



Minutes
Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham
Monday, February 11, 2024
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Art Gallery

Attendance

Board of Directors Present: Jim Schmidt (Chair), Craig McOuat (Vice-Chair), Connie Leclair (Governance Chair), Councillor Reid McAlpine, Lisa Joy-Facey, and Arpita Surana

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

Regrets: Amin Giga (Treasurer), Deputy Mayor Michael Chan, Carolyn Le Quéré Emily Li, Bonnie Leung, and Nik Mracic

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham convened at 6:05 PM with Jim Schmidt presiding as Chair.	
2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests	There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.	
3. Minutes of The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham Board Meeting held on January 15, 2024	Minor edits were made to the minutes. Moved by Craig McOuat Seconded by Connie Leclair That the January 15, Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham Minutes, be approved as amended. <div>Carried</div>	
4. Business Arising from the Minutes	There was no business arising from the Minutes.	
5. Director’s Report	Niamh O’Laoghaire, Director of the Gallery, provided the Directors Report. Some of the highlight of the report include:	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulated Francesca on receiving a \$30,000 grant to support exhibitions, programs and free admission in 2024. • Deferred the 2024 Request for support from the Foundation until the Treasurer presents the 2024 Foundation's Budget. • Provided an overview of staffing updates; • Advised that the Winter Exhibitions Opening Reception for <i>Lost and Found, Subject: Landscape</i>, and <i>A butterfly flaps its wings</i> went well and that attendance at the exhibitions remains strong. • Provided an update on upcoming Gallery programs. • Provided an update on facilities. <p>The Directors discussed the possibility of reviewing the Foundation's 2024 Budget and approving the Gallery's request for support by email.</p>	
6. Development Officer	<p>Francesca Dauphinais, Cultural Development Officer, provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitting an application for an Air Canada Grant to assist with air travel for artists living in BC and Ottawa, in-kind accommodations, and other items (summer exhibition). • Submitting an application for a Canada Post Grant to help support youth education by developing partnerships in delivering creative programs. • Applied for a Hydro One Energized Communities Grant. • Clarified with the Directors that the Foundation will be hosting two events – one in the spring and one in the fall. • Potential dates in June for the fundraising event included: June 13, 14, 20, or 21. • Discussed possibly holding the event in May and the pros and cons of having the event on a long weekend, noting that some people will be away, but others are looking for something to do. • Discussed possibly having spring event as a themed open house/party where the servers and possibly patrons wear costumes, and the Gallery is decorated with the theme in mind. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted that the Foundation's 2024 Business Plan is required to submit with some of the grant applications. Advised that Gallery patrons have started making donations via the tapping stand. <p>The Chair asked the Development Officer to present a formal proposal for the spring event at the next meeting.</p> <p>Directors asked the Director of the Gallery to have her staff provide a wish list of artworks to purchase for the Gallery.</p> <p>The Directors discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City's idea of having one Foundation for all its cultural venues. The past expansion of the Gallery, and how the Foundation funded the project (The Development Officer advised she would be looking to this and report back). How the Gallery would benefit from an additional expansion, understanding that this would also increase the operating costs of the Gallery. The Gallery's revenue targets. The importance of offering free admission due to the Gallery's small size and the fact that it is not currently a destination. <p>The Chair asked that the spring and fall fundraisers be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>The Directors requested that the 2024 Business Plan be added to the next agenda.</p>	<p>Present formal proposal for spring fundraising event – Development Officer</p> <p>Add spring and fall fundraisers and the business plan to the next agenda – Laura Gold</p> <p>Add 2024 Business Plan to the next Agenda – Laura Gold</p>
7. Financial Report	There was no Financial Report presented at the meeting.	
8. Committee Reviews	<p>a. Fundraising Committee</p> <p>The 2023 fundraising event was discussed under the Development Officer Report.</p> <p>b. Art Acquisition Committee</p> <p>There was no report provided.</p> <p>c. Governance Committee</p>	

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	Connie Leclair, Chair, Governance Committee, advised that she is still waiting to receive feedback from City Staff on the draft Charter for the Foundation. The Directors suggested that she follow-up as about 6 weeks have passed.	
9. New Business	There was no new business.	
10. Future Meeting Dates	The Clerk was asked to survey the Board to determine the next meeting date as the meeting is currently scheduled to be held during March break.	
11. Adjournment	The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham adjourned at 7:40 PM.	