

Chair's Annual Report 2014-15 - AGM Nov. 12, 2015

It took me several attempts to start writing this letter to the member's for it will be my last as Chair of the Board and every thought lead me to reflect on where things started, how it took shape, and where that has taken the Board of Kicking Horse Culture. It has been quite the ride.

When I joined the Board I never imagined I would have had the opportunities it provided and the amount of personal growth that I have experienced. It has elevated me as I carry it into other aspects of the community and my own business. With that in mind I would like to invite everyone who enjoys the cultural aspect of our community to give some thought about getting involved not only to keep KHC's legacy in our community but also to open yourself up to the opportunities it can provide.

KHC Board and staff are in year 2 of implementing Carver Policy Governance; a year of deeper understanding of how we can fully utilize the foundations of Policy Governance. Together we have created a Source Document that is the right size for KHC and aligns with our 'Owners' desires. The Board was able confirm this through starting the process of Ownership linkage when the Board launched a survey asking for your views last winter. We were pleased by the thoughtful comments received, and overall, that our respondents were indeed "engaged, energized, and enriched". Thanks to all who participated.

To summarize the results:

- Majority of the respondents were permanent residents of Golden or the CSRD.
- 84% thought KHC always provides or mostly provided good value for the funding received, with 44% saying that it always provides good value. Some were uncertain with regard to the measurement of value.
- We were pleased to confirm a high level of enjoyment at the events, with 86% on the positive side.
- We did not find a strong indication that visitors come to Golden especially for the events, but that it was a bonus for locals to be able to entertain their guests if there was something on at the time.
- 81% thought that there was an economic benefit. Some were uncertain what the economic benefit actually is, but most added that the events enhanced our quality of life.

KICKING HORSE CULTURE

ENGAGE. ENERGIZE. ENRICH.



- The *Connection to Community and Socializing* question provided a very positive response. The Live Kicks, Summer Kicks, and the Snow King's MasqueParade, were all perceived as great occasions to meet neighbours and have fun.
- Support for *Local Artists*, and *Future Actions for the Board* questions gave us a great response. The comments questioned the opportunities for locals to present performances, or exhibit visual arts, or to provide workshops and development opportunities. Many said they would like to have space more easily available, particularly the Civic Centre, for which the Town of Golden is responsible.

In partial response to some of the questions:

- Value: It is perhaps not well known that KHC is an independent non-profit society, and 60% of the Society's funding is derived from several granting stakeholder organizations. Our executive & artistic director has been very successful in leveraging these 3rd party funds with no burden placed upon Golden's tax base; these funds are spent within the community and this multiplies their economic impact while providing significant 'quality of life' benefits to locals and visitors. This will continue to be a priority.
- Local response: KHC has provided significant opportunity for local artists at AGOG, Summer Kicks, Visiting Artist workshops and the Craft Faire. This activity is codified in our Ends achievement and we will continue to look for cost effective opportunities for local action.

As per our practice of Policy Governance, with your feedback, the Board further defined our achievable ENDS. The Global END defines "what good the organization is to create in the world", "whom the intended receiver of this good is", and "the comparable value of achieving that good for those people (i.e. is it worth it?)

Global END: Kicking Horse Culture exists so that Kicking Horse Country values arts and culture at a use of resources that demonstrates good stewardship of funds received.

END1 (Kicking Horse Country is) ENGAGED through arts and culture

1.1 Participation is inclusive

1.2 Youth and children

END2 (Kicking Horse Country is) ENERGIZED through arts and culture

2.1 Youth develop new skills and are able to showcase them

2.1.2 Artists and youth are linked

2.2 Local artists have support and opportunities

2.3 Collaborate to support and promote arts and culture

END3 (Kicking Horse Country is) ENRICHED through arts and culture

The Board will continue to develop new ways to build on our Ownership linkage to ensure that the community knows the Board is providing good governance and strategic leadership to continue building a strong and vibrant art & cultural life in Golden BC.

KHC would not be able to fulfill any of this if it was not for the dedicated efforts of the staff and volunteers, thank you for all you do. The Board has two outgoing directors this year and I would like to acknowledge their contribution: **Runa Bjarnason-Wilson** and **John Denham**. The perspective you brought to the table and dedication to ensuring KHC legacy thrives is greatly appreciated. It has been a great pleasure to work with you and thank you for sharing your passion for arts & culture with our community.

With KHC vision & priorities set, I look forward to enjoying a diverse year of programming that will *Engage, Energize* and *Enrich* the arts & cultural life of our community.

Monica Parkinson

Chair, Kicking Horse Culture