

Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham

Minutes

October 17, 2022

5:00 PM

Attendance:

Board of Directors Present: Jim Schmidt (Chair), Craig McOuat (Vice Chair), Amin Giga (Treasurer), Lisa Joy-Facey

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

Regrets: Carolyn Le Quéré, John Ingram, Councillor Reid McAlpine, Chris Rickett, Director of Economic Growth, Culture and Entrepreneurship

Item	Discussion
1. Call to Order	The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting convened at 5PM with Jim Schmidt presiding as Chair.
2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest	None disclosed.
3. Additions / Changes to the Agenda	Change to remove 8. Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham Logo from the agenda was approved.
4. Approval of Minutes	Moved by Craig McOuat Seconded by Jim Schmidt That the minutes of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting held June 13, 2022, and September 26, 2022, be approved as distributed. CARRIED
5. Business Arising from The Minutes	None disclosed.
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>Edie Yeomans</u> We are all saddened by the sudden loss of Edie Yeomans, a long-time member and supporter the Varley-McKay Art Foundation board and gallery. She was always knowledgeable, informed, helpful and fun to be around and will be missed by all at the gallery. The Varley team extends their sincerest condolences to Edie’s family and friends.

Thanks, and Welcome

Thank you to outgoing Varley-McKay Art Foundation Chair Terrence Pochmurksi for his many years of service as a Board Member and as Board Chair. He has been a great asset to the both the Foundation and Varley Art Gallery and his contributions in both roles are very much appreciated.

And a very warm welcome and thank you to incoming Board Chair, Jim Schmidt, for taking on the role of Chair at such short notice.

Art of Plenty

Congratulations to the Varley-McKay Art Foundation board on the success of its first annual Art of Plenty reception, exhibition, and sale! The kickoff reception on October 4th was a lovely evening with many attendants, not to mention delicious food, refreshment, and live music. It was great that Deputy Mayor Hamilton could also attend. A very big thank you is due to the amazing staff and volunteer committee for all their work, Francesca Dauphinais, along with VMAF staffers Alex Culcearu and Abby Sasikumar and volunteers Olivana Tonon, Michelle Homan and Zoe Christidis. As well, a big thank you to the Varley's Doriana Cabeceiras, John Abrams and Rachel D'Oliveira Fell, for assisting with event set up and take down, and Anik Glaude for the great tour.

Staffing

John Abrams has returned to the Varley fulltime since September 6th. We now have a full complement of fulltime staff. Alessandra Pozzuoli has returned to the Varley for 6 months as a YCW-funded Education Assistant this fall. We also have several new ISAs, including Annie Lau and Abby Sasikumar.

Grants

We did not receive the Tourism grant for the 25th anniversary photo-mural but thank you to the VMAF for applying on behalf of the gallery. The My Main Street program indicated that there is some money still available and requested further information about the project. The requested information has been provided in hopes of still receiving some funds towards the project. Anik Glaude has been awarded a project grant of \$40,000 (\$10,000 over their usual amount) from CCA (Canada Council for the Arts). This will fund a major project in 2023 with art collective LTNS (Long Time No See), which is a collective of Chinese heritage artists.

Exhibitions

There are no changes to the 2022 exhibition schedule since the June 13th. 2022 meeting. Since the June meeting, *Gathering Fictions: A Dialogue on Painting* and *Refracting the Lens* were both deinstalled. The travelling show *Chun Hua Catherine Dong*, curated by Tara Ng and organized by the Art Gallery of Hamilton, was installed, and opened on September 17th along with a refreshed *Refracting the Lens*. The latter includes Anique Jordan's *Salt Series*, eight works purchased on our behalf by the Varley McKay Art Foundation in 2020, as well as a series of six works on paper by Betty Goodwin, donated by Dorene Milligan in 2021.

The Art Gallery of Hamilton Curator, Tobi Bruce, and Director, Shelley Falconer, attended the opening reception of the *Chun Hua Catherine Dong* show and were very happy with the exhibition, which has been much expanded at the Varley, including new work. They want to collaborate with the Varley to tour the show to the west coast.

Mary Reid, Director of the Woodstock Art Gallery, visited and would like to take the *Gathering Fictions* exhibition, likely in 2024, and Woodstock will contribute to the catalogue that is being planned in relation to the show.

Two videos relating to the AR components of the exhibition are now on the website and we hope to add a virtual tour of the show very soon.

Courtyard Mural

There were over fifty applications for the 25th anniversary mural commission in the Varley courtyard. Curators, Anik Glaude, and Tyler Durbano, of the Latcham Gallery, were unanimous in selecting Ottawa-based artist, Don Kwan. Despite various setbacks (weather, suppliers, etc.) the *Quiet Resistance/Reclaiming Space* mural was installed in time for the September 17th opening. We are very pleased with the results and hope to proceed with more temporary murals in the future. Anik Glaude applied for a Canada Council for the Arts grant for the mural program.

Public and Education Programs

Summer Events

- June 17th: Platform for Youth Creativity (PYC) presented their major annual arts evening. LUX took over the Varley inside and out (lobby, Deacon Room, and courtyard) to showcase their many talents.
- June 25th: Collaboration with Markham Ward 6 Youth Council to present their Tote Bag Painting afternoon.
- July 1st: Family Canvas Challenge to celebrate Canada Day.
- July 8th & 9th: Partnered with the acclaimed Shadowpath Theatre Company to offer three performances of Fumiko Enchi's play, *Restless Night in Late Spring*.
- August: Calligraphy workshop.

Camp

It was a very successful in-person camp, run by Camp Director, Karen Law, and an outstanding team of young people. There were 9 weeks of camp, from July 4th to September 9th. The camp ran very smoothly, but there were some disruptions related to facilities (power outages, security issues, the AC coil at the McKay Art Centre failing during a heatwave). The camp had a participation rate of over 90% and generated revenue of \$123,632.

MACCA Partnership

Partnered with MAACA during the camp to provide 3 days of outreach programming July – August, as well as hosting their campers at the Varley and surrounding area.

Fall Events

- September 17th: Opening reception for *Chun Hua Catherine Dong, Refracting the Lens part two* and *Quiet Resistance, Reclaiming Space (mural)*. Remarks given in the courtyard and included words from Markham Unionville MP Paul Chiang and Mayor Frank Scarpitti. There were also talks by artists Don Kwan and Chun Hua Catherine Dong and Curator Anik Glaude. Approximately 130 people attended, and feedback received was very positive. Thank you to VMAF Board member Carolyn LeQuéré for coming out to support the event.
- September 21st: Virtual Lunch & Learn with mural artist Don Kwan.
- September 24th: Launch of the Canadian Library. This project honours the memory and stories of missing and murdered Indigenous women and children in Canada. It also aims to educate Canadians on their history and experiences. As a community-based art project, it has been organized by the Giving Tree Unionville with local community activist Shanta Sundarason. The Varley is participating by having a shelf of books from the project as well as a very large quilt installed in the lobby until early December. The opening event had a large attendance, over two hundred people, and included MP Paul Chiang, Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton and Councillor Reid McAlpine.

Forthcoming

- October 20th: Unionville BIA Ladies Night – the Varley is renting the Deacon Room to a local business as the site for a fashion show and will keep the galleries open for attendees to have self-guided tours.
- November 16th: Lunch and Learn with Chun Hua Catherine Dong, 12:30PM-1:30PM (EST). Registration is required and will be held virtually on Zoom.

Fall Registered Programs

Registration for Fall programs opened on August 16th, 2022, and art classes began the week of September 12th. Uptake has been very good for all the children's classes, both in-person and online. There are also several adult art classes in progress, including "Learning the Landscape," "Painting with Acrylics" and starting in October, "Acrylic Pouring workshops." Revenue to date for Fall programs is over \$32,000.

Virtual School Programs

The final month of 2021-2022 school year's virtual school programs has been completed. Due to staffing issues, we will continue with virtual only visits until the end of the year. Over the course of the summer, Rachel D'Oliveira Fell has rethought and rebranded the virtual school programs as Art+ workshops. You can see details in the brochure on the website. The September offerings were based around a work in the collection by Arthur Lismer. The October workshops draw inspiration from an etching by Betty Goodwin, currently on display in the *Refracting the Lens* show.

Have been receiving queries about in-person school visits. We had a request from William Berczy PS to bring all their students through the Varley this fall. Now that the YCW Education Assistant, Alessandra Pozzuoli, is with us, we are finding a way to make that happen.

There was a PA Day extravaganza on September 23rd and 2 more of these will be offered this term, on October 21st and November 18th.

Rentals

There is a rise in demand for rentals and they are being overseen by Doriana Cabeceiras. There have been a couple of weddings held in the Deacon Room and several exhibition rentals at the McKay this Fall. There was also free two-week rental to the Varley-McKay Art Foundation for the Art of Plenty show and sale. And a free exhibition to a refugee Ukrainian artist, that recently arrived and is living in the Markham area, has been offered.

Facilities

- Flat roof replacement project at the Varley, which began on April 8th, is now complete.
- Having the cracked window on the second floor Varley meeting room repaired.
An AC coil at the McKay Art Centre was replaced in August, during camp.
- Replaced the McKay ground floor windowpane, also cracked during camp.
- A quote to have the McKay front steps redone.
- The accessibility button on the swipe door from the lobby to the elevator has been fixed.
- Dave Plant and Operations very kindly helped with minor repairs to the courtyard in time for the September 17th opening.
- Elevator was fixed, which stopped on Sept. 24th.
- Repaving of the courtyard will be rolled into the Main Street Unionville restructuring project.
- Banners were back up the first week of October.
- At the request of Councillor McAlpine, going to work on fixing the stone wall at the McKay. However, it appears to be on the Starbucks side of the property line. Will reach out to the Legal department to inquire if there is an easement permitting the Varley to execute repairs.

Public Art

Updates since the June meeting:

- The first 5 of 8 “tops” of *Top Garden* by design collective Guild have been installed at the west side of Aaniin Community Centre. The remaining three will be installed, by the end of October.
- Work towards installation of Jill Anholt’s *Living Light Sculpture* in Downtown Markham, at Enterprise Boulevard east of Warden Avenue, has again been delayed due to weather, supply and material issues, and the galvanization process, with completion now set for Spring 2023.
- Work on the installation and curation of a large-scale photo mural on the west façade of the Pan Am Centre building is moving ahead well. The large-scale frame should be installed this Fall, weather permitting.
- The pilot project, “*Our Park: Community Grant Program*” in collaboration with York Region Arts Council and intended for Ada MacKenzie Park, has been rolled out and information is now available on the YRAC website and Your Voice Markham.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Internal and community consultation process around an integrated public art project for Main Street Unionville, to coincide with the Main Street restructuring project, has started.
<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></p> <p>It was a very successful summer camp volunteer program with fifty-six volunteers. Each week, a few volunteers were acknowledged as "Volunteer of the Week" with photos featured on social media pages. The posts generated strong engagement results across various social media platforms.</p> <p>Scheduling for the Fall Art programs began on August 30th. Volunteer interest in the Fall programs has been good, but several spots are still available, especially during Winter Break. Interview sessions will be held on October 9th and December 1st (November sessions will be held by Caitlin March of Markham Museum).</p> <p><u>Canada Summer Jobs</u></p> <p>Alexandra (Alex) Culcearu, Abby Sasaikumar, Kendra Young-Shing and Sophia Yarosh were fantastic additions to our team this summer. All four were actively invested in their positions, exceeding expectations on what could be accomplished in a short 9-week period. Kendra and Sophia developed a very successful digital scavenger hunt for gallery visitors to complete while touring the exhibitions. They also led free guided tours on weekends; 356 people joined the guided tours, and 466 scavenger hunts were completed. Alex worked on developing plans for the Art of Plenty Art Show and Sale fundraiser. This was originally set to run October 4th-16th at the McKay Art Centre, with an opening reception held at the Varley Art Gallery on Tuesday, October 4th 6:30PM-8:3 PM. Abby did a great job with social media and marketing over the summer, highlighting summer camp volunteers, promoting the Art of Plenty Art Show and Sale fundraiser, and supporting the Gallery Animateurs by marketing their tours and other engagement activities. Final pay claim to the Federal Government has been submitted and payment has been received</p> <p><u>Art of Plenty Art Show and Sale Fundraiser</u></p> <p>Thank you to all who attended the opening reception for Art of Plenty Art Show and Sale. Hundred guests attended the opening and many congratulated us on the fantastic event. We received an overwhelming response of appreciation from the sixteen artists who are participating, all being so thankful to have the opportunity to display and sell their work, while assisting us with fundraising.</p> <p>Slabtown Cider Co ran a cider tasting station, and beer produced locally by Red Thread Brewing Co. was also served. Incredible support was received from the business community, with sponsorships from: Kingdom Development, Cattanaich Hindson Sutton Vanveldhuizen, Sylvia Morris Century 21, Les Fleurs des Lise, LeBANC Development, Sunrise Homes, Kennedy Greenhouses, and Castle Rock Developments.</p>

	<p>Thank you to the gallery for allowing us to utilize the exhibition space at the McKay Art Centre for two weeks, free of charge. Pleased to announce that we have been given an extra week at the McKay and are able to continue the art show and sale until Sunday, October 23, 2022. Please continue to spread the word about this fundraiser and encourage friends and family to visit. Seven paintings have been sold so far, along with some prints. There are many more works available for purchase!</p> <p>The current budget, as it stands today, from the event was also presented to the committee. The event required additional hours than anticipated which change the budgeted amount. For sales, 60% goes to the artist and 40% is retained. Highlighted fields are those that are still to be received.</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> There was no update on the Vintages at the Varley.</p> <p><u>Development Committee</u> There was no update from the Development Committee.</p>
<p>9. Financial Report</p>	<p>Amin presented the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances as of August 31, 2022.</p> <p>All the information is as expected with the common activities, nothing unusual in the numbers. The Art of Plenty Art Show and Sale Fundraiser numbers will be included in the Financial Statements in the next meeting on November 14th. Hopefully the Statements will be up to October 2022, if not September 2022.</p> <p>MOTION To accept the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances as of August 31, 2022, as presented.</p> <p>Moved by Amin Giga Seconded by Craig McQuat</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
<p>10. New Business</p>	<p>Markham City Clerk, Laura Gold, will be recruiting for new Board Members and an interview schedule will be created once there is a group of candidates. Committee members should also recommend anyone in their network that would be a good addition to the Board. There will also be a social media post about the new board member recruitment. Any possible candidates and referrals should be sent to Laura Gold.</p>

	<p>The celebration of life for Edie Yeoman details were shared with the group, along with details on how to RSVP if attending.</p> <p>There should be some type of past Board member recognition in the gallery. A suggestion is to include founders, donors and board members on a screen in the gallery lobby, along with information about exhibitions. As well, contributors can be recognized on the foundation website. Edie Yeomans diagram of a permanent plaque to recognize past contributors for the gallery will be recirculated to the group for consideration.</p>
<p>11. Future Meeting Dates</p>	<p>The next meeting of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham will be held on November 14, 2022.</p>
<p>12. Adjournment</p>	<p>The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting adjourned at 6 PM.</p> <p>Moved by Amin Giga Seconded by Craig McOuat</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>