



Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham

Monday, November 11, 2024

6:00 p.m.
Art Gallery

<p><u>Attendance</u></p> <p>Board of Directors Present: Jim Schmidt (Chair), Craig McOuat (Vice-Chair), Amin Giga (Treasurer), Connie Leclair (Governance Chair), Nik Mracic, Paul Cicchini, and Councillor Reid McAlpine</p> <p>Guests: Sophia Sun, and Josy Jamieson</p> <p>Staff Present: Niamh O’Laoghaire, Director, Varley Art Gallery; Francesca Dauphinais, Foundation Cultural Development Officer, Laura Gold, Clerk</p> <p>Regrets: Arpita Surana</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. Call to Order	<p>The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting convened at 6:05 PM with Jim Schmidt in the Chair.</p> <p>The Board welcomed potential new Directors Sophia Sun and Josy Jamieson.</p>	
2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests	<p>There was no disclosure of pecuniary interests.</p>	
3. Review of Minutes of Board Meeting held on September 9,	<p>The Directors were advised that the October 7 AGM Minutes were circulated for information purposes, noting the minutes will be formally approved at the 2025 AGM.</p> <p>Moved by Craig McOuat Seconded by Councillor Reid McAlpine</p>	

<p>and June 10, 2024</p>	<p>That the October 7, 2024, Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham Minutes be approved as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>	
<p>4. Business Arising from the Minutes</p>	<p>There was no business arising from the minutes.</p>	
<p>5. Directors Report</p>	<p>Niamh O’Laoghaire, Director, Varley Art Gallery, presented her Director’s Report. The report included a summary of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on the fall exhibitions and virtual tours. • An update on programs. • An update on rentals and community partnerships. • An update on the facilities, advising that the courtyard project had begun. • An update on public art. 	
<p>6. Development Officer Report</p>	<p>Francesca Dauphinais, Foundation Cultural Development Officer, presented the Development Officer Report. Some of the highlights of the report included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fall 2024 Volunteer Program – 32 volunteers were interviewed on November 11, 2024. All four Cultural Department leads were involved. Metrics of volunteer activities were provided in the update. • An update on grants was provided. The impact report for the TD Bank Connected Communities Grant needs to be submitted by November 15, 2024. A grant application was submitted to the Destination Markham Board for the Partnership Support Program. An application is being submitted to the Canada Summer Jobs program which, opens on November 18, 2024, for two Gallery Animateurs, one Summer Volunteer Program Supervisor, and a Marketing Assistant. 	

	<p>The Board liked the inclusion of metrics in the Development Officers Report.</p>	
<p>7. Financial Report</p>	<p>Amin Giga, Treasurer, provided a financial update. Mr. Giga compared the Foundation’s 2023 deficit of \$8,500 with its 2024 deficit of \$22,350 to date. Mr. Giga and Councillor Reid McAlpine will meet with the City’s Chief Administrative Officer to discuss securing an annual transfer of funds from the City to the Foundation for the work that the Foundation performs on behalf of the City, which includes the management of the volunteers for the Gallery and other functions. An update on this meeting will be provided at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Provide update on meeting with the CAO at next meeting – Amin Giga</p>
<p>8. Committee Updates</p>	<p>A) Governance Committee</p> <p>Nik Mracic advised he will be following-up with Arvin Prasad regarding the Foundation’s proposed Charter, which was developed by combining a series of documents into one proposed governing document for the Foundation. The Charter may need to be resubmitted due to changes in staffing.</p> <p>Connie Leclair circulated a template that could be used to prepare the 3-year business plan for the Foundation, noting that the business plan needs to be developed as a group effort. Creating the plan for a three-year term, will allow it to be strategic and operational. The Board should start working on the business plan in January. A draft business plan could be prepared as a starting point.</p> <p><u>Business Plan Discussion</u></p> <p>The Directors discussed the MOU, recognizing that it is dated but understanding the importance of respecting the wishes of Kathleen Gromley McKay as the Gallery was created from her generosity.</p> <p>The Directors noted that some Foundations hold a full day planning session or charette to create their business plans.</p> <p>The Gallery Director provided an overview of the type of artwork the Gallery has in its vault and provided</p>	

	<p>some examples of how and when these artworks may be shown, noting that the Gallery tries to acquire artwork that can be used in many different contexts. The Directors questioned whether a new exhibition could be created that displays the Gallery’s Group of Seven artworks.</p> <p>The Gallery Director noted that one way the Foundation could help the Gallery is by engaging and promoting the Gallery to diverse communities in Markham.</p> <p>Craig McOuat noted that he was having a meeting with Chris Bratty as he is interested in supporting the Gallery again. He agreed to report back on this matter at the next meeting.</p> <p>B) Fundraising Committee</p> <p>Francesca Dauphinais, Foundation Cultural Development Officer, provided an overview of some of the past events hosted by the Foundation and recommended that the Foundation focus on one annual event and applying for grants as its fundraising strategy.</p> <p>Fran Dauphinais asked the Directors to think about the following: What is the value the Art Gallery brings to the community? What does the Gallery do? Why does the Gallery need your help? Suggesting that these questions are important to answer when coming up with the Foundation’s fundraising strategy.</p> <p>The Board discussed how COVID has changed fundraising, such as there are fewer Galas and events being run. They questioned how they can best engage the community to visit the Gallery, noting that an event is not required to bring people to Gallery.</p>	<p>Report back on meeting with Christ Bratty – Craig McOuat</p>
<p>9. New Business</p>	<p>There was no new business.</p>	

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10. Next Meeting Date	The next board meeting of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham will be held on January 13, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Gallery.	
11. Adjournment	The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham adjourned at 6:17 PM.	