

Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham
Minutes
October 18, 2021
5:00 PM

Attendance:

Board of Directors Present: Terrence Pochmurski (Chair), Craig McOuat (Vice Chair), Amin Giga (Treasurer), John Ingram, Jim Schmidt, Edie Yeomans, and Councillor Reid McAlpine, Christina Kakaflikas, Acting Director, Economic Growth, Culture and Entrepreneurship at City of Markham

Staff Present: Niamh O’Laoghaire, Director, Varley Art Gallery

Regrets: Carolyn Le Quéré, Lisa Joy-Facey, Francesca Dauphinais, Cultural Development Officer, Varley Art Gallery

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting convened at 5:00 PM with Terrence Pochmurski presiding as Chair.	
2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest	None disclosed.	
3. Additions / Changes to the Agenda	There were no additions or changes to the agenda.	
4. Approval of Minutes	<p>Moved by Edie Yeomans Seconded by Jim Schmidt</p> <p>That the minutes of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting held September 13, 2021, be approved as distributed.</p> <p>Carried</p>	
5. Business Arising from The Minutes	None disclosed.	

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	<p><u>MOU Update</u></p> <p>Terence and Niamh are continuing to work on the MOU. The Committee will receive a copy for review once it has been completed.</p>	
<p>6. Director's Report</p>	<p>Niamh O'Laoghaire, Director, Varley Art Gallery, provided the Board with an overview of the report, which included the following highlights:</p> <p><u>Congratulations: Rouge Virtual Varley Gala Event</u> Congratulations to the board and Francesca and Ivy for a great event. It went incredibly well, better than expectations, and it is impressive that the target was met. The auction will continue until the end of this week, with 20 of the 95 auction items still available.</p> <p><u>Exhibitions</u> The installation of <i>Elusive Desires: Ness Lee and Florence Yee</i> was completed and a live-streamed virtual opening with a guided tour of the show was held on Friday, September 24th. The opening went very well, with guest Curator, Marissa Largo.</p> <p>The Varley reopened to the public on September 25th, and we have had 327 visitors up to end of day October 14th, including York university students and professors.</p> <p><u>Staff</u> We hired 2 Canada Summer Jobs funded front desk staff in time for the opening of the Varley. Niamh and the Curator attended the desks for a couple of weekends to assist with the training and until the returned staff has appropriate security clearing. As suggested by Health and Safety, and organized by the City's Security Manager, there were also security guards, which assisted with the required pre-screening of visitors.</p> <p>Varley's Public Program Coordinator Rachel D'Oliveira Fell was re-deployed back to the Varley from Waste Management on October 4th. She is focusing on taking over Virtual Education Programs from the Curator and</p>	

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	<p>planning 2022 programming. This has eased some staffing strain.</p> <p><u>Grants</u> Museum Assistance Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage application has been completed and submitted in late September. The application process closes October 20th, and we hope to hear back by the end of 2021. At this time, there is no sense of how much funding is available and when we will hear back.</p> <p>The Foundation applied to the Elizabeth L. Gordon Program managed by the Ontario Arts Council for funds to support acquisition of Xuan Ye’s giclée print lightbox <i>Saudade, 2019-2020</i> shown in our 2020 <i>filling the Klein bottle (x)</i> { exhibition. However, we were asked to resubmit the application from the Varley (instead of the Foundation). Varley has reapplied with the requested documentation and received response on Friday that are application was successful and we will receive \$8,900 towards the purchase price of the work.</p> <p><u>Public and Education Programs</u> The Elusive Desires opening reception will be followed by 2 further exhibition related events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lunch and Learn on October 27th, 12:30PM-1:30PM to focus on the theme of “What about the ‘T’ in LGBTQ?” - Round Table Discussion “What Comes After?” on November 18th at 7PM on Zoom. This is a live virtual round table discussion with artists Ness Lee and Florence Yee, along with guest writers Dr. Casey Mecija and Elisha Lim, and moderated by Marissa Largo. We ask the Committee to join as it will also be the catalogue launch. <p>Fall school programs were launched on October 4th with a new instructor, Girer Hunt. Fall programs focus on our permanent collections and works by Ed Pien, Sorel Etrog, Shuvina Ashoona and York Wilson. The October brochure for the Virtual Studio Workshop and Varley Lounge talks is available on the website.</p>	

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	<p>Programmer Rachel D'Oliveira Fell is now working on the November program, utilising works by Ness Lee and Florence Yee for each of two weeks and works from the permanent collection for the other two. Rachel is also beginning the conceptualizing of other virtual programs for year end, including a December Paint Night and Winter Break Camp.</p> <p><u>Public Art</u> Double Gazebo will be in the courtyard until November 28th. A new online program related to the work has been launched since it was unveiled in July and into November. The October online program addition <i>With Sound</i> was created by Mark V. Campbell/DJ Grumps.</p> <p>The Public Art Curator of Markham is working on the Markham Pan Am Centre commissions at the southwest corner of Main Street Unionville and Enterprise Boulevard. The consulting firm, ART + PUBLIC UnLtd, has held three community engagement workshops, and a fourth and final one has been organized at the request of one of the City Councillors, and takes place on October 18th. The Public Art Curator will bring the results of the workshops, design brief and staff recommendations to Council for approval by the end of this year. There is an online survey if you would like to contribute your ideas about Public Art in Markham.</p> <p><u>Acquisitions</u> The acquisition of six works on paper by important Canadian artist, Betty Goodwin (1923-2008), offered for donation by Dorene Macauley Milligan, was successful. Thank you to the Board for their quick responses and endorsement for the acquisition.</p> <p><u>Collections</u> Work on the Vault upgrades, supported by the Department of Canadian Heritage grant and funds from the Varley-McKay Art Foundation, continues. More mats have arrived, and the new solander cases were delivered on October 7th. They are in the process of</p>	

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	<p>being unpacked, filled, and organized on the new shelves.</p> <p><u>Facilities</u> Our new clock tower banner arrived and was installed with the assistance of Sustainability and Asset Management (SAM) staff. We are waiting on quotes for the second-floor meeting room cracked window.</p> <p>The City-wide touchless infrastructure project overseen by SAM is almost complete. Along with the hands-free paper towel and soap dispensers, touchless toilets and sanitizer dispensers have been installed at the Varley. All that remains is to replace the water fountain.</p> <p>An iPad, to assist with screening, was received from the City of Markham.</p> <p>The Varley flat roofs will be replaced beginning late October as part of a city-wide infrastructure project. The work is estimated to take about 3 weeks and staff have been told that the noise, odours, etc., will be minimal and there will be little disruption to Varley operations or visitor experience. We can also reach out to SAM if we require assistance during the process.</p>	
7. Development Officer Report	There was no update from the Development Officer.	
8. Sub-Committee Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>Rouge: Virtual Varley Gala</u> There was no update from the Rouge: Virtual Varley Gala Acquisition Committee. b) <u>Art Acquisition Committee</u> There was no update from the Art Acquisition Committee. c) <u>Vintages at the Varley</u> There was no update from the Vintages at the Varley Committee. 	

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	<p>d) <u>Development Committee</u> There was no update from the Development Committee.</p>	
<p>9. Financial Report</p>	<p>Amin Giga, Treasurer, reviewed the Varley-McKay Art Foundation's Statement of Financial Position as of August 31, 2021. There were no surprises and anomalies in the report and numbers are as expected. The deficit will be lower once the Gala numbers are received.</p> <p>At the AGM, financial statements were presented to City Council and the Mayor. Auditors for next year have been approved and there will be follow up with Andy Taylor in November on financial status and ongoing commitment for 2022 from the City.</p>	
<p>10. New Business</p>	<p>None disclosed.</p>	
<p>11. Future Meeting Dates</p>	<p>The next meeting of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham will be held on December 6, 2021.</p>	
<p>12. Adjournment</p>	<p>Moved by Craig McOuat Seconded by Reid McAlpine</p> <p>That the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>	