St. Lawrence Valley Society of Architects

January 31, 2022

Summary of Annual Report for Publication

St. Lawrence Valley Society of Architects
SLVSA

The membership continues to seek out avenues to fulfil our mandate through the promotion of architecture to the public in partnership with other initiatives. The ongoing Covid -19 pandemic limits ours opportunities to meet in person. Virtual society meetings, elections, and talks and con-ed courses have been the “new normal” to use a phrase of our times. As a result, the executive has looked to improve its online support to foster better relationships with the membership and public.

The Annual Presidents Dinner was held virtually on October 21. The visit was shared between SLVSA and ORSA. President Susan Speigel addressed the membership by asking how the OAA can better support it’s members. There was enthusiastic participation from novice and veteran members which pushed the scheduled 2 hr zoom meeting over by at least 30 minutes.

Initiatives: SLVSA received $10,000 in the summer of 2015 to create a website. Past executive teams have made strong efforts to get the SLVSA website in place. The complexity of the website, its purpose, content and differing views placed the website development on hold.

The pandemic has created new urgency to communicate with the membership through online media. The executive team spent much time looking at the website research from the past executives and spoke with several of the contributors to better understand some of the challenges that were previously faced.

The executive focused on the core role a website would play in supporting the SLVSA membership to find common ground. Consensus was reached on a simplified “Phase 1” of the website which we hope to launch Spring 2022. Subsequent phases and complexities can be debated and added as the need arises but will not delay progress that has been made to date.

SLVSA executive is finalizing a calendar of talks for the first and second quarter of the year. We will send you the schedule once finalized. The format will be virtual. We hope in person gatherings can be held this spring. We look forward to resuming our pub nights and a lecture series as we emerge from the lock downs.

We are in the process of forming a committee to help develop a mobile application. for Historic Walking Tours in Kingston – this would complement existing city of Kingston walking tours, but

with some “smart” enhancements.

We’ve asked our membership to suggest initiatives that SLVSA can help support through OAA funding. The feedback has been positive. We are in the process of forming an action committee to assist member volunteers with refining their proposals for OAA consideration.

The membership finds the flexibility of the online structured learning opportunities offered by OAA to be an effective way to learn and get continuing education credits. We look forward to additional content and new opportunities to learn.

The executive will expand its methods of communicating and engaging with its membership and the public this year: email, twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and the website. We will let you know when we are ready to launch these initiatives. We hope to better learn how the membership and the public like to get their information, and which information they value most.

We look forward to sharing more exciting news soon.

Respectfully,

Chris Howard, OAA and Lukas Bergmark, OAA
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Architect, SZA Architect, HDR