

Annual Report to the Senior College Board of Trustees from the Festival of Art Committee

The 14th Annual Festival of Art was held on June 9 thru 12, 2016 at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center. There were 139 artists registered for the show at the end of March, but 129 artists who actually exhibited.

There were 246 people at the Opening Reception and First Viewing on Thursday, June 9, from 6 to 8 p.m., which was 80 more than last year. The Belfast Bay Fiddlers again provided music for the occasion, the food was provided by Senior College volunteers, and all went smoothly with no complaints, only compliments on the quality of art this year and the way it was displayed. The committee decided to provide the wine service this year, as they had done in years past.

Friday, June 10, which is usually a pretty quiet day with nothing but the exhibit scheduled, 64 visitors signed in to view the artwork.

Saturday, June 11, featured the Guest Artist Presenter at 1:00 p.m. in the auditorium. A total of 104 visitors signed in for that day, and 45-50 attended John Whalley's presentation which was very well received. For the first time, Nancy Schroeder, a local harpist, performed in the atrium from noon to 1:00 p.m. while visitors viewed the exhibit. It was lovely, and much enjoyed by those present. Nancy had offered to do this at no cost and she was a perfect addition to the program.

On Sunday, June 12, the exhibit was open from noon to 3:00 p.m. and 48 visitors signed the guest book. Artists arrived at 3 p.m. to pick up their work, and we were packed up and moved out by 4:30 p.m.

Overall, the committee is very pleased with the Festival this year -- lots of praise and only one or two minimal complaints that we can respond to. We were given information by five people who want to be put on the mailing list for the show next year, and many of the artists thanked us for providing this opportunity for them to show their work. Some of the artists did sell their work but we have no information on the details since we only provide contact information.

Cathy Bradbury, Chair
Festival of Art Committee