

Capital to showcase francophone art

By TARA CHISLETT

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The festivities aren't set to take place until next spring, but the general manager of Le Centre communautaire Sainte-Anne says planning is already underway for the city to host a weeklong event celebrating francophone art.

Les Éloizes, an event organized by the Association acadienne des artistes professionnel.le.s du Nouveau-Brunswick, will be held in Fredericton in May 2014.

"The Éloizes is a celebration of all different kinds of art — visual arts, cinema, music, dance, theatre," said Thierry Arseneau. "It culminates with a gala and an award ceremony and goes on for an entire week."

Created in 1998, Les Éloizes was designed to promote the work of Acadian artists in the four Atlantic provinces. It's evolved into an event that includes performances and exhibitions designed to help people in the host community learn more about the artists.

Held once every two years, Bathurst hosted the event in 2012. Arseneau said he's excited for the event to arrive in Fredericton.

"It's a bit like having the ECMAs but for the francophone and francophile community," he said. "It's great exposure for the entire city and it's a great exposure for our francophone community. It shows people all the accomplishments."

Arseneau said sometimes it's easy to forget that Fredericton has a large francophone community.

"We have 10,125 francophones in the greater Fredericton area," he said. "That's 2½ times the size of Caraquet."

Deputy Mayor Stephen Chase, who also chairs the city's strategic and external relations committee, said there's a lot of excitement about the festival already at the city level.

"We're delighted it's going to take place in Fredericton because there will be a lot of people coming in from across Atlantic Canada and elsewhere," he said.

Arseneau said Le Centre communautaire Sainte-Anne has received a lot of support from the community already and he's excited for the centre to work with the Association acadienne des artistes professionnel.le.s du Nouveau-Brunswick as they plan.

For more information about Les Éloizes, visit aaapnb.ca/leseloizes.



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