

VARLEY-MCKAY ART FOUNDATION OF MARKHAM

Monday, September 14, 2015

Varley Art Gallery

5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Attendance:

Board of Directors Present: Councillor Don Hamilton, John Ingram, Sid Karsh , Paul Keeling - Chair, Sammy Lee, Edie Yeomans, and Craig McQuat

Staff: Niamh O’Laoghairre, Director, Varley Art Gallery, Laura Parsons, Cultural Development Officer, and Pamela Cook, Council/Committee Coordinator

Regrets: Terrence Pochmurski, Santo Natale, Susan Gray, Ernestine Tahedl, Beverly Schaeffer, Howard Back

Guest: Bill Pickering, Former Board Member

Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. Call to Order	The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham convened at 5:10 p.m. with Paul Keeling presiding as Chair.	
2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest	None	
3. Changes or Additions to the Agenda	None	
4. Approval of the Minutes	Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton Seconded by Edie Yeomans That the Minutes from the June 16, 2015 Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham Board Meeting be adopted as presented.	CARRIED

Item	Discussion	Action Item
	The Committee agreed to revise the agenda to have New Business 10. c) Esther Beaupre – presented by Bill Pickering moved forward on the Agenda.	
a. Business Arising from the Minutes	The Committee reviewed the action items from the previous meeting with no changes or additions.	
5. New Business 10 (c) –Esther Beaupre	Bill Pickering, Former Board Member, Varley-McKay Art Foundation made a presentation on Esther Beaupre, one of the Founding Members of the Board of Directors. The Gallery exists today because in 1988 a large group of residents and friends of Kathy McKay, including Esther Beaupre, formed the Varley McKay Art Committee and set out to help realize Kathy's dream of opening a Gallery in Unionville dedicated to Fred Varley. Under Kathy McKay's will her Trustees, which included Howard Back, her accountant at that time, Stan Neal, her broker, Francis Redelmeier, art collector and philanthropist and William Withrow, former Director of the AGO, were responsible for creating the Varley McKay Art Foundation to manage the estate. Mr. Pickering suggested that some of the early proponents of the gallery are now getting old and should have some recognition in the Gallery and in the records of the Varley McKay Foundation. The Committee was reminded that current members, Ernestine Tahedl and Edie Yeoman have been actively working and reporting on this project, which may include a recognition wall in the entry area of the Gallery. Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton, Seconded by Sammy Yee, THAT the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham, Board of Directors, set up a sub-Committee to further investigate establishing a format for recognizing Founding Members and possibly consecutive and current Board members, and, THAT Former Board Member, Bill Pickering and Current Member and Trustee for Kathy McKay's estate, Howard Back be invited to assist the sub-Committee, and further, THAT a formal report be presented to the Board of Directors no later than December, 2015	

Item	Discussion	Action Item
	for direction and approval.	
6. Director's Report	CARRIED Niamh O'Laoghaire, Director of the Gallery reported that summer activities went extremely well with summer camps received 94% occupancy and an approximate net revenue of \$76,000. As well, the Gallery's participation in community events included Unionville Festival, Pan Am Games, Jazz Festival, and Milliken Mills Children Festival. Exhibition Program Two major fall exhibitions, Brendan Fernandes <i>In Position</i> and Jennie Suddick <i>Of nails and rope ladders</i> will be available from September 19th and run until January 10, 2016. The works from the J.J. MacQuarrie collection have been received and staff are currently working on refreshing the <i>Through the Looking Glass</i> exhibition by including some of them in the exhibition this fall as well. Curator Anik Glaude has arranged the 2016 exhibition program, which involves the overarching exploration of products and processes of mark-making. This thematic approach will offer the Varley Gallery the opportunity to bridge the divide between the historical and contemporary aspects of the Gallery's mandate and to open dialogue between various exhibitions and the artists. Toronto based painter Sarah Cale's work is one of three consecutive exhibitions presented in public galleries from 2014-2016. Each exhibition is curated independently and features different bodies of work with critical text and documentation. The Gallery is particularly excited at the prospect of the exhibition <i>Visualizing a Culture for Strangers: Chinese Export Paintings from the Nineteenth Century</i> which it will install in Summer 2016. This exhibition, on loan from the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue. Gallery staff expect it will be of great interest to Markham's Chinese community and anticipate Foundation Board assistance in identifying individuals, businesses or organizations that could sponsor the show.	

Item	Discussion	Action Item
	Public Programs and Events Public programs at the Varley, coordinated by Cheryl Rego, comprise all non-curriculum based activities, including summer and winter art camps, adult and pre-teen art classes, and children's weekend classes. These programs also include lectures in conjunction with specific exhibitions, workshops, concerts and community meetings and have resulted in a net revenue of \$1,980 and a total of fifty-six participants. With the assistance of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation Belinda Kwan was hired as the gallery animateur for the summer of 2015 through the Canada Summer Jobs Grant program. She answered questions from the public, offered tours and provided brief explanations of the works, and worked on developing educational hand-outs as resources for the public. She tailored her tours to fit the interests and knowledge of our audiences, enhancing the educational experience of all Varley visitors. This role was extremely successful and is particularly necessary because, as a result of IBM's admissions sponsorship, the Varley now welcomes increased attendance from all walks of life and frequently those unfamiliar with contemporary art. Paul Keeling agreed to confirm whether IBM will continue this sponsorship for 2016. Education Proposal The Director reviewed the goals of the Gallery and presented a proposed request to support the Foundation in 2015, which included funds for the Collections Gallery, Education Training Program, Public Program, Program Staff Professional Development and a new LED Projector. Moved by Edie Yeomans, Seconded by Paul Keeling, THAT the Board approve the Education Proposal as presented, to be accrued as incurred, up to a maximum of \$18,000.00	Paul Keeling to confirm with IBM CARRIED

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7. Development Officer Report	Laura Parsons, Cultural Development Officer for the Foundation presented her review for July – August 2015. Garden in White The dinner party was held on July 25th, with some last minute venue changes due to weather. Seventy-five tickets were sold, and, was also generated from sponsorship, donations, silent auction, cash bar and plant sale. The Committee is looking at special ways to celebrate the fifth anniversary next year. Vintages at the Varley The Vintages at the Varley scheduled for October 7th, is as much an outreach type event as a fundraiser. The event is mounted jointly by the Gallery and the Foundation, and Board Member Santo Natale has been a prime participant. Invitations have been formally sent out to attendees for similar events. Noble Estates is providing up to 18 different vintages of Italian wine and donating staff time to serve and educate the guests about the products, and ReMax is providing the funding for the wine. It was suggested that the flyer / poster should reflect more information on the wines available. The Gallery will provide tours during the event. Santo Natale has secured the purchase of some tickets and has acquired a commitment towards the purchase of food. The Staff and volunteers working on this event will meet later in the week to determine how to escalate ticket sales to insure a profit for the Foundation and Gallery in order for the event to progress. Volunteers This is the first year that the new Volunteer Portal application Better Impact has been used to schedule volunteers, and while there are some glitches it is expected that it will be improved for 2016. The Varley Art Gallery had tremendous success for the summer camp program, with over 90% capacity and 75 volunteers to assist. In order to expand membership and assist families, it is hoped that camps can be extended to children as young as three next year.	

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	Staff are investigating ways to secure a better relationship with experienced volunteers by improving the Volunteer Portal and making it more user friendly. Past volunteers will be invited to a meeting to discuss how the Foundation can help them help us.	
8. Sub-Committee Reports	A. Art Acquisition Committee Edie Yeomans indicated that we hope to have as many as 20 of the Pudlo Pudlat works to show for our exhibit and it may be that many will be donated to the Gallery. B. Art Auction Committee Paul Keeling indicated that plans are underway to secure IBM's sponsorship of \$5,000 to the Gallery for admission and \$5,000 to the Foundation for the 2016 Art Auction. Although formal planning does not get underway until late December, Paul will work with staff to put together the sponsorship package. The tentative date for the event is May 11 or 12; the Director will follow-up with Rachel to confirm. John Ingram suggested it would be useful to have two auctioneers, and that event and lifestyle tickets should be added to the auction. C. Development Committee Sammy Lee indicated that we need to engage different ethnic communities in order to get better attendance. Funding for this is required, not just for advertising and we are still waiting for the finalization of the Foundation's Strategic Plan and its approval by the City. D. Volunteer Committee Nothing to report at this time.	
9. Financial Report	Sid Karsh presented the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2015 with December 31, 2014 for Comparison; Statement of Operations and Draft Changes in Fund Balances for the Period Ended June 30, 2015 and Year Ending December 31, 2014; and Statement of Cash Flows Year to June 30, 2015.	

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10. New Business	a) Strategic Plan No report at this time b) Request / Proposal from Gallery for Funding for Art Conservation See Directors Report <i>Education Proposal</i>.	
11. Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham will be held on Monday, October 19, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at the Gallery.	
12. Adjournment	On a motion from the Board the meeting of The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham adjourned at 6:46 p.m.	

Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham - Action Item Tracking

No.	Action Item	Meeting Date	Responsibility of Staff/Board Member	Meeting Date to be Completed By	Status
1.	Meet to establish criteria for recognizing past Board of Directors	September 8, 2014	Edie Yeomans, and Ernestine Tahedl	December 2015	See Item 5. September 14 th Meeting Notes
2.	Look at past minutes on why the scholarship was established	March 9, 2015	Laura Gold	April 13, 2015	Overdue
3.	Present a work plan with specific objectives.	March 9, 2015	Development Committee	April 13, 2015	Discussion suspended pending direction from the City
4.	Strategic Plan	June 16, 2015	Chair	Fall 2015	
5.	Admissions Sponsorship from IBM	September 14, 2015	Paul Keeling	Fall, 2015	