



AGENDA

Board of Directors Meeting #7 2019

7:00pm

Wednesday July 10th, 2019

Eric Acker, Chair

1	1 min	MOTION to Approve Agenda	All
2	1 min	MOTION to approve Minutes of previous meeting (6A and 6C June 12 th , 2019)	Eric Acker
3	1 min	Statements of Conflict of Interest	All
4		Welcome Town Staff: CAO, Doug Nadorozny and Director of Community Services, Robin McDougall	Eric Acker
5	5 min	Executive Director Report Presentation of Executive Director's Monthly Managerial Report and Q2 2019 Strategic Plan Update MOTION To receive the Executive Director report	Suzanne Haines
6	5 min	Facility Task Force Update from Task Force Chair MOTION To approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Facility Task Force To receive the Facility Task Force report	Eric Acker
7	5 min	Finance and Audit Committee Update from the Finance and Audit Committee MOTION To receive the Finance and Audit Committee report	Eric Acker
8	10 min	Agenda Management Principal Topic for next 6 meetings	Eric Acker
9		New Business	
10		Confirmation of next Meeting –August 14 th , 2019	All
11		Motion to Adjourn Meeting	All



Aurora Cultural Centre Strategic Plan Report YTD Q2 2019: January-June 2019

This report includes January – June 2019 strategies that have been initiated, as well as any achievements that have been made to date. Strategies are living ideas that may be altered over the life of the plan to achieve the desired goals. It also includes a report on how the Aurora Cultural Centre contributes to the Town’s cultural objectives in their strategies.

Goal # 1: Deliver professional performing and visual arts programming while supporting community engagement, education, and community arts practice

OBJECTIVES	2019 STRATEGIES/GOALS	Jan-Jun 2019	2018-2021 KPIs
a) Establish a recognized professional performing arts presenting program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategically increase programming in popular music, classical music, family/children’s performances, and theatre Coordinate and implement 5 Kaleidoscope in the Schools presentations in the 2019/20 school year with a goal of 2 presentations in 2019. Discovery of and implementing internal creative programming synergies for the 2019-2020 season to share themes and engage artists across galleries, live performance and educational programming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curated a season of 4 productions for grades JK-4 to be implemented in Aurora schools 2019 KITS presentations are in October and November. 14 of 16 schools have booked their KITS presentation 2018 survey results = 91.6% of patrons either extremely satisfied or satisfied with programming KITS: Relationships with YRDSB and 8 of 10 elementary schools, YCDSB and 5 of 5 elementary schools, and 1 of 1 French Catholic elementary school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the number and diversity of performing arts events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2017 = 13 events 2018 = 19 events 2019 = 20 + 4 KITS Excellent and recurring programming relationships with schools Greater than 90% customer satisfaction ratings on annual surveys
b) Deliver professional visual arts program in the four galleries where we are recognized as a professional public art gallery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop relationships with all school boards on Mayor’s Celebration for Youth Arts. Pay honorariums to every participating artist and guest curator in 2019 exhibitions Create a balanced and inclusive program (2019-20) season that includes artists from the following groups: youth, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget and contracts in place to pay honorariums to every participating artist and guest curator in 2019 exhibitions MYCOA: Relationships with YRDSB and 2 of 2 high schools, YCDSB and 2 of 2 high schools, 1 of 1 French Catholic high school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater than 90% customer satisfaction ratings on annual surveys 20% increase in participation in Ways of Seeing lecture series Two formalized curated tours per professional visual art show

	<p>diverse ethnic groups and Indigenous artists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and implement a comprehensive gallery docent program by Q3 2019 • As of April 2019 have clear, accessible didactics (labels, artist statement, support materials) in place by the launch date of each exhibition • Create and implement educational community engagement projects for 2 exhibitions in 2019 • Identify and attend 5 networking events by Q4 2019 to build brand awareness for the galleries, connect with other professionals in the arts industry and continue to build relationships with artists and connect with a minimum of 20 new artists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019-2020 programming released with a diversity of genres, age demographics and ethnic cultures represented. • New policy regarding gallery presentations implemented • Attended Curator and Professional Artist networking with professional/municipal galleries on May 15th. Connected with arts administrators and artists 	
<p>c) Be a venue for artistic education that offers unique experiences professional instructors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase registration (number of registrants and revenue) by 5-10% in 2019 over 2018 • Respond directly to the needs of current and potential registrants via the creation of a targeted survey asking specific questions about when/what types of programs they would like to see offered (Q4) • Continue to develop the relationship with the Town to offer complementary, non-competing programs that are promoted through their channels along with our own • Research March Break camps; expand PA Day program offerings and gallery-educational collaboration workshop offerings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Day programs implemented with sold out attendance • Adult classes added for June • Added Workshops with Gallery Artists • New short course with PTP artists • Growing exposure in Town of Aurora Program guide and Aurora Matters newsletter • 2018 year end survey showed 91% extremely satisfied or satisfied with educational program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater than 90% customer satisfaction rating of program on annual surveys • 80% overall enrollment in programs/demand



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with website developers to create workshop proposal form in order to reach a variety of new and different instructors/mediums that set our offerings apart from other arts organizations (Q4) 		
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GOAL 2: Increase general brand awareness of the Aurora Cultural Centre and its programming in the community.

OBJECTIVES	2019 STRATEGIES/GOALS	Jan-Jun 2019	2018-2021 KPIs
a) Build Aurora Cultural Centre brand awareness and brand recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement onsite signage solutions and external connections with community associations to increase visitors to programming. • Establish a marketing campaign including a web presence and collateral for the rentals department to promote new business and retain current users, resulting in exceeding the budgeted goal of \$50,000 for 2019. • Create marketing efficiencies to improve storytelling and develop integrated brand identity in collateral, launching by end Q2. • Cultivate local influencers: 2 child-focused, 1 visual art-focused, 1 performing art focused by end of Q4. • Research and launch direct mail strategy by Q3. • Implement e-commerce and integrated website design by Q2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Outdoor sign design completed and the sign is being built! • New e-commerce solution engaged, to be online July 24, 2019 • Team engagement with 10th anniversary overarching theme – “Welcome Home” • Engaged new marketing design company in brand refresh exercise to create new, comprehensive brand standards and protocols guidelines; results coming Q3 • Addressed upcoming building construction impacts with preliminary messaging around the fact that the Centre is not closing, and that we will be ‘taking the show on the road.’ • E.D. interview with local newspaper setting out our circumstances and position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General community survey in 2021 shows that Aurora residents are aware of the Aurora Cultural Centre and the benefits of arts and culture. (baseline established from 2017 survey in April 2018) • Track and report on unique visitors to the Centre • Increase visitors to the venue (baseline 30,000 in 2017)

<p>b) Develop a marketing plan to expand reach of Aurora Cultural Centre into underserved /new communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase media list by 10 outlets; including 5 diverse media outlets in York Region by end of Q4. • Create collateral and digital content to enable ambassador conversations with community associations and potential partners with the goal to increase our audience, by the end of Q4. • Partner with school boards to create awareness for existing and new programs • Document and report on outreach to all culturally specific community associations to invite participation • Collect demographic information on patrons to further analyze participation • Determine, attract, and track demand for more diverse and synergistic programming. • Complete a needs assessment in the community for newcomer/diversity programming, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with YDRSB and YCDSB to discuss programs • Commenced planning with new Volunteer & Visitor Services Coordinator to create Volunteer Ambassadors to help bridge offsite programming interval. • June 10 – presented to Rotary Club of Richmond Hill • July 8 – presented to Rotary Club of Aurora 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the diversity of participation from all geographic regions of the community • Measure, document and report on level of participation with school boards and youth • Report on the benefits of participation in youth programs • Completion of a needs assessment, tracking the number of patrons who attend more than one program, employing and tracking success of new marketing strategies, and reporting on success of new opportunities.
<p>c) Conduct awareness campaign for Aurora Cultural Centre Stakeholders and Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a high performance website • Focus on digital marketing strategies in Q3 & Q4 to increase audience engagement. Apply for Google Grant. Establish baseline Google Analytics metrics by end of Q2 (once website revision is completed). • Engage in increased government relations with MPs MPPs, Councilors and Mayor • Work with Town to promote success of new Cultural Precinct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website theme and media redesign complete, implemented with e-commerce • Board and Staff engaged in Town Council and Town Staff one-on-one meetings to deliver new information and build relationships on Budget 2019 and Kaleidoscope in the Schools • ED participated in design for new facility building and supporting the operating plan • ED delegated to Council to support cultural infrastructure investment (Library Square project) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth in media coverage • Increased awareness of the Aurora Cultural Centre and its programs across the Town • Increased repeat visitors

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ED participated in development of the Town of Aurora economic development strategy 	
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GOAL 3: Proactively reach out to develop and sustain long-term collaborative partnerships and relationships with our stakeholders, diverse cultural groups and agencies, and other community-based organizations.

OBJECTIVES	2019 STRATEGIES/GOALS	Jan-Jun 2019	2018-2021 KPIs
a) Develop strong and relevant partnerships for the Aurora Cultural Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define and document criteria for managing partnerships, minimizing reputational risks and ensuring positive outcomes Clearly define roles and responsibilities of partners involved in ACC relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All relationships documented once negotiated Benefits based on strategic plan and values Benefits outlined for both partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document how partnerships add value to Aurora Cultural Centre Partnerships assist in creating awareness, gaining more access to funding and/or revenue generation Measure partnership agreements to maximize ACC control of intellectual property, protect reputation and alignment with mission
b) Support building a Cultural Leadership Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Town's need for a Cultural Leadership Team that will discuss policy, collaboration, and achieving the goals of the Cultural Master Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Town has not adopted this model of communication. It is expected that this may not be achieved as it is outside ACC control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative relationship is formed Action Plan on deliverables in the Cultural Master Plan is in place and being implemented
c) Develop clear programming objectives for relationships with community arts delivery organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify criteria for involvement with the ACC Articulate opportunities for community arts providers to deliver on Town of Aurora Cultural Master Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established new programming direction working with SOYRA Clearly articulated contract with PTP for upcoming exhibition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community arts providers feel connected to the ACC Community arts providers and professional arts organizations are connected

<p>d) Be responsive to changing needs in the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a community-wide needs analysis to build relevant programs • Determine which existing communities need to be reviewed for changing demographics and program relevance • Explore new opportunities to engage new residents, new cultural groups and youth • Create an inviting atmosphere for all to participate, especially new participants based on outreach activities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community programming needs analysis completed in 2019 • New programs in place by 2021 • Stakeholder and donor survey shows a high level of satisfaction with results • ACC is rated highly accessible and welcoming in annual survey
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GOAL 4: Maintain a solid financial foundation and sufficient human capital to achieve the goals defined by our Strategic Plan.

OBJECTIVES	2019 STRATEGIES/GOALS	Jan-Jun 2019	2018-2021 KPIs
<p>a) Increase corporate partnerships/grants and sponsorships with Aurora Cultural Centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactively manage and maintain sponsors and donors. • Grow fundraising through new program delivery (KITS). • Research local and national foundations and other sources of funding to achieve all levels of government funding by securing two new sources of funding by the end of the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secured 83% of matching funding for KITS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-branding partnerships established with companies • Increase corporate sponsorship programs to meet annual organizational needs • KITS goal increases our fundraising by 34%, will diversify our access to youth aged 4-12 across Aurora, and be the first program we offer exclusively outside of the Aurora Cultural Centre venue.
<p>b) Implement individual philanthropic gift fund raising program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a donor communication plan that outlines how we thank our donors and demonstrate what their gifts are used for - to be ready by 2019-2020 Season Launch (Q3 2019) and fully implemented by January 2020. • Communicate and transfer donor data from e-tapestry to Vendini 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition to Vendini program complete. Cancelled subscription with e-tapestry April 12, 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audience database in place • Increase individual gifts to meet annual organizational needs



c) Increase government funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactively seek funding from all levels of government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal: Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts Provincial: Trillium Foundation, Ontario Arts Council Municipal: Town of Aurora 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canadian Heritage funding secured Ontario Arts Council funding secured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure federal and provincial grants related to arts and cultural programming Secure funding to adequately support annual operational needs
d) Grow operational reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget conservatively to allow windfalls to build reserve Marketing strategies to generate additional revenues through participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2018 YE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$3450 transferred to Classical Music Fund \$22,000 transferred to Contingency Reserve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational reserves in place Strategically/conservatively invest reserves for growth Financial success enables annual transfers to contingency reserves

GOAL 5: Remain a well-managed organization that is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, demonstrating best practices in transparency, accountability and collaboration to our customers, stakeholders, staff and donors.

OBJECTIVES	2019 STRATEGIES/GOALS	Jan-Jun 2019	2018-2021 KPIs
a) Continuously review progress of Strategic Plan implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cascade deliverables of Strategic Plan throughout Aurora Cultural Centre organization and link to performance management system Conduct regular updates for the Board on progress of strategic plan implementation Review of strategic plan if there is to be additional cultural infrastructure for which the Aurora Cultural Centre will be involved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q1 reported to the Board April 10, 2019 Q1 reported to the Town of Aurora June 30, 2019 Q2 reported to the Board July 10, 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic and operational plans implemented as agreed
b) Implement Organizational Development changes to best implement Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster a culture that embraces change and opportunity Develop and implement compensation system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compensation plan implemented Restructuring to be in place by May 1, 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative structure in place to support 2018-2021 Strategic Plan Volunteer program has levels of participation for varying skill levels

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement appropriate resources and planning to launch the Kaleidoscope in the Schools program in September 2019. • Review administrative structure, workloads, and infrastructure to support sustainable jobs within budgetary constraints at the end of Q4 based on new structure. Report on employee morale. • Implement H & S program and inspections to improve staff ergonomic workspaces 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic plan success and milestones documented and celebrated • Succession Plan in place for Executive Director
c) Continue visible leadership from the Board to enable successful implementation of the Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and implement a Board succession plan for key Board functions to support the Strategic Plan • Create annual goals and work plan for the Board and Committees • Implement Board Self Evaluation and take action on areas needing development • Conduct governance training as required • Recruit highly talented Committee members to support the strategic plan implementation • Conduct risk assessment • Recruit diversity in Board membership • Build Board visibility at Aurora Cultural Centre and community events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board self-evaluation in April/May 2019, results reported to the Board June 12, 2019 • Risk Assessment reviewed April 10, 2019 • Four new Directors joined the Board in June. Two additional non-Board members recruited to committees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Self-evaluation completed annually • Committees defined and in place • Board orientation and governance manual implemented and effective • By-laws and governance model mapped and published on the web • Board well governed • Risk analysis completed and monitored quarterly
d) Maintain Aurora Cultural Centre Accreditation and Transparency Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain status with Imagine Canada • Maintain excellent donor dollar ratios (80% programming expenditures to 20% finance, administration and fund raising expense) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attain reaccreditation of Imagine Canada in 2019 • Excellent fundraising/expense ratios published on CRA website • Maintain charitable status

Respectfully Submitted by
Suzanne Haines, Executive Director
Aurora Cultural Centre



Board of Directors – July 10, 2019

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S UPDATE June 2019

Live Performance Series

Date	Artist/Event	Series	Audience
June 1	Flying Hearts	Meridian Magic Carpet Series	36
June 7	John Sheard: Simon & Garfunkel	Brevik Hall Presents	SOLD OUT

Gallery & Exhibitions

In June we hosted:

We Are Still Here

Deron Ahsén:nase Douglas

May 9-August 3, 2019

Ways of Seeing educational events:

The Artist in Conversation – June 5, 6 – 7:30 pm

Alla Prima Portrait Painting Demo – July 10, 6 – 7:30 pm

PORTLAND

Jon Oelrichs

June 1 – August 24, 2019

Ways of Seeing educational events:

Artist Reception – June 22, 1-4pm

Jon Oelrichs in Conversation - July 17, 1:30-3pm

Guided Tour with Curator – August 14, 1:30pm

Educational Programs

Summer programs started July 2nd listed below. Enrollment continues until the week begins.

2019 Spring/Summer Educational Programs		
Class Name	Date Range	Current Enrollment
A, Bee, C’s of Art; Ages 4-6	Jul 2 - 5	25
A, Bee, C’s of Art; Ages 7-12	Jul 2 - 5	9
Musical Theatre	Jul 2 - 12	4

Art & I; Ages 4-6	Jul 8 - 12	16
Art & I; Ages 7-12	Jul 8 - 12	9
Art Time Travel; Ages 7-12	Jul 15 - 19	15
Animation Exploration; Ages 4-6	Jul 22 - 26	16
Animation Exploration; Ages 7-12	Jul 22 - 26	16
Globetrotting with Art; Ages 7-12	Jul 29 - Aug 2	7
Act It Out! Ages 6-10	Jul 22 - 26	4
Art Experiments; Ages 4-6	Aug 6 - 9	8
Art Experiments; Ages 7-12	Aug 6 - 9	14
Outer Space & Art Exploration; Ages 4-6	Aug 12 - 16	14
Act It Out! Ages 6-10	Aug 12 - 23	2
Outer Space & Art Exploration; Ages 7-12	Aug 12 - 16	12
Colour Around Us Ages 4-6	Aug 19 - 23	8

Kaleidoscope in the Schools

The following additional performance has been booked to complement the three already programmed (others listed in June report).

Puzzle Théâtre (October)

Puppet & Object Theatre Performance

Available in English or French

Touring Dates: October 22 – 25, 2019

We now have confirmation of participation from 14 out of the 16 Aurora elementary schools

YCDSB (5/5)

Holy Spirit CES

Light of Christ CES

Our Lady of Grace CES

St. Jerome CES

St. Joseph CES - Confirmed participation, awaiting date selection

YRDSB (8/10)

Aurora Heights PS

Devins Drive PS

Hartman PS

Highview PS -Confirmed participation, awaiting date selection

Lester B. Pearson PS

Northern Lights PS

Regency Acres PS

Wellington PS -Confirmed participation, awaiting date selection

We have not received any response from Rick Hansen PS., and Aurora Grove PS has opted to not participate at this time. We are hopeful that when we circle back in September they may choose to participate.

CSC Mon Avenir (French-Catholic) (1/1)
EEC Saint-Jean

We were also in touch with Viamonde, the French-Public Board and their Aurora school Académie de la Moraine. There was a string of emails to approve the program at their Board level. Once approved, we were able to connect with their Principal, who informed us that they are moving to Oak Ridges in September and thus are not eligible to participate in the program as we are limiting the access to Aurora schools in our inaugural year.

Rental Program

The following rental clients joined us in June:

Aurora Community Band	Brevik	June Rehearsal Schedule	Two Sunday evening rehearsals
Irina Poljakova	Brevik w/ piano	Tuesday, June 4	Piano recital for students
Sheila Vandikas	Brevik w/ piano	Sunday, June 9	Piano recital for students
Aurora High School	Brevik w/ piano	Tues, June 11 and Thurs, June 13	Performance exam grading.
SOYRA	Brevik & LR	June Schedule	One Exec Mtg in LR; General Mtg
Katalin Frohlinger	Brevik w/ piano	Saturday, June 15	Piano recital. New rental booking
AIDS Committee of YR	Brevik w / AV	Wednesday, June 26	AGM
York Region Corporate Services	Brevik w/ AV	Friday, June 14	Staff training
Judith Thompson-Bouchard	Brevik w/ piano	Wednesday, June 19	Piano recital for students
Christine Harrison	Brevik w/ piano	Monday, June 24	Piano recital for students
Valeriu Kytzak	Brevik w/ piano	Thursday, June 20	Piano recital. New rental booking
CHATS	Brevik w/ AV	Thursday, June 27	AGM

Administration

- Project to transition to the Town IT infrastructure is scheduled to occur July 19-22 with new hardware, transition of files into a folder structure, and Town wifi. The Director's site will stay on Google Sites.

Human Resources

- We hosted a staff social breakfast on June 28.

Facilities

- Temporary outdoor sign: The sign has been built and is being painted. It will be installed when completed.
- Library Square
 - Construction impact update: I will be working with Phil Rose-Donahue on finding a suitable location(s) for our programming during construction. Phil starts on July 15th, 2019
 - Carol Sharp and I attended two sessions on June 18th and 21st (1/5 hours each) with Town IT, Operations, Museum and Communications staff for IT/Electrical connections and security on the new Library Square building and 22 Church Street
 - I attended a 3 hour meeting on July 4th with the Theatre Consultants and lead architect to review the fit up for Library Square and 22 Church Street.
 - I will attend a move management meeting on July 8th from 1pm-4pm with Colliers (project management firm)

Board Activities

- Board discussion following Library Square Open House – June 26
- Finance and Audit Committee Meeting – June 27
- Facility Task Force – June 27
- Onboarding orientation and tour for four new Board members – July 2, 9

Community Connections/Artistic Events

- Rotary Club of Richmond Hill – June 10
- Library Square Open House – June 26
- Rotary Club of Aurora – July 8

Respectfully Submitted by
Suzanne Haines, Executive Director

Aurora Cultural Centre

Kaleidoscope in the Schools

2019-20



aurora
cultural
centre

The Program: Kaleidoscope in the Schools

As a presenter of professional children's theatrical, music, and movement pieces, the Aurora Cultural Centre is looking to move beyond our four walls, get out into the community, and bring these presentations into local Aurora elementary schools. This new initiative, known as Kaleidoscope in the Schools, offers a curated season of four (4) live performing arts productions throughout the year for schools to choose from. The Aurora Cultural Centre's goal is to reach every child in JK to grade 4 once each year to introduce the arts delivered by professional artists, to open doors to creativity and tolerance in thinking, and to create lasting positive memories of arts experiences. We want the arts to become a normal part of growing up in our community. Each school will have one morning production and an afternoon interactive arts activity with a smaller group, likely a single class, to deepen the interaction with the theme, artistic idea or discipline. We will also offer preparatory workshops for administrators and educators to help them deepen the impact of the artistic activity whether they are just watching the production or participating in the post-show breakout session. After the event, we will encourage feedback from educators, students and parents about the experience. By working with the York Region school boards, we will ensure that each production meets specific curriculum goals.

Bringing these productions to the schools serves a number of outcomes:

- 1) It allows children of all economic backgrounds and cultures to have equitable access to the arts regardless of their home environment/situation;
- 2) Children with exceptionalities including accessibility needs, behavior challenges, and learning disabilities can attend the performances from the comfort of their school environment;
- 3) We mitigate the challenges of offsite activities for many schools where bus costs and logistics become major barriers;
- 4) We will reach a larger audience of children than can currently fit in our Brevik Hall performance space at the Centre; and
- 5) It allows the Aurora Cultural Centre to break out of our four walls and have a deeper impact in the community.

Elementary schools and teachers are constantly seeking out innovative and exciting methods of meeting curriculum goals. Funding cuts to arts programs in schools means there is a void to be filled by external organizations. The Aurora Cultural Centre feels a strong responsibility that arts experiences should be available to all children regardless of their background as these experiences have the ability to shape their values and open them up to new ideas, cultures and make them more compassionate as they grow to be the next generation of leaders.

Teachers and principals can rely on the quality of programming and will be able to choose the performance that best matches their needs. As the Aurora Cultural Centre has established relationships with renowned professional artists, the local schools will be able to rely on our expertise in choosing and coordinating with performers and providers of arts programming. Each year will feature different performance options so that the lessons learned are not repetitive. The performances will be multi-arts based so that students are exposed to many genres. Francophone productions will also be available.

One goal of the Aurora Cultural Centre's *Inspire, Engage & Transform 2018-2021* strategic plan is to deliver professional performing and visual arts programming while supporting community engagement, education, and community arts practice. The Kaleidoscope in the Schools initiative will allow us to develop a stronger partnership with the local elementary schools and engage with students in a new way. Currently, our annual gallery exhibition entitled Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts allows us to connect with students in local high schools, but we do not actively reach elementary aged children aside from our Kaleidoscope Family Performing Arts Series which takes place at the Aurora Cultural Centre's 150 seat Brevik Hall. Arts programs in schools help teach children to express themselves, to take risks, and to learn about other cultural traditions. Kaleidoscope in the Schools programming will foster a connection to arts that is needed within our local schools.

Examples of how the programming is tied to education curriculum

Curriculum connections:

- Language arts, storytelling, oral communication, mythology, folk tales, reading, animals and habitats, care for the environment, First Nations studies, dance, drama, choreography and movement, music

Character Building connections:

- Respect, kindness & caring, teamwork, cooperation, fairness

General Themes:

- Conflict/conflict resolution, survival, emotions/feelings, communication/language barriers

Measures of Success

The program will be measured by:

- Initial interest and subscription to bring the program to the school
- Success in the presentations with the students; measured by a) how engaged the students are during the presentation, b) how lively the Q & A is, c) what the ongoing impacts are measured through teacher/administrator feedback
- Repeat adoption of the programming (JK-4) in each school
- The number of teachers who use the study guides in the classroom before and after the event, measured by clickable downloads from our website and teacher feedback
- Success from the School Board's perspective which will be a documented feedback session with principal administrators within the Board
- The ability to find partners to deliver the program in full, measured through our success in fundraising

Discussions surrounding improvement and re-evaluation will be facilitated with participants, administrators and our donors as well to ensure continued financial support.

Aurora Cultural Centre: Community Impact

The Aurora Cultural Centre is a gathering space for creative energy and expression. We believe the arts have the power to engage, inspire, and transform each and every person who experiences it. The arts spark creative thought, transforms perception, and provides a catalyst for conversation. It engages the mind and body, awakens the senses, and calms the spirit.

As the Centre continues to promote the arts through events and programming, we look to align ourselves with businesses and individuals seeking similar goals. We believe the arts make our community a better place to live. We believe downtown Aurora is a cultural destination for the community and beyond.

We look forward to starting this journey with you.

Plastique (en français)

Plastique (in English)

Puzzle Théâtre

Puppet & Object Theatre Performance

Available in English or French

Touring Dates: October 22 – 25, 2019

What is more surprising than a plastic bag world where funny and colorful creatures are born and transform themselves as much as they like!



They fill themselves, they empty themselves again, they fly, they eat each other, they are bored...they exist. Step by step, as their personalities emerge, they reveal their nature. They are primitive, naive and fun – and perhaps they resemble us just a little bit.

Remaining faithful to its artistic approach, Puzzle Théâtre offers a multicolored performance with unusual puppets, humor and unexpected situations.

A timely and topical discussion that is particularly embraced by youth, Plastic/Plastique allows for a dialogue on conservation and the environment through a creative, arts-based lens.

Puzzle Théâtre was founded in Bulgaria in 1996, then moved across the Atlantic to its new home base in Montreal in 2004. The two-person artistic team of Pavla Mano and Csaba Raduly bring a unique theatrical approach to object and puppetry theatre, exploring the relationship between the actor and the puppet, and encouraging the audience to engage in a rich and imaginative process that invites questions, curiosity and wonder. Puzzle Théâtre has toured extensively across Canada and around the world, including the Chicago International Puppet Festival, Shanghai Int'l Children's Art Theatre, Int'l Puppet Festival in Czech Republic, and the Festival of Silliness in Yellowknife.

Curriculum Connections

- Environment, ecology
- Drama/movement
- Civic engagement

Afternoon Workshop

- Making Puppets: Paval & Csaba will lead a small group in the creation of puppets using bags and other recyclables, using other scraps to decorate the puppet. For older end of the cohort, create a story with the puppets.
- Workshops can be adapted for grades JK – 4.

Video: www.vimeo.com/1148171434

Yamo! Yamo! Greetings from West Africa! / Yamo! Yamo! Une aventure culturelle en Côte d'Ivoire

Fana Soro

Music & Dance Performance

Available in English or French, or as a bilingual performance

Touring Dates: November 19 – 22, 2019

“Yamo! Yamo!” (“Hello! How are you doing!” in *Baoulé*) from the charismatic ambassador of West African culture! In this dynamic and interactive performance, Fana Soro, a hereditary master musician of the Senoufo people, shares the musical traditions of his home country to showcase the soaring melodies, driving rhythms and spirited dances of ancient West African performing arts. A spirited and interactive performance, Yamo! Yamo! involves call-and-response and audience participation.



Fana SORO is a musician, dancer and educator from the Ivory Coast, where he was a member of the prestigious Ballet National de Côte d'Ivoire. He is the creative director of the performance group Masabo in Vancouver. Since 1997, Fana has been a cultural ambassador for West Africa, bringing his vast experience of engaging students to over a hundred Canadian schools every year. Fana Soro lives with his family in Ottawa.

Curriculum Connections

- Music, dance and percussion instruments of West Africa
- French cultures around the world

Afternoon Workshop

- Fana Soro's workshop in West African Music & Dance offers a flexible structure which can be tailored to school needs (all dance, all music, or a combination of the two to give the students a taste of everything.) As a master percussionist, Fana will introduce traditional playing techniques of the *djembé*, West Africa's most popular drum, as well as other hand-held percussion instruments. Fana will share call and response in various languages native to northern Ivory Coast.
- Workshops can be adapted for grades JK – 4.

From Handel to Hip Hop

Infinitus

Beatboxing String Trio

Touring Dates: February 4 – 7, 2020

Vancouver-based beat-boxing string trio features a repertoire ranging from classical standards to original jazz/hip-hop arrangements. An original performance that focuses on the differences between listening and hearing skills to illustrate various elements of classical music.

This dynamic trio engages every audience member with music ranging from familiar classics to classic rock, and from TV theme songs to hip-hop beatboxing. Drawing on their vast repertoire, the group tailors each performance to the age range of their audience while engaging students with their easygoing stage presence.



Infinitus was formed in 2008 by violist Anthony Cheung, cellist Alex Cheung, and violinist John “Adidam” Littlejohn. Collectively, the members hold degrees from the University of Michigan and the Peabody Conservatory and have won awards at the local, national, and international level. They have performed extensively throughout North America presenting community performances, soloing with orchestras, and conducting masterclasses, workshops, and seminars. The trio has captivated over 900 schools throughout Canada and the United States with their polished, upbeat introduction to instrumental music.

Curriculum Connections

- Music, Music Appreciation, Feelings

Afternoon Workshop

- Infinitus offers a variety of workshops tailored to the needs around each school community. Designed to enhance students’ skills and abilities as young musicians, programs can be adapted around performance, composition or collaboration. Workshops are ideally suited for grades 3 & 4.

The Incredible Adventures of Mary Jane Mosquito

Carousel Players

Theatre Performance

Touring Dates: April 6 – 9, 2020

In this story of a misfit searching for her place in the world, Mary Jane is a mosquito who doesn't have wings. At home in Petit Petit Le Paw she is teased by the other mosquitos, who won't be friends with her. She is sent off to school, and then to live with her auntie in the city, as she searches for a place where she can fit in and make friends. After many adventures, Mary Jane learns to make friends sharing her language, her kind heart, and her songs with the world.



This musical show explores themes of feeling like an outsider, dealing with bullying, moving to a new place, and feeling different from what is considered normal. As Mary Jane tells her tale through song and story, Tomson Highway has woven in Cree words and phrases that are taught to the audience through playful interaction. With live music throughout, and supported with puppetry and fanciful costumes, this is an engaging piece for younger audiences.

About the Playwright Tomson Highway, award-winning playwright and the author, was born in a tent near Maria Lake, Manitoba in 1951. A member of the Cree Nation, he is a registered member of the Barren Lands First Nation, the village for which is called Brochet. He grew up in the spectacularly beautiful natural landscape that is Canada's sub-Arctic, an un-peopled region of hundreds of lakes, endless forests of spruce and pine, and great herds of caribou. His parents, with no access to books, TV or radio, would tell their children stories, and Tomson fell in love with the oral tradition of storytelling. Internationally recognized and beloved for his play *The Rez Sisters*, Tomson Highway was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 1994.

Carousel Players is an award-winning professional theatre company for young audiences based in the Niagara. Guided by their mandate: "We believe live theatre develops artistic awareness, learning skills and a sense of well-being in children," their work is committed to ensuring that young people engage with theatre, and how it transfers into their everyday lives

Curriculum Connections

- First Nations languages, visual arts, storytelling,

Afternoon Workshop

- Carousel Players, together with their Play Links arts facilitator, offer adaptable school workshops around the themes of Indigenous languages, visual arts and social studies.
- Workshops can be adapted for grades JK – 4.