

2013

Kindle Arts Society Annual Report



Stephen "Ashes" Wells
Chairperson, Kindle Arts Society
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Table of Contents

Letter from the Chairperson..... 3

Vision 4

Mission 4

Operating Principles 5

 Empowerment & Do-ocracy 5

 Transparency & Accountability..... 5

 Integrity & Responsibility – KindleArts will:..... 5

Society Values..... 6

 Self-Expression..... 6

 Participation 6

 Respect 7

 Accountability..... 7

Membership Statistics 8

History 9

2012 Activities 11

Activities for 2013..... 15

Directors 15

 Chairperson: Stephen Wells (aka Ashes) 15

 Vice-Chairperson: Edd Macdonald (aka Shenanigans) 15

 Secretary: Amara Smith 15

 Treasurer: Morgan Andrews..... 15

 Director-at-Large: Jared Warren..... 16

Teams 16

 Arts Grants Team 16

 KindleArts Academy..... 16

Society Safety Liaisons..... 16

 Ranger Liaison..... 17

 Fire Safety Liaison 17

Letter from the Chairperson

Pablo Picasso said "every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up."

So why is it hard for us to remain artists as adults? Many say that the rewards of creating art shrink as we grow older –we become focussed with making money rather than expressing ourselves.

However, this is a symptom, not a cause. I believe the true cause is the commoditisation of art, where the "fine art" world teaches us that art is only as valuable as the price tag it commands.

When adults are asked to create, they often respond with answers like "I'm not an artist" or "I can't do that". They have accepted the myth that art is the preserve of a skilled elite, accessible to a rare and special few. It is as if a velvet rope has been erected between us and art, with a sign that says: "no entry".

The Kindle Arts Society was created to cut that velvet rope.

Instead of allowing art to be taken away from us, let us ask instead: what effect does creation have on the creator? How does it bring meaning to our lives?

Art isn't ballet, opera, putting paint on a canvas, or chiselling stone. In truth, art is nothing more and nothing less than the product of bringing the thoughts, dreams, and ideas within each of us out into the world.

As it says in the society's constitution, our self-expression exists in pursuit of unmediated experience, self-discovery, intimacy, and lifelong play. We dance through life, dreaming up new versions of our lives and of ourselves.

That's why it is called KindleArts –we're kindling a fire of creative self-expression and helping it to burn wider and brighter!

Your partner in creating,

Stephen Wells
Chairperson, Kindle Arts Society

Vision

We believe that all people have an innate need to create. Our vision is a world without barriers to creative self-expression, where *everyone* feels empowered to create art!

Mission

Art is the by-product of the universal human need for self-expression. Many people think that they cannot create art, because they aren't "artists". We believe that everyone is an artist and that self-expression is essential to human happiness. The Kindle Arts Society (KindleArts) exists to nurture the spark of creativity in everyone and to help kindle it into a fire of artistic self-expression.

To bring our vision into reality, the society will pursue its mission by:

- a) Facilitating interactive arts events to generate funds and provide venues to display art and performances;
- b) Creating opportunities for people to create art;
- c) Facilitating workshops and educational opportunities for people to acquire art skills;
- d) Providing funds to support costs associated with building art;
- e) Participating in arts advocacy and sharing our knowledge of arts advocacy;
- f) Promoting the fire arts and fire art safety on a municipal and provincial level;
- g) Support the interactive arts community in British Columbia, principally focussing on Victoria and Vancouver Island;
- h) Following the Operating Principles and Community Values set out in this Constitution;
- i) Maintaining membership in other regional, provincial, national or international societies having objects which are complementary with or similar to those of the Society;
- j) Acquiring, accepting, soliciting and receiving gifts, contributions, donations, devises and bequests of money, real and personal property and rights of every nature and description and to hold, invest, expend, use or deal with the same in furtherance of the objects of the Society; and
- k) Doing all such things as are necessary and ancillary to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

Operating Principles

In pursuit of the Society's Vision and Mission, all board members, committee members, officers, and agents acting on behalf of the Society shall operate according to the needs and expectations of the membership as defined by these, the Society's operating principles:

Empowerment & Do-ocracy

- KindleArts will:

- Minimize bureaucracy and empower members to autonomously support the society's objectives.
- Promote autonomy, personal creative agency, and do-ocracy.

Transparency & Accountability

- KindleArts will:

- Provide members with open access to the society's financial and operational information.
- Provide members with invitations to attend all society meetings (except in cases where the meetings concerns the removal of a member of the board or the society).
- Act in accordance with the Society Values.
- Practice consensus-based decision making.

Integrity & Responsibility

- KindleArts will:

- Be fiscally responsible.
- Meet its commitments.
- Display consistency in its decisions.
- Respect all members equally.

Society Values

When a group of people find common purpose and pursue their goals as a group, the by-product is a community.

To remain a functional community, groups must also come to understand their common values and pursue them alongside their concrete goals.

The Kindle Arts Society is such a community. We share common goals and aspirations, but also a common set of duties, privileges, and values that support our mission.

This is our collective identity: how we see the world, how we choose to interact with society, and how we interact with each other.

The touchstones of our culture include:

- Self-expression
- Participation
- Respect
- Accountability

Self-Expression

Self-expression is the process of striving to articulate one's unique inner self out in the world. One product of that self-expression is called art. And to create art is to say: I exist. Art does not belong to some elite group with special abilities, skills, training, or social access. Art is essential to human happiness, and self-expression is the very fabric of human life.

This is the nucleus around which our community forms. Without the pursuit of self-expression, we do not exist.

We cherish self-expression and freedom of identity without judgment. We call upon each other to express ourselves with compassion and respect for others. We pursue self-expression with respect given to personal autonomy, as well as our collective autonomy. We eschew controlling each other, and choose to control ourselves.

Our self-expression exists in pursuit of unmediated experience, self-discovery, intimacy, and lifelong play.

Participation

Everyone is welcomed with the opportunity to participate and contribute. Access to the society's resources is a privilege secured by our participation in support of the goals of the society.

We are solution oriented and avoid negativity- –instead we offer our services to resolve problems.

There is no audience. Everyone is a participant.

Ours is a gifting culture, where participants freely contribute without the expectation of reward or payment. Our gifts take many forms. Many projects involve large groups of community members; however, sometimes the best gift we can give to the Society is to pursue intensely personal inwardly-focused projects in pursuit of self-expression.

We welcome the stranger, welcome newcomers, and actively pursue hospitality.

We recognize that if we give the gift of our time, effort, energy, art and passion –we create an environment of abundance, where there is plenty for all.

Respect

We respect the needs of both the members of the Society as a whole ("the community") and the individuals who form it. We embrace diversity in all of its forms, including but not limited to: class, wealth, religion, race, sexuality, gender, sex, age, physical ability and more. We seek to create an environment of tolerance and mutual support, where we all have a sense of involvement and belonging.

Accountability

We understand that we are responsible for our own actions, emotions, and experiences — and we are committed to being accountable for them.

We keep our commitments and trust others to meet the commitments they have made to us. We treat each other with equality, tolerance, and respect –even when we disagree. We respect each other's autonomy and strive to help each other to meet our potential.

We strive to minimize our impact on others by ensuring that our own emotional, spiritual, and physical needs are met. We take maximum advantage of our own resources before seeking community support. We do not allow others to clean up after us – all our trash and belongings (physical and mental) are our responsibility to manage.

We recognize that we're accountable for the health of our community, so we cultivate an attitude of community service. We also know that our community is made up of individuals, so we honour each other's personal needs.

We value our community and contribute to it so its resources are never depleted and it can operate in an environment of abundance.

Membership Statistics

Anyone who has **in the past year** volunteered for **two or more hours** toward the operation of a KindleArts event or the Society is eligible for membership.

Details:

- Team and event leads will track volunteer hours to the best of their ability.
- Volunteering must directly support the Society and its events – leading a theme camp or art project doesn't count (although we still really appreciate it!)
- Any volunteer activity is counted as 30 minutes minimum – even showing up for a cancelled shift.
- Performances are counted as 60 minutes minimum to account for practice and setup time.
- Event leads, department leads, liaisons and team members are counted as giving way more than 2 hours.
- Volunteer hours are counted as occurring on the final date of a multi-day event.
- Volunteers who have gone on a period of active military duty in the past year will have their volunteer time shifted forward by that period.
- All members must provide a physical address according to the BC *Society Act*. The address will be stored on KindleArts' servers in the United States and submitted to BC Registry Services. KindleArts' use of personal information is governed by the BC *Personal Information Protection Act*. BC Registry Service's use is governed by the BC *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. (Summary: nobody is allowed to give away your information except under the US *PATRIOT Act*.)
- We will make a reasonable attempt to contact eligible members who did not submit a physical address with their registration.
- Notifications of General Meetings and other official Society business will be sent by email if we have one on file otherwise by snail mail.
- The Board of Directors may make other people members at their discretion based on other volunteer activity.

Society Membership Details:

Event	Volunteers	Tickets sold Online
Carnivàle 2012	80	209
Otherworld 2012	122	230
Prom Decom	28+	100
Lights Out	12	48

KindleArts has **84** registered members eligible to vote at the **2013 Annual General Meeting**.

History

After several years of pursuing art and events, an extended group of friends in Victoria BC decided that they wanted to create a non-profit society to support artistic expression. The following list describes the major milestones this group of people achieved in pursuit of that goal in 2011, leading to the creation of the Kindle Arts Society in 2012.

DATE	EVENT	DESCRIPTION
02/27/2011	Community Feedback Meeting #1	<p>Members of the community were invited to attend public consultation meetings to decide the form of a legal entity, its name, its values, its goals, and how it should be operated.</p> <p>This included the decision to create our own guiding principles which are inspired by but not entirely matching the 10 Principles of Burning Man.</p>
03/17/2011	Community Feedback #2	<p>At the second community consultation meeting, the name of the society was selected and further information was gathered about its values, its goals, and how it should be operated.</p> <p>Community members contributed thoughts on long range objectives, requirements for membership, size of the board, and other details to be entered into the society's bylaws.</p> <p>Plans were made to continue these sessions and write the bylaws through the summer of 2011. However, the proximity of Carnivàle, Otherworld, and work on the CORE project caused us to re-evaluate this plan and reschedule further planning for the fall of 2011.</p>
05/07/2011	Carnivàle 2011: Gypsy Caravan	<p>Carnivàle 2011 Leader: Hiltz Tanner & Pam "Bunny Ruffles" Lloyd Participants: Approx. 200 Art: The EffiTree Performances: Fire show, stand-up comedy, burlesque, and more.</p> <p>Due to ongoing capacity issues and growing concern about travel to and from Carnivàle at the Willis Point location, the organizing team of Carnivàle 2011 decided to move this event to downtown Victoria and change it to a two-part event.</p> <p>Part one (Held at the Victoria Event Centre ending at 12pm) was a variety show featuring live performances by volunteers from the Burning Man community and friends! Part two (Held at the Sunset Room ending at 6am) was a</p>

		<p>dance party featuring volunteer DJs playing dance music.</p> <p>Returning to its fundraising roots, Carnivàle 2011 was a fundraiser for Victoria's CORE project, the EffiTree. The CORE project was particularly expensive for Victoria due to our decision to make two virtually identical sculptures, and the expense of transporting the effigy to BRC.</p>
<p>06/23/2011 - 06/26/2011</p>	<p>Otherworld 2011: Disco Vampire Summertime</p>	<p>Leader: Steve "Ashes" Wells" Coleads: Edd "Shenanigans" Macdonald, Hiltz Tanner Participants: Approx. 180 Registered Theme Camps: 14 Scheduled Events and Workshops: 30 Art: 9 installations, including the EffiTree and the Shrine of Compassion.</p> <p>In 2011, the event organization team decided to extend Otherworld from 3 to 4 days. This allowed participants to more fully delve into the Otherworld experience.</p> <p>Otherworld took over the operation of the main stage and added a Friday-night talent show, and better coordinate music to accompany the fire performances and effigy burn.</p> <p>Meghan "Megs" Rutigliano from BMHQ attended Otherworld 2011 the event as a participant and even performed at our Friday night talent show.</p> <p>Another highlight of the Otherworld this year was the EffiTree. Victoria took on the extremely ambitious challenge of building two nearly identical effigies, one for Otherworld and one for the Circle of Regional Effigies at Burning Man.</p> <p>As the EffiTree was inspired by the faces carved in the trees at the Otherworld site, it was extremely important to us that a version of the EffiTree was burned at Otherworld. It was a fantastic success, turning into a magnificent 45-foot column of flame.</p> <p>The event closed on Sunday with the burning of Otherworld's first temple. The Shrine of Compassion was built by two community members who experienced deep loss earlier that year. The mid-afternoon burn was our first daytime burn and very effectively provided the closing-ceremony that Otherworld had previously lacked.</p> <p>Although Otherworld 2011 had only a slightly larger population than Otherworld 2010, it felt much larger and</p>

		more developed than previous years and was, in all, a magnificent success.
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2012 Activities

Following the initial activities to set up the Kindle Arts Society in 2011, a bootstrap board of 5 members to help the society become operational.

In 2012 this board's activities included:

- writing the society's Constitution & By-laws
- Developing an event proposal process and refining it over 3 events
- setting up a website for the society
- Took meeting minutes and published on website
- Developed and published an annual calendar of board activities

The below describes the major activities the Board of Directors achieved in 2012, including the major events hosted by KindleArts this year.

01/18/2012	KindleArts Debate & election of bootstrap board	<p>The community picked planning for the non-profit in 2012 when a 5-member board of directors was elected by meeting attendees.</p> <p>Meeting participants completed and ratified the society's constitution and then decided to allow this BOD to finish writing the bylaws based on the community feedback gathered in early 2011.</p> <p>The name of the society was also confirmed at this meeting, to be the Kindle Arts Society.</p>
04/23/2012	Facebook page renamed	<p>Previously, the society's activities were conducted by an ad-hoc group called "BurnVic". Once a name was selected for the society, we transitioned the name of the Facebook fan page to represent the Kindle Arts Society.</p> <p>This Facebook fan page is dedicated purely to the society's activities.</p>
04/23/2012	Facebook group created	<p>To maintain a presence for the Victoria Burning Man community (as distinct from the Kindle Arts Society) on Facebook, a group (not a fan page) was created, called "Burning Man Victoria" (https://www.facebook.com/groups/burnvic/).</p> <p>This group has become the primary community interaction tool for Victoria Burners, virtually replacing the existing</p>

		community discussion list on Yahoogroups.
04/28/2012	Carnivàle 2012: Cabaret	<p>Carnivàle 2012 Leader: Chris "Clamb" Lamb & Dave "Tender" Boon Participants: Approx. 200 Art: Psychophilia Performances: Fire show, stand-up comedy, burlesque, and more.</p> <p>Leading up to this event, the new board launched a new proposal-based event team selection system to select the teams who will operate events like Carnivàle and Otherworld.</p> <p>Chris and Dave's proposal followed the format developed by Carnivàle 2011 to be split between two physical location.</p> <p>Part one (Held at the Victoria Event Centre ending at 12pm) was a variety show featuring live performances by volunteers from the Burning Man community and friends! Part two (Held at Sonica Soundbar ending at 6am) was a dance party featuring volunteer DJs playing dance music.</p> <p>At Carnivàle 2012, participants were encouraged to donate funds to the 2012 COER project, Psychophilia, but funds were not specifically collected on behalf of the project.</p>
03/05/2012	Art Grants team formed	Previous to 2012, art grants were awarded as part of every event. In 2012 KindleArts decided to remove the art grant process from events. A committee was formed to create criteria accept applications, and award art grants, under the authority of the Board of Directors.
04/1/2012	Burning Man Regional Summit	Several members from the Kindle Arts Board of Directors attended the Burning Man Regional Summit in San Francisco to learn about inspiring projects and gain new leadership skills.
05/15/2012	Corporate name reserved	The name "Kindle Arts Society" was approved by the BC corporate registry, allowing incorporation of the society to proceed.
06/21/2012 - 06/24/2012	Otherworld 2012: Neverland	<p>Leader: Hiltz "Wrangler" Tanner Coleads: Edd "Shenanigans" Macdonald, Steve "Ashes" Wells</p>

		<p>Participants: 224 Registered Theme Camps: 11 Scheduled Happenings: 39 Art: 12 installations including a version of The Breaking Wave, and a portion of Psychophilia (Victoria's 2012 CORE project)</p> <p>A request for proposals to lead Otherworld was published on March 23, 2012. The winning applicant was Hiltz Tanner, who had been active with organizing many previous events.</p> <p>Victoria's fourth annual Burning Man Regional event experienced a vary rainy weekend. However, the event was extremely active and despite the challenges of the weather it was a great success.</p>
09/13/2012	Society Incorporation papers submitted	The bootstrap board completed the review and correction of the bylaws to bring them into line with community feedback proposed during the initial community consultation meetings in 2011.
09/29/2012	Ranger Liaison and Fire Safety Liaison appointed	These two liaison positions were created to help improve safety at events by providing training awareness and communication year-round.
10/03/2012	Society Incorporation papers returned for correction	The bootstrap board elected to write the KindleArts bylaws without the assistance of a lawyer. The BC Corporate Registry office returned the first draft of the bylaws with directions to correct some details which did not meet the requirements for incorporation.
10/03/2012	Society Incorporation papers re-submitted	Corrections were made to the bylaws and they were resubmitted for approval by the BC Corporate Registry office.
10/17/2012	Education Team formed	<p>A call was published requesting volunteers to create educational opportunities.</p> <p>The team was formed from the applicants who contacted the board and has since been renamed the KindleArts Academy.</p>
11/11/2012	Logo Selected	A public call was put out requesting submissions of logo artwork for the society. The submission entered by Stephen "Ashes" Wells was selected (he abstained from voting) and announced at Prom Decom.

11/11/2012	Prom Decom 2012	<p>Leader: Renee Sherritt Coleads: Dee Participants: 100 Performances: Fire show, flow performance, burlesque, and more.</p> <p>Victoria's first Decompression was an extremely well-produced event focussing on a "Prom" theme in celebration of the new KindleArts Academy.</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to last-minute concerns from the venue, the location of the event had to be changed at the last minute. This caused the event capacity to drop from 300 to 100 a week before the event, and many potential attendees were unable to participate.</p> <p>The event strongly resembled Carnivàle in format, and was an overall success.</p>
12/21/2012	Lights Out For Lamps	<p>Leader: Jared Warren Participants: 40 Performances: None</p> <p>This was a small, unique 1-night event based around a single concept: what would happen if you were at Burning Man in the middle of the night, and all the power went out?</p> <p>The event gathered the participants in a completely blacked out room and allowed them to interact in a sightless environment.</p> <p>This was a small event intended to challenge existing event styles (as well as raise money toward lamps to be created for Otherworld 2013). The event was not sold to capacity; however, everyone who attended enjoyed themselves and a repeat is likely next year.</p>
01/2013	Incorporation of KindleArts	Confirmation of incorporation of the Kindle Arts Society was received from the BC Corporate Registry in January 2012.
01/26/2013	KindleArts AGM #1	The first annual general meeting of the Kindle Arts Society, where the new board of directors will be elected.

Activities for 2013

In the coming year, KindleArts will continue to develop its policies and procedures to better streamline our annual activities including Otherworld and Decompression. Our annual spring event, Carnivàle, has been re-imagined as a new event called "Night at the Kasbah" and planning is already underway.

The majority of completely new activities will be conducted by the KindleArts Academy, which will be pursuing arts education offerings and collaborative relationships with other arts communities.

Directors

Chairperson: Stephen Wells (aka Ashes)

I'm a communications professional with extensive experience in event production in Victoria's art and music communities. I have a passionate interest in democratizing art: I strongly believe that we've been tricked into thinking creativity is a rare commodity, rather than the natural expression of our innermost selves. I joined the board of the Kindle Arts Society to enrich my community as well as my own life by facilitating creative awakening.

I contribute my skills in leadership, communications, design, writing, and inspiration to help accomplish the society's mission. I'm a founding member of the society and the author of the society's constitution.

Vice-Chairperson: Edd Macdonald (aka Shenanigans)

I've been involved in Burner events in the Victoria area since 2009. Previous to that I had fifteen years of experience putting on events and festivals, including medieval re-enactment events in the SCA, the Nanaimo Festival of Banners, Nanaimo Art Gallery openings and events, and the Luminara Lantern Festival here in Victoria. My degree is in Philosophy and Liberal Studies, with a focus on ethics.

I participate in the Kindle Arts Society and contribute to events because I enjoy new experiences and adventures. Being on the board and active in the community allows me to contribute to a local environment that encourages this. More adventures please.

Secretary: Amara Smith

I've been a Burner all my life but only realised it in 2005. My passion is in collaboration, leading and encouraging people, and telling people what to do. KindleArts exists to foster the artist in everyone. I'm a social artist and I find joy in helping people express themselves in a way that challenges and fulfills them. Being the Secretary for the Kindle Arts Society board keeps my fingers in all the pies.

Treasurer: Morgan Andrews

The first time I heard about Burning Man was March 2009 and since that time I've had the pleasure of becoming an enthusiastic member of the Victoria community. My education and default job are accounting based and my position on the Kindle Arts Society board lets me use those to benefit the community. I enjoy spreadsheets, bean counting, herding cats and making things go.

Director-at-Large: Jared Warren

I am relatively new to the Burning Man community and would like to think I bring an outsider's perspective to the Board. I ran for the Board because I wanted to make a contribution but I didn't have art building and event organizing experience. Instead, I go to meetings so the artists don't have to!

I navigate and run government bureaucracies for a living. My education is in public admin, business analysis, computer science and philosophy. So I try to figure out just the right amount of red tape to meet the Society's goals without tangling everybody up.

I'm particularly interested in using the Society as a tool to democratize art, build community and make Victoria cooler.

Teams

The KindleArts Board has appointed two teams of volunteers to administrate two major functions in support of the society's mission. These teams are the Arts Grants Team and the KindleArts Academy. These teams are accountable to the oversight of the Board of Directors, which approves budgets and other high-level aspects of their programs.

At the first meeting of the 2013-2014 Board of Directors, the new board shall create a call for new volunteers for these team or re-appoint the existing team.

Arts Grants Team

The Kindle Arts Grants team awards arts grants on a quarterly basis to provide funding to members of our community.

This team ideally has five (5) members to ensure that a wide variety of ideas are considered in the selection of art to be funded.

KindleArts Academy

KindleArts Academy is a team of three (3) dedicated to hosting workshops and educational opportunities to offer to society members and members of the general public.

In 2013 they will be offering 1-2 workshops each month.

Society Safety Liaisons

The Board of Directors has appointed two safety Liaisons to take charge of and further develop our safety practices: the Ranger Liaison and the Fire Safety Liaison.

These safety liaisons act on behalf of the society under the oversight of the Board of Directors, which approves budgets and the scope of their activities.

At the first meeting of the 2013-2014 Board of Directors, the new board shall appoint a new liaisons or re-appoint the existing liaisons.

Ranger Liaison

The Ranger Liaison works year-round and does not have duties related to specific events (ie: they are not necessarily the Ranger lead for any given event).

The current Ranger Liaison is Cam "Spidey" Hacault. The Board of Directors has given the Ranger Liaison the following goals:

- Build Ranger capacity
- Build peer support capacity
- Build individual self-reliance
- Build relationships with law enforcement agencies
- Reduce substance harm
- Reduce sexual harassment

The Ranger Liaison can meet those goals however he/she sees fit, but their activities could include:

- Keep abreast of relevant legislation, case law and best practices
- Coordinate Ranger training with the education team, "certify" Rangers and recruit volunteers
- Coordinate harm reduction and sexual assault reduction strategies
- Engage with law enforcement and security providers on behalf of KindleArts
- Provide resources, assistance and advice to the Board, event leads, Ranger leads and peer support leads
- Submit a budget and plan for activities to the Board
- At the first meeting of the 2013-2014 Board of Directors, the new board shall appoint a new Ranger Liaison or re-appoint the existing Ranger Liaison.

Fire Safety Liaison

The Fire Safety Liaison works year-round and does not have duties related to specific events (ie: they are not necessarily the Ranger lead for any given event).

The current Fire Safety Liaison is Alan "BentForkx" Whysker. The Board of Directors has given the Fire Safety Liaison the following goals:

- create documents explaining KindleArts' standard fire safety protocol for the society's events
- pursue relationships with an insurer capable of offering performers' insurance to Victoria fire performers and helping to bring this insurance to local fire troupes
- presenting the above documents to local fire departments and city government officials
- holding training sessions on KindleArts' standard fire safety protocol for local fire performers in advance of KindleArts events and "certifying" fire performers
- confirming that the fire safeties for specific KindleArts events in 2012 are prepared to train fire performance participants on the KindleArts' standard fire safety protocol.
- submits annual fire safety budget to the board of directors
- collaborates with the KindleArts education team to provide additional opportunities for fire safety training including fire extinguisher courses, pyrotechnician certification courses, and more
- Performs related work as required.

The Fire Safety Liaison can meet those goals however he/she sees fit, but their activities could include:

- Keeps abreast of fire related laws, codes, policies, etc.
- Provide resources, assistance and advice to the Board, event leads, Ranger leads and peer support leads
- Submit a budget and plan for activities to the Board

Reports