



**Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham**

**Monday, February 10, 2025**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Art Gallery**

**Attendance**

**Board of Directors Present:** Jim Schmidt (Chair), Craig McOuat (Vice-Chair), Nik Mracic, Josy Jamieson, Amin Giga (Treasurer), Paul Cicchini, and Councillor Reid McAlpine

**Staff Present:** Niamh O’Laoghaire, Director, Varley Art Gallery; Francesca Dauphinais, Foundation Cultural Development Officer, Laura Gold, Clerk

**Regrets:** Arpita Surana, Sophie Sun, and Connie Leclair (Governance Chair)

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action Item</b>
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting convened at 6:09 PM with Jim Schmidt in the Chair.	
<b>2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests</b>	There was no disclosure of pecuniary interests.	
<b>3. Review of Minutes of Board Meeting held on January 13, 2025</b>	<p>The Clerk was asked to make some minor edits to the Financial Report section of the minutes.</p> <p>Moved by Craig McOuat  Seconded by Paul Cicchini  That the January 13, 2025, Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham Minutes be approved, as amended.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Carried</b></p>	

<b>4. Business Arising from the Minutes</b>	There was no business arising from the minutes.	
<b>5. Directors Report</b>	<p><b>A) Directors Report</b></p> <p>Niamh O’Laoghaire, Director of the Gallery, presented the Directors Report. Some of the highlights of the report included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcomed Sophia Sun and Josy Jamieson to the Board, noting they have now officially been appointed to Board by Council.</li><li>• Presented the 2025 funding request to the Foundation for the Directors to review.</li><li>• Advised that Gallery Staff are still working on the Board requested acquisition wish list for 2025, but presented one artwork that will be included on the list – Winnie Truong, <i>Meadow II</i>, cut paper wall installation, cost: \$45K.</li><li>• Provided an update on grants that the Gallery will be applying for in 2025.</li><li>• Presented the 2025 exhibition schedule.</li><li>• Provided an update on the Gallery’s 2025 winter programing.</li><li>• Provided an update on the Gallery’s rental and community partnerships for January and February 2025.</li><li>• Provided an update on the Gallery and the McKay House’s facilities.</li></ul> <p><b>B) Funding Request</b></p> <p>Amin Giga, Treasurer, requested that the Foundation defer the approval of the funds to be transferred to the Gallery to the next meeting.</p> <p>The Board discussed the amount of money it can transfer to the Gallery this year.</p> <p>The Directors discussed potential sponsors and the importance of building donor profiles and relationships, as the information can then be used to strategize future fundraising efforts.</p> <p>Further discussion on this matter was deferred to the next meeting.</p>	

<b>6. Development Officer Report</b>	Fran Dauphinais, Cultural Development Officer, advised that she is waiting for the Board to approve its business plan as she needs guidance from the plan on how to proceed with her fundraising planning. A date in October has been put on hold for a potential fundraising event. A third-party wine tasting fundraising event is also being held on March 27 <sup>th</sup> .	
<b>7. Financial Report</b>	Amin Giga, Treasurer, provided a financial report update. The Auditor is completing its review of the 2024 Financial Statements. The Foundation should finish the year with a 10K surplus after receiving 40K from the City for reimbursement of work the Board has done on behalf of the City. The City has also committed to providing this amount in 2025.	
<b>8. Committee Updates</b>	<p><b>A) Governance Committee</b></p> <p>Nik Mracic advised that he had reached out and spoke with Andrew Baldwin, Acting Director of Culture, Economic Development, and Destination Markham. The discussion focused on initiating the City's review of the Board's proposed "Charter" (previously submitted to Chris Rickett), wherein a commitment to commence the process was agreed to. The discussion evolved into potential synergies between Destination Markham's priorities and the Board's mandate. In order to further a dialogue on the foregoing, Mr. Mracic extended an invitation to Mr. Baldwin to attend our next Board meeting (March 10, 2025). All Board members in attendance were intrigued with the opportunity to work with Mr. Baldwin.</p> <p>On behalf of the Committee Chair, Mr. Mracic reiterated the discussion with Mr. Baldwin mentioned above.</p> <p>Mr. Mracic reminded the Board of the Committee's intent to move forward with a Board retreat in order to update the Foundation's Mission &amp; Vision Statement and create a Strategic Business Plan. Ms. Jamieson suggested that we lock in a date for the same and based on the availability of the Board members in attendance, the Board retreat was scheduled for February 22, 2025 (10:30am to 1:30pm) at the Duchess of Markham.</p> <p><b>B) Fundraising Committee</b></p> <p>Mr. McOuat and Mr. Mracic had a follow-up meeting with a potential sponsor's staff, with a focus on establishing a</p>	<p>Meet on Saturday, February 22, from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the Dutchess to discuss business planning – All Directors</p>

	relationship between their community / philanthropic objectives and the Foundation's commitments to support the Gallery. In the interim, a tour of the Gallery was to be arranged to highlight the breath of the Gallery's Collection.	
<b>B) New Business</b>	There was no new business	
<b>C) Next Meeting Date</b>	The next meeting of the Varley McKay Art Foundation of Markham will be held on March 10, 2025, at 6:00 PM.	
<b>D) Adjournment</b>	The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham adjourned at 7:45 PM.	