



Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham

Monday, January 14, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Art Gallery

Attendance

Board of Directors Present: Jim Schmidt (Chair), Craig McOuat (Vice-Chair), Connie Leclair (Governance Chair), Nik Mracic, and Councillor Reid McAlpine

Guests: Doug Denby, Sophia Sun, and Josy Jamieson

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

Regrets: Arpita Surana, Amin Giga (Treasurer), and Paul Cicchini

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. Call to Order	The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham meeting convened at 6:05 PM with Jim Schmidt in the Chair.	
2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests	There was no disclosure of pecuniary interests.	
3. Review of Minutes of Board Meeting held on September 9, and June 10, 2024	Moved by Craig McOuat Seconded by Conne Leclair That the November 11, 2024, Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham Minutes be approved as presented. Carried	

<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> <p><u>Thank you to Foundation and Foundation Chair</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked the Foundation for the holiday gathering at the Duchess of Markham. • Thanked Paul Cicchini for hosting the event and Sophia Sun for supporting the event. • Thanked the Foundation Chair for his continued personal support for the printing of the Varley brochures. The next brochure will be ready for the Jan 25th launch of the 2025 Winter Exhibitions. <p><u>2024 Statistics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the Varley’s 2024 statistics was provided. • The statistics will be used in the future to produce a simple annual report that can be used for promotional purposes. • Noted that it is difficult to determine how much business the Gallery generates from patrons dropping into the building. <p><u>Varley Art Gallery 2025 Request to the Foundation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A request for \$40K was made to the Foundation to support the Gallery’s virtual lunch and learn programs, seven exhibitions across three exhibition rotations, 3 exhibition launches, and to provide operational support. <p><u>Exhibitions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2025 exhibition schedule was shared with the Board. • The exhibits being displayed between January 25-May 4 included: Karen Yen Law: <i>Better Bitter</i> (Main Gallery), <i>Beneath the Surface: Stories of Kinship and Connection</i>, Emma Nishimura and Gayle Uyagagi Kabloona (Main Gallery), <i>Reading Space</i> and intro to three exhibitions (Intro gallery, <i>The Printer’s Matrix: Process, Image and Innovation</i> (collections Gallery). <p><u>Public Programs, Rentals and Facilities</u></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An update on public programs, rentals, and facilities was provided <p><u>Art Acquisition</u></p> <p>The Director of the Gallery provided background information on the artists and explained how the artwork connects with the Markham Community and the Gallery's collection. All three artworks recommended for acquisition appeared in the <i>To Go Boldly</i> exhibition.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine Seconded by Craig McOuat</p> <p>The Foundation approved the following art acquisitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the donation of Claire Scherzinger's <i>Strangling Fruit</i>, 2019, oil on canvas, 30 in. x 40 in. x 2 in. / 76.2 cm x 101.6 cm x 5 cm be approved, plus the cost of the appraisal. That the donation of Brendan Lee Satish Tang's <i>Move Along Home, Cardassian</i>, 2024, ceramics and mixed media, 35.5 cm x 12.7 cm x 12.7 cm be approved, plus the cost of the appraisal. That the purchase of Brendan Lee Satish Tang's, <i>Attempts to Contain Evil</i> (Manga Ormolu Version 4.1b), 2011, ceramics and mixed media, 50.8 cm x 24.1 cm x 20.3 cm be approved, for \$16,800 (includes 12% tax and museum discount). <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>	
<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> <p><u>Grants</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overview of the Grants received was provided. Grants that have been approved for 2025 to date include - K.M Hunter Foundation Grant, and the Destination Markham Grant. Some conditions of the Destination Markham Grant are digitally advertising with the Globe and Mail and CBC, and tracking visitors attending the Gallery from outside of Markham. <p><u>Special Events</u></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the Foundations 2024 events • Noted that Santos is looking to host the Old World/New World Wine Testing event again this year, on a date to be determined in March – proceeds will likely be split between the Gallery and the hospital. The event will possibly be held at the Gallery. <p><u>Volunteer Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 154 volunteers involved in the Gallery’s public programs in 2024, which is the equivalent of 2.3 full time employees or 4,134 hours of work. • There are 2 additional volunteers that contributed 24 hours assisting with fundraising and event delivery. <p><u>Wallace Joyce Scholarship</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scholarship was awarded to Angel Zheng from G.W. Williams Secondary School in Aurora who is currently studying architecture in Shanghai. <p><u>William J. Withrow School Visits Bursary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation was provided to 4 schools visiting the Gallery in 2024. 	
7. Financial Report	The Chair advised that the Treasurer met with Andy Taylor, CAO.	
8. Committee Updates	<p>A) Governance Committee</p> <p>Nik Mracic advised he spoke with Arvin Prasad, Commissioner of Development Services, regarding the Foundation’s proposed Charter and that he was referred to Andrew Baldwin, Director of Destination Markham, and Acting Director of Culture.</p> <p><u>Business Plan Discussion</u></p> <p>Connie Leclair advised that she met the Development Officer and that together they came up with a list of potential business plan items, noting that she would like to add more depth to the plan. Ms. Leclair spoke about the amount of volunteer work being undertaken at the Gallery and to the Development Officer splitting her time between the Gallery and the Foundation.</p> <p>B) Fundraising Committee</p> <p>The Board discussed holding a 2–3-hour brainstorming session to come up with fundraising ideas. Directors will be polled to see if they would like to participate in the session. The Directors noted that raising funds for the Gallery is one of the primary goals of the Foundation.</p>	

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9. New Business	The Director of the Gallery advised that the 2025 wish list of art works the Gallery would like to purchase will be complete for the February 10 th meeting.	
10. Next Meeting Date	The next board meeting of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham will be held on February 10, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Gallery.	
11. Adjournment	The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham adjourned at 7:06 PM.	