

**17th Annual Festival of Art
May 30 - June 2, 2019
Report to the Board of Trustees**

The 2019 Festival of Art hosted 115 artists this year; a bit fewer than in the past several years which numbered between 140 and 150. The shortage seemed to occur in the "new" artists, which for the past few years was thirty percent of our total participation. Our visitor count, however, was much higher than in past years, and comments were very complimentary.

Opening night was attended by 177 people. That was the number that signed our guest book on arrival, but because they all arrive at approximately the same time, many slip through without signing in. The Belfast Bay Fiddlers were back to begin the night with music, and as they continued to perform, they enjoyed a large audience for the duration of the opening. Volunteers from Senior College and the participating artists acted as Greeters and Security Guards, and contributed to our buffet of refreshments. Sandi Cirillo was celebrated as our Featured Artist for 2019 and was introduced by John Economy during the welcome. Her artwork was prominently displayed at the entrance to the show.

Friday and Saturday welcomed 131 visitors to the exhibit. Although the documentary film on Saturday was not well attended (about 20 in the audience), those who did attend enjoyed it very much and lingered to talk with Richard Kane after the showing. Most felt that the reason for the low attendance was because J. Frederick Woell was not that well known in Maine. Mr. Kane is working on another film in his series of Great Masters and hopefully, we will have that one as part of our Festival next year.

On Sunday we again offered our program for the artists from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. We attempted to get a more accurate number of those planning to participate by having a sign-up table on Wednesday when artists dropped off their work. Fifty-eight artists indicated they would attend, and about 45 actually did. Juliane opened the program with a welcome and instructions on how they would proceed. John Economy and David Estey took it from there. The feedback was enthusiastically positive with many requesting that this program be continued next year.

Juliane Dow has informed me that this will be her last Festival of Art. She has other interests she wants to pursue and this would be a good time to do that. Juliane has been on the committee since 2012, and has done a remarkable job of getting us "computerized". She has full responsibility for contact with the artists, from her early 'Save The Date' memo to completed registration. She will not be replaced easily, but has offered to be of assistance to whoever is willing to try.

I also will "retire" from the Festival of Art Committee this year. I have been on the committee since 2009, co-chair then chair since 2012. It has been a wonderful experience for me, and I have truly enjoyed it all. But, I also want to explore other interests. I will do whatever I can to be of help to the new chair. I think we leave the committee in a good place, and ready for new members to move in and take over with ease. At this time there are three members on this committee: Dianne Horton, Ginny Yarnell, and John Economy. I believe there is a need for three new members in addition to a new chair. The Festival of Art has been offered for seventeen years; it is a good thing for the community and Senior College. It should be continued.

My Income and expense report is attached. Should you have any questions, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Bradbury, Chair
Festival of Art Committee
June 6, 2019