

KINDLE ARTS CONSTITUTION

Purpose:

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 arts 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 Society 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.

SOCIETY VALUES

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-focussed 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.

This society is a member-funded society. It is funded primarily by its members to carry on activities for the benefit of its members. On its liquidation or dissolution, this society may distribute its money and other property to its members.