

Nomination for:  
Sarah Chaykivska  
130 Badger Street  
Calgary, Alberta S7N 2X4  
780-268-0924mobile,

in the Category of: OUTSTANDING ADULT VOLUNTEER

SYNOPSIS:

Sarah Chaykivska from 2006- 2013 devoted a great deal of her time and energy to the operations of the Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts. From her introduction to the Council in 2006 she jumped right into supporting the President and volunteered her professional expertise as a writer and editor on the ACUA Vitae magazine, and then served 5 years as President. Her passion for the arts brought new and exciting partnerships for the organization such as Art Walk on 124<sup>th</sup> street and Arts on the Avenue's annual Deep Freeze Festival, and wider recognition of ACUA in the local community as well as nationally.

Through her contacts with the UCC National and her involvement with orchestrating the cultural component for Ukrainian Day on the Hill, she spearheaded an East meets West show of Ukrainian Canadian Artists across Canada.

In addition to her position as President of ACUA, she also represented Western Canada with the UCC National – Arts Council as co Chair, and currently also holds position as Secretary with UCC National. Other areas where Andrea volunteered her time in the Ukrainian Canadian community are: Ukrainian Bilingual School Council at St. Martin Elementary up to position of Co-chair, Ukrainian Bilingual Parents Advisory (UBPAS), and as a member of the UCWLC St. Basils branch as a Sadochok representative and on the Cultural Committee.

*1. Describe the Nominee's commitment to your organization and the types of activities and service they provide(d). Include the special talents and skills that are a major contribution to their input as a volunteer.*

Sarah Chaykivska volunteered her time with ACUA for seven years. She held the position of President from 2008-2013. As president she oversaw all the operations and projects of the organization including Scholarships, Workshops, Art Shows and Sales, Membership drives, Office Procedures and daily staff direction, and largely contributed her time as editor of the ACUA Vitae magazine. Her skills in marketing and promotion, as a writer and communicator have benefited ACUA tenfold. As editor of ACUA Vitae, Sarah redeveloped the format and created a fresh magazine that provides a forum for Ukrainian arts and artists to be highlighted, a platform for professional writers to tell Ukrainian Canadian stories, as well as an educational opportunity for readers to learn about all of the varying mediums and talented artistic creators within the Ukrainian Canadian community in Alberta. Sarah lead the board to establish guidelines for policies regarding Art Show and Sales, Workshops. As a true leader of an organization with a keen understanding of partnership and collaborative work, she attended multiple

committee meetings and community events on behalf of ACUA and developed new relationships in the Alberta Art Community to enhance the organization's exposure and created new opportunities for Ukrainian Art and Artists to be showcased, and for ACUA to grow. Her creative vision and willingness to try new ways of working helped to energize the Board and bring the best out of people.

*2. Describe the Nominee's previous volunteer activity with other organizations in our community.*

Sarah's volunteering started back in her late teens as she volunteered with Ukrainian Youth Organization CYM as a class instructor of "Cymenyata", post University volunteering as a tutor teaching English as a Second Language, and while raising her own family she sat on the school council for St. Martin Ukrainian Bilingual Elementary School as a class representative, and later as Co-chair for 3 years. She also participated on the Ukrainian Bilingual Parent Advisory Society, and dedicated time to the UCWLC. She also supported her local community soccer league as a referee coordinator.

*3. Provide evidence of quality of leadership and/or initiative demonstrated by your Nominee in any capacity they had as president, committee chair, project leader, or other position(s) by recounting their successes.*

Sarah's commitment was always evident. She encouraged every member to share ideas and to lead or join committees in their own personal areas of interest such as the Acua Vitae publication, workshops, scholarships, or festivals. She provided opportunity for board members to participate in Vitalize – a workshop seminar that provides learning resources and skill building opportunities for volunteers- as ACUA's success is directly related to the success of every member.

Sarah was always supportive and able to provide guidance to streamline processes and provide continuity for the operations. Even when a work circumstance temporarily relocated her family to Saskatoon in 2011, with the support of the Board, she continued her term as President and managed the office from a distance, commuting back for special ACUA events as she could. She continually makes herself available for consult, and continues to provide business and networking expertise and knowledge of the Arts Community.

*Note: 'Quality of leadership' also responded to under 4. Leadership success. 'Initiative demonstrated' also answered in 5. New or innovative approaches.*

*4. Describe leadership success of your Nominee in recruiting and motivating others.*

Under Sarah's leadership, ACUA's membership grew from 60 to over 300 members. She revised the ACUA Vitae publication into a magazine format and further broadened the audience of the publication, providing more opportunity to showcase our artists to the broader community. Sarah introduced advertising into AcuaVitae generating revenue starting at \$2000 up to \$7000 with our 25th Anniversary.

*5. What new or innovative approaches and ideas did your Nominee initiate?*

Through Sarah's initiative and connections within the Art community, she was able to build community relationships and partnerships for the Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts in broader Edmonton. She partnered with the TU Gallery on 124<sup>th</sup> street for their annual Art Walk, where our Ukrainian Canadian Artists were able to showcase in a commercial gallery and receive very public and widely advertised event. Sarah also established a partnership with Arts on the Avenue and initiated the development of Ukrainian arts content (visual and performing arts) at their annual Deep Freeze Festival on 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Edmonton, a partnership which continues to this day. Both of these events have been greatly appreciated by the artists in our community for the additional exposure provided and connections they were subsequently able to make. These events were truly the epitome of what ACUA represents with our mandate of 'promoting Ukrainian Art and Artists' to the greater community.

Sarah lead a very successful and well attended joint workshop between ACUA, The Ukrainian Museum of Canada – St. Josephats, The Museum of St. John's, UCAMA and the Kule Folklore Centre that ran for 4 days. It was a unique opportunity to bring a master artist to Edmonton for the benefit of the community and also create a marketing and promotional opportunity for all of the Ukrainian museums in Edmonton.

In the greater community, partnering with organizations such as Visual Arts Alberta Association to provide an external jury, the Kumpf Gallery in Toronto, and the Ukr Can Art of Canada, UCC APC, St. John's Institute and King's College, Andrea spearheaded a sharing of art from Ukrainian Artists across Canada. The juried show of Alberta Ukrainian Canadian artists work traveled to Toronto, to the KUMF Gallery for a two week exhibition which was launched during the Ukrainian Festival on Bloor Street. Subsequently the *Prairie Dreamscapes* show returned to Edmonton with a reception and 2 month exhibition at St. Johns Institute. The partnership with UCC APC also created an opportunity for ACUA to host the Ukrainian Canadian Artists of Canada's 120<sup>th</sup> *Anniversary of Ukrainian Settlement in Canada* exhibit at King's College, bringing more great Ukrainian Canadian art to our province.

6. *Describe how the Nominee's work had a significant impact on the community.*

Sarah's vision and drive of ACUA rejuvenated a 20 year old organization. Her time at the helm of the organization built lasting relationships with other community organizations and stakeholders that continue to fund and support the Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts. Her talent and creativity created a new venue for artists to come together, share space and opportunity and grow their audience. All of Andrea's work promoting and representing ACUA gave ACUA a new presence in the Alberta community, and from it new opportunities continue to arise. Greater exposure has resulted in growth in membership, but also it has turned ACUA into a resource for the Ukrainian Arts community, and anyone interested in learning more about Ukrainian arts.

The impact of her work resulted in an increased awareness, interest, and demand for

more exposure to Ukrainian art (visual, performing, literary, music). Other communities began referring to ACUA for support and guidance as they ventured on new festivals, and facilities to support the arts. ACUA has been invited to participate in community development discussion sessions on the arts, and is looked at as a means of connecting with musicians and artists, dance groups, and writers for a wide variety of projects and activities.

*7. Recount participation of your Nominee in other local, national and/or international organizations as well as any awards or special recognition they may have received.*

Sarah participated regularly on the board and committees with UCC-APC as ACUA President assisting with planning and organization of Ukrainian Day, the Hetman awards ceremony, and the hosting of the UCC Triennial Congress in Edmonton.

Sarah volunteers with UCC National as Board Secretary and Chair of the UCC National Arts Council. She has also worked on the UCC National Ukrainian Day on Parliament Hill committee.

As her circumstances have her currently residing in Saskatoon, she also volunteers her time on the local UCC Saskatoon branch, and as a committee member of the UCC Provincial's Nation Builder Awards selection committee. Always active in the community wherever she is, she sits on the parent council committee of Bishop Filevich Ukrainian Bilingual School as secretary, and is the Art and Cultural Director of the Vesna Festival.

She has volunteered her time for 2 years with Pokrova Network in Ottawa, helping them with marketing and planning of their children's camp, and 1 year with the Saskatoon City Nature Festival helping with marketing.