

Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham

Minutes

May 9, 2022

5:00 PM

Attendance:

Board of Directors Present: Craig McOuat (Vice Chair), Edie Yeomans, Jim Schmidt, Carolyn Le Quéré, and Councillor Reid McAlpine

Staff Present: Chris Rickett, Director of Economic Growth, Culture and Entrepreneurship, Niamh O’Laoghaire, Director, Varley Art Gallery; Francesca Dauphinais, Cultural Development Officer, Varley Art Gallery

Regrets: Terrence Pochmurski (Chair), Amin Giga (Treasurer), Lisa Joy-Facey, and John Ingram

Item	Discussion
1. Call to Order	The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting convened at 5:06PM with Craig McOuat presiding as Vice-Chair.
2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest	None disclosed.
3. Additions / Changes to the Agenda	None disclosed.
4. Approval of Minutes	Moved by Edie Yeomans Seconded by Reid McAlpine That the minutes of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting held April 11, 2022, be approved as distributed. Carried
5. Business Arising from The Minutes	None disclosed. a) MOU Update Niamh sent language around the gift shop for Terrence Pochmurski to review.
6. Director’s Report	Niamh O’Laoghaire, Director, Varley Art Gallery, provided the Board with an overview of the Director’s Report, which included the following highlights: <u>Virtual Vintages</u> This was an outstanding event with delicious wine, delicious food, and a wonderful and informative wine expert. The virtual event itself ran very smoothly, without any glitches. Niamh thanked the Board members, supporters and Francesca Dauphinais and Abby Sasikumar in creating and orchestrating a successful event.

Staffing

We have been managing the role of ISAs at the front desk during public hours with existing part time staff. We will hold off on hiring further ISAs until the return of Administrator Doriana Cabeceiras, who should be returning part-time in the middle of May and full-time on June 1st. John Abrams is at the Varley for the installation of *Gathering Fictions* and will remain on a part-time basis with Varley for the short-term. Interviews for Camp Counsellors and Supervisors have been conducted in the past two weeks, and Public Programmer Rachel D'Oliveira Fell now has most of her Summer Camp team in place.

Grants

An application will be submitted to Central Counties Tourism for a grant to support the creation of a mural in the Varley courtyard and to acquire some moveable furniture. Thank you to the Varley-McKay Art Foundation for allowing the application to be made in its name. Varley staff will soon begin work on the annual application to the OAC (Ontario Arts Council), which is due on June 1st.

Exhibitions

The major winter/spring show, *Karen Tam: With wings like clouds hung from the sky*, remained until April 24th and was then deinstalled. The summer show, *Gathering Fictions: A Dialogue on Painting*, featuring works by Michel Daigneault and Janet Jones, currently being installed, will be up until September 4th. Curator Anik Glaude has placed a selection of abstract works in the Intro Gallery, including a York Wilson, two Guido Molinaris, and three recent donations from the Estate of Ann Stanfield, a Jean McEwen and two Riopelles. The 2022 exhibition schedule remains as described in the April meeting.

Exhibition Related Program

- Opening Reception for *Gathering Fictions: A Dialogue on Painting* will be held on Saturday, May 7th, 2PM-5PM. Artists Janet Jones and Michel Daigneault will lead a walkthrough of the exhibition, discussing the different approaches to abstraction they take in their work.
- Lunch and Learn, on Wednesday, June 1st, 12:30PM-1:30 PM. Free webinar to learn more about the artists' (Janet Jones and Michel Daigneault) respective practices and the wider contexts of the work on display in the current exhibition, *Gathering Fictions: A Dialogue on Painting*. Registration is required.

Public Programs 2022

There are a few changes to the public programs. Public Art Coordinator, Rachel D'Oliveira Fell, has included two adult brush calligraphy workshops to the calendar on July 16-17 and August 13-14. Each workshop is a two-day event.

Activities in the Varley courtyard are also being planned for Unionville Festival, which takes place on Saturday, June 4th. A Canada Day Family Canvas Challenge is being organized for July 1st, and we are working with ShadowPath Theatre company for two live performances at the Varley on July 9th. ShadowPath Theatre is a York Region based performance tour group with a repertoire of stories. The

	<p>group bring live theatre to communities with stories that can be adapted to different spaces with local references. The performances will be in the Deacon Room.</p> <p><u>Virtual School Programs</u></p> <p>Three of the four weeks of the planned April programs, with a focus on getting back to fundamental visual literacy skills, have been held. The fourth week was postponed to the first week of May, due to staffing changes (the departure of the education instructor). There is now a new instructor, and all is going as planned. The five separate workshops are running from May 3rd to June 1st, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.</p> <p>Week 1: <i>En Plein Air</i> with Arthur Lismer Week 2: Sketching Tree Patterns Like F. H. Varley Week 3: Don't Look Now! We're Contour Drawing Week 4: Drawing Home Inspired by F. H. Varley Week 5: A New Point of View Inspired by Shuvinai Ashoona.</p> <p><u>Rentals</u></p> <p>The Varley rental program will now resume, with the return of Doriana Cabeceiras. The Markham Group of Artists will have the first exhibition rental at the McKay, for their usual two-week period, which encompasses the Unionville Festival weekend. With Doriana's return, requests for rentals from June onwards at the Varley and the McKay are now being taken. As there is increasing demand for rental during the summer months, the fee structure will need to be reassessed.</p> <p><u>Facilities</u></p> <p>The flat roof replacement project at the Varley, which began on April 8th, remains in progress. There have been delays caused by weather, and there has been some odor and noise, however, there have not been any impediments to the gallery's activities.</p> <p>The exterior windows at both the McKay and the Varley were cleaned on May 6th. As well, the sconce lights in the McKay have been fixed and a dimmer switch in the Deacon room has been moved. Several other issues remain outstanding, notably the banners. The banners will be installed together once the second one is received.</p>
<p>7. Development Officer Report</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></p> <p>Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) has requested justification for a surplus explanation for the organization. Organizations with net assets worth more than 12 months of operating expenses must provide an explanation describing how the unrestricted net assets have been earmarked for an imminent project or purpose, as a separate document with their financial statements. Terrence Pochmurski and Amin Giga have put together an explanation for the endowment fund and how</p>

revenue and expenses dramatically reduced, as well as provided the approved budget and deficit. This additional information was attached to the application by the April 26th deadline, and response is to be received in June.

Canada Summer Jobs has confirmed funding for three positions (four employees) for a total of thirty hours for nine weeks. Canada Summer Jobs will cover Provincial minimum wage and associated mandatory employer related costs (CPP, EI, Vacation) for a total of \$18,668. Applications for the positions of Gallery Animateur (2 employees), Special Events Assistant, and Social Media and Marketing Assistant are now being accepted. These jobs are posted on the City's website, Indeed and LinkedIn. Applications are being sent directly to Francesca Dauphinais and will be reviewed in the upcoming days. This allows for staff to be present in the gallery during all public hours, especially on weekends. Staff will also be able to work from home when they are not needed for opening hours. Abby Sasikumar will also be submitting her application for the Social Media and Marketing Assistant position.

Volunteer Program

A steady number of inquiries regarding the volunteer program are being received. Volunteer interviews have been scheduled for the Culture Department on May 14th (two sessions) and May 18th (one session), all of which filled up within a day of posting. Additional interviews will be held on June 1st and 6th. All departments have now scheduled interviews in preparation for summer. Caitlin March from the Markham Museum will join in on the June sessions so that the number of candidates being interviewed can be increased to sixteen per session (as per the City's required ratio of one staff member to eight candidates for group interviews). There is now at least one volunteer per program for the gallery Spring Programs and future interviews will be for volunteers for the Summer Camps Programs.

Vintages at the Varley: Wines of South Africa 2.0

Thank you to everyone who attended the virtual Vintages at the Varley event on May 5th. There were thirty-four participants during the livestream, with actual attendance likely to be at least double as attendants were watching pairs/groups. Based on the guests' comments during the livestream and emails following the event, the Sommelier, Jim Clarke, was well received. Jim demonstrated his extensive knowledge of the night's wines, and the guests appreciated the in-depth information provided on South African history, geography, geology, and even the biology.

The gross revenue for the event is \$13,000. This is below our target of \$20,000, however, the expenses are currently between \$5000 - \$6000, below the budget of \$7000.

Four artworks did not sell in the online silent auction. A new online silent auction page was created to feature those four items. The auction is open to the public and items must be picked up from the Varley, as shipping cannot be provided. Please share this link with your family and friends: <https://trellis.org/vintages-at-the-varley-silent-auction>. The auction is scheduled to close at 11:59 PM on Thursday, May 12th.

	<p><u>Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham Rebranding</u> Committee members sent their favorite new logo options, with Option 4 being the most popular preference. Francesca Dauphinais will send the Options with wording to the committee via email and will discuss in more depth in the June meeting.</p>
8. Sub-Committee Report	<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> <p><u>Development Committee</u> Jim Schmidt and John Ingram are hoping to meet on Wednesday to draft the verbiage to be used for the 25th Anniversary Art Acquisition sponsorship proposal presentation, as well as to plan the directory of businesses and organizations to approach for sponsorship.</p>
9. Financial Report	There was no financial report update.
10. New Business	None disclosed.
11. Future Meeting Dates	The next meeting of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham will be held on June 13, 2022.
12. Adjournment	<p>The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.</p> <p>Moved by Jim Schmidt Seconded by Edie Yeomans</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>