

**Varley McKay-Art Foundation of Markham**

**Varley Gallery  
(Hybrid Meeting)**

**Minutes**

**Monday, May 12, 2025**

**Attendance:**

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

**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 Sophia Sun

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**1. Call to Order**

The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham convened at 6:10 PM with Jim Schmidt in the Chair.

**2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interests.

**3. Review of Minutes of Board Meeting Held on March 10, 2025**

Moved by Nik Mracic

Seconded by Connie Leclair

That the March 10, 2025, Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham, Board Minutes be approved as presented.

**Carried**

#### **4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

The Board of Directors reviewed the follow-up items from the March 10, 2025, Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham Board meeting.

#### **5. Directors Report**

Niamh O'Laoghaire, Director, Varley Art Gallery, presented the Director's Report. The update included the following:

- An extended thanks to Sophia Sun for her \$2,000 donation to the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham.
- An extended thanks to Santo Natale, former Board of Director, for his third-party fundraising event at the Gallery on March 28.
- An extended thanks to Jim Schmidt, Board Chair, for his continued support of covering the printing costs of exhibition programs and event brochures, including the 2025 summer exhibition programs and brochures.
- 2025 Board Packages were circulated to the Directors.
- A Varley Art Gallery Annual Report (first ever) – in process of being created.
- A grants update.
- An exhibitions update.
- A public programs update.
- A rentals and community partnerships update.

#### **6. Development Officers Report**

Francesca Dauphinais, Cultural Development Officer, presented the Development Officer's Report. Some of the highlights of the report included:

- Canada Summer Jobs only provided funding for Summer Volunteer Supervisor, and one Gallery Animateur (rather than the two requested)
- Education Programs Technology Support – Honda Canada Foundation, grant denied
- The Director of the Gallery and the Development Officer provided a tour of the Gallery to representatives of the K.M. Hunter Foundation that went very well.
- The Stantec Grant was reviewed by Connie Leclair.

The Board briefly discussed Markham organizations that could possibly provide grants or donations to the Gallery.

The Board agreed to cover the cost of \$6,500 for the second Gallery Animeur summer student position due to the Canada Summer Jobs Grant being denied for this position.

Moved by Arpita Surana

Seconded by Connie Leclair

That the Board of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham approve the expenditure of \$6,500 for the summer position – Gallery Animeur.

**Carried**

## **7. Financial Report**

Amin Giga, Treasurer, asked the Board to approve the Financial Statements of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham, December 31, 2024.

Moved by Amin Giga

Seconded by Paul Cicchini

That the Financial Statements of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham, December 31, 2024, be approved.

**Carried**

## **8. Committees Update**

### **a) Governance Committee**

Connie Leclair provided a Governance Report Update. A draft of the Varley Strategic Plan is almost complete – only the formatting of the document is still being worked on. The strategy includes what was discussed at the Strategic Planning Session. The draft will be circulated to the Board to be reviewed prior to the next Board meeting.

### **b) Fundraising Committee**

The Board briefly discussed some potential fundraising initiatives that were being pursued. More details will be provided if the Directors are successful in pursuing these initiatives.

## **10. Next Meeting Date**

Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham

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The next meeting date of the Varley McKay Art Foundation of Markham will be held on June 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM.