

Board

Candidate Summary

Information

(as of May 15, 2022)

Chair

Jan Seibel

Jan believes that Saskatchewan's strength and potential are reflected in its vibrant cultural community. Over the years, Jan has tried to find ways to contribute to this cultural community as an artist, cultural worker, and most often as a volunteer. By sharing her time and experiences through volunteer work, Jan hopes to create cultural opportunities for others like those that she has benefited from over the years.

Jan has been involved in Saskatchewan's cultural community since finishing a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree in the mid 1990's. She has held employment and volunteer positions with a variety of local cultural organizations including Neutral Ground Art Gallery and Artist Run Centre, the Art Gallery of Prince Albert (now the Mann Gallery), the Dunlop Art Gallery, the Saskatchewan Library Association, the Writers' Guild, CARFAC, the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance and SaskCulture.

Jan's involvement with SaskCulture began in 2002 when she was first elected to the Board of Directors. Jan served three terms with the Board, including terms as President and Past President. Jan continues to be involved with SaskCulture as a volunteer for numerous committees, including the steering committee that lead to the creation of Creative Kids. Jan served as a member of the Creative Kids Provincial Advisory Committee until 2016. Jan's experiences with SaskCulture and Creative Kids gave her an exposure to, and interest in, all of the different sectors that make up Saskatchewan's vibrant cultural community, as well as an interest in good governance and responsible stewardship of public funds.

Currently, Jan lives in Regina where she is the Executive Director of the Insurance and Real Estate Division of the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan's financial and consumer marketplace regulator. In addition to her BFA from the University of Regina, Jan also has an LL.B. from the University of Saskatchewan and was in private practice as a lawyer prior to joining the public service.

Arts

Heather Cline

Heather is a product of Saskatchewan's rich and diverse cultural opportunities. Her exposure to community-based cultural programming from an early age allowed her to dream of the possibility of being a professional artist. It has also provided her with the education and opportunity to live in Saskatchewan. Parts of her experiences are the direct result of being a beneficiary of SaskCulture programming, as an individual and as a part of many organizations. Heather feels it is an appropriate time to give back some of her time and energy.

Heather is a professional visual artist and has an extensive history as an art educator providing instruction and adjudication throughout Saskatchewan. She has worked with a variety of arts and cultural community groups. She is currently an instructor at the University of Regina. Over the years Heather has volunteered as a committee or board member with a variety of Saskatchewan organizations including CARFAC Saskatchewan, the Ness Creek Music Festival, Emma Lake International Collaboration and the Art Gallery of Regina.

After completing her MFA at the University of Saskatchewan in 1999, Heather started to engage in a variety of community-based programming. This included working on a series of artist residency programs which led to the creation of the 'Live Arts' program in 2005. Heather worked in partnership

with the Saskatchewan Arts Board, the Ministry of Education, SCN and school divisions throughout Saskatchewan to bring artists of all disciplines into the classroom for virtual curriculum-based learning. In 2014 Heather received the Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor's Arts Award: Arts & Learning for her work as the Artist Manager of this innovative distance learning 'Artist in the School' program.

Heather's art practice is currently based in Regina but she grew up on the outskirts of Saskatoon in the Sutherland neighbourhood. Here she had the unique opportunity of experiencing small town life on the edge of an urban centre. While attending the BFA program at the University of Saskatchewan, Heather worked summers as a historic interpreter at Fort Carlton Provincial Historic Park. These experiences have been a lifelong influence on her creative activity and passion for community engagement in her art practice.

Heather maintains a rigorous personal practice as a visual artist. Over the past 15 years she has been involved in a series of residency projects and public engagements across Canada. Working with institutions in other provinces has given her even more appreciation for Saskatchewan's commitment to cultural funding.

Heather has exhibited extensively in both commercial and public gallery spaces. Her artwork can be found in many public and private collections, including the Colart Collection, the Remail Modern, the Saskatchewan Legislature and the Saskatchewan Arts Board. Heather would bring a strong commitment to a professional artistic practice, educational innovation and community service to any role with SaskCulture.

First Nations

Melanie Sunchild

Melanie believes that both the art and culture sectors create opportunities for learning, entertainment, personal growth, creating and improving communication with others. As a traditionally knowledgeable nehiyaw iskwew from Thunderchild First Nation, Melanie enjoys working within areas that enhance opportunities to improve the lives of First Nations people and their communities.

Melanie's experience and knowledge in several of the key areas required for the role of director demonstrates her ability to contribute to SaskCulture. She has volunteered for the Inspired Awards, World Indigenous Business Forum, Saskatchewan World Indigenous Festival for the Arts, Canadian Country Music Awards, and the Juno Awards. Melanie believes the art of music reflects the understanding and sharing of cultures. It creates and promotes social skills which then develops an awareness and respect in others.

Melanie's education consists of a four-year Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in Aboriginal Justice and Criminology from the U of S, as well as the Accelerated Administrative Assistant course from Saskatoon Business College. She has also participated in the Aboriginal Women Leadership Saskatchewan Program, a one year formalized mentorship and networking program designed to increase the representation of Aboriginal women in positions of leadership. This is a joint partnership between the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute Inc., Status of Women Canada, The Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Commission, and the Office of the Treaty Commissioner.

Melanie is presently a board member with the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre (SIMFC). The board oversees financial budgets and the management of the Centre's programs. Melanie has had

the opportunity to work with those in leadership roles in various levels of governance within the Federation of Saskatchewan Indigenous Nations, Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, Saskatchewan First Nation Family and Community Institute, and other diverse organizations.

Member at Large

Ross Grandel

Ross is a public service worker currently employed as a Portfolio Management Consultant for the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, a division of the Ministry of Social Services.

Ross has worked for non-profit organizations for most of his career starting with Women of the Dawn and helped coordinate the First Nations Awards Ceremony. Since then he's worked more than six years doing contract compliance within the Ministry. At the Ministry, he was part of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee, which won a Culture and Inclusion Award of Excellence in 2019 for its activities and contribution to an inclusive culture.

SaskCulture's vision of inclusion for all really resonates with Ross' own views and goals. He uses innovative thinking to improve government processes and relationship building expertise to provide the best services to clients. He hopes this spirit will help invigorate SaskCulture to continue exceeding its objectives.

Ross currently resides in Delisle, SK and is a member of the local library board. He Initiates programs and research to improve community participation. Previously, Ross was a Project Coordinator for an internationally recognized Aboriginal Adult Literacy Assessment Tool with the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network. He studied Liberal Arts at the University of Regina and Entrepreneurship and Small Business at Sask Polytechnic.

Ross is Métis and German. He was born in Regina and raised in southern Saskatchewan. He is married to Randi-Lee, has two kids and four animals. He likes constantly learning, comic books, movies, genealogy, innovating, and creating anything. He has an earnestness to learn and create.

Les Oystryk

Les is a retired Conservation Officer and lives in Creighton, Saskatchewan. He retired in 2010 after a 36 plus year career with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment as a Conservation Officer and Compliance Manager.

After graduating from the Canora Composite High School in 1970 Les completed one year of Arts and Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan in 1971. He went on to graduate from the Kelsey Institute of Arts and Sciences in Saskatoon, with a Diploma in Renewable Resources Technology, in 1973 after having spent the summers of 1972 and 1973 working at Tsiigehtchic (Arctic Red River), N.W.T.

Les's career took him to many postings across northern Saskatchewan with a variety of district, park and area responsibilities that revolved around resource and environmental conservation, protection and management, with a strong emphasis on First Nations and community stakeholder consultations.

Having lived, worked and raised a family in remote northern locations, Les has acquired a unique insight and a greater sense of individual and family health care, educational, resource management and culturally appropriate heritage needs and challenges in the north.

Les has a keen interest and love for the northern part of Saskatchewan, as that is where he has lived and worked for the majority of his life. He has a passion for the history of the north particularly with respect to the people that have been involved with the fish and fur trade. Carrying out northern historical research is one of Les's personal passions. A rich northern heritage and culture is a huge piece of the traditional fabric of the Churchill River region.

Les has served as Vice Chair on the Board of Directors for the Churchill River Enterprise Region, Vice Chair on the Board of Directors for the Mamawetan Churchill River Regional Health Authority and past board member of the Northern Regional Health Authority in Manitoba. In 2013 Les completed the Health Director Education and Certification Program through the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy to obtain his Professional Director designation. Since being elected to the Board of Directors for Heritage Saskatchewan in 2013 Les has taken an active role and has served on several committees as well as being re-elected President for a two year term in February of 2015.

Les and his wife Karen live in Creighton and have a family of five children with eight grandchildren in various locations across western Canada. They spend time at their remote cabin on Athapapuskow Lake in northern Manitoba; where visiting with family and friends and growing a garden is a source of real enjoyment.

Les is currently in his second year of a two-year term on the Board of Directors for SaskCulture. This nomination is his expression of interest to seek another two-year term to continue his work with this board and to expand his experience in serving on committees that he is asked to join.

Multiculturalism

Lamarr Oksasikewiyin

Lamarr is originally from Sweetgrass First Nation. He grew up on the reserve until he left to attend University.

Lamarr is a presenter of Traditional Games and has presented all over the province, eastern Canada, Brasil and New Zealand. He attends ceremonies and participates in cultural celebrations like powwows where he dances Old Style Grass Dance.

Lamarr has contributed to knowledge sharing with Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre (SICC), and other tribal councils and is currently teaching land based learning at Kakisiwew School on Ochapowace First Nation.