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# TIME: Volunteers

"The volunteers enable the festival to actually happen," says Anne Logan, artist associate at WordFest.

"Without them, there would be no festival."

Logan compares Time-raiser to both a mini-conference and a cocktail reception and says the calibre of potential volunteers at the event is very high.

"It's people who are really excited to become engaged with non-profits and cultural organizations," Logan says.

During the second half of the evening, Timeraiser participants use volunteer hours to bid on pieces of art.

Sheila Kernan is one of 25 artists whose work was chosen from nearly 200 artist applications and will be auctioned off at the upcoming Calgary Timeraiser.

Her piece is titled *City of Dreams* and the painting is a watercolour that illustrates a nighttime cityscape.

Timeraiser artists are paid fair market value for their pieces, thanks to money that comes from corporate sponsors.

Kernan, who donates pieces throughout the year, says it's nice to receive money for her efforts and give people that don't yet have an art collection the opportunity to start one.

"(Timeraiser is) supporting emerging to mid-career artists. . . . At the same time, what we're doing with our piece goes toward the better good of supporting volunteerism," says Kernan.

Whiffen-Peters attended last year's event hoping to walk away with a piece of art that would adorn a wall in her new condo.

After calculating how many hours she could contribute per week, the 28-year-old bid 125 volunteer hours, the maximum amount allowed, on the Buddha photo.

"I've volunteered in the

past, but was looking to get more involved," she says.

Whiffen-Peters wasn't the only person who bid 125 hours on the piece, and at the end of the night, she was overjoyed to find out a random draw declared her the winner.

The HR generalist has spent the past year donating more than 130 hours to 10 different organizations.

She spent 70 hours mentoring students with Junior Achievement, a non-profit that provides business programs for youth, and volunteered dozens of hours at events for a range of different organizations.

In the process, she's learned about herself and her community.

"It's amazing how well you are treated as a volunteer. I was blown away," she says, adding that she plans to continue volunteering.

After completing the 125 volunteer hours she pledged, Whiffen-Peters will receive the Buddha piece of art at this year's Timeraiser event.

The art will be a continual reminder of her year of volunteer efforts.

"I'm actually going to have a hanging party," Whiffen-Peters says. "I'm going to invite my friends over — all the friends that were involved in helping me get my hours and who heard me say, 'Oh, I have to go volunteer tonight.'"

Matching young Calgarians like Whiffen-Peters with meaningful volunteer opportunities, while supporting local artists, is what Timeraiser is all about.

"People in their 20s and 30s don't always know where and how to get engaged with things they care about, and that's the entire point of Timeraiser," says McDonough.