

Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham

Minutes

June 13, 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

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: Carolyn Le Quéré, Jim Schmidt, John Ingram

Item	Discussion
1. Call to Order	The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting convened at 5:05PM with Terrence Pochmurski 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 Craig McOuat Seconded by Edie Yeomans That the minutes of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting held May 9, 2022, be approved as distributed. CARRIED
5. Business Arising from The Minutes	a) MOU Update The MOU will be ready by fall.
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>Staffing</u> Administrator Doriana Cabeceiras returned to the Varley full time on June 1 st . John Abrams remains redeployed with Sustainability and Asset Management. We had some difficulties around finding staff for all the Summer Camp roles, but that has now been resolved. We are currently looking to fulfill at least one further ISA (front desk) position. <u>Grants</u>

Varley staff completed submission of the annual application to the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) operating grant program. A thank you to Terry Pochmurski, Amin Giga and Anik Glaude for their contributions to complete the application. The Varley-McKay Art Foundation Board will need to approve the Gallery's application by June 13th, 2022, as required by the OAC application.

Motion to approve the application to the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) operating grant program.

Moved by Edie Yeomans
Seconded by Craig McOuat

CARRIED

Exhibitions

There are no changes to the 2022 exhibition schedule since the meeting of May 9th, 2022.

Month	Main and Intro Galleries	Collections
February 4 to April 24	<i>Karen Tam: With wings like clouds hung from the sky</i>	<i>Refracting the Lens, Part 1</i>
May 7 to September 4	<i>Gathering Fictions: A Dialogue on Painting</i> (Michel <u>Daigneault</u> and Janet Jones)	
September 17 to January 7	<i>Chun Hua Catherine Dong</i> Curated by Tara Ng and <u>Anik Glaude</u>	<i>Refracting the Lens, Part 2</i>

Courtyard Mural

To celebrate the Varley's 25th anniversary, \$20,000 was received from the City of Markham to create a temporary art installation in the Varley courtyard. The plan is to install a large-scale photo mural on an exterior façade. Anik Glaude has created an open call and process for this project that will roll out soon. The project is intended to support emerging artists, provide an important career opportunity, and to complement the theme of the *Refracting the Lens* exhibition. The work is anticipated to be installed in early fall 2022, coinciding with the opening of the fall show.

Public & Education Programs

A Lunch & Learn was held on June 1st between 12:30PM-1:30PM with artists Janet Jones and Michel Daigneault in conjunction with the exhibition, *Gathering Fictions: A Dialogue on Painting*. The event ran smoothly and 23 people attended.

The Unionville Festival was held on June 4th by the Unionville BIA, which was a big success. Due to crowds, activities were held in the courtyard, as well as a pop-up gift shop. There were 454 guests that visited the gallery and about 600 children that participated in the button make activity in the courtyard. An estimated total of 1500 people joined in on the activities in the courtyard between 1PM-4PM.

Art classes for children are winding down, with final classes taking place June 18th and 19th, as we prepare for summer camp.

Platform for Youth Creativity's (PYC) major annual arts evening, LUX, will take place on June 17th. PYC takes over the Varley inside and out (lobby, Deacon Room and courtyard) to showcase their many talents.

Markham Ward 6 Youth Council will have their Tote Bag Painting afternoon on June 25th at the Varley.

On July 1st, we have a Family Canvas Challenge to celebrate Canada Day. Ten families of 4 are signed up and 38 are on a wait list for this popular event.

MACCA Partnership

The Varley has been approached by the Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association to provide programming for several days of their Summer Camp this year in August. Rachel is developing appropriate programs and a budget for this. It will be an outreach program due to both the cost of transportation and space availability at the Varley. Once again, the most difficult part of providing this service may be sourcing appropriate staff.

Virtual School Programs

We are now into the final month of the 2021-2022 school year's Virtual School Programs. There are five separate workshop themes this month, offered on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and running from May 31st to June 29th.

Week 1: A New Point of View Inspired by Shuvinai Ashoona.

Week 2: Beyond the Focal Point inspired by F. H. Varley

Week 3: Geometric Portraits

Week 4: Drawing It Upside Down

Week 5: Outside Our Window. A Tour of F. H. Varley's Studio

Rentals

The UBIA is now fully installed in two rooms of the second floor of the McKay. Doriana Cabeceiras is reviewing our rental documents, updating the portal rental pages, entering new fees into CLASS and fielding inquiries. We will also be working to prepare some slides for a high-level Culture Rental meeting being organized by the Economic Growth, Culture and Entrepreneurship.

Facilities

The flat roof replacement project at the Varley that began in April is approaching completion, although equipment related to the job remains on site.

The courtyard banners should be installed in early July.

The worse loose pavers in the courtyard have now been fixed.

The accessibility button on the swipe door from the lobby to the elevator is being repaired as it has been disabled since the swipe access system was installed.

	<p><u>Public Art</u> On May 16th, Niamh O’Laoghaire presented the Public Art 2022 Work Plan to the Development Services Committee, and it was subsequently approved by Council.</p> <p>The Public Art 2022 Work Plan involves six projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The installation of Top Garden by design collective Guild at the west side of Aaniin Community Centre. 2) Jill Anholt’s Living Light Sculpture Installation in Downtown Markham at Enterprise Boulevard, east of Warden Avenue. 3) The installation and curation of a large-scale photo mural on the west façade of the Pan Am Centre building in collaboration with staff of the Art Gallery of York University (AGYU). 4) Roll-out of Pilot project “<i>Our Park: Community Grant Program</i>”, in collaboration with York Region Arts Council, intended for Ada MacKenzie Park. 5) Integrated public art project for Main Street Unionville, to coincide with the Main Street restructuring project. 6) Markham Trails activation project.
<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>Volunteer Program Summer 2022</u> There is a lot of interest, particularly among youth, to volunteer with the Varley Art Gallery this summer. Summer camp program assistant volunteer opportunities are posted on the City’s volunteer portal and went live for sign-ups on June 7th. The greatest challenge is coordinating virtual interview sessions for culture department volunteers. Within the culture department, it best suited the three volunteer coordinators’ schedules to host a session once every two months, and rotating hosting duties and venues. The coordinator for the Markham Museum was rehired last month and has been very involved in other responsibilities at the Markham Museum in preparation for summer camp, and the Flato Markham Theatre has just started to onboard their new Discovery Coordinator. Therefore, the bulk of the responsibility to coordinating and running virtual volunteer interviews has fallen on Francesca Dauphinais. 59 volunteers have been interviewed since the beginning of April, and the demand for interviews continues. There are two additional sessions on June 22nd and July 5th. With these additional sessions in, all three venues will hopefully have a large enough volunteer database to meet the needs for this summer.</p> <p><u>Canada Summer Jobs</u> Applications for summer job opportunities closed on May 22nd. Interviews were conducted with candidates for the positions of Gallery Animateur, Social Media and Marketing Assistant and Special Events Assistant. A big thank you to Anik Glaude for assisting with the Gallery Animateur interviews, Doriana Cabeceiras for assisting with the Social Media and Marketing Assistant interviews, and Terry Pochmurski and Abby Sasikumar for assisting with the Special Events Assistant</p>

	<p>interviews. The next step in the hiring process is conducting reference checks and the offer letters will be sent out to the successful candidates for each position by June 17th. All four new hires will begin full-time (30 hours per week) on June 27th for 9 weeks.</p> <p><u>Vintages at the Varley</u> The final budget for Vintages at the Varley 2022 is as follows: Revenue: \$13,005 Expenses: \$5,780.16 NET: \$7,224.84</p> <p><u>Funding Requests</u> Anik Glaude and Francesca Dauphinais met with the K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation to discuss bringing in more Indigenous works of art into the permanent collection, requesting \$5,000 for the 25th Anniversary acquisition project.</p> <p>The TD grant confirmation of funding for \$30,000 has been received.</p> <p><u>Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham Rebranding</u> Motion to approve the new Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham logo.</p> <p>Moved by Craig McOuat Seconded by Amin Giga</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
<p>8. Sub-Committee 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> <p><u>Development Committee</u> There was no update from the Development Committee.</p>
<p>9. Financial Report</p>	<p>The Varley-McKay Art Foundation Board approved the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham Audited Financial Statements for 2021 conducted by KPMG on June 3rd, 2022, via email vote.</p> <p>There are still revenues coming in, such as the TD funding grant and support from the City (to be formally approved). We hope to have further updates on the City's support.</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 September 12, 2022.</p>

12. Adjournment

The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Moved by Edie Yeomans
Seconded by Craig McOuat

Carried