Aurora Cultural Centre

AGENDA

Board of Directors Meeting #9 2021

7 pm

Wednesday November 10th, 2021 **Eric Acker, Chair**

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85342993107?pwd=QWtLRFozc0FFL21iL3JhM2l2VDV6QT09

Meeting ID: 853 4299 3107
Passcode: 752526
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/ki6nOr5B8

1 (1 min)	Agenda **MOTION** to Approve the Agenda	Eric Acker
2 (1 min)	Previous Minutes **MOTION** to Approve Minutes of previous two meetings (September 15th, 2021 & October 13, 2021)	Eric Acker
3 (1 min)	**Statements of Conflict of Interest**	ALL
4 (10 min)	**Executive Director Report** • Monthly Report **MOTION** to Receive the Executive Director Report	Suzanne Haines
5 (30 min)	**Facility Task Force** Report from the committee **MOTION** to Receive the Facility Task Force Report	Craig Mather
6 (45 min)	**Finance & Audit** Report from the committee • Interim Financial Statements to September 30, 2021 • 2022 Budget Presentation **MOTION** to Approve the Interim Financial Statements to September 30, 2021 **MOTION** to Accept the Finance & Audit Committee Report	Laura Hostick
7 (10 min)	**Governance & Nominating** Report from the committee • TOR # 3 – Governance & Nominating Committee • 2022 Planning Calendar **MOTION**: To approve the amended Terms of Reference for the Governance & Nominating Committee as presented.	Parisa Sabat

	MOTION to Receive the Governance & Nominating Committee Report	
8	**2022 Board Meeting Dates**	
9	**New Business**	ALL
10	**Confirmation of next Meeting** December 8th at 6:30pm via ZOOM for PUBLIC MEETING December 8th at 7:00pm via ZOOM for BOARD MEETING	ALL
11	**MOTION** to Adjourn Meeting	ALL

Aurora Cultural Centre

MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting #9 2021

7 pm

In Attendance: Eric Acker (President), Laura Hostick (Treasurer), Sharon Kelly (Secretary), Nitin Bagga, Andrea Chan, Damien Chan, Cllr Wendy Gaertner, Mandana Gholami, Parisa Sabat

Staff: Suzanne Haines (Executive Director)

Regrets: Nicole Asquith, John De Faveri, Cllr Rachel Gilliland, Christina Kerr

Wednesday November 10th, 2021 **Eric Acker, Chair**

1 (1 min)	Agenda **MOTION** to Approve the Agenda MOVED by: Parisa Sabat 2nd: Andrea Chan **CARRIED**	Eric Acker
2 (1 min)	Previous Minutes **MOTION** to Approve Minutes of September 15th, 2021 MOVED by: Parisa Sabat 2nd: Nitin Bagga **CARRIED** **MOTION** to Approve Minutes of October 13, 2021 MOVED by: Mandana Gholami 2nd: Laura Hostick **CARRIED**	Eric Acker
3 (1 min)	**Statements of Conflict of Interest - NONE**	ALL
4 (10 min)	**Executive Director Report** • Monthly Report (includes 2 videos) • NDTR (National Day of Truth and Reconciliation) • KITS 4 KIDS **MOTION** to Receive the Executive Director Report MOVED by: Damien Chan 2nd: Wendy Gaertner **CARRIED**	Suzanne Haines
	Facility Task Force Report from the committee	Craig Mather

	MOTION to Receive the Facility Task Force Report MOVED by: Andrea Chan 2nd: Damien Chan **CARRIED**	
6 (45 min)	**Finance & Audit** Report from the committee • Interim Financial Statements to September 30, 2021 • 2022 Budget Presentation **MOTION** to Approve the Interim Financial Statements to September 30, 2021 MOVED by: Mandana Gholami 2nd: Nitin Bagga **CARRIED** **MOTION** to Accept the Finance & Audit Committee Report MOVED by: Damien Chan 2nd: Parisa Sabat **CARRIED**	Laura Hostick
7 (10 min)	**Governance & Nominating** Report from the committee • TOR # 3 – Governance & Nominating Committee • 2022 Planning Calendar **MOTION**: To approve the amended Terms of Reference for the Governance & Nominating Committee as presented. MOVED by: Wendy Gaertner 2nd: Mandana Gholami **CARRIED** **MOTION** to Receive the Governance & Nominating Committee Report MOVED by: Wendy Gaertner 2nd: Laura Hostick **CARRIED**	Parisa Sabat
8	**2022 Board Meeting Dates**	Suzanne Haines
9	**New Business: HOLIDAY SOCIAL at Dec. 8 Bd. Mtg.** TBD	ALL
10	**Confirmation of next Meeting**	ALL

	December 8th at 6:30pm via ZOOM for PUBLIC MEETING December 8th at 7:00pm via ZOOM for BOARD MEETING	
11	**MOTION** to Adjourn Meeting at 8:55 p.m. MOVED by: Andrea Chan 2nd: Damien Chan **CARRIED**	ALL

Aurora Cultural Centre

Board of Directors – November 2021
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

October 2021

Special Events

Centre-Pieces | Are You Afraid of the Art? Halloween Edition
October 31, 2021

Is it a trick or is it a treat to create art? With flashlights on bright, we announced our fourth Centre-Pieces tote – Are you Afraid of the Art? in celebration of Halloween! Sketching-in the scary, this *Centre-Piece* tote was a set with four activities reflecting on the eerie season of Halloween. This tote embraced multi-disciplinary activities such as paint, craft, and theatre/storytelling and is accompanied by three videos for origami, painting and drawing activities. Direct links were sent to our patrons inboxes on Halloween, Sunday October 31st. Create at your own pace.

Activities & materials included:

- ***Spooky Story* Generator** – hand-made story die
- **Pumpkin Folding** – origami paper
  https://vimeo.com/640881295/0811a156f5
- ***Hocus Pocus*: Abstract painting** – watercolour paper & paint
  https://vimeo.com/640886184/400ddb7aff
- **From the Shadows:** from dark to light drawing – paper & white conte
  https://vimeo.com/640883772/b7ae8dfb9b

Live Events Programming

Aurora Pops Up!

APU concerts continued through to October 2nd. Here are the performances in September. We are so pleased to be able to offer this free programming for the community, funded primarily from Canadian Heritage's Support Live Art and Cultural Workers grant.

	Dates:	Time:	Organization/Space:	Artist:	Discipline:
1	Sat Oct 2nd	10:00 AM	Farmer's Market	Jessica Sevier	Singer/Band
2	Sat Oct 2nd	12:00 PM	Omar's Shoes	Jessica Sevier	Singer/Band

Upcoming performances:

November 5, 2021 at 7:30pm Barbra Lica at the Armoury, with Livestream
December 10, 2021 @ 8pm Craig Cardiff at the Armoury, with Livestream
December 11, 2021 @ 2pm The Fitzgeralds at the Armoury

Gallery Program

THE CONVERSATION Group Exhibition and Sale

Sat July 31 – Sat Oct 23, 2021

The Conversation, group exhibition and sale of 17 artists working in a variety of mediums. Artists share their creative gifts, thought processes that inspire their artwork and, the connections to the materials with which they work. An exhibit intended to build comfort in engaging with art and bring forth shared conversations with artists, it is filled with many mediums to ignite curiosities: wood, metal, clay, glass, textiles, oil, acrylic, and encaustic painting, drawing and photography.

Artists:
Lynn Bishop with Tom Loach, Lillian Michiko Blakey, Carmel Brennan, Ann Cummings, D. Ahsén:nase Douglas, Jean Eng, Fly Freeman, Dorsey James, Bert Liverance, Lynne McIlvride, Francis Muscat, Christl Niemuller, Mark Puigmarti, Saundra Reiner, Ernestine Tahedl, Gayle Temple, and Judith Tinkl

Art Bytes included
3D Virtual Tour: https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=uWFLCWVrqCm&play=1
Behind the Scenes video: https://youtu.be/UaOUpd2NaYw
What is an Art Catalogue?: https://youtu.be/31bpJ9eY-RI4

The exhibition catalogue including teaching tools is archived at
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/the-conversation/

CONSTELLATIONS - EMILY CARRIERE

Oct 30, 2021 – Feb 5, 2022

Constellations is a solo exhibition presenting the intricate and colourful vinyl and acrylic artworks by award winning emerging artist Emily Carriere. Through experimentation and intuition, Carriere's creates abstract images with intricately cut and layered patterns and shapes. Placing value in the process of creating as much as the final content, she continuously reworks and reimagines her ever evolving pieces. This exhibition of all new works, will immediately draw you in with its bright colours, sparkle and shine, overlapped with the repeated use of organic yet symmetrical forms. We are thrilled to be hosting Carriere's first solo exhibition outside of Toronto

Virtual Gallery- Explore the exhibition in The Aurora Town Hall Gallery Space in the 360 Virtual Gallery. Feel like you're there in person as you travel through the exhibition, seeing the scale of the artworks and how as they speak to each other.
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/constellations/

Education Programs

Class	Dates
Wood Carving with Marlene Ash (Adult)	September 20-November 1
Painting in Acrylics with Helen Walter (Adult)	September 28- November 16
Exploring Watercolours (Intermediate/Advanced) with Kathryn Christensen (Adult)	September 29- November 17
Watercolours: Basics & Beyond with Kathryn Christensen (Adult)	September 30-November 18
A Journey Through Art & Time (Ages 4-6)	October 16-December 4
Around the World with Art (Ages 7-10)	October 16-December 4
Famous Artists & Their Styles (Ages 11-15)	October 16-December 4

Additional fall classes run November – December.

Kaleidoscope in the Schools

Staff continue to make connections with school board partners and to plan for the performances that will hopefully begin in the Winter of 2022. The framework for General Arts Integration PD workshops facilitated by artist-instructor Marjie Chud has been created and informational poster was distributed to YCDSB, YRDSB, MonAvenir and Viamonde.

Fund Development

While the committee did not meet this month, we had a lot of activity and virtual discussions on the following items to move initiatives forward.

Hosting prospects

The fund development committee discussed inviting prospects to events now that we are reopening to live in-person activities. If you are at the concert, I may ask you to speak with a prospect

November 5, 2021 – we have 6 new prospects who will attend the Barbra Lica concert. These individuals are not specifically for KITS but general cultivation.

December 11, 2021 – a letter will be sent about KITS on November 12, 2021 to our top 5 cold prospects from our iWave, also inviting them to attend the December 11th family concert which hosts an artist that will be in our KITS program in 2022. Members of the committee helped to support the writing of the letter and will be involved in follow-up with the prospects.

Donor renewal and thank you

Staff will be contacting all donors in late November/early December to thank them for their support and requesting renewal.

Crowdfunding for KITS

Staff are preparing a dedicated fundraising page KITS4KIDS.ca to host KITS information and lead prospective donors to calls to action. The site will have all KITS information in case the donor wants more information before clicking through to donate. The crowdfunding campaign is set to launch January 10, 2022 and run for 6 weeks.

Marketing for this project includes distribution of our KITS4KIDS flyer through restaurants and

grocery stores. Staff have assembled a list of businesses willing to work with us on this project. The flyer will be printed by November 12th and distributed the first week of January to the businesses.

The Launch is expected to be at one of the schools in Aurora and we hope the Mayor, MPPs, School Board trustees and administration, ACC Board and staff will be in attendance. This will also serve as our Ontario Trillium Foundation announcement on our GROW grant for KITS.

The promotional video is complete. ***Show Video***

New members of the Committee

At the time of the Board meeting, we will have held two interviews for community members to join the committee. One member has been offered to join and had onboarding and orientation. Sydney Walter will join the committee at the next Fund Development meeting.

Administration

- The current Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) ended in October 2021. There is a new program supporting hardest hit industries who continue to have a 40% decline in revenues. We are completing the calculations to determine our eligibility.
- We completed the diversity consultations with the Board. Please see the attached report from Glenn Marais, Artistic Outreach Coordinator.
- The Facility Task Force agreement working group met with Town Staff to discuss recommendations of changes to the Provision of Cultural Services Agreement on November 3, 2021.
- Restructuring of Communications complete with the Friday November 5th event handover to our new Performing Arts Producer. New marketing strategies are being built to better support the internal and external communications. Staff are working with the Outreach committee to brainstorm ideas for future marketing and outreach initiatives and set goals for both in the future. We welcome the expertise and ideas coming from the committee to help form the next stage of outreach and meet goals set in the Terms of Reference with dedicated staff support.
- Staff met with Arts Help, a Toronto-based marketing company supporting artists internationally to understand their model and see if there were opportunities for collaboration.

Human Resources

- Staff meet weekly via Zoom to check in, build future ACC programming and support programming initiatives
- Staff continue to work from home during the Town Hall office closure due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. There is no indication when Town Hall will reopen for our staff. Program staff can access our supplies when needed.
- One staff member will be working remotely out of province in January and February, 2022. This is not precedent-setting, temporary relocation with a memo reinforcing their employment under terms of the Ontario ESA.

Facilities

- We continue to have access to Town Hall for installation of the Gallery Program on the

2nd floor, and to access program supplies for online/offsite programming.

- The piano will be moved to the IT training room to enable more space for classroom participants in the program room. The piano is maintained with regular tunings and weekly monitoring of the humidifier system.
- Program materials in Town Hall will be reorganized in the program room and offices to enable use of the program room starting in the new year.
- We have been authorized to put a poster in the elevator of Town Hall related to our gallery exhibition as the Mayor is hosting the public in his office and this helps inform that public upon entry to the 2nd floor.
- It is hoped that Town Hall will be available for programs starting in January. Only program staff will be attending Town Hall for work. All others will remain in remote working situations.
- We participated in an Aurora Town Square video project to put a 'face' to the project for the community. The video features myself speaking on behalf of the Aurora Cultural Centre with images of us moving through the site and should be released in the coming weeks.
- Town Staff took members of the Facility Task Force and ACC Management team through the Aurora Town Square stie on October 29th.

Board Activities

Finance & Audit Committee Meeting: October 28
Governance & Nominating Committee Meeting: November 3
Facility Task Force Meeting: November 8
Facility Task Force agreement working group: October 15, 21, 25, November 1, & 3
Interviews for Volunteer Committee Members: October 18, November 9

Community Connections/Artistic Events

- Ontario Presents provincial presenting network bi-weekly meetings
- Monthly meeting with Director of Community Services
- Minister Lisa McLeod Town Halls/Technical briefings
- Public Art Working Group meeting

Respectfully Submitted by

Suzanne Haines
Executive Director

Aurora Cultural Centre (ACC) Diversity Consultations with the Board

Recently, staff hosted Diversity Consultations with ACC Board members with fantastic perspective on the work we have done in the past, a present perception and understanding of this work and hopes for the future. Glenn Marais, Artistic Outreach Coordinator and Suzanne Haines, Executive Director hosted these consultations via Zoom or online survey. Having open and engaged discussions is a key strategic viewpoint that was shared throughout our conversations and this growth in understanding and vision will help to inform us as we continue the great work we are doing with Diversity and Inclusion.

What we see in the Aurora Community and the Aurora Cultural Centre at Present

Our Board has a diverse background with representation from Italy, Iran, China, the Ukraine, and Settler identification as well. There is a collective understanding of their role in expanding our work in diversity, coupled with an individual perspective based on experience and education, that have situated us in a position of open engagement and acquirement of the knowledge needed to lead this kind of work in the 21st century. As an arts-based charity we have the opportunity to create an informed, responsive, and adaptive Cultural Centre that is welcoming, challenges societal barriers, and is a part of the Canadian diaspora that is multi-cultural and multilingual. Our members have backgrounds in education, finances, marketing, the arts, municipal politics, and executive leadership positions for major corporations and small in differing industries with that depth of experience and knowledge. There were many original and perceptive ideas and an innate sense of who we are, where we need to grow, and thoughts on progressive strategies for engagement and utilization of these ideologies.

The Board has a good foundation for development and growth through a clear understanding of our internal organizational perceptions and external feedback from our neighbours and stakeholders. There is a definite and mutual recognition of our role in the community and our strengths and achievements, specifically our targeted work with diversity and a definite and collective recognition of where we need to improve. The perception of our audience demographic as an older, white sector was mentioned several times with the need to diversify that demographic, both in age and cultural background. Programming that is from diverse sectors hasn't always drawn a diverse audience and from that we understand that our marketing and messaging needs to improve. Our sources of information on events are from similar media outlets, The Aurora, Facebook Pages, Town of Aurora websites, however there is an awareness that our social media reach, consistency, clarity and intent of message can improve. The "voice of Canada has changed and we need to change with that", really resonated as one of the direct quotes from our conversations coupled with an awareness of that voice and really listening to what these voices have to say was a common theme. Available data shows that 26 percent of Aurora is a visible minority and brought forth the question, do we have a quarter of that audience attending events and if not, how do we work towards that? The language we are embracing is adaptive and ever changing and that is a message we want to share internally and externally, with a thoughtful resilience and perceptive understanding of the importance of having someone's identity recognized in a manner that offers them respect and prescience to current norms. Universally our Board members are engaged in active learning and a passion for knowledge. They wish to share this in a manner that welcomes those who don't know with the understanding that this acknowledgement is the beginning of the acquirement of an enriched

education in diversity and inclusion. They and we welcome these questions with the Centre to be a place to be open and share in our collective growth.

What we would like to see in the future

The Aurora Cultural Centre can be seen as “hub of diversity”, with a “marriage of cultures”, that seeks to heighten the interest of what Aurora is and can be. There were so many wonderful ideas shared, that my goal here is to encapsulate those discussions and share the fantastic insights of our Board members. With such a strong focus on Indigenous People and the collective hurt suffered this year, there is a realization that we need to work towards a greater understanding of how we can be allies and partners in Truth and Reconciliation. Part of this is a greater understanding of Land Acknowledgements and their purpose and intention. Further we need to increase our efforts to reach out to Indigenous artists and communities with awareness, sensitivity and programs that are proactive and not calendar reactive. This philosophy extends to all groups both in our outreach and our yearlong approach to programming. To reach different cultural groups and demographics, our programming must be reflective and innovative including communication that is reflective of modern idioms and platforms. We also need to maintain grassroots connections and community affiliations. In the content that we create, we can look at the digital realm and the “shelf-life” of that content, drawing inspiration from museums and galleries that are doing innovative work with online gallery shows that remain accessible past the date of conclusion. There is a balance between diversity, equity, and inclusion and a required evolving awareness of current news and trends that can inform and guide our best practices. This ensures a delivery of not just art and cultural products, but ideas and information that transcend “ethnic backgrounds and cultural legacies.” Let our message be, “Walk through our door, experience culture, and share your story” and perhaps in an advancement of that we welcome conversation, sharing culture and understanding.

Summary

As we move forward with this exciting and challenging initiative, the universal theme from our Board is one of open awareness and a desire to learn. This is truly inspiring and positional as we move forward with energy and positivity to create programming that is welcoming for artists and patrons of all identities and cultures. We look to share this message in a way that connects across all platforms and demographics with an energy of promise, change and renewal.

Respectfully Submitted,

Glenn Marais
Artistic Outreach Coordinator

Idea Pool

IDEA: Artistic social club that that specifically relates to ACC events/share ideas/stimulate conversation – we can educate in a way that might be less in your face. Create a 'down home place to come'

IDEA: Artistic ways that we can represent the idea that a lack of knowledge on Diversity and Race Relations is okay and to communicate and have a safe space for people to say, 'I Don't Know and I want to learn.'

IDEA: Support our events/education/gallery exhibits with suggested readings.

IDEA: 'Meet the Centre' one on one conversations. Have an idea box. What artist would you want to see at the Centre? With a wide selection of cultural food and drink.

IDEA: Partner with the community with events that bring people together. i.e- BBQ/music

IDEA: paint the streets to reflect the changes we desire

IDEA: QR code's - culture splash…Unexpected Art

IDEA: A search and inventory of the art that exists in the community

IDEA: Did you know that…? Community stories

IDEA: Complete the circle- come back to people who were in attendance and ask what they liked about what we did- post event-Come back and share-Coffee Shop Chat

IDEA: Concerts that reflect diverse collaborations, or events that encourage that collaboration

IDEA: Expand our Instagram following, Tik Tok.

IDEA: Clarity of Message-if an event is framed too heavily the wrong way then I'm less likely to go

IDEA: Develop a team that reflects diversity and different cultures

IDEA: Slogan-One vision, diverse voices