

# **CommunityWise Resource Centre**

***AKA The Old Y Centre for Community Organizations***

## **Annual Report**

May 2012– May 2013

So much has happened since last year's AGM! Not only have things changed within our organization but many of our members have faced changes in funding sources, budget cuts, changing requirements for reporting and measuring outcomes and changing demand for services. We know that challenges present opportunities for adaptation and new collaborations.

CommunityWise' mission is to support diverse organizations, enhancing the collective impact on society by providing an inclusive community space. We believe equity and well-being will be achieved with diverse and collaborative work. The strength of this organization lies in our members, you and the communities you serve. Without your energy and vitality, driving your own missions to make the world a better place, this organization would not exist.

We all had a very busy and exciting year, developing staff collective work plans, improving our existing services, responding to the needs of people who use the centre.

Some highlights of the year include:

- Front Porch Restoration
- Rebranding- New name and new logo
- Website
- Shared Spaces: Bike HUB and Culture Geeks
- Student Practicums and Internships
- Community Events – Activist Past Times, Forum, Community Connection
- Programming – Community Kitchen, Food Club, What's Next?, BPL
- Member Survey 2013
- Lease Negotiations

### **Staff Collective**

Description – summary of people in 2012/2013 – vision for future  
Current reduced hours

### **Membership**

The Old Y Centre membership is composed of thirty one (31) tenant members and thirty six (36) external members including grass-roots members for a total of 67 member organizations.

### **New Ordinary Members**

Aboriginal Friendship Centre  
Support Works

### **New External Members**

Opportunity Works  
Bulgarian Society of Calgary  
Oromo Network Society  
Alberta Media Arts Alliance Society  
Fairy Tales Presentation Society  
Alberta Community and Cooperatives Society

### **Member Recognition**

All of our members deserve recognition for doing fantastic work. This year we are honouring five members for their contribution to the Old Y Centre community.

Spirit of the Old Y – Beltline Youth Centre (BGCC)  
Spirit of the Old Y – Calgary Cooperative Memorial Society  
Active New Tenant Member – Support Works  
Active New External Member – Viva Mexico  
Collaborator - Sustainable Alberta Association

## **Facilities Report**

Major projects – Bike HUB renovation, front porch, fire alarm system

Maintenance work – carpets in BGCC, painting, toilets

Upgrades – Board Room, new photocopier, display screen,

Back yard – rain barrels, shed, compost moved

Art - mural in 2<sup>nd</sup> fl kitchen, mural in main entrance, clothesline installation

## **Lease Negotiations with City of Calgary**

### **Programming Report**

Since last year's AGM, Old Y staff have initiated projects, events, workshops and partnerships to develop community and build organizational capacity at the Old Y Centre, with support from the board and the community. In the summer of 2012 we had a dedicated staff position to support programming for members and community and in September we hired a part time Forum Coordinator to organize the 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Forum.

Some of the great initiatives include:

#### *Community events*

- Activist Past-times – June 24, 2012
- Community Forum – November 30, 2012
- Community Connection – February 2, 2013
- Member Orientation event and booklet – February 15, 2012

#### *Regular Programming*

- What's Next? Skill Share Series – every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 6:30
- Burn Out Prevention – every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 12:30
- Food Club – every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00
- Community Kitchen – one Saturday/month

#### *Collaborations*

- OutLink volunteer training
- Calgary Youth Week venue
- Volunteer Calgary – CSL

## **Board**

Tenants, members and community representatives sit on the board, to bring diverse perspectives and ensure that the people who use the building also have a say in what happens here. This year the board has been very active on committees and at the Strategic Plan Review session and we have another exciting year ahead as we continue to make CommunityWise a great non-profit centre!

## **Outgoing Board**

Kristin Marquardt - Sustainable Alberta  
Brenda Lieberman - Calgary Underground Film Festival  
Mussie Yemane - Eritrean Community Association  
Erin McFarlane - Arusha Centre  
Tammie Zielinski – Amnesty International

## **Returning Board**

Courtney Robertson – Community Member  
Melody Jacobsen - CSIF  
Curtis Boudreau – SMART Recovery  
Dave Campenella – Parkland Institute  
Sylvia Miotti – Beltline Fitness  
Mike Byerley of Next Up and Amazon Watch  
Sierra Love - Community

## **Acknowledgements and Thanks**

Huge thanks to Social Work Practicum students and Community Service Learning interns! Thanks to Philip and Courtney, Sierra Club, Sustainable Alberta, Co-operative Memorial Society, Calgary OutLink and Arusha Centre for spending time and energy so the volunteers have meaningful experiences in non-profit, social change work.

Thank you to all members, ordinary, external, grassroots, new and long-term! Thanks to everyone who has attended and/or coordinated events, meetings, workshops for your organizations, thanks for contributing time and energy. Thank you for being active in your communities and for sharing space with us. We look forward to working with you in the coming year!

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