

West-end gallery in its fifth year sharing the gift of art

For many artists following their passion and their love for creating art is a gift that should be shared. The Ottawa West Arts Association (OWAA) artists take that sentiment to heart every two months with free exhibitions of their work at the OWAA Gallery in the Goulbourn Recreation Complex in Stittsville.

Now in its fifth year of operation, the gallery presents six themed exhibitions each year featuring works by local painters, sculptors, photographers, and mixed media artists. "Metamorphosis," the current exhibition, runs from March 2 to May 3 and offers something to please the eyes and spark the imagination of art lovers of all ages.

"The OWAA Gallery is a meeting place that provides open discussion and community involvement in an environment that showcases beautiful works by local talent,"

says OWAA Chair Sue Perley-Robertson. "It's part of what makes Stittsville a thriving, vibrant, and exciting community. And our members contribute to that vibrancy by taking the gift of art beyond the gallery and sharing it through structured, arts-related discussions with local students and youth groups."

As part of its effort to involve the community in its ongoing exhibitions, the OWAA Gallery also includes a People's Choice voting process that encourages visitors to fill out a ballot for their favorite work and leave comments for the artists. Winners are announced at the end of each two-month exhibition and the winning works are showcased online at www.owaa.ca.

All members of OWAA look forward to the results of the ballots to see just how local residents reacted to their latest work.

"We have some members who have exhibited their works beyond the boundaries of Stittsville, and in international art museums, such as the Brevis Gallery in the National Gallery of Canada, the Frederick Remington Art Museum in New York, the Carrousel du Louvre in Paris, and international exhibitions in New York, Toronto, Montreal and Paris," says Perley. "But it's always gratifying to be appreciated in your own hometown, so the People's Choice balloting process has been an important part of what we do in the gallery for the past five years, and will probably continue for years to come."

The OWAA gallery is open to the public seven days a week from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Goulbourn Recreation Complex, 1500 Shea Road in Stittsville.

Joe Aragona

Volunteers are the lifeblood of festivals

Year in and year out, Ottawa offers a wide range of festivals, special events and fairs that draw in hundreds of thousands of people. None of this would be possible without the support and dedication of volunteers.

"Recruiting and retaining volunteers have been reoccurring issues in the festival industry," says Barbara Stacey, Executive Director, Ottawa Festivals.

Ottawavolunteerlounge.ca is a volunteer management product that enables the public to learn about opportunities in the festival industry, to share feedback and to build professional networks.

"Ottawavolunteerlounge.ca matches volunteers with the right opportunities based on their skills, motivations and preferences," says Tamer Mansy, Program Manager, Research and Partnerships at Ottawa Festivals. "This virtual tool will also allow volunteers to evaluate their experiences and allow festival organizers to improve

their volunteer management practices."

Ottawa Festivals is a not-for-profit organization that represents 65 not-for-profit festivals, special events and fairs that take place in Canada's Capital Region. www.ottawafestivals.ca

Visit the Ottawa Festivals Volunteer Lounge to view volunteer opportunities ottawavolunteerlounge.ca

Ottawa Festivals Volunteers

Call for artists and volunteers



Organized by community volunteers the fourth annual Orléans Festival will be held on June 1 and 2, 2013 at the Shinkman Arts Centre.

Visitors can expect an amazing variety of local professional and community performers as well as hands-on artistic activities, La rue des Artisans, the Youth Talent Show, cake decorating contest and a community breakfast.

If you have a bit of free time to spare and have a passion for arts, food and artisans, they would be glad to have you on the team!

Artists interested in performing at the Orléans Festival or for more information about the festival visit www.ortlansfestival.ca

Volunteer online at www.ortlansfestival.ca/en/volunteers or by email at volunteers@ortlansfestival.ca

