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CSARN BULLETIN CRAAC

Vol. 2 No. 1

MARCH 2013 - WHO WE ARE

The Canadian Senior Artists' Network | Centre de ressources pour les artistes aînés du Canada was launched in 2011 by the arts and cultural community to assist professional artists to live out their senior years in dignity and respect. It fulfills its mandate by providing information, programs and services.

SENIOR ARTISTS ARE WORSE OFF THAN OTHER SENIOR CANADIANS

According to a survey released in February 2013 by Sun Life Financial, 60 percent of working Canadians expect that they will either retire at the age of 66, or work part-time at that age. That is a striking difference from the results of the Senior Artists Research Project (SARP), which reveal that 88 percent of senior artists expect they will never stop working at the art, or will do so only after they

reach the age of 80. Overall, 38 percent of Canadians say they will retire with less than \$100,000 saved, while 54 percent of senior artists report retirement savings of less than that amount.

These figures highlight why Canadian artists' associations decided to collaborate in the launch of CSARN.

STUDY OF SENIOR U.S. PERFORMERS

A major study of senior performers in New York City and Los Angeles was released by the Research Center for Arts and Culture in 2011 (<http://artsandcultureresearch.org/>). Given the results of SARP, there are few surprises in the U.S. study. Findings include:

- Senior performers are underutilized by the industry.
- Despite making less money than others in a similar age bracket, senior performers have achieved personal satisfaction through their art.
- If they had to live life over again, 92 percent of performers in LA and 86 percent of performers in NYC would choose a career as an artist again.
- Many senior performers believe they are “at the top of their acting game” today.

The long-established Research Center for Arts and Culture has recently moved its affiliation from Columbia University to the National Center for Creative Aging. The mission of the NCCA is this:

“The National Center for Creative Aging (NCCA) was founded in 2001 and is dedicated to fostering an understanding of the vital relationship between creative expression and healthy aging and to developing programs that build on this understanding.

There is a great deal of interesting and useful information available on the NCCA website: <http://www.creativeaging.org/>.

CSARN LAUNCHES A CAREER NEEDS SURVEY

Among the most striking results of SARP are in the area of senior artists' career needs.

SARP found that 57 percent of artists over the age of 65 are striving to “achieve higher levels of artistic expression or achievement,” and 41 percent are spending 30 hours or more each week on their art. But many senior artists report the difficulties they have finding work in their field and other career challenges, including computers and other technology..

In order to try to determine what other ways CSARN might support senior artists in their careers, you will soon be receiving a questionnaire. It should only take you 30-60 minutes to complete it. If you do complete it you will be helping not only yourself, but other senior Canadian artists!

MEETING WITH QUEBEC ASSOCIATIONS IN MONTREAL

On February 28, the UDA (Union des Artistes) hosted a meeting in Montreal to present CSARN | CRAAC to various Quebec artists associations. Joining the UDA and CSARN | CRAAC, were representatives of La Fondation des artistes, ARRQ (Association des réalisateurs et réalisatrices du Québec), RAAV (Regroupement des artistes en arts visuels du Québec), APASQ (Association des professionnels des arts de la scène du Québec) and UNEQ (Union des écrivaines et des écrivains

québécois).

The meeting was a great success, and everyone was enthusiastic about the idea of collaborating, and working together to serve the community of senior artists in Quebec. The consensus was that CSARN | CRAAC was a fantastic and timely initiative.

FRENCH WEBSITE AND TOLL-FREE NUMBER

Our website www.csarn-craac.ca is now available in French. Some of the information links posted on the website are specific to French-speaking artists. Have a look at the new French site, and let us know what you think.

You can also reach us now by phone from anywhere in Canada at no cost, by calling our toll-free number: 1-855-854-1434. Our local GTA number is 647-854-1434.

SEARCHING FOR COLLEAGUES

With each issue of the newsletter, we receive contact information for even more senior artists. If you know colleagues who would like to receive this newsletter, please send us a note and we will be delighted to add them to the list.

E-NEWSLETTER NAME

Thank you to everyone who sent us suggestions for a name for the e-newsletter. The Board of Directors chose to go with "CSARN Bulletin CRAAC", since it works in both official languages.

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