



Board of Directors – March 2020

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE January/February 2020

Live Performance Series

Date	Artist/Event	Series
January 24 th	John Sheard Presents The Beatles Songbook	Brevik Hall Presents
February 8 th	Infinitus From Handel to Hip-Hop	Kaleidoscope Family Series
February 21 st	Janina Fialkowska, piano	GAMS

Gallery & Exhibitions

In January and February we hosted:

*Society of York Region Artists Curious Minds November 29th
– January 25th 2020*

Members of the Society of York Region Artists explore curiosity on many levels – whether it is being curious about colour and colour combinations, new forms of artwork, or being curious about capturing the beauty of ordinary moments.

*Mayor's Celebration of Youth Artists 2020
February 1-29th, 2020*

In its 9th year, the Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts (MCOYA) 2020 featured a student art exhibition in the galleries throughout the month of February, as well as a performing arts show, both showcasing talented creative senior students from Aurora High School, Maximilian Kolbe CHS and, participating for the first time, Renaissance Catholic High School and Saint Andrew's College. The group exhibition ran from Feb 1 – 29 and showcased 120 artworks done by 50 grade 12 students from three eligible high schools. This was the second year that the Centre was able to host the MCOYA Performing Arts Evening, in Brevik Hall on Wednesday February 19. This variety music night gave students the opportunity to perform their songs on stage in a professional setting. Geranium Homes has joined us for a third year to help us support these young artists as our corporate sponsor.

New Gallery Initiative

Specialized High Skills Major (SHSM) Workshop

On January 18, a group of grade 12 art students participated in a morning workshop presented by the Gallery Team. The workshop focused on the role of an art curator and counted as the *Curatorial Technique Elective Credit*, which is one of the three elective credits needed to complete a SHSM Certification. This Ministry of Education approved and funded certification is an optional, specialized program that allows grade 11/12 students to gain additional accreditation toward their high school diploma with a focus on a specific economic sector. The workshop

covered topics including: who a curator is and what they do, how to work with artists and plan gallery shows, gallery outreach and communication, and curatorial decision making. The topics were brought to life by three hands-on activities where the students were able to design their own theoretical art show. The student were engaged and adept at explaining their decision making. The workshop was very successful and we hope to repeat this service each semester for SHSM students.

Educational Programs

Winter classes continue through to March 16, 2020. The spring session begins March 28, 2020 and registrations are open for spring and summer programming.

Winter Classes

Classes for Children/Teens

- A Journey through Art & Time with Danielle Zafirovski (B.F.A., E.Ed.)
- Around the World with Art with Danielle Zafirovski (B.F.A., B.Ed.)
- Famous Artists & Their Styles with Danielle Zafirovski (B.F.A., B.Ed.)
- PA Day Programs with Elaine Smith (B.A., B.Ed.)

Classes for Adults (16+)

- Drawing & Sketching with Khatcho Yazedjian
- Wood Carving with Marlene Ash
- Ukulele for Beginners with Anthony Clayton (B.A. Hons., B.Ed., Orff)
- Beginning Guitar with Anthony Clayton (B.A. Hons., B.Ed., Orff)
- Start Painting Now with Acrylics! With Helen Walter (B.A.A.)
- Expand Your Horizons in Acrylics Level 2 with Helen Walter (B.A.A.)
- Watercolours: Basics & Beyond with Kathryn Christensen (B.F.A.)
- Exploring Watercolours with Nancy Newman (B.A.) (Intermediate/Advanced)
- Open Studio

Kaleidoscope in the Schools Update

Despite strike action, we successfully offered four performances and four workshops of *From Handel to Hip Hop* by Vancouver-based beatboxing string trio Infinitus from February 5-7, 2020 in the following schools:

- Highview PS
- Light of Christ CES
- Holy Spirit CES
- St. Jerome CES

Mayor Mrakas attended a performance at Light of Christ CES on February 5.

Performances provided to 825 students

Workshops provided to 124 students

Total children and teachers impacted to date: 2946

Rental Program

The following rental clients joined us in January/February:

Town of Aurora	Ontario Ministry of Finance
Family Services of York Region	SOYRA
Keller Williams	Aurora Historical Society

Paskke Quartet	York Region Nursing
Keller Williams	

Administration

- Submitted grants to federal and provincial student employment programs for summer camps including Young Canada Works, Canada Summer Jobs, and Summer Experience Program. We are applying for four students.
- We presented information about the Aurora Cultural Centre and KITS to the Aurora Lions Club on February 4, 2020
- We hosted the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Women of Influence luncheon on February 11th in Red Gallery. We invited our Museum colleagues to join us and hosted lunch for all from Romys.
- Met with our Lawyer to gain advice on our agreements and insurance needs during our temporary relocation.
- Updated Cultural Spaces grant for the Town to re-submit for Library Square.
- Audit preparation and onsite field work Feb 26, 27 and March 4, 5th.
- Meetings with donors and sponsors took place throughout February and continue in March.
- Please refer to the attached YTD analysis of e-commerce from when it was launched in July 2019 to date. We can see that in-person interactions are flat lining where online sales continue to grow. This leaves more time for staff to focus on other areas of their role (i.e. volunteer program)

Human Resources

- We completed an ergonomic information session and individualized assessments for all full time staff workstations. A report was developed and shared with our Town partners to see if there was any surplus ergonomic equipment we could use immediately and upon our installation at Town Hall. We are waiting to hear from Town staff and will purchase remaining equipment.

Facilities

- The move logistics are being organized by the Administrative and Operational Services Manager with Town Facility staff. To date, we have confirmation that:
 - The Gallery program will install on the 2nd floor of Town Hall on May 4th, with the opening on May 9th
 - The administrative offices, education program and technical equipment will be moving the week of May 25, 2020
 - Bell Telephone services will be taken with us, both telephone units and service
 - We are able to sign contracts with venues for offsite programming – starting June for concerts
 - We will be taking our current desks where there is furniture and using Town furniture for those who do are using millwork and not on proper desks.
 - All items need to be removed from the building, coordination with technical, facility and office staff to coordinate the move.
 - We can produce at the Aurora Armoury with production elements being brought in by our technical staff

Board Activities

Board Finance & Audit Committee Meeting: February 12, 25

Board Fund Development Committee Meeting: January 20, March 4

Board Outreach Committee Meeting: March 5

Community Connections/Artistic Events

- Attended Mayor's Address at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce
- Met with ED Aurora Chamber of Commerce about communication on our temporary relocation
- Town Council General Committee meeting on Governance for 22 Church Street plus addition on March 3, 2020
- Attended performances:
 - Jungle Book by YPT at Young People's Theatre
 - Dance Me by Ballet Jazz de Montreal, Mississauga Living Arts Centre
 - AF by Red Sky Performance at Canadian Stage, Berkley Street Theatre
 - Angels' Atlas at National Ballet of Canada, Four Seasons Performance Arts Centre

Respectfully Submitted by

Suzanne Haines, Executive Director

Year-to-date E-commerce Report

July 2019 - March 8 2020

