

**Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham**  
**Minutes**  
**February 7, 2022**  
**5:00 PM**

**Attendance:**

**Board of Directors Present:** Terrence Pochmurski (Chair), Craig McOuat (Vice Chair), Amin Giga (Treasurer), Edie Yeomans, Lisa Joy-Facey and Councillor Reid McAlpine, John Ingram, Jim Schmidt, Carolyn Le Quéré

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

**Regrets:** Christina Kakaflikas, Manager, Economic Development, City of Markham

Item	Discussion
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting convened at 5:05 PM with Terrence Pochmurski presiding as Chair.
<b>2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest</b>	None disclosed.
<b>3. Additions / Changes to the Agenda</b>	None disclosed.
<b>4. Approval of Minutes</b>	Moved by Craig McOuat Seconded by Edie Yeomans  That the minutes of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting held December 13, 2021, be approved as distributed.  <b>Carried</b>
<b>5. Business Arising from The Minutes</b>	None disclosed.  a) MOU Update None disclosed.
<b>6. Director’s Report</b>	Niamh O’Laoghaire, Director, Varley Art Gallery, provided the Board with an overview of the Director’s Report, which included the following highlights:

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	<p><u>News</u> Chris Rickett has been appointed as the new Directory of Economic Growth, Culture and Entrepreneurship, effective Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Varley staff would like to thank Christina Kakaflikas who has been the Acting Director for the past two years, a great supporter of Varley during her tenure.</p> <p><u>Varley 2022 Request to the Varley McKay Art Foundation</u> Varley is requesting a total of \$45,000 from the Foundation for the following:</p> <table data-bbox="467 625 860 814"> <tr> <td>Education:</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Exhibitions:</td> <td>\$25,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Programs:</td> <td>\$10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Acquisition Support:</td> <td><u>\$ 5,000</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>\$45,000</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>The official funding request and breakdown has been sent to the Foundation with further details and information on each. The request will be considered and voted on after the meeting with the city to discuss support for 2022. Further discussions and planning will be done to present to the city, especially on sustainable fundraising strategy plans.</p> <p><u>Varley Reopened</u> Varley reopened on Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup> for in-person visits and registered programs. This coincided with a PA Day and the completion of current exhibitions and the installation of the Lunar Fest lanterns in the Varley courtyard. The city did not provide specific guidelines for reopening protocol. Varley is requiring proof of vaccination for those 12 years of age and older with personal identification, social distancing, the wearing of a mask and completing an online screening process. Front doors are locked to ensure pre-screening is completed and to keep count of the number of visitors in the Varley at a time.</p> <p><u>Exhibitions</u> <i>Elusive Desires: Ness Lee and Florence Yee</i> was deinstalled following its last day on January 2, 2022, along with the permanent collection's exhibition <i>Subject/Object/Process</i>. Despite numerous setbacks (pandemic delays, reduced staff, mudslides in British Columbia and snow) we got the new exhibitions in place. The major winter/spring show is <i>Karen Tam: With wings like clouds hung from the sky</i>. It takes up the Introduction and Main Galleries.</p>	Education:	\$5,000	Exhibitions:	\$25,000	Public Programs:	\$10,000	Acquisition Support:	<u>\$ 5,000</u>		<b>\$45,000</b>
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	<p>The second exhibition in the Collections Gallery is <i>Refracting the Lens</i>, which draws from our permanent holdings. For the gallery’s 25th anniversary, gallery curator Anik Glaude has gathered a selection of works that showcase new acquisitions and signals new directions in the ways in which we approach the work we do. Collections are no longer seen as repositories of historical artefacts, but as living and breathing chapters in ever evolving narratives. We focus our new acquisitions on underrepresented practitioners to grow the collection in meaningful ways and to work towards equal representation.</p> <p>The exhibition takes its theme from a key work Shuvinai Ashoona’s <i>Composition</i> (Nascopie Arrival), 2006-2007, purchased with the assistance of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation last year. In it, a group of individuals in the foreground are using binoculars to examine boats on the water. One of them is the Nascopie, the ship on which Varley made his famous voyage to the Arctic in 1938. We are especially pleased that Shuvinai Ashoona will be featured in the 2022 Venice Biennale.</p> <p>Exhibition Schedule:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="467 968 1414 1341"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="467 968 678 1003">Month</th> <th data-bbox="678 968 1222 1003">Main and Intro Galleries</th> <th data-bbox="1222 968 1414 1003">Collections</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 1003 678 1125">January- April</td> <td data-bbox="678 1003 1222 1125"><i>Karen Tam with wings like clouds hung from the sky</i></td> <td data-bbox="1222 1003 1414 1341" rowspan="3"><i>Refracting the Lens</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 1125 678 1220">May - August</td> <td data-bbox="678 1125 1222 1220"><i>Michel Daigneault and Janet Jones</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="467 1220 678 1341">Sept. - January</td> <td data-bbox="678 1220 1222 1341"><i>Shantel Miller</i> (right here / right now)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>Grants/Sponsorships</u></p> <p>The Museum Assistance Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage application was successful, and Varley will receive \$100,000 in support. The application for the “My Main Street – Community Activator Program” was submitted on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to the VMAF Chair Terry Pochmurski for his letter of support. Similar letters were received from Destination Markham, the Economic Development Department, the Markham Arts Council, Markham Public Art, the Unionville BIA, and York Region Arts Council. The application is to support a photomural in the Varley courtyard that would celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, attract visitors and assist in the revival of our revenue generating art classes and camps, while also driving street traffic to Main Street Unionville.</p>	Month	Main and Intro Galleries	Collections	January- April	<i>Karen Tam with wings like clouds hung from the sky</i>	<i>Refracting the Lens</i>	May - August	<i>Michel Daigneault and Janet Jones</i>	Sept. - January	<i>Shantel Miller</i> (right here / right now)
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	<p><u>Public &amp; Education Programs</u>  Once again, Varley has partnered with CSEA (Asian Canadian Special Events Association) to celebrate Lunar Fest 2022, the Year of the Tiger. We have an installation of six traditional lanterns in the courtyard, with designs created by Indigenous artists – connecting the Indigenous cultures of Canada to the Asian tradition of celebrating the Lunar New Year. Installed on February 4<sup>th</sup>, they will remain in place until March 6<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><u>Exhibition Related Programs</u>  <i>Chinese Brush Painting with artist Sui Sheng Guan 關則開</i>  Sunday, February 20, 2022, 1 to 2:30 PM (EST). In-person, registration is required  <i>Chinese Brush Painting with artist Peter Law 罗建生</i>  Saturday, March 19, 1 to 2:30 PM (EST). In-person, registration is required  <i>Lunch and Learn: In Search of Lee Nam</i>  Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 12:30-1:30 PM (EST). Presented on Zoom, registration is required</p> <p><u>Virtual School Programs</u>  The February brochure is now available and circulated last week. The program is focussing on the kindergarten-grade 8 classes and hands-on drawing workshops. A selection of previous recordings from 2021 (October, November, and December) workshops are now available on the Varley website.</p> <p><u>Public Programs 2022</u>  Public Programs Coordinator Rachel D’Oliveira Fell has put together a selection of virtual and in-person programs for Winter and Spring 2022. The advance planning for in person summer camps has also been executed and registration opens in March. All three brochures are available on the <a href="#">website</a>. Registration for in-person programs continue to do well, although set back by the province’s recent return to a modified step two. The February 4<sup>th</sup> PA Day was sold out and March Break Camp is currently full.</p> <p><u>Markham Pan Am Centre Commission</u>  Focus has been redirected towards a secondary Pan Am project, a photo-mural collaboration on the West side of the Pan Am building, in collaboration with York University. The second item on the Council-approved Public Art Implementation Plan, which concerns Main Street</p>

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	<p>Unionville, will also be moved. The new plan is to bring a staff report concerning these items to Council on April 11<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><u>Facilities</u>  The major facilities work this month will be completing the Varley and McKay Lifecycle files for the City’s Lifecycle and Capital Reserve program. The new security system updates have been installed in the McKay and should be installed at the Varley beginning the week of February 7<sup>th</sup>. We also have various smaller items pending, such as getting the new banner installed, improving heating in the washrooms, fixing a leak in the kitchen, and the cracked meeting room window.</p>
<p><b>7. Development Officer Report</b></p>	<p>Francesca Dauphinais, Cultural Development Officer, provided the Board with an overview of the Development Officer’s Report, which included the following highlights:</p> <p><u>Funding Requests</u>  Multiple (~300) letters of funding requests have been submitted with 10 additional applications to be completed online and submitted this week. Many of the Foundations are small and run by volunteers or few staff with many without any web presence. TD Bank Group request was for \$75,000 over a 2-year period, as the 2021 request was granted, hopeful to receive for 2022, as well. TD Bank Group should send a response by April. Applications to support for 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary artwork acquisition have been sent to uphold the mandate to acquire works by diverse artists.</p> <p>Amounts for projects vary per Foundation and the Grant Advance Program can be used for data on how much and what each Foundation tends to fund. The program also allows each request to be tailored to Foundations seamlessly. Some have already responded asking for additional details, some as rejections and others asking for time to consider. The committee will be kept up to date as responses are received. Francesca to send Amin dollar value for all requests that have been sent to present to the city.</p> <p>These relationships need to be built and maintained for a stable and steady source of grant funds and this takes time and prioritization. This needs to be balanced with fundraising activities. An opportunity to explore is to create an avenue to show how the funding is being used, such as viewings of artworks, meeting of artists and any other visuals or activities to engage current and potential funders.</p>

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	<p><u>Staffing Update</u>  Abby Sasikumar has been hired as the part-time Social Media and Marketing Assistant, starting February 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be working 12 hours per week.</p> <p>Canada Summer Jobs funding request has been submitted and a response should be received in April 2022. Request was for 4 positions, 2 directly supporting the gallery as gallery animateurs, Social Media and Marketing Assistant and Special Events Assistant. Request as been for 30 hours per week for the full 16 weeks of potential funding as Canada Summer Jobs is offering funding only for full-time positions.</p> <p><u>Vintages at the Varley</u>  The Vintages of Varley will once again be a virtual presentation. There is a lot of efficiency and savings in holding this event virtually versus in-person. Considering the positive feedback from the 2021 event, the theme for this year will be a continuation of last year, focusing on South African wines. Tentative date at the end of March, depending on confirmation from sommelier and wine availability. Further details will be shared with the committee as specifics are confirmed.</p> <p><u>Rouge: Varley Gala</u>  The Gala will be an in-person event this year, depending on restrictions due to COVID-19, on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at the Toronto Marriott Markham. The organizing committee will meet later this month to begin discussing the details, such as format of the event, ticket pricing, interactive participation, and so on. The deposit for the venue was paid in 2019 for two years (2020 &amp; 2021). There is no venue contract for 2023 and this will be reviewed once the 2022 Gala has been held to evaluate how events should be evolved.</p>
<p><b>8. Sub-Committee Report</b></p>	<p><u>Rouge: Virtual Varley Gala</u>  An update on the Rouge: Virtual Varley Gala was provided as part of the Development Officer’s Report.</p> <p><u>Art Acquisition Committee</u>  There was no update from the Art Acquisition Committee.</p> <p><u>Vintages at the Varley</u>  An update on the Vintages at the Varley was provided as part of the Development Officer’s Report.</p>

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	<p><u>Development Committee</u> There was no update from the Development Committee.</p>
<p><b>9. Financial Report</b></p>	<p>Amin Giga, Treasurer, reviewed the Varley-McKay Art Foundation’s Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances as of December 31, 2021.</p> <p>The Statements give the financial picture of Varley and will be used when meeting with the City to discuss support in 2022. A more refined version will be shared with the city as more numbers are confirmed. A sustainable action plan is needed to create and maintain a healthy financial picture, as well as an evaluation of current events and activities. Amin will share the audited financial statements later this year, once they are available. Discussions will be held on the financial plan for 2022 and going forward.</p>
<p><b>10. New Business</b></p>	<p>None disclosed.</p>
<p><b>11. Future Meeting Dates</b></p>	<p>The next meeting of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham will be held on March 14, 2022.</p>
<p><b>12. Adjournment</b></p>	<p>The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.</p> <p>Moved by Craig McOuat Seconded by Amin Giga</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Carried</b></p>