

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2017 Recipient Profile

Gabriola Arts Council

- Category:** Organization
- Project:** 20 years of supporting and enhancing the artistic, cultural and social environment
- Nominator(s):**
1. Susan Yates
 2. New Society Publishers

Description:

The Gabriola Arts Council (GAC) has supported, promoted, expanded and enhanced the arts and culture on Gabriola Island for 20 years. The GAC brings beauty, joy, pride and cohesiveness to the Gabriola community, while contributing to economic and social well-being in ways that are environmentally sound. With almost 700 members, GAC works hard to support and engage artists and art lovers in the community.

The GAC collaborates with many local groups and agencies to bring events and projects that are educational, inspirational, healing, ecological, innovative, inclusive, and visionary. The GAC hosts three annual art events - Isle of the Arts Festival, Gabriola Theatre Festival, and the Thanksgiving Tour. The GAC also manages a year-round Healing Power of Art program. The GAC also runs arts-related programs in the elementary school and collaborates with local non-profits and community groups.

Since 2016, the GAC has been renovating and upgrading the 90-year-old Gabriola Arts & Heritage Centre, one of the original schoolhouses on Gabriola Island, for use by the community for a variety of purposes including meetings, workshops, classes, performances, rehearsals, and presentations.