

Alberta House News

Spring 2022

Alberta House Arts Center
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Do you have news that you would like to share? Would you like to write an article or have an opinion you'd like to give?

A letter to the Editor?

Maybe some ordinary advice?

A recipe? a favorite artist or work of art? New ideas?

If so, please send an email to Rene' at

olivecraiggallery@gmail.com

As I look in the review mirror of my life, I find it hard to believe that 2021 is gone, leaving only the memories of a chaotic year that dashed our hopes of returning to normal, by handing us yet another variant of this deadly viral pandemic. Nevertheless, it is with hope in my heart, that I look forward to 2022 and all it can offer.

Our beloved Art Center has a new year filled with new exhibits, the epitome of hopefulness. We start with our 2D/3D Juried show in April. So check your mailbox for the flyers as they are sent out to the artists in our community or stop by and pick one up. Then in May we have the artwork of Kristine Bennett and the SnapShots community photo shoot. In June we present the art of Tina Fuller and Jarrod Vandenberg demonstrates the similarities and differences between traditional watercolor painting and digital painting in a side by side exhibition.

The Alberta House Arts Center will also collaborate with Bayliss Library in offering Introductory art classes for those in the community who wish to expand their knowledge and abilities, followed by further educational opportunities at the Alberta House. We then find Charles Colbert presenting a lecture series at the Alberta House.

For the month of September we will host Bienal de Artes Indigena and in October we will host two Bonifas artists for the entire month, bringing us full circle to Christmas at Alberta House.



We are a non-profit that serves the arts community.

There are many opportunities for volunteering at the Alberta House.

We currently have needs for the following

- **Business Manager, any or all functions:** Sits on the SAAC Board. Collects money from sales, Gallery rent, makes bank deposits to assure that SAAC and the Gallery are paid appropriately. Keeps records of donations and SAAC membership, as well as contact information. Assures that Michigan sales tax for ALL Gift shop and Gallery sales is paid. Coordinates with SAAC treasurer regularly.
- **Organizer Sault Arts Auction and Dinner:** Sits on SAAC Board, coordinates with the Gallery for the promotion (Mini Gallery for display of donated items, etc.) of the yearly Sault Arts Auction and Dinner. Using artists and general membership list calls out to artists to donate a work of art and others to donate an auction worthy item. Makes arrangements for the venue, dinner, autioneer, art donations.
- **Organizer Yearly Donation Requests:** Sits on SAAC Board, assures that yearly donation letters are sent, and member list of requests sent, donations recieved, printed news letter request and contact information are updated yearly. ****Please READ Membership page for changes regarding the Newsletter.****
- **Organizer of the Sault Arts Festival:** Sits on the SAAC Board. With input from the SAAC board and the Gallery Board arranges for Jurying of the Vendor/Artists and of the Festival. Coordinates with the city the planning and implematation of the yearly Arts Festival. Collects all fees, communications and applications for booths with from vendors and artists. Assures timely notices and advertising for this important event.
- **SAAC Board Gift Shop Manager, any or all functions:** Sits on the SAAC Board. Assures that Artists who sell work in the Gift Shop keep their inventories and contact information up to date, assures rotation of stock in the gift shop, and maintains list of volunteers and contact information. Assures that the artists are paid timely and appropriately for the sales of their work.

Spot Light On Covid-19 (a retrospective)

The first show of 2020, amidst the cold and snow, was the Fiber Show in February.. On display were the wonderful warm quilts, hats, scarves and other woolies. There were fiber baskets, woven with care. Everything on display reminded you that it was winter in the Soo. It was a time for snuggling in and keeping warm. The colors were bright and the patterns diverse. Alberta House was dressed for warmth and welcomed her winter visitors with visions of cozying up to a warm fire, wrapped in a quilt or going for a walk wearing artist made and designed scarves, hats and mittens.

When the Winter Holidays were past. Valentine's Day was the Holiday of choice. Then in March came the K-12 Show.

Preparations were made and excitement was high as everyone got ready for the ever popular K-12 show. The teachers and the children sent the best that they had and the Alberta House was humming with activity, getting ready to greet students, parents and teachers with all the colors of the rainbow in the works of art that the students had created!

The children's activity tables were covered with fresh paper. The markers, pencils and crayons were gathered and everything was made ready, so the children could draw pictures and color them. The food for the opening reception was plentiful and tasty.

The doors were opened at the beginning of March, 2020. Parents and children and family friends and relatives crowded through them, excited to see what each had created.

Then suddenly, before the show was over, disaster struck! Schools were closed. Businesses were closed. Our shores had been breached. But not by an enemy we could see and fight. Disease had come to call! She had no favorites and no family was spared the sadness of loss and fear as a pandemic shadowed our world with an illness we were not prepared for and we had no weapons to fight it.

The children's works of art remained on the walls of Alberta House through April. Without visitors to see her beautiful works of art, Alberta House became cold and sad. She stood in her place waiting for the artists to come back and show the people their art. But, no one came and she grew more quiet and lonely as the days went by.

The days were dark and gloomy, as people worried about their children and other family members far from home working as nurses and doctors, police and paramedics, teachers, grocery clerks, mail carriers and more. No one felt safe. People were dying! Most had never heard of such a thing. It seemed like the end of the world. No one left home and they became glued to the news on TV.

None of it was good. Nobody knew what to do. They sat in their homes and hoped for some help. But people were dying and shock ruled the world, where once confidence walked with her head held high, she now looked careworn and near to collapse. Alberta House fretted and worried about her fate without people to come and artists to work, what would she do? How could she survive?

Then one day, the door was unlocked and the lights and the heat were turned on. The children's art was quickly removed from the walls and sorted and stacked. It was soon ready to be returned to the teachers and students and schools that it came from.

Something was happening! Alberta House stood ready and alert. There was a buzz of excitement in the air!

One day a picture of the Gallery Board appeared and with it there was a letter!

Hope had Appeared with a call for artists.

Dear "Artists in Residence" Resisting the Virus-"Hello! We were trying to figure out how to stay in touch with the Art Community over the summer. We decided to go ahead and schedule a virtual June Area Art Exhibit. Each artist is invited to send in one or two digital photos of a recent work. There will be no jury, no fees and no Best of Show, just the joy of seeing and sharing what has been created in our studios/living rooms during this time of covid claustrophobia."



Join us, in this together...for the love of art!

Alberta House was wrapped in joy. Her Gallery Board was still working and seeking ways to bring the artists work back to the people! She still didn't have visitors to come and look at the artwork on her walls. But, the volunteers had returned and were tidying up and speaking excitedly about a virtual show that the visitors could view on their computers, from their homes and remain safe at the same time.

In a surprising twist of good fortune
Local art gallery takes its show online this year.

If you are reading this online.

View newspaper article here.

<https://www.sooeveningnews.com/news/20200608/local-art-gallery-takes-its-show-online->

Virtual Area Show

In This Together.... For the Love of Art!

They say that what doesn't kill you, makes you stronger. I don't know if that is true or not. What I can tell you is that if you fight for the things that enrich your life you stand a chance of getting them. If you don't, well...

To be continued throughout 2022 as we enter year 3 in our fight for normalcy. In this together...For the love of Art!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Sault Area Arts Council (SAAC) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the arts and to make the arts readily accessible to the people of the Sault Ste. Marie area. It operates entirely with volunteer labor and is funded entirely by private donations and proceeds from the Alberta House Arts Center, home to the Olive M. Craig Gallery, and the Alberta House Gift Shop, in the Alberta House. The council publishes the Alberta House News, a monthly newsletter that publicizes resources and URLs with hyperlinks to local arts events, and opportunities. It also owns and operates the Arts Council office to take care of the every day business.

SAAC Membership

If you would like to become a member of SAAC and help support arts council services, fill in the form below, clip it, and mail with your check for \$25.00 in U.S. funds to the Sault Area Arts Council, Alberta House Arts Center, 217 Ferris Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. **The Alberta House News is going green and printed copies will no longer be mailed out, there will be a limited number of printed copies at the Alberta House. If, during the fund raiser, you requested a printed copy, it will be honored for 2022. The newsletter will continue to be available online and printable.** Benefits of membership include; fee free entry in the Member's Gallery Exhibit, reduced fees to the yearly Sault Arts Festival and more. **PLEASE NOTE: typo in Sept. and Oct. issues, There is NO Membership discount in the Gift Shop**

You can volunteer without membership, with board approval, in a variety of ways. We are always in need of volunteers to help with the shop, hanging and taking down of shows, clean up, heavy lifting, indoor and outdoor maintenance, receptios etc. See contact information below.

SAAC Contact Information

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217 Ferris Street
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email: olivecraiggallery@gmail.com
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Yes, I would like to become an SAAC member!	
I enclose my check for \$25.00, to the Sault Area Arts Council.	
Name:	Phone:
Address:	
City:	State and Zipcode: