

Volunteer Spotlight



Arts Advisory Council

Capital Regional District | January 2020



Carolyn Heiman, Funding Chair

Writer and communications specialist Carolyn Heiman was looking for a

different way to give back to her community when she applied for a volunteer position with the CRD Arts Advisory Council (AAC). "I was an editor at a newspaper – responsible for a number of sections including the arts section," explains Heiman, "this opportunity allows me to engage in the arts community in new ways."

THE ROLE OF THE AAC

The AAC plays a unique but essential role in the local arts sector by providing advice and funding recommendations to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Arts Commission. Members do not work for arts organizations but have some familiarity with many of the theatres, galleries, and producers in the region.

Now, as the Funding Chair for the AAC, Heiman brings her passion for arts and culture to a team of 11 other volunteers who meet and review grant applications. "There isn't one of us that isn't aware that the result can have profound implications. Every member brings respect for the process and knowledge. We all hold the expectation that the money is distributed fairly and that the work we do supports the arts and development of artistic skills in the region," says Heiman.

"This opportunity allows me to engage in the arts community in new ways."

THE ADJUDICATION PROCESS

CRD staff provide guidance throughout every adjudication to ensure unbiased and fair assessment. "With the help of the Arts & Culture manager, we adopted new processes that bring stability and clarity to the process. I feel proud of the adjudication process." Although Heiman has read hundreds of applications over the past few years, she doesn't consider the time commitment onerous. "Meetings are very efficient. We meet about ten times a year."

Heiman attends a remarkable variety of arts and cultural events. "I try go to everything — even things that on first blush don't appeal to me!" she says. "We are very lucky to have a really robust and artistic community. I make a point of attending events by every arts organization that receives funding – from queer theatre, to early and experimental music and contemporary art shows. The role has deepened my awareness about the rich and diverse arts sector in the region."

Heiman has been on the AAC since 2016 and plans to continue. "Being on the AAC is rewarding," says Heiman. "It's a collegial group. I spend time with people I may not have otherwise met and we'd like to welcome more voices to the table. If you think you want to support the arts community in a different way – this is a really good way of doing it."

Interested in applying for the AAC? Visit www.crd.bc.ca/arts 250.360.3215