

President's Report 2025



2025 was a productive and exciting year – with much work yet to come!

Intermunicipal Committee

The work of the Juan de Fuca Performing Arts Centre Society (PACS) is supported by all six west shore municipalities. Our Intermunicipal Committee includes Councillors Karel Roessingh (Highlands, Chair), Colby Harder (Langford), David Grove (Colwood), Gery Lemon (View Royal), Sharie Epp (Metchosin), and Jeff Bateman (Sooke). The committee is supported by PACS Directors Judith Cullington, Chris Fraser, and Matt Cowlick.

This important committee provides a place to share updates, ideas, and information, making sure we are keeping all “in the loop”. A particular focus in 2025 was providing advice and input on the proposed Capital Regional District Performing Arts Facilities Service, and continuing to advise on potential locations.

Artists' Workshop

As we move forward, it is important to know that we will be serving the needs of the groups that would be renting the proposed arts centre spaces. In April, more than 70 people from arts groups across Greater Victoria joined us to review the [2022 Feasibility Study](#) and provide their wisdom and advice.

The [workshop](#) featured guest speaker Alex Sarian—President of the Calgary Arts Commons and author of *The Audacity of Relevance: Critical Conversations on the Future of Arts and Culture*. Alex challenged us all to look at how to balance artistic risk with financial sustainability and remove financial barriers to participation—without sacrificing the quality of programming. He noted that philanthropy becomes the true measure of impact—the dollars and volunteerism represent the depth of belief in the change we’re making.

Afternoon workshops, led by Cascadia Architects, saw participants taking a deep dive into the proposed spaces and programming. The ideas were flying fast and furious! The discussions showed us that the feasibility study is ‘on track’, and that these spaces will serve to fill an important gap in the Capital Region’s arts ecosystem.

Following the workshop, Cascadia Architects prepared a [visionary design](#) (later revealed at the West Shore Arts Gala) and a [report](#) with sketches of the proposed spaces.

Thank you to our workshop sponsors: Elements Casino View Royal, Coastal Community Credit Union, the municipalities of Langford, Colwood, View Royal, Metchosin and Highlands, and in-kind contributions from Thom Klos Creative and Sunset Labs.

CRD Regional Performing Arts Facilities Service

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has been discussing the need for region-wide support for regional theatres for several years. This discussion came to fruition this year, with the CRD Board unanimously agreeing that a Performing Arts Facilities Service should be established. PACS lobbied hard for this new service, proving several presentations to the Select Committee and the CRD Board.

This new service would provide operational funding to the three existing regional theatres (Royal, McPherson and Charlie White [Mary Winspear] theatres). In addition, it would provide planning grants to support development of a West Shore Theatre (and future operational funds once built). The service would also provide theatre access grants to local groups to reduce their costs of renting these facilities.

Funding for the new service will begin in 2027 (subject to budget approval by the CRD Board).

West Shore Arts Gala

We know how to throw a good party 😊. In November, more than 160 guests joined us at Olympic View Golf Club for an evening of fun and fundraising. The evening featured a welcome from Songhees Nation and the Aunty Collective, live and silent auctions, great food, performances featuring local talent, and plenty of networking opportunities. We raised over \$10,000 to support our work in 2026.

During the event, Four Frames Photo Studio captured video clips of attendees speaking to the importance of an arts centre; these are being used as part of our social media work in the coming year.

A highlight of the evening was the “big reveal” of the beautiful visionary design prepared by Cascadia Architects.

It was much enjoyed by all who attended, and PACS plans to host its next Gala event in spring 2027.

Thank you to our Gala sponsors and supporters: Olympic View Golf Club, PATH Developments (Royal Bay), Viking Properties, Nicola Wealth, Speedwash Colwood, Elements Casino View Royal, Holiday Inn Express, Goldstream News Gazette, and in-kind contributions from Thom Klos Creative and Ryes and Shine Distillery. We were honoured to have donations of auction items from almost 50 businesses, including significant donations from West Shore Town Centre, Malcolm Barker, Luke Ramsay, Butler Concrete, Western Security, Jola Landscaping, and the West Shore Quilters Guild.

Collaboration with Royal Roads University

We were delighted when Royal Roads University School of Tourism and Hospitality reached out to ask if we would like to collaborate with their student cohort on a digital communications project. Throughout the fall, PACS' Kathryn Pascuzzo and Judith Cullington met with a group of about 10 students who reviewed and critiqued our social media, providing some excellent insights for improvements. Several of the students also helped out at the Gala event.

Find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#)!

West Shore Arts Guide

Where would you go to find artists in the West Shore? Our team of Lorraine Pawlivsky-Love and Thom Klos are working to develop a guide that will help to connect you with the diverse local talent and artists of all kinds!

Stay tuned for the release of the West Shore Arts Guide in 2026.

Outreach

PACS seeks to find ways to make ourselves and our mission visible and to encourage new members. In addition to our monthly e-newsletter, which goes to about 500 subscribers, we:

- ◆ Hosted tabling events at Colwood Music in the Park, the Lagoon Festival, and Metchosin Days (thanks to Dorothy, Matt and Oghoadena for leading this)
- ◆ Put on a flute recital (featuring our own Matt Cowlrick) at St. Mary's Metchosin
- ◆ Supported View Royal's Got Talent
- ◆ Participated in Colwood's Volunteer Meet-ups
- ◆ Joined the ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria, which advances the important role the arts play in the life of our community and advocates for public sector support.

And more

The City of Langford released its new Official Community Plan in 2025, with a significant section on “Embracing the Creative City”, including language supporting an arts and culture centre. Langford is currently completing its Arts and Culture Strategy: PACS was one of many groups consulted in the development of the Strategy.

Thank you and more!

We deeply appreciated all of you who are members and subscribers to our newsletter.

I would especially like to thank this year's Board of Directors: Vice President Chris Fraser, Secretary David Stocks, Treasurer Duc Le, and Directors Dorothy York and Matt Cowlrick.

We are supported by a fabulous team of volunteers who form our advisory committee. Special thanks to

Amanda Lynn Ballard

Katherine Searle

Andy Guiry

Kathryn Pascuzzo

Begum Erilymaz

Lina Lewis

Carly Bilney

Megan Catalano

Christy Hennessy

Oghoadena Osubele

Fran Perkins

Sasha Moriarty-Schieven

Jennifer Sanders

Lorraine Pawlivsky-Love

Jessica Beach

Thom Klos

It truly is a pleasure to work with you!

Judith Cullington

President