

Jump In & Express Yourself! An Online Exhibition
November 8 to December 31, 2021

Introduction:

- In March 2021 after reading of the call for committee members for Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, Kawartha Art Gallery contacted Brenda Stonehouse and expressed interest in providing support for the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.
- In June 2021 Lynda Nydam of the Community Safety and Well-Being Committee, contacted the Gallery about the development of a youth engagement online exhibit where youth were invited to submit a personal story, poem, artwork, a picture, etc. to express their personal thoughts and feelings around the four identified priority areas of the Community Safety & Well-Being Plan.
- Through further conversation with Brenda Stonehouse and Lynda Nydam regarding the specifics of the proposed online exhibit, a survey component and information with application for a Youth Council component were incorporated into the exhibit proposal.
- The Gallery forwarded an online exhibit proposal to the committee on July 22, 2021. The online exhibit proposal was approved by the committee on July 30, 2021.
- The Gallery staff involved with the development and implantation of the online exhibit were Summer Programming Coordinators Rose Duvall-Anderson and Annie Cheng, Megan and Robyn Barton of Barton Creative and Executive Director Susan Taylor.

Objective:

- A partnership project between the Kawartha Lakes Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee and Kawartha Art Gallery, the **JUMP IN & Express Yourself! Online Exhibit** invited youth aged 12 to 24 years, to consider the four priority areas of the City of Kawartha Lakes as identified by the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Advisory Committee.
- Expressing their concerns through their art, youth from across the City of Kawartha Lakes shared poignant insights into the safety and well-being of their community in the areas of;
 - Mental Health and Addictions
 - Poverty
 - Housing
 - Youth
- For the Call for Submissions to go out via a media release, promotional video, social media promotion throughout the community with information emails from the Gallery to go out to area elementary and high school teachers, the week of August 23, 2021 with the deadline for submissions set as September 24, 2021.
- For the exhibit website page to include a survey asking youth to select their top three priorities. Priorities survey questions:
What are the THREE most important issues to you in your community?
 - Housing
 - Mental Health & Addictions
 - Poverty
 - Youth

- Climate Action
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Education
- Covid-19
- For the exhibit website page to include information and an application for a CKL Youth Council. The applications were forwarded to Carly Veitch, Manager- Youth & Support Services at BGC Kawarthas.

Project Outcomes:

- The Call for Submissions resulted in 22 submissions. Of the 22 submissions, 4 were submitted directly by the youth themselves with the remaining 18 being submitted through their art teacher.
- The deadline for submissions was extended from September 24, 2021 to October 15, 2021 with the last of the submissions coming in by October 30, 2021 . Teachers interested in working with students on submitting entries for the exhibit expressed a desire for an extended deadline due to the challenges of resuming in-class classes after the Covid-19 shutdowns of the 2020-2021 school year.
- The most successful means of communication for engaging the youth was through direct email correspondence with area teachers. While the response from the teachers was positive, several teachers chose not to participate due to concerns regarding the time management challenges of resuming in-class classes after the Covid-19 shutdowns of the 2020-2021 school year.
- Tischa Hetherington the Principal of Central Senior Public School, Anders Widjedal the Art teacher at LCVI and Paul Marshall the Head of Visual Arts at I.E. Weldon worked with students to submit work for the exhibit.
- Anders Widjedal created an art project for his students based on the submission criteria that resulted in all of his students in the one class submitting 15 entries of the 22 submissions.
- Tischa Hetherington and Paul Marshall shared the Call for Submissions with their students and assisted interested students in submitting their work resulting in 5 entries of the 22 submissions. The remaining 2 entries were submitted independently by youth in Fenelon Falls.
- The priorities survey is still active on the exhibit website page with the results being forwarded as they are inputted to Carly Veitch, Manager- Youth & Support Services at BGC Kawarthas.
- For the Youth Council initiative, four participants reached out to Carly Veitch at BGC Kawarthas. Carly has contacted all the applicants. The call for interested youth continues to be promoted on the Gallery exhibit website and social media pages and through BGC Kawarthas. BGC Kawarthas will launch the Youth Council in January 2022.
- Response from members of the public for the exhibit has been very positive with expressed interest by community organizations that fall under the umbrella of the four priorities of the CWBS Plan, to provide statistical and contact information regarding their services.
- All teachers were emailed a thank you for their assistance.
- All youth participants were emailed a thank you for their submission and a link to the website page for the exhibit.

- A copy of the exhibit brochure will be emailed by Kawartha Art Gallery to all the teachers and participating youth.
- Exhibit materials attached:
 - Media release.1
 - Media release.2
 - Exhibit brochure
- Exhibit material links:
 - Promotional video:
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aIKPRzvK7lcgrRBqmHNglS4ydEHZipj3/view?usp=sharing>
 - Exhibit page:
 - <https://www.kawarthagallery.com/exhibits/jump-in-and-express-yourself>

Budget:

- \$500.00 cost for design and uploading of exhibit to Gallery website. Cost to be split between City and Kawartha Art Gallery. Invoicing information to be received from City for submission of invoice of \$250.00 by Kawartha Art Gallery to City.

Recommendations:

- To electronically share a link to the copy of the final plan, if possible, with each youth participant and any assisting adults. If possible, to do this the Gallery would offer to handle the emails.
- For the Gallery to submit a proposal with budget to City for a 2022 youth exhibit with both an online and in venue exhibit.
- To confer with area teachers on best time of year for submissions in order to maximize on input of submissions by students.
- To expand on exhibit concept to include statistical and contact information regarding the services of community organizations that fall under the umbrella of the four priorities of the CWBS Plan.
- For exhibit proposal to include exhibit reception proposal should pandemic procedures and protocols allow
- Kawartha Art Gallery to submit exhibit/event proposal to Brenda Stonehouse by March 31, 2022.

Thank you for the opportunity to partner with the City and the Community Safety & Well-Being Committee on this exhibit.

Regards

Susan Taylor
 Executive Director
 Kawartha Art Gallery
 December 1, 2021