

**Board of Directors Public Meeting #3 2020
Meeting Minutes
6:30 pm**

In Attendance: Eric Acker (President), Laura Hostick (Treasurer), Sharon Kelly (Secretary), Cllr Wendy Gaertner, Nicole Asquith, Nitin Bagga, Damien Chan, Christina Kerr, Amy Lane, Chris Mercer, Parisa Sabat

Regrets: Cllr John Gallo

Staff: Suzanne Haines

Wednesday September 9, 2020

Eric Acker, (Chair)

<p>1 (1 min)</p>	<p>Agenda MOTION to Approve the Agenda</p> <p>MOVED by: Nitin Bagga 2nd: Amy Lane CARRIED</p>	<p>Eric Acker</p>
<p>2 (15 min)</p>	<p>Executive Director Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q2 Commentary <p>MOTION to Approve the Managerial Commentary for Q2 2020, AND that Q2 Commentary be sent to Town of Aurora, AND that Q2 Commentary be made available for the Public.</p> <p>MOVED by: Nicole Asquith 2nd: Laura Hostick CARRIED</p>	<p>Suzanne Haines</p>
<p>3 (15 min)</p>	<p>Finance & Audit Committee Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q2 Interim Financial Statements <p>MOTION to Approve the unaudited Interim Financial Statements for the months ended at June 30, 2020 (the Q2 Report) AND to approve the filing of the Q2 Report with the Town of Aurora as per the Provision of Cultural Services Agreement.</p> <p>MOVED by: Nitin Bagga 2nd: Parisa Sabat CARRIED</p>	<p>Laura Hostick</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>New Business – NONE</p>	<p>ALL</p>

5	Confirmation of next Public Meeting December 9th at 6:30pm meeting	ALL
6	MOTION to Adjourn Public Meeting MOVED by: Damien Chan 2 nd : Wendy Gaertner CARRIED	ALL



Board of Directors – October 2020

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE September 2020

Live Events Programming

Tribal Vision Dance

September 26 @ 3:00 pm

Headlined by Naomi and Derek Martin from Six Nations of the Grand River, along with 3 drummers, this incredible live singing, dancing and drumming presentation was presented in contemporary Powwow and traditional Haudenosaunee styles. Patrons discovered beautiful regalia, heard stories of how this music and dance evolved, and we hope gained a new understanding and cultural appreciation for this rich history.

Tribal Vision Dance has shared their culture through songs and dances throughout the world, touring Canada, Germany, Austria, Norway and Turkey. They have performed alongside Nelly Furtado, participated in the Olympic Torch Relay, and at the Pan Am Games.

Families were greeted and brought to their own physically-distanced circle in the Aurora Bandshell. Families sat on blankets in these specified areas, or in their own lawn chairs. Patrons were seated within their social bubbles, and those with chairs were seated behind groups seated on blankets for ease of viewing.

The event went very smoothly with a previously sold out show of 100 and a waitlist. There were some last minute adjustments to attendance and some of the waitlist people could be accommodated. In the end 72 patrons attended and there were 18 volunteers and staff supporting the event for a total attendance of 90 patrons. The list of all that were in attendance is kept for 30 days for YR contact tracing should a patron or someone in the support team become ill with COVID over the 14 days following the event.

Royal Wood Live In-Concert

October 3 @ 6:30 pm

Acclaimed Canadian singer/songwriter/multi-instrumentalist ushered the Centre's safe return to live performance in a duo presentation along with upright bassist Steve Zsirai. Since being proclaimed "Songwriter of the Year" by iTunes, Royal Wood has toured with Bonnie Raitt, received multiple JUNO Award and Canadian Folk Music Award nominations. Inspired by both loss and love; the songs on his latest record are an ode to the classic styles of Tin Pan Alley and Laurel Canyon.

A live, small audience enjoyed the beautifully-renovated Aurora Armoury with a dinner and concert. We set up a safe, physically-distanced dining area for the concert experience with

people sitting in their own social bubble. The pre-show dinner and post-show dessert and coffee was prepared and served by the Canadian Food and Wine Institute at the Aurora Armoury followed by a 75 minute set of Royal's music in a duo performance.

Due to the Executive Director and my guests being unable to attend at the last moment, the final numbers were:

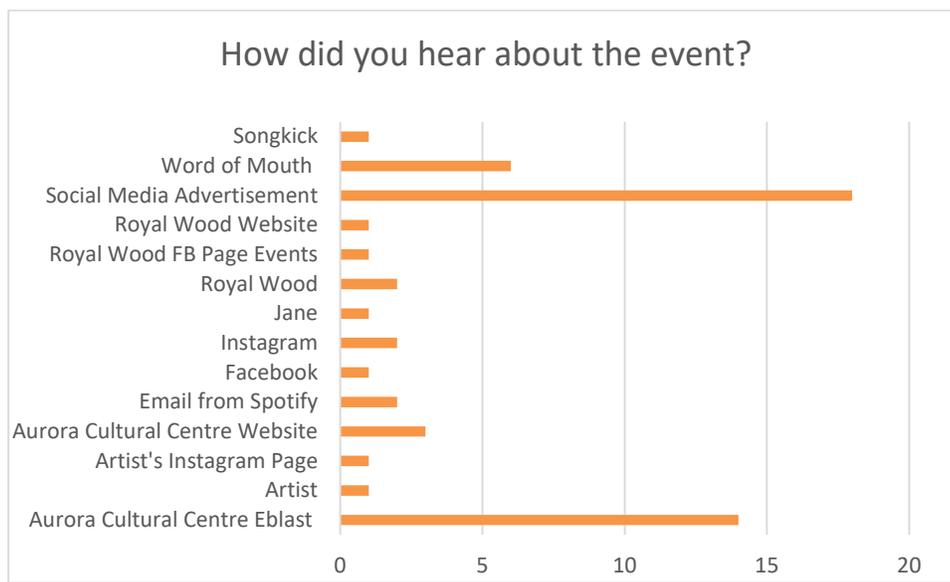
- 52 out of 57 in attendance
- 34 of 38 guests
- 18 of 19 support

The event was also live streamed. Patrons enjoyed a professionally-produced live stream performance with their household from the comfort of their living room. The final production was a dynamic digital experience, with multiple cameras and professional sound beamed through a password-protected concert link sent to patrons the day of the show with no exterior account logins required.

There were 60 live stream 'tickets' purchased with viewers from the following areas.

Outside ON	20%
Ontario	80%
Aurora	30%
Other	70%

Patrons answer a marketing questions of 'How did you hear about the event?' for every ticket purchase. Below are the results of this query for Royal Wood live streaming ticket purchase.



Special Events

Cultural Days

The Centre helped launch Culture Days in Aurora. In August, staff made a request of the Clerk's office to have the Mayor proclaim a month long Culture Days from September 25 - October 25

in Aurora. We launched with our presentation of Tribal Vision Dance, an incredible talent to spark interest and inspire understanding in our community. As an organization that was formed the same year as Culture Days, it is fitting that the 10th anniversary brings new collaborations. Launched 10 years ago on the coat tails of Journee de la culture in Quebec that had been in place for decades, the idea of Culture Days has always been to democratize the arts with free grass roots initiatives that support understanding of how artistic craft is built to enable deeper connection with the outcomes on stage, page, and on the walls. This journey continues as more municipalities embrace the cultural conversation as a means to support truly livable communities. Below are the other initiatives we host and/or are involved in during Culture Days.

Culture in a Box

In partnership with the Town of Aurora, we created three activities to add to the Culture in a Box initiative. Residents could register for this free box of arts and culture activities on the Town website and cultural partners came together to fill the box. The Centre's activities included:

- Van Gogh Sunflowers: Supplies included with this activity were canvas board, palette, three paintbrushes, model magic and six acrylic paint colours.
- Plasticine Penguin: Supplies included with this activity were three pre-portioned colours of plasticine.
- Storytelling through Seniors: This is an activity in partnership with the New Horizons for Seniors federal grant. Supplies included with this activity were a local Aurora senior resident's personal story and five oil pastels and mix media paper.

The following two activities were created for as an engagement piece for flight² in partnership with Cultural Days.

Name That Butterfly Quiz!

Test your knowledge of Canadian Butterflies with this fun 10 question multiple choice online butterfly identification quiz! Learn more about these beautiful local creatures with fun bug facts accompanying all 10 butterflies. The quiz goes live on Oct 12, 2020 on the Aurora Cultural Centre website at auroraculturalcentre.ca. Each question features a drawing from the Aurora Cultural Centre's flight² exhibition, which presents over 20 lifelike butterfly drawings by King City-based artist Grazyna Tonkiel, along with 5 life-sized wooden dancer sculptures by internationally recognized sculptor Gordon Becker. This quiz is an engaging accompaniment to the exhibition which opens Saturday, October 17, 2020 virtually on our website auroraculturalcentre.ca. The show runs from October 17, 2020 to January 23rd, 2021. The quiz is appropriate for all ages, fun for the whole family!

Easy Kids Craft Butterfly Painting Demo Video

Come paint along with our Gallery Assistant Christina DiPaola as she walks you through creating fun folded butterfly paintings step by step! This super easy craft is perfect for preschool and primary students, but is fun for all ages. These butterfly symmetry paintings come to life by adding blobs of paint to one side of a paper, folding the other half over, rubbing it with your hands, opening up the page to reveal a funky symmetrical painting, and cutting it out to turn it into a beautiful butterfly! Materials Needed: Paper Paint Paint brushes Paint containers Scissors. This is the perfect craft to accompany our art exhibition flight² which includes over 20 butterfly drawings by local artist Grazyna Tonkiel. The demonstration video was published on

October 8, 2020.

Gallery program

The gallery program moved online June 15th with a number of

BEYOND THE WALLS: The Uxbridge Artist Collective Online Exhibition and Sale

Monday, June 15 to Saturday, September 26, 2020

A new collection of contemporary work by 18 award-winning artists working in a variety of materials and styles, the Uxbridge Artist Collective includes sculptors, painters, ceramic artists, mixed-media artists, printmakers, photographers and textile artists. For the first time – and due to these extraordinary times – the Aurora Cultural Centre will feature this collection on our website, with accompanying artist videos and talks.

Art Bytes was an online series that features conversations, videos and art demos with the artists from BEYOND THE WALLS: The Uxbridge Artist Collective Online Exhibition and Sale. Art Bytes are posted on our [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#). The full list of Art Bytes was in the September ED report to the Board. The final one is listed below as it took place in September.

Date	Artists	Art Bytes Title and Link
September 3	John Pryce & Shelly Burke	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXeMNfdgrwo John Pryce & Shelly Burke in Conversation

Flight²

Oct 17, 2020 to Jan 23, 2021

An exhibition of drawings by Grazyna Tonkiel and sculpture by Gordon Becker
Curated by Clare Bolton

King artist Grazyna Tonkiel has been celebrating butterflies or the “mystic creatures” as she refers to them with vibrant art pencil and gold leaf drawings for more than two decades. Gordon Becker’s life in art began in earnest when at the age of 11 he was captivated by a film of an Inuit carver creating an image full of magic and power from a raw lump of stone. He decided right then to become a carver.

Together flight² will showcase the exceptional butterfly drawings and wood carvings of these award winning artists. This is an extraordinary, not to be missed, exhibition that is perfect for the whole family. Visit AuroraCulturalCentre.ca to view the exhibition online.

Enjoy a virtual tour through the exhibition and enhance the gallery experience with our Art Bytes series. The website will contain the Art Bytes schedule at launch. We will have one behind the scenes video, one In Conversation with each artist and one conversation with the artists together. We also have two interactive family activities related to the exhibition launched for Culture Days: a craft demo video and a Name that Butterfly quiz distributed via survey Monkey.

Location: Artwork installed at the Aurora Town Hall – 2nd Floor, and available for viewing online. Town staff have been informed of the installation and their ability to come and enjoy it in

person during their workday. We will be unable to track or support their participation. In person closing reception Jan 2021 pending Town approval.

Education Program

Fall Classes

Fall classes resumed this September. Most of our core roster of instructors have returned excitedly to their teaching roles. We are offering 19 programs this season, 14 adult programs and 5 children's programs. We cancelled two programs due to low enrollment, however many other programs which begin later in the season are well-registered so far. The Town of Aurora's Program Guide was delivered to residents on September 24, over two months later than its usual delivery date. The Auroran promoted the return to in-person programming with an article on upcoming classes and events. Fall classes were deliberately scheduled to begin later than they normally would due to uncertainty with COVID-19 protocols after schools reopened. Most classes begin early November and are 5 weeks instead of the original length 8 weeks. Fewer sessions responds to concerns that committing to a lengthy program may be difficult and perhaps nerve-wracking for the community at this time.

A comprehensive list of new COVID-19 protocols were developed and vetted by York Region Public Health for educational indoor programs. Classes were originally slated to take place in our Program Room at Town Hall, however due to Town Hall closures caused by COVID-19 alternate venues were required. The core classes are taking place at the CFWI-Aurora Armoury and select workshops will take place at the Aurora Seniors Centre. Class sizes have been reduced to maximum 9 at the Armoury and maximum 6 at the Seniors Centre to allow for ample physical distancing. For reference, maximum class sizes are normally between 10-16 students.

Registration as of September 30:

Class	Current Registration	Maximum Registration	
Start Painting Now with Acrylics	7	9	
Photography	1	9	cancelled
Expand Your Horizons in Acrylics Level 2	1	9	cancelled
Fall Paint-Along	7	9	
Jewellery Making	4	6	
Magnificent Florals	4	6	
Around the World with Art (Ages 4-6)	3	9	
Famous Artists & Their Styles (Ages 7-10)	6	9	
A Journey Through Art & Time (Ages 11-15)	9	9	waitlist
Wood Carving	2	9	
You Can Uke It	3	9	
Ukulele for Beginners	2	9	
Beginning Guitar	2	9	
Exploring Watercolours	5	9	
Drawing & Sketching	0	9	
Watercolours: Basics & Beyond	0	9	
PA Day	2	9	
Holiday Card Making	6	6	waitlist
Make Your Own Stained Glass Holiday Ornament	5	6	

Kaleidoscope in the Schools (KITS)

Conversations have begun with the school boards surrounding potential professional development (PD) delivery models for the 2020/21 year. Discussions began in September with arts facilitator Marjie Chud to create PD workshops for teachers, and also the possibility of creating study guides for particular shows. Copy and design for a comprehensive KITS landing page on our website also began in September for the general public, potential donors/sponsors, as well as a separate page for educators to access performance/workshop information and rank their show selections. Lastly, work with Kelly Hill of Hill Strategies was completed to provide an initial report of survey results. Low response rate due to COVID-19 means that Hill Strategies will do another survey at the end of the 2020/21 school year where there will hopefully be a higher response rate from which to gather statistically relevant results.

Administration

- We continue to calculate eligibility and receive the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) which covers a declining percentage of salaries paid up to a maximum until December. There was an indication from the Federal Government that this subsidy would continue until next summer however no new information is available at this time. The CEWS is meant to support keeping staff on payroll through the pandemic.
- An Ontario Arts Council grant was submitted on October 1, 2020 for music programming between January – June 2021.
- The Town of Aurora’s Finance Advisory Committee review of the ACC historical financials on October 13, 2020.
- Two protocol videos were created to support in-person programming at the Aurora Armoury in live performing events and education programs. They exist on the ACC YouTube channel and are sent to ticket buyers/class registrants in advance of their participation.

Human Resources

- Staff meet weekly via Zoom to check in, build future ACC programming and support online initiatives
- Staff continue to work from home during the closure due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.
- Starting September 1, 2020, part time staff were brought back to operate our fall events and classes.

Facilities

- The gallery exhibition is installed at Aurora Town Hall, second floor. Strict protocols are in place at Town Hall and ACC staff were hosting the artists and installers.
- The Program Room at Town Hall is being temporarily secured.
- Protocols were developed and vetted by York Region Public Health for outdoor events in the park and the indoor programming. The CFWI-Aurora Armoury has rigorous protocols in place that support their rental clients.
- The Town issued a permit for the September 26th, 2020 use of the park for our outdoor event from 11am – 4pm. Town staff supported the event by putting up barriers around the participant area and assembling and placing the plexi-barriers between the artist and audience. Special thanks to the Town staff team for supporting the event.

- There is an agreement for the rental use of the CFWI-Aurora Armoury for events and classes from September through December. Special thanks to the CFWI team for their support of our residency.

Board Activities

Board Finance & Audit Committee Meeting: October 9

Board Fund Development Committee Meeting: October 7

Board Outreach Committee: October 8

Community Connections/Artistic Events

- Ontario Presents provincial presenting network bi-weekly meetings
- CAPACOA national presenting network webinars
- Aurora Arts & Cultural Roundtable final meeting (Culture Days)
- Minister Lisa McLeod tele-town halls
- Monthly meeting with Director of Community Services
- Library Square ground-breaking on October 8, 2020

Respectfully Submitted by

Suzanne

Suzanne Haines
Executive Director