



Consider this your official notice: Annual Meeting

We are holding our annual meeting, opening the Member Show, and kicking off the membership drive on Friday, April 26, at 6 p.m. Highlights will be voting on CAC bylaws and hearing an update on our financial situation. You'll receive bylaws in an email. Questions? Call 208.879.2745 Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m.

No need to stay in the dark

Wondering what the Challis Arts Council is doing any given week? Have notices on Facebook and email eluded you?

Visit: challisartscouncil.org

Change is the only constant

Challis Arts Council's long-time renter, Challis Area Chamber of Commerce, moved out December 31.

This changed the Council's financials in more ways than one.

First, loss of rental income (\$2,400) and no more shared utility costs (about \$1,300).

Second issue was staffing. The Chamber paid Melissa Fitzgerald for 20 hours a week while the Council paid her for 15 hours. Without the Chamber's salary, Melissa would come up short.

There is no way the Council can run the gallery without paid staff.

Melissa offered to stay with us if we bumped up her wage (we were paying her far less than the Chamber) and increased her hours to 20 a week. That arrangement sets us back over \$6,000.

A generous donation by a member and nearly \$700 from a fundraiser last fall helped offset that shortfall, but we're still \$5,000 shy of making our nut.

What's the plan? We've been lucky the past four years with strong gallery sales and a few one-time windfalls from the state so we haven't had to hold any fundraisers.

That has to change. Gallery sales were much lower this year and there's no more state money. We'll be looking for volunteers to help pull off some kinds of money-making ventures.

We've resolved to stay open on Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and need volunteers to do that.

We're expanding our profile in the community by hanging selected artwork at the CusterTel office.

There's a committee exploring the possibility of selling espresso from the building that could diversify revenue and programming options.

Memberships bring in over half of our annual revenue. **IF** you can, we'd appreciate an increased donation this year.

Gallery sales add up to at least a quarter of our revenue. Think of us when you need something unique and elegant for a gift or your personal space.

We can talk more about money at the Annual Meeting.

Bylaws

Our bylaws haven't been updated in well over a decade. We've made some changes to reflect how we're operating today. You'll receive a pdf copy in your email. Look for it.

It's dull reading but necessary.

We'll be voting on those at the Annual Meeting.

Membership: We ended the fiscal year with 105 members who contributed \$9,417.

Thanks to each and every one of you!

Tunes for Independence Day...



Challis Arts Council hired John Hewitt from Canada and Carter Junction from the Pabsimeroi Valley to provide music at Challis city park during the Chamber of Commerce's Independence Day festivities.

Gallery shows



• "Inked Skin," tattoo art from Kaylee Jo Olson



• "Never Nothing," mixed media show by Breena Hope

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— Gallery shows and other projects

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• “Gallery 12,” a consortium of artists from Idaho Falls, brought their work in for the last show of 2023.

• But wait! Before Tattoos was the Member Show in April with the Annual Meeting with readings from Cole LeFavour. That was also when we awarded the Michael Shannon scholarship to Challis High School student Sebastian Artreches who planned to attend University of Idaho in the fall to study graphic arts.

• Artisans Market, our annual holiday bazaar, started in November and ran through early January.



• After a quiet early January, *Beautiful Dreamers*, our youngest artists in the community, brought their creative energy into the gallery.

• *Young Artists* followed with their own show, kicked off by a performance of the Challis Jr. Sr. High school choir and band.

• And finally, *Shakespeare* then *Missoula Children’s Theatre* rolled into town for some stage performances.

All these youth programs would be absent from our roster without essential Educational Performing Arts sponsors.



And now it’s April and the Member Show starts April 12. The Annual Meeting is April 26. **Enclosed is a membership form and a return envelope. Your last date of renewal should be next to your address.**

— Mostly done



We chased one last grant from Steele-Reese Foundation that came through so we FINALLY had enough money (adding to grants from Idaho Community Foundation, CHC Foundation, fundraising money and a percentage of gallery sales), to give the green light on the siding project.

DuBois Construction, pictured above, did the work.

Equipment and weather woes postponed the final part of scraping and painting the north wall. Denis DuBois plans to have that part done this spring.