



**Minutes**  
**Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham**  
**Monday, April 8, 2024**  
**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Art Gallery**

<p><b><u>Attendance</u></b></p> <p><b>Board of Directors Present:</b> Craig McOuat (Vice-Chair), Amin Giga (Treasurer), Connie LeClair (Governance Chair), Deputy Mayor Michael Chan, Councillor Reid McAlpine, and Nik Mracic</p> <p><b>Staff Present:</b> Niamh O’Laoghaire, Director, Varley Art Gallery; Francesca Dauphinais, Cultural Development Officer, Varley Art Gallery, Laura Gold, Clerk</p> <p><b>Regrets:</b> Jim Schmidt (Chair), Carolyn Le Quéré, Emily Li, Bonnie Leung, and Lisa Joy-Facey, and Arpita Surana</p>
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Item	Discussion	Action
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham convened at 6:10 PM with Craig McOuat presiding as Chair without quorum.	
<b>2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests</b>	There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.	
<b>3. Minutes of The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham Board Meeting held on January 15, 2024</b>	<p>The Directors reviewed the minutes and suggested a slight change be made under the Financial Report.</p> <p>The approval of the Minutes was deferred to the next meeting, as there was no quorum.</p>	
<b>4. Business Arising from the Minutes</b>	There was no business arising from the Minutes.	
<b>5. Director’s Report</b>	<p>Niamh O’Laoghaire, Director of the Gallery, provided the Directors Report. Some of the highlight of the report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted the departure of Chris Rickett, Director of Economic Growth, Culture and Entrepreneurship.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ryan Taylor filled the full time Program Assistant position.</li> <li>• Completed the Ontario Seniors Grant Application with input from Gallery Staff and the Foundation’s Development Officer.</li> <li>• An update on exhibits was provided – exhibits starting on May 25 include <i>To go boldly</i>, and <i>Summer Landscape Exhibition</i>.</li> <li>• Attendance at the Gallery remained high through March. The Gallery had a total of 4,816 visitors that month.</li> <li>• An update on programs was provided.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Development Officer</b></p>	<p>Francesca Dauphinais, Cultural Development Officer, provided the following update:</p> <p><b>Job Postings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posted 4 jobs postings – applications are coming in. some of the positions are dependent on receiving a grant to fund the position. This has been noted in the position description.</li> <li>• Events Management Intern – were able to get a paid events management intern to provide support over the summer months.</li> </ul> <p><b>Spring Event</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring event to be held on June 13<sup>th</sup> and costumes are optional.</li> <li>• Currently focusing on the June event and obtaining sponsors.</li> <li>• Asked Directors to assist in reaching out to potential sponsors for event, especially if they know any of the potential sponsors that are included on the list.</li> <li>• A Director suggested reaching out to Councillor Juanita Nathan and Kahlid Usman (past Councillor) in regard to sponsorship opportunities.</li> <li>• Meeting with Gervais regarding the rental of a party tent – may need to re-evaluate as cost may be higher than originally anticipated.</li> <li>• Potential names for the Event included Galactic Gallery, or Voyages to the Varley to reflect the upcoming exhibit theme of space.</li> </ul>	

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	<p>The Directors provided the following feedback on spring event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Directors like Voyages to the Varley for the name of the event.</li> <li>• Suggested that the promotional material for the event should include that the Foundation is supporting the Gallery and that the Gallery supports children, noting that it is also beneficial to relate it to STEM and to the Arts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Grant Application Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still waiting for responses from Hydro One, and the McLean Family Foundation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Volunteers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The volunteer schedule has been set for the next couple of months.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Financial Report</b></p>	<p>Amin Giga, Treasurer, advised that the 2024 Budget will be presented for approval at the next meeting due there being no quorum.</p> <p>Mr. Giga was still trying to arrange a meeting with Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer to discuss the Varley’s financial position. Councillor Reid McAlpine agreed to help facilitate the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>8. Committee Reviews</b></p>	<p><b>a. Fundraising Committee</b></p> <p>The 2024 fundraising event was discussed under the Development Officer Report.</p> <p><b>b. Art Acquisition Committee</b></p> <p>There was no report provided.</p> <p><b>c. Governance Committee</b></p> <p>Connie LeClair, Chair, Governance Committee, advised that she was unaware if Jim Shmidt was able to meet with Chris Rickett</p>	

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	<p>prior to his departure, and that she was still waiting to hear back from the City Solicitor regarding the Charter.</p> <p>The action to look at other foundations of galleries of a similar size business and strategic plans was still outstanding. A Director suggested also looking at business plans and strategic plans of charities.</p>	
<b>9. New Business</b>	<p>The proposed September date of the Annual General Meeting still needs to be confirmed. Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator to report back on this at the next meeting.</p>	
<b>10. Future Meeting Dates</b>	<p>The next meeting of the Varley McKay Art Foundation of Markham will be held on May 13, 2024, at 6:00 PM.</p>	
<b>11. Adjournment</b>	<p>The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham adjourned at 7:14 PM.</p>	