

Wild at Art pays off

Festival organizers announce winning singer-songwriter contest entry

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Wild at Art is already paying off for some local talents.

Festival officials will award

\$1,000 to Dana-Marie Battaglia for her song *The Changing Valley* after judges took in the numerous submissions to the local colour singer-songwriter contest Sunday (Nov. 9).

"With over 12 songs to choose from it was a hard decision," said Kyle Coulter, festival music programming co-ordinator. "We have such diverse talent in our community."

The cheque will be award-

ed to Battaglia on March 6 during the Wild at Art festival gala grand opening at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park.

The top three runner-ups were Zombie's Locker with their song *Awaken*, Cam Sallay with his song *Willy*, and Mario and Anne with their song *Sweet Red*.

The song contest closed on Nov. 1. Judging took place on Sunday at the Ocean Port Hotel.

The panel of judges consisted of Wild at Art Festival president Sonja Lebons, board member Michelle Neilson, Coulter and Matt Safran, owner of Filmusic Services.

Safran, who specializes in music licensing for the film and TV industry, said he was very impressed by the contest song submissions.

"I am currently working on a reality TV series called *XS-4-Play*," he said. "The series films from L.A. to Vancouver covering extreme sports and will require a wide range of background music for the soundtrack. Today, I heard at least three bands that I will be calling to possibly license their songs for this project."

Wild at Art will be posting a complete list of all contestant songs, artist bios and photos on the festival website www.wildatart.ca.

This inaugural song contest was co-ordinated by Wild at Art in order to encourage new works by local musicians. The goal of the project is to produce a CD that represents the wide variety of musical talents from the Sea to Sky Corridor. The CD is scheduled for release in late February 2009.

"We hope this CD is volume I in a series," said Neilson.



FILE PHOTO

Dana-Marie Battaglia took the top \$1,000 prize in the Wild at Art Festival singer-songwriter contest Sunday (Nov. 9).

a pair with some flair.



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