

HISTORY OF THE FAA

FAA held its inaugural meeting on May 12th, 1999 and was incorporated July 27th, 2004. It received charitable status on September 7th, 2009.

-Since September 23rd, 1999 FAA has been organizing Forums on the Arts for each municipal, provincial, and federal election so that the public will have an opportunity to hear candidate's positions on cultural issues. Forums are usually well-attended with more than 100 participants.

-Since Sept 30th, 1999 the Arts Alliance has participated in Arts and Culture Forums, Cultural summits, an advisory committee for the Arts, Economic Development Forums and Social Policy meetings organized by local MLA's and MP's, or by the government of NB as well as community-based organizations. The FAA has also met individually with members of the provincial and municipal government in order to educate them on various arts issues and non-profit issues; including cultural policies.

-In Autumn of 1999 FAA became involved in the initiative to create a community arts centre in the Charlotte Street School. In the Fall of 2005 the Charlotte Street Arts Centre finally became a reality.

-Since April 12th, 2000 FAA has participated as a partner in the Mayor's Business Breakfasts. The FAA is responsible to find a visual artist to mount a display of their work. Usually a 100 or more business people are in attendance.

-Since the year 2000 the Fredericton Arts Alliance has provided a free electronic weekly bulletin, entitled *Arts News* to individuals and groups interested in hearing about news from the arts community. As of 2009 there were over 1300 subscribers.

-FAA's Arts Evenings began in 2001. These were evenings that featured guest speakers on the arts or workshop facilitators. Speakers included artists, arts educators, media and tourism representatives. Attendance is usually between 40 and 60 people.

-Since 2002 FAA has run an Artist-in Residence program in the Casements at the Soldiers Barracks in downtown Fredericton. This project is done with the participation of the city, allowing artists and the general public to come together. It promotes appreciation and awareness of art. There are typically about 4000 visitors over the summer. Since 2006 the city has been hosting an exhibition of the resulting work in their gallery space each fall.

-In 2005 the FAA was a successful applicant for the Pro-bono Canada program--a program designed to encourage law students to do pro-bono work. FAA worked with law students and a supervisory lawyer to create a legal booklet on copyright issues for artists. Work on other useful legal documents for artists continues. FAA also creates other useful documents for artists such as *Arts Resource Centre*; our general resource booklet for professional, emerging and amateur artists in the Fredericton region.

-Since 2006 FAA has hosted *Art Trek*, a studio tour opened to the general public and tourists in the Fall at the peak of the city's Fall colours. The program usually features around 30 artists. There are normally well over a 1000 visitors for the two-day event.

-In 2006 FAA partnered with CARFAC Maritimes in creating an event for their AGM to educate artists on the use of the internet in the arts. That year FAA and Enterprise Fredericton headed the organization of a visit of distinguished Chinese Artists to Fredericton, along with other key participants.

-In early 2007 we began participating in work towards the creation of a provincial Arts Alliance. A provincial committee was put together whose responsibility was to assist in the creation of an English speaking arts alliance to work in partnership with L'A.A.A.P.N. B. FAA volunteered administration, organization and research services to the committee. Surveys and community forums were part of the analysis. The new organization ArtsLink NB was created early in 2009.

-FAA has participated in focus groups in the development of the city's Learning Vacations (now called *EdVentures*)

initiative which began in 2008. FAA also participated as a jury member in the decision of successful applicants for 2008.

- FAA has also had an arts education committee which conducted an arts education focus group and other initiatives. In 2008 the Alliance conducted a survey of schools in our region in order to see what was happening in the Arts in the region.