



**Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham**

**Monday, March 10, 2025**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Art Gallery**

**Attendance**

**Board of Directors Present:** Jim Schmidt (Chair), Craig McOuat (Vice-Chair), Connie Leclair (Governance Chair), Amin Giga (Treasurer), Nik Mracic, Paul Cicchini, and Sophia Sun

**Staff Present:** Niamh O’Laoghaire, Director, Varley Art Gallery; Francesca Dauphinais, Foundation Cultural Development Officer, Laura Gold, Clerk

**Regrets:** Councillor Reid McAlpine, Josy Jamieson, and Arpita Surana

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action Item</b>
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting convened at 6:10 PM with Jim Schmidt in the Chair.	
<b>2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests</b>	There was no disclosure of pecuniary interests.	
<b>3. Review of Minutes of Board Meeting held on September 9, and June 10, 2024</b>	Moved by Craig McOuat Seconded by Nic Mracic  That the February 10, 2025, Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham Minutes be approved as presented.  <b>Carried</b>	

<b>4. Business Arising from the Minutes</b>	There was no business arising from the minutes.	
<b>5. Destination Markham</b>	<p>Nik Mracic introduced Andrew Baldwin, Acting Director of Culture and Economic Development, and Destination Markham.</p> <p>Mr. Baldwin spoke about ways to promote awareness of the Varley and Destination Markham grants that the Foundation can apply to. Some of Mr. Baldwin's suggestions included: combining the promotion of the Varley with the promotion of Main Street Unionville; ensuring there is effective wayfinding signs guiding patrons to the Gallery; using mobile signs to promote the Gallery and Main Street Unionville; promoting the Varley's summer hours; promoting the Varley at the theatre and museum and vice versa; promoting the Varley in the Destination Markham booklet created quarterly; continuing to use volunteers to help support the operations of the Gallery; and holding staff meetings or an open houses to introduce City staff to the Gallery.</p> <p>The Directors briefly discussed the Municipal Accommodation Tax and Foundation's annual fundraising event "Glitter and Gold".</p> <p>Nik Mracic explained that the Charter the Foundation has created combines key documents into one simplified document.</p>	
<b>6. Directors Report</b>	<p>Niamh O'Laoghaire, Director of the Gallery, provided her Directors Report. Some of the highlights of the report included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An updated Art Gallery 2025 request to the Foundation.</li><li>• Visitors Statistics since 1997.</li><li>• An overview of the 2025 exhibitions.</li><li>• An overview of the Varley's spring/summer public programs.</li><li>• An update on rentals and community partnerships.</li><li>• An update on facilities.</li></ul>	

<b>7. Development Officer Report</b>	<p>Francesca Dauphinais, Foundation Cultural Development Officer, presented the Development Officer Report. The report provided an update on grants, corporate sponsorship, special events, volunteer programs, the Wallace Joyce Scholarship, and William J. Withrow School Visits Bursary. Some of the highlights of the report included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A grant submitted to the Gay Lea Foundation in hope to launch a Creative Minds: Art Therapy for Youth Wellness at the Gallery.</li><li>• Grants in progress, including applications to Stantec, and Honda Canada for exhibition support and technology to support the Gallery’s educational programs.</li><li>• An update on corporate sponsorship received.</li><li>• The tentative date of the Glitter and Gold Event - October 2, 2025.</li><li>• A reminder of the Third Party Wine Tasting Event to be held at the Gallery on March 27, 2024.</li><li>• That recruitment for Spring volunteer opportunities is now underway.</li></ul> <p>Amin Giga, Treasurer, encouraged all Directors to purchase a ticket for \$95 to the third party Wine Tasting event being held on March 27, 2024.</p> <p>The Development Officer reminded the Directors to submit their director profiles prior to the deadline.</p>	
<b>8. Financial Report</b>	<p>Amin Giga, Treasurer, presented the Draft 2024 Financial Statements, and the proposed 2025 Budget for the Foundation. The goal is to approve the final audited 2024 Financial Statements at the next meeting. The proposed 2025 Budget was presented as conservative and attainable. The 2025 Budget included a \$40K transfer to the Gallery.</p> <p>That the Board approved the following motions:</p> <p>Moved by Connie Leclair Seconded by Craig</p>	

	<p>That the 2025 Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham Budget be approved as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Carried</b></p> <p>Moved by Jim Schmidt Seconded by Paul Cicchini</p> <p>That the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham approve that transfer of \$40K from the Foundation to the Gallery.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Carried</b></p>	
<b>9. Committee Updates</b>	<p><b>A) Governance Committee</b></p> <p>Connie Leclair provided an update on the Business Plan. Directors were thanked for attending a business planning session on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. A high-level timeline for the creation of the business plan was presented to the Board. A second business planning session was proposed to be held in May 2025.</p> <p>Niamh O’Laoghaire, Director, Varley Art Gallery, advised that she is in the process of updating the Directors onboarding manual. An updated version of the manual will be provided to the Directors at a future meeting.</p> <p><b>B) Fundraising Committee</b></p> <p>Sophia Sun advised that she had received a sponsorship of \$2,000.</p> <p>The Board discussed possibly having an open house at the Gallery for staff or for Members of Council.</p>	
<b>10. New Business</b>	The next meeting of the Varley McKay Art Foundation of Markham will be held on April 14, 2025, at 6:00 PM.	
<b>11. Next Meeting Date</b>	There was no new business.	
<b>12. Adjournment</b>	The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham adjourned at 8:06 PM.	