.
- A three-day symposium "The Ordinary Amazing: the Cultural Value of Modernist Architecture" brought attention to the future of Saskatchewan's modernist architecture heritage. It was co-organized by the Dunlop Art Gallery and the MacKenzie Art Gallery and involved art exhibitions, bus tours, keynote lectures and panel discussions.
- Anne of Green Gables: The Musical at Regina's Globe Theatre.
- SaskInteractive Summit 09 in Saskatoon
- Summer programs that provide unique opportunities to young people
- Museums Association of Saskatchewan developed innovative professional development throughout the museum sector.
- The Wings Over Wascana Nature Festival attracts 100s of people to Wascana Park in May in Regina, and provides the opportunity to explore our natural world together with family and friends.
- First Nations Language Festivals

## **Rivers West District**

- Allan Sapp Gallery: municipally driven; national scope; national tour activities; named after the artist who is still living; acknowledgement/recognition of the artist.
- Fort Pitt
- Fort Battleford
- Fred Light Museum
- Western Development Museum
- Government House
- Cut Knife Hill and Cut Knife Tomahawk Museum.
- Barr Colony
- Lloydminster Regional Archives (lots of history)
- Map of all facilities/resources for area.
- SaskCulture Aboriginal Communities Outreach/Grant Program: increasing outreach in communities; increasing work/jobs in community; and increasing voices at events such as dialogue.
- SaskCulture Heritage Community of Interest.
- Handcraft festival in North Battleford: 20 years running, driven by volunteers and the City of North Battleford; changed when it lost juried competition to the big city.



- Museum Day at Frenchman Butte: population goes from 50 to 1,000; like a homecoming day; free access, funded by supper fundraiser, silent auction and a small group of core volunteers.
- Aboriginal Awareness Week in North Battleford: Sixth year running; held during the week of National Aboriginal Day; something for everyone, every day.
- Sculpture Symposium: Every two years in mid-August; runs 1-1/2 weeks with a three week exhibition, funded by SaskPower, the City of North Battleford, and the Prairie Sculptors Association.
- Chapel Gallery in North Battleford: Artist in residence
- Battleford Community Players: dinner theatre; 400 seasons tickets sold
- Various community theatre groups in small communities
- Western Development Museum
- St. Walberg Blueberry Festival: held in August; a community dance and craft show; high business involvement.
- Imhoff Art Gallery
- Susan Velder: Potter; does workshops from her studio
- Buett
- Fruitfest
- School tours through the Frenchman's Butte Historical Society Museum.
- The creation of the local community theatre.
- Storytelling
- The school extra curricular drama program has introduced the students and community members to live theatre. Former members of the school drama group have now started a community theatre group which presents an annual dinner theatre. All community members, young and old enjoy and love theatre; the funds raised each year are turned back to the community to support arts culture and heritage.
- *Winning the Prairie Gamble* at the WDM in North Battleford. This exhibit is the best quality exhibit we have ever attempted and will greatly enhance the experience of our visitor when it is complete in September of 2009.

## Saskatoon District

- Visual Arts Placement committee in Saskatoon (city funded).
- Shows to celebrate the Centennial in 2007, a four day symposium on the riverbank in Saskatoon; collaborative ventures, dance, music, sculpture.
- John Lake Whitecap Bridging 125 (city funded).
- Quilters Guild show every two years. A two day event self-funded and \$40,000 budget.
- Sundog Arts show
- Bill Epp Tour in 2006-2008 (Cameco and private dollars)
- School Art at the Mendel
- Saskatoon and area theatre awards in 2008 (donations)



- McNally Robinson hosting quilt shows, readings, writers, etc.
- Val Marie Dance performance (community and private dollars)
- Tugaske Arts Organization:
  - 28 members in a town of 120;
  - includes all kinds of backgrounds and arts genres (e.g. musicians, instrument makers, quilters, sculptors);
  - promotes arts in the region;
  - has hosted art shows with approximately 400 people who paid to attend;
  - sponsored a snow carnival held at the Eyebrow school (Art Smart program);
  - membership of the organization gives people the ability to network, members provide each other with mutual support, mentorship and education (e.g. give each other tips on grant application-writing);
  - how did the organization start? Grassroots impetus - Key members of the community spread the word; and
  - grassroots impetus, although we recognize that there are “top-down” programs that can build grassroots support, this particular example shows the effectiveness of the “bottom up” approach.
- Putting the “fun” back into “fundraising”. One small art gallery in a small town in Saskatchewan has had considerable success in recent fund-raising activities. An active, enthusiastic core of people have been involved in imaginative, fun and successful fundraisers that have attracted the participation of other volunteers who want to be involved in the fun. Successful in terms of community-building, advocacy for the art gallery, and raising no-strings-attached funds that didn’t require the regular multi-day application process. Similar examples from the Mendel include their Christmas poinsettia fundraiser, and the mail-out get-togethers, which are appealing and rewarding to volunteers in terms of the activity itself, not to mention the outcome for the institution.
- Saskatoon Writers Coop, successful in terms of:
  - increasing membership;
  - high level of grassroots support;
  - completely self-funded;
  - programming (e.g. holds workshops, open mike events, regular newsletter);
  - membership development;
  - public visibility;
  - there is currently a challenge in attracting people who are willing to play leadership roles in the organization.
- Saskatoon Quilters Guild has strong organizational capacity. Website is successful for quilt group; newsletters and e-newsletters. First person brought design to group and newcomers have to learn as they go.
- Tugaske Regional Artists Association, a community of 110 population found 26 artists in a network (eclectic, multicultural).
- Kindersley has an active community for transient people working in the oil patch (e.g. dinner theatre has been popular).



- Saskatchewan Craft Council has increased their activities which is good for members and the public.
- Prairie Sculptors Association is 25 years old; “network” art as creating a community within community; gives stamina and keeps artists going.
- Orchid Society.
- Saskatoon Folk Fest: Communities celebrating their heritage.
- Jewish pavilion has entertainment upstairs and educational portion downstairs.
- Saskatoon has a two-year rental program of sculpture--Saskatoon Temporary Sculpture Placement Program.
- Women’s Dinner put on by Jewish Community; powerful place for groups to advertise.
- Archives Week: Collaboration between archivers across the province includes sharing of resources (e.g. money, human resources, ideas, space).
- Created Saskatoon Archives Group (SAG); monthly meetings to collaborate and share.
- Saskatchewan Homestead Index; an online index to homestead files that enables people around the world to search the archives. The partnership between the Saskatchewan Genealogy Society, SIAST, ISC, and EDS enabled us to attract a significant Federal grant to do the work.
- Aboriginal Musical Festival; growing; expanded to TCU Place this year.
- Eaton Catalogue House; in Eatonia (named after the Eaton family); house relocated to town and used as an art gallery in the summer.
- Artists in the community project; joint project with the Saskatchewan Arts Board where artists partnered with community to facilitate joint creation of art projects in the community. Shows innovation of artists.
- Quilting Guild: Done innovative things to attract non-traditional visitors to the quilt show; raffled off a Breast Cancer quilt; partnered with Grandmothers for Grandmothers who also raffled a special quilt. They showcase quilts at McNallys and libraries. The Serendipity Group creates / donates 300 to 400 quilts a year to needy families.
- University of Saskatchewan Certificate of Art Design is a program enabling artists to experiment with different mediums; includes participants from ages 20 to 85.
- Doors Open Heritage event (4<sup>th</sup> Annual coming in May); volunteer, private, MVA, Heritage foundation.
- South Branch House Archaeological site near St. Louis Saskatchewan. Open house had 200 people.
- Doukhobor Prayer House at Veregin. Heritage architecture award of excellence (Federal).
- Local history display at the Saskatoon Public Library.
- University of Saskatchewan Arts and Science contributions. 100 years old, Drama department feed Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan, Persephone--Music department feed Greystone singers and hosts music festival. Starting Clarion Project.
- SICC Language Keepers Conference 4years running. 400 participants over three days. (Feds, OTC, Ens Toyota, and Private).
- Sask Book Awards 16<sup>th</sup> Year 13 awards annually...Métis theme in 2008...average 500 people. (Saskatchewan Arts Board, Can Council, City of Saskatoon and Regina, self-generated revenue, donations in kind).



- The dive to find the Northcote, a documentary, heritage story.
- Blackstrap Annual Art Show in Dundurn: A three-day show that includes writers, poets, film makers, visual artists and others. It started through discussions that were held in other arts, culture and heritage groups such as the museum, recreation board, arts groups, at the glass studio; 500 people attended. arts, culture and heritage participants benefited from validation of their work, exposure, making new business contacts; a grassroots undertaking, subsidized by the arts, culture and heritage participants.
- Medieval Ukrainian Gala - (A Good Party at the Museum). The Ukrainian Museum is always competing for funds from existing programs, so they really benefit from funds raised on their own, with no strings attached. Celebrated part of Ukrainian history that's not well known. Benefits included:
  - Drew participants of all ages, from youth to seniors.
  - New visitors.
  - New volunteers.
  - Spawned other related events.
  - Broke stereotypes.
  - It was fun! People came in costume.
  - Brought people to the museum, and countered the reputation museums have as dusty old places.
  - Multi-disciplinary: included writers, fencers, story-tellers, dancers, cooks, etc.
  - Drew great media coverage.
- Heritage Festival at the Western Development Museum:
  - WDM provided space for free.
  - Free admission.
  - Has attracted large numbers of visitors. In previous years approx 1,000 people have attended the event, but this year there were 2,300.
  - Attracts new visitors to WDM. (E.g. many new immigrants have been attending).
  - Engages community.
- Rendezvous Canada Tourism Conference at Western Development Museum:
  - Held opening event for this large tourism conference at Saskatoon WDM, on Boomtown Street.
  - Showcased Saskatchewan tourism, e.g. all of SK's tourism regions had booths.
  - Showcased musicians, heritage attractions, cowboys, galleries, etc.
  - Exposed tour operators from all over the world to Saskatchewan arts, culture and heritage attractions
  - People who attended said it was the best rendezvous conference in 10 years.
  - Successful in terms of the business attracted, it "knocked the doors wide open".
- WDM hosted Allen Sapp's "Through the Eyes of the Cree and Beyond" traveling art exhibition.
  - All four WDM branches hosted exhibit.
  - Helped to increase visitors to WDMs.
  - Increased revenues.



- Attracted new audiences.
- Good media coverage.
- Gave access to Sapp's art to people from across Saskatchewan.
- La Troupe du Jour's new play, *Rear View*
  - One-man show, yet lots of resources required to make it excellent show.
  - Two year process of script, play, etc. development.
  - Critically successful, invited to be in an international theatre festival, the only play outside of Quebec that was invited; this festival appearance will bring new opportunities for travel, presentation of the show, etc.
  - Invited to the National Theatre in Ottawa
  - Critical success has enhanced the troupe's abilities to have their own facility, which in turn, helps to revitalize the neighbourhood.
- La Troup de Jour provides subtitles at their French language play performances and now 40% of audience is English directly due to this. It is building a multi use theatre facility.
- Citizen survey in Saskatoon city rated mid to poor in terms of arts and culture funding; success is that people valued arts and culture more than golf courses / swimming pools.
- Seeing in Saskatoon more partnering with local schools re multi use facilities – thinking more about arts and culture in facility planning.
- Culture pillar of sustainability in Saskatoon.
- Saskatoon was 2006 cultural capital receiving \$2 million from the federal government.
- Have been building toward recognition at the municipal level that A&C is important. Now City is promoting that arts and culture is an important pillar.
- Trust lottery for Sport, Culture, and Recreation agreement is a success story.
- North Battleford town council partnered with Catholic Family Services. Hired a choreographer and mounted "Swine Lake" to raise funds. 50 percent went to the opera house and 50% to Catholic Family Services. Town Councillors performed South by Southwest – the world's largest music industry showcase.
- CCMA committee in Saskatoon to consider 2011 CCMA's after the success of the Junos now SK is seen as setting the bar for these events.
- University of Saskatchewan Archives hosted Flag Day events on February 15. Got lots of publicity by flying an original flag, as well got a number of community celebrities including RCMP to their event.
- Gopher Tales, book of poetry, published on the back two pages promotion of Meewasin Valley. Meewasin Valley has pulled in \$150,000 on a \$7,500 investment to print the book. Cross promotion – author gives out book at a variety of other events including while he is on holidays.
- Tree commemoration day linking with / encouraging family reunions is promoting Meewasin Valley.
- Emma Lake – has a summer school for visual arts; it has spawned generations of visual artists in the province.
- All the festivals in the city – Folkfest, Jazz, Fringe.
- We are sending 8 bands to the *Southwest by Southwest* series in the US.



- Have a repertoire theatre owned by the community in Saskatoon. One of the very few left in Canada.
- The Heritage Society keeps the issue at the forefront of decision makers.
- There is a move to ecological art
- Junos showcased the city and our local artisans
- The Broadway and Victoria bridges
- Local area plans have to have ACH components
- SCYAP and SNTC (Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company)
- Francophone Theatre
- Trounce House
- French Film Festival: highest grossing 1-day festival in Canada
- Preservation of grain elevators
- MARR residence
- Ryan Olsen – re-adapts/repurposes heritage properties
- Artists Guy Vanderhagen and Doug Benton
- Waneskewin Heritage Park
- University: Groups have gone and performed at Carnegie hall; Amarti String Quartet.
- Parsimony Theatre
- Greystone Singers 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra
- Mendel Art Gallery
- Shakespeare in the Park – there is also an art / craft component
- Centennial celebration
- College building restoration project
- A festival such as the We Are Many festival, which rallied a large group of volunteers, organizers and participants together for a common cause.
- When a professional artist from outside the province comes into Saskatchewan to impart his/her knowledge to help facilitate the growth of arts here in Saskatchewan.
- The renovation of Aka and Paved artist-run-centres on the west side of Saskatoon
- Persephone Youth Theatre Series, Children's Festival
- The development of USCAD, University of Saskatchewan Certificate of Art & Design, enables people to take fine art classes in a studio setting without having to leave the province, gives young people the opportunity to build their skills and a portfolio of work
- Increased funding to the Arts Board which allowed for increases in grants distributed in the Independent Artist Grant Program
- FolkFest is an annual three-day event which promotes heritage, culture and the arts in Saskatoon.
- Folkfest Doors Open Program
- Folkfest sari bazaar (fabric bazaar). Edmonton partner knows is more than Heritage Days – more than trinkets but is about sharing about the civilization of India. Have partnered with a fabric store in Edmonton to provide materials in creating saris.



- SaskMusic - professional development workshops and retreats
- The rallying of public support to get the Frank and Ellen Remai Arts Centre built in Saskatoon and now housing the Persephone Theatre.
- Archives Week - province-wide activities e.g. celebrity readings, film nights, exhibits
- Providing opportunities for touring live performances of professional Saskatchewan musicians to Saskatchewan communities
- Belonging to a faith group, the Doukhobors, and having the opportunity to speak at public local and national functions as well as Multifaith and Peace groups and display our culture.
- I was involved in teaching Aboriginal Art to the elementary schools in Saskatoon including symbolism, visual, storytelling and writing. I had written a book on short stories, myths in a storytelling format. The book's title was "Stories Moshum & Kokum Told Me". Books like this should be part of the provincial school system and libraries. It's the children that will change this world.
- The Refinery Arts and Spirit Centre in Saskatoon
- River Landing building

## South East District

- Ananda Art House Concert Series (town of Forget): husband and wife team poured own savings into this project that draws people from Kipling, Kenosee and Regina; popular place for touring artists to request to stop and play. Guitarist Ken Hamm, blues and roots musician, has moved to Forget from Vancouver Island; "We still have cows in town, artists like that!"; this little community of fewer than 50 swells to 750 during the summer festival, however, this is the last year for the festival as volunteers are burning out after 5 years; may try something else, like a summer school of the arts. "Ananda" means that joy without which the universe erupts; located in the old rectory; they've been there for 8 years; run by participant and his spouse, and volunteers; art house serves as a B&B, residence, artists' gathering place; activities include concerts, shows, and a summer arts festival; expanded to Happy Nun Café; an active arts community has formed in Forget. Factors of success include hard work; money (e.g. they've invested about \$600,000 of their own money); government NOT being involved; good planning; vision; used natural advantages such as available, suitable buildings.
- Archaeology around Moosomin: By sharing meaningful things, relationships are developed and understanding increased. They worked to educate landowners about archaeology and archaeological resources, and how to deal with them; they worked to educate broader community, and there were news articles, etc.; greater knowledge and comfort led to spontaneous reaching out between FN and non-FN community; improved communication between FN community and archaeologists.
- Centre 48 Arts and Continuing Education Centre:
  - going 6 years
  - mandate is to make the entire region a more attractive place to live by providing as many educational opportunities as close to home as possible
  - provides music and art lessons, as well as sport and rec. activities
  - receives no govt funding, partners with U of R, SE Connection (district) and SE regional college, among others



- vision came from the economic development committee
- looked at how much of Montmartre school was not being used, and how it could be used to benefit of the community
- One reason for success is proximity to Regina. As a result, the University of Regina instructors can make the trip to Centre 48 (a reference to Highway 48 which is the corridor it is serving)
- Moosomin Built Heritage – “A Success in the Making”; Walking Tour Project – leaflet guides people past various notable homes in Moosomin, many of which were built in the 1800s and early 1900s. Leaflet contains expert information about architecture and history; high level of participation, even out-of country visitors have taken the tour; includes photos of former buildings; series of projects to encourage pride in the 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings that Moosomin boasts. Factors of success-- recognizing the resource and related possibilities; passionate people; collaborating with various groups, experts, artists; taking advantage of serendipitous events that allow almost “accidental success.”
- Signal Hill Arts Program (at the Signal Hill Centre, the former Weyburn General Hospital): summer program for kids, allows kids to keep active in the summer; pre-school program, six to ten, nine to fourteen year old programs, as well as for seniors; program relies on grants.
- Tommy Douglas House, Weyburn: produced three live theatre productions Aug-Dec, 2008. Three Major Productions in 5 Months: *Treasure Island* - diverse groups involved in summer production of *Treasure Island*; enthusiastic, excited, pleased with success, had fun; *Hanna’s Suitcase* - part of school curriculum; artistically successful; financially successful; *Little Drummer Boy* - Christmas production. Factors of Success - exciting the people; make it fun; build on previous success; strong networks.
- Weyburn Arts Council: first in the province, about to celebrate 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary in early September; still struggles with funding, getting youth to get engaged; the arts education program offered by WAC hosts 400-500 children in a two week period each summer.
- Weyburn Concert Series: RSO players come out to support it, with financial support from local business (through gold, silver and bronze sponsorships) as well as ticket sales; OSAC has long been a supporter of this series.
- Weyburn High School Music Program -- over half the high school students involved in one or another part of the music program; 85 boys in the choir (this is a big indicator of success!); they put on a major musical every year, with sell-out crowds (500 people attend!); real self-development aspect to being involved– e.g. choir is open to everyone who wants to sing, it’s not exclusive. Factors of Success - “Success is a process, not a destination”; key individual – the Music Teacher – she’s enthusiastic, dedicated, passionate; music is accessible to all; interest nurtured at a young age, kids coming up from elementary school; acknowledgement of the role of music in people’s lives
- Weyburn Comprehensive High School drama department.
- Being able to attend classes available at the arts center, viewings at the Allie Griffin Art Gallery, Taking my residents to some of the activities
- Local music festival (unit festival under the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association)
- Beautification committee sponsored by the city and the Art Council and the Art Gallery



## South West District

- Lyric Theater in Swift Current: The group raised funds to purchase the building, and now it is the home of performing arts in Swift Current. It is not about audience, but rather about performing through open stage events where semi-professionals can perform before a live audience. The building has received heritage designation.
- Programs of South West Cultural Group around the Open Stage and Lyric Theatre include:
  - Open Stage Program: One event per month, with a packed house (200 plus) every time;
  - specific programs for youth and literary themes;
  - musician-in-residence to provide support;
  - host Swift Current Film Society events one/month; and

Having a facility is key—the historic Lyric Theatre building is a fixture in the community and has provided identity and a focal point for our group.

- 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Solstice Festival in Gravelbourg: Multicultural festival, food tasting, craft sale, etc.
- Creation of the Heritage Advisory Council in Maple Creek: Heritage is now in the town plans in a meaningful way; trying to get downtown designated as a heritage site.
- Mortlach Saskatoon Berry Festival.
- Herbert: Raising, shearing, weaving, and knitting Alpaca wool.
- Sage Brush Studios (near town of Leader): Relocated churches for public tours.
- Herbert Museum: Hosts musical evenings.
- Virtual Volunteers in Shaunavon: Volunteer writers help preserve stories passed on over the years.
- Welcome Centre for Newcomers to Community: Geared toward international newcomers, whose numbers are growing in area by hosting welcome parties. The Centre has established partnerships with local musicians and world musicians and its programs are being driven in response to local needs and changing dynamics. Funding is provided through Canadian Immigration, Saskatchewan Immigration, Community Initiative Fund, and other grant funding agencies.
- Swift Current Arts Council: Celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and has hosted over 300 concerts with performers from around the world. 95 percent of the \$150,000 budget is raised locally through corporate fundraising, ticket sales, and memberships. The key to its success is offering tasteful, top quality performances.
- Swift Current Little Theatre: Two shows per year in Beattie Playhouse. All funds are raised by the group, mainly through the sell-out of events.
- Mennonite Heritage Village: Operating for 12 years, and has raised \$300,000 for site locally; with no grants at all. It is all volunteer run and welcomes 2,000-2,500 visitors annually from around the world. The key is funding and participation by descendents of Mennonite settlers who enable the operation to be self-sustaining.
- *Where Heaven Meets Earth* (a multi-disciplinary cultural event in Val Marie): This Grasslands National Park event included contemporary music and dance workshops in Val Marie and Shaunavon, kite-making in schools, the creation of banners by 12 visual artists,



etc. It was closely tied into the local environment, so much so that “the landscape inspired the dancers”. This project was fuelled by one person’s vision – Bill Coleman – and drew funding support from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Saskatchewan Arts Board, and Common Weal in a co-ordinating role. Although *Where Heaven Meets Earth* took place in 2004, people are still talking about it as if it was yesterday. “So many people were involved, the community itself became a stage.” Vacant lots became animated overnight, and community groups came together, in some cases for the first time. Outsiders brought in valuable vision, re-invigorated a dying community, giving it a cultural cache that exists to this day and, in fact, has attracted four new families to the community, all with an arts background).

- Main Street Herbert: A local beautification project documented by a National Film Board crew; people came together and painted vacant buildings.
- Touch of Europe: With its roots in the Main Street Canada project, this event brought together not just French and English communities, but was inclusive of newer sectors, such as Chinese and Pilipino.
- During the 2007-2008 season the Moose Jaw Cultural Centre was able to create and present 5 new very different programs through a Cultural Capitals Grant. All programs received tremendous response from the audience, and will leave lasting positive impression on all.
- There is both a small gallery in town (SOKOKO Gallery) and we have a blooming music festival. There have been some workshops that have encouraged writing personal stories as well.
- Southern Saskatchewan Summer Solstice Festival - We are celebrating our 9th year! We also have 16 nationalities that live in our community. We are extremely proud of our culture and heritage.
- Marketing of local art and books through the local tourism operation
- The offering of classes in arts and different cultures
- The building of the new Swift Current Museum has provided a benefit to arts, culture and heritage.