

At the last AGM the Board of KHC was set to go through the first reading of a new policy manual. As we worked through the process we realized that we had more questions than answers on how to ensure the manual became a living document to be used to guide the organization. These questions prompted the Board and staff to continue our research and find a system that would guide both the present and future board.

We came across the Carver Policy Governance model and quickly realized this concept was what we had been searching for. The Carver model prescribes roles and responsibilities of staff and board and provides a rigorous check and balance on governance and management by applying ourselves to the policies. The Board and 5 other local leaders took part in an intensive 2 weekend professional development training with Richard Stringham, Senior Associate, The Governance Coach, an organization that provides comprehensive training in the John Carver Policy Governance® model.

At this point I would like to thank the Columbia Basin Trust for their financial support towards the training. By the end of the second weekend the board, along with the help of the participating community members, came out with a set of policies to guide the board and staff in achieving the Ends that we have set out for the organization. At our next Board meeting in October we will begin the process of monitoring and working within these policies. I would like to acknowledge the time and dedication that the Board and staff have put into this transition, it is greatly appreciated and your efforts go toward ensuring the longevity of KHC.

For the third year in a row KHC was able to hold an appreciation concert to say thank you to our volunteers for their time and dedication. We also took the opportunity to spotlight and thank our local business Champions and Hero's. Without either of their support we would not be able to fulfill our mission, Engage, Energize and Enrich the cultural life in Kicking Horse Country. This year we added a twist to the event when we invited the A-Muse Troupe to inject their shenanigans into the evening while the Board did their best to serve our guests. It created a memorable evening that the board looks forward to doing year after year.

KHC is very thankful for the continual support of our local government. Through the combined support of Town of Golden and Area A we have over 10% of the population as a member of KHC. It's wonderful to see the effects we can have on the quality of life when we work together. Please be sure to thank our Mayor, Councillors and Area A Director for their continual support. I also wish to thank our other regional, provincial and Federal supporters; Columbia Basin Trust, Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, BC Arts Council, Province of BC, and Department of Canadian Heritage. KHC continues to gain recognition throughout the region and province for our efforts to use Culture as a Social and Economic Catalyst. Our executive director Bill Usher was invited to be a keynote presenter at this year's Union of British Columbia

KICKING HORSE CULTURE

ENGAGE. ENERGIZE. ENRICH.



Municipalities Annual Convention where the discussion was focused on such initiatives to help create community identities and creative places to live, work, and visit, as well as those that support cultural tourism and downtown growth revitalization.

If you have been into AGOG the past few months you will have noticed a few changes. The back offices have been renovated to allow room for our staff to do their magic that we all enjoy throughout the year. I would like to thank Bill for his vision and the creative ways you make it happen. Cheryl (Hurd), it has been a year since you joined us as General Manager and on behalf of the organization and community thank you for your role in ensuring the longevity of KHC. A warm hello to Golnaz Zad our new full time Program Coordinator - welcome to the team. This list would not be complete if we did not recognize the AGOG staff Tammy Prather, Natalie Wallace, Terri Blizzard, and Deborah... you have created a welcoming environment to experience and shop all the amazing artists we have in our region. Thank you also to Dalia Lanai and Kerri Lautamus for assisting the AGOG staff during the busy summer months.

We will miss outgoing board member Mandy Cattle. Her participation and perspective has been a very valuable asset to the organization.

With an amazing and diverse season booked for this years' programming I look forward to Engaging, Energizing and Enriching the cultural life in Kicking Horse Country.

Thank you so much,

Monica Parkinson

Board Chair