

WHAT'S NEW? Manitoba Arts Council

A Busy Weekend for MAC!

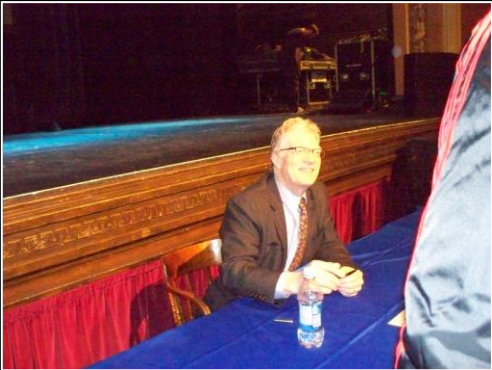
By: Rekha Ramachandran, Receptionist and newest member to the MAC team.

From December 2nd to the 4th, our staff attended the MAC Council Retreat and the 4th Annual Canadian Symposium for the Arts and Learning at the University of Manitoba. The focus of this year's Retreat was MAC's new Strategic Plan. MAC's council and staff members were joined by community representatives.

The Retreat began on Thursday night with a working dinner where David O'Fallon introduced the goals and vision for the Retreat. The dinner was followed by the Symposium Opening, with a moving speech from keynote speaker René Cormier, and entertainment from the Artistic Program which included performances by violinist Michael Audette, the R.F. Morrison School Ukrainian Choir and African drumming and dancing duo Bafana, which really got people on their feet.

We closed the office on Friday, December 3, so the entire MAC staff could attend the symposium workshop series, which left us enlightened, but famished! We were all excited to attend a tribute lunch for MTYP, honouring Artistic Director Leslee Silverman. Leslee's speech was a very inspirational retrospective of the company's work in connecting arts and learning.





Friday evening we all hurried over to the Burton Cummings Theatre for a presentation from internationally-renowned expert in the field of creativity and innovation in business and education, Sir Ken Robinson. MAC staff organized this event and worked the front-of-house at the theatre.

Sir Ken gave a very engaging presentation, which he delivered with humour and humility, and stayed until 11:00 pm to sign books and meet his audience. The evening also included an Artistic Program with performances by dance group NGUVU, Gérald Laroche, Manitoba Aboriginal School of Dance and songs from the choir Prairie Voices. The night was a huge success.

Saturday morning MAC staff members were back in retreat mode with another Strategic Planning session led by David O'Fallon. The symposium came to an end Saturday afternoon with a luncheon and an address from closing keynote speaker, Carol Greyeyes.

It was an inspiring three days of workshops, discussions, speeches and loads of big ideas to think about.

