

22/23 Chair's Report - AGM November 15, 2023

Hello, thank you for joining and supporting your own community arts and culture organization. This year was a wonderful presentation year, post health restrictions, it was a wonderful season to see people celebrate being with people again. Funding has normalized and our financial position is very strong with good reserves to weather any potential storms.

Music at the soccer fields was a success and an excellent test to participation and audience feedback. For the most part, the community supported this venue, and some addressed accessibility challenges for some citizens. Which is a good challenge to work on for future presentations. My highlight of the year was enjoying the festival-like vibe at soccer fields, with local food vendors, kids playing, volleyball players, and whole groups of friends and family gathering for an evening grassland picnic in the evening sun. This was a highlight for my out-of-town friends and their kids.

Since Bill's well-deserved retirement was announced, an impartial hiring committee was created and led by Lori Baxter, a proven arts and culture leadership consultant. The committee comprises two long-time KHC volunteers and community members, Committee Chair Glen Ewan - a retired lawyer and Thelma Brown - an inaugural KHC employee and a long-time dedicated volunteer, as well as three board members, Katie Hodder, Lyuba Kirkova, and myself.

Lori Baxter's deep knowledge of Canada's community arts and culture councils and respective unique leadership recruitment insight was invaluable, ensuring that the prescribed professional succession plan was executed with integrity.

Following the direction of the succession plan, the hiring committee was struck in April of 2023, Lori led a two-day planning workshop. This workshop was kicked off by Bill. Bill presented an in-depth history of Kicking Horse Culture and where it is today. This presentation set the tone for the rest of our work and influenced the selection criteria, This led to many lengthy and deep discussions. These discussions helped shape the many expectations of a future leader who would carry the torch and build upon the well-established and professional organization Bill and his team curated and perfected over the past 20 years. Ultimately, we chose to seek a leader who would not change the bones and programming of KHC/GDAC we worked hard to build and maintain. We wanted a leader

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who will honour KHC/GDAC place as the keeper of the knowledge of Kicking Horse Country's unique culture and build upon that foundation as our community grows.

The Executive and Artistic Director job posting was posted locally and across Canada through provincial and national arts & non-profit job boards. The posting was live for three months, and about 30 candidates submitted their applications. The job posting attracted highly educated and experienced applicants from all over Canada, internationally and locally too.

At this time, we are happy to announce, we have met a candidate who has incredible talent in in community arts and culture program delivery and leadership and who has ties to both sides of the rocky mountains. We will soon announce her arrival in the coming weeks. After onboarding, the candidate's next steps is to learn about the solid foundation of the Kicking Horse Culture with direct one-on-one mentorship with Bill and the team, learning all the ins and outs of the organization, our community, and the deep history of Golden.

Bill has long planned for this next year, and I am so excited to see what comes next as we help support the emotional and honourable process of passing a torch to the next generation of this incredible organization.

Thank you for coming, your support and connecting with you over the next year.

Kris King

on behalf of Lyuba Kirkova, Katie Hodder, Darlene Whiting, Tracey Buckley