Aurora Cultural Centre

AGENDA

Board of Directors Public Meeting #2 2021

6:30 pm

Wednesday September 15th, 2021 **Eric Acker, Chair**

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82337255017?pwd=VGpRUmJQVzh5UkhKYlRocjE5L1R4UT09

Meeting ID: 823 3725 5017
Passcode: 212351

1 (1 min)	Agenda **MOTION** to Approve the Agenda	Eric Acker
2 (1 min)	Welcome to Guests and description of online participation	Eric Acker
3 (15 min)	**Executive Director Report** • Q2 Managerial Commentary	Suzanne Haines
4 (15 min)	**Treasurer's Report** • Q2 2021 Interim Financial Statements	Laura Hostick
5 (15 min)	**Question & Answer** Opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of staff or the Board of Directors	ALL
6	**New Business**	ALL
7	**Confirmation of next Public Meeting** December 8th at 6:30pm via ZOOM	ALL
8	**MOTION** to Adjourn Meeting	ALL

Aurora Cultural Centre

Aurora Cultural Centre Board of Directors
September 15, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Public meeting # 3

In Attendance: Eric Acker (President), Nitin Bagga, Andrea Chan, John De Faveri, Cllr Rachel Gilliland, Laura Hostick, Christina Kerr, Mandana Gholami Mobarakabadi, Parisa Sabat
Regrets: Nicole Asquith Damien Chan, Cllr Wendy Gaertner, Sharon Kelly
Recording Secretary: Parisa Sabat
Staff: Suzanne Haines (Executive Director)

Start time: 6:33pm

Agenda approval
Moved by: John De Faveri
Seconded by: Andrea Chan
CARRIED

Executive director Report:

- Suzanne walked the public and Board members through the Q2 Managerial Commentary

Treasurer's Report:

- Laura Hostick presented the Q2 2021 Interim Financial Statements

Questions: No

New Businesses: No

Next Public Meeting: December 8th at 6:30pm via ZOOM

Motion to Adjourn Meeting:
Moved by: John De Faveri
Seconded by: Christina Kerr
CARRIED

Aurora Cultural Centre

Managerial Commentary – Q2 2021

Introduction

We moved into Q2 2021 within a lock down from the global pandemic. Gallery programming remained online and we added special events that could be held digitally. Arts education programs also moved online.

We are grateful to be able to continue to deliver programming to the community throughout the pandemic. While we all hoped we would be a in better place by Q2 of 2021, the community continues to support our programming. We introduced new Arts Talk conversations on topics of relevance, found engaging digital programming and planned for our summer and future of programming.

We advanced our diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) strategic objective by creating a Diversity & Inclusion Collaborative Working Group (DICWG). DICWG is an assembled group of social activists from different walks of life to act as a resource to staff to help us learn, collaborate, plan, and implement initiatives that serve the goals set out by our DEI framework. The first of session in understanding was to learn more about Indigenous culture with a presentation by Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux. Dr. Wesley-Esquimaux's presentation helped in forming a foundation of knowledge, a lexicon to navigate the issues, and a deeper understanding of history that informed new actions, including a much-improved land acknowledgement. Second was to form an Artistic Outreach Coordinator contract position to enable the connections the DICWG felt as foundational. This position will help deepen relationships with communities and artists to broaden our programming and widen our reach.

We also received funding from Canadian Heritage Support Live Arts and Cultural Workers Fund as part of the pandemic response funding from the Canadian Government. The funding fully supports a summer Aurora Pops Up! program to bring artists to the community. We recruited a producer to support the program's implementation.

The second quarter continued to be a time of uncertainty however we are hopeful with new regulations for day camps coming together and opportunities to engage artists for live performances in our community. We look forward to seeing what the future holds.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

A SNAPSHOT OF AURORA CULTURAL CENTRE Q2 OPERATIONS
April – June 2021

SPECIAL EVENTS
ARTS TALK SERIES #1
Arts Education & Children's Mental Health

May 18, 2021

The effects of arts education on a child's mental health is vital at the best of times. Over the past year, in-school arts programs have either been drastically scaled back or temporarily eliminated due to health and safety guidelines. The Aurora Cultural Centre and a panel of experts came together to discover the benefits of arts education to a child's mental health and sense of community-building, how they view the challenges of the past year, and the way forward as we re-engage children in the arts. Questions and insights were welcomed after the presentation. Offered over Zoom.

Panelists included:
Tania Marie Dasilva – Clinical Director- Behaviour Matters; on-air Child, Youth and Family Therapist expert on CP24, CTV, The Social, Toronto Star and more.
Marjie Chud – Resident Artist Educator, Lead at Young People's Theatre (YPT); Professor – Arts Education and Community Engagement Graduate Certificate program at Centennial College.
Patty Jarvis – Program Manager for Listen Up! Professor- Arts Management and Arts Education, and Community Engagement Programs at Centennial College.
George Vellathottam – Moderator Curriculum and Instructional Services Principle, York Region District School Board.

PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS

Tango in the Dark | New dance film

April 5 to April 10, 2021

The magic of tango was brought to our patron's screen, featuring the dancing of Erin Scott-Kafadar and Alexander Richardson. Using original music composed by Payadora Tango Ensemble, along with traditional and contemporary themes, director Richardson has choreographed a show that lights the way through the shadows and mysteries of Buenos Aires and tells a story of two dances moving to the rhythms of the city night. Tickets included access to the film from April 5 to April 10m, and a virtual seat at the Special Zoom Artist Reception.

The creation of Tango in the Dark began in Buenos Aires during the Autumn of 2019, with film production starting in mid-2020. Pandemic restrictions resulted in dancers Erin & Alexander spending several months in strict lockdown in Argentina. Upon their return to Canada, the duo continued to dance, adapting their work to a digital production. Partnering with the Payadora Tango Ensemble, (originally scheduled to perform at the Aurora Cultural Centre in April 2020), who created original music for the film, the resulting collaboration has created a masterful 1-hour film showcasing music and dance in new and innovation ways

Special Zoom Artist Reception

April 10, 2021

The Aurora Cultural Centre hosted a Zoom Room to welcome members of Pointe Tango and the Payadora Tango Ensemble for a relaxed and informative discussion/Q&A on the making of this film. It's a fascinating journey from a planned live performance, to a digital event available to a world-wide audience. And in the midst of global pandemic! Tickets included access to the movie link, and a virtual seat at the Special Zoom Artist Reception on April 10 at 7:30 pm EDT.

The WeeFestival

May 24 to May 30, 2021

The Aurora Cultural Centre offered an ALL ACCESS PASS to view four wonderful performances for children aged 2.5+ that you could access anytime during the festival. Shows were pre-recorded and between 15 and 45 minutes long.

Included in the ALL ACCESS PASS:

Cyclo
Co-production: Compañía Aranwa (Chile) and Comedia Köln Theater (Germany)
Genre: Music/Dance/Puppetry
Runtime: 43 minutes
A musical and visual feast! The cycles of life, like the cycles of nature are celebrated in this festive production that combines music and dance from Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Chile to create a captivating performance for young children.

Taama
Production: Théâtre de la Guimbarde & Soleil Theatre (Burkina Faso)

Genre: Music Theatre
Runtime: 30 minutes
A woman is searching for a new place to call home, along the way, she meets a traveling musician who joins her on a shared musical path that crosses borders of culture and language.Taama – "Journey" in the Dioula language of Burkina Faso – brings together a Burkinabe singer and a Breton violinist in a colourful world that mixes traditional rhymes and classical melodies. Friendship and play discovered through the universal language of music!

Old Man and the River
Production: Weefestival (Canada)
Genre: Puppetry
Runtime: 30 minutes
This hilarious and heartwarming show unfolds in a storybook world where rivers sing, trees laugh, and curious dragonflies come to visit. Old Man and the River, a favourite of children and families returns for the long weekend to charm and delight!

DreamScape
Production: ThinkArts (India)
Genre: Sensory Film
Runtime: 23 minutes
In a collection of short stimulating sensory films, Dreamscape (at Home) takes the child on a visual and audio journey through the sensory-rich materials of paper, wool, clay, and the dreamy worlds of forest and sky. Accompanying resources support caregivers and educators to create sensory worlds in their homes or nurseries.

GALLERY PROGRAM

MAYOR'S CELEBRATION OF YOUTH ARTS

March 6 to May 1, 2021
A group exhibit of grade 12 graduating student art.
The Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts (MCOYA 21) student art exhibition continues to be one of our most popular annual exhibitions! This year's exhibition features exceptional artwork from the grade 12 students of Aurora. This year MCOYA21 is installed in the newly renovated gallery space on Aurora Town Hall's second floor at 100 John West Way. While Town Hall is closed to the public due to pandemic safety measures, we are excited to showcase the outstanding student artwork online. This digitally accessible exhibition format allows everyone from near and far to celebrate the creativity of Aurora's senior visual arts students safely and from anywhere.

Patrons were able to enjoy our accompanying virtual content. These engagement pieces, **Art Bytes**, include a 360 virtual tour of the gallery, a behind-the-scene video, a limited run art performance video, an 'Ask an Artist' video and the stories behind the artworks. Art Bytes included:

- Behind the Scenes installation video
- Ask an Artist with Ronnie Clark
- Student Stories: Stephanie & Julia
- Student Stories: Gracie & Hannah
- Student Stories: Alexandrea & Kaida

Art Bytes can be found here:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5PridLGcGtoaR1VNBij4rw/videos

Flowers in the Park

May 15 to July 24, 2021
Sangmin Lee's featured art installation Flowers in the Park continues to evolve and additional new works are added to this, not to be missed, contemporary solo exhibition. Son of Korean immigrants, Lee was raised in the densest high-rise community in Canada, St. James Town (Toronto). As one of the most ethnically rich neighbourhoods in North America, Lee takes inspiration from this "world within a block" and creates large mixed-media installations describing non-linear stories about integration, displacement and cultural survival.

This contemporary solo exhibition features both Lee's hanging wall artwork and his Ricebag Pillowcases art installation. This installation was the central piece of the exhibition and our first time presenting an installation in the Aurora Town Hall Gallery Space. In addition to the installation, the gallery walls were populated by 24 unique pieces, the majority of which are wooden panels which the artist engraved or otherwise transferred his prevailing rose motif. Twenty-two of the 25 hanging artworks were for sale, as well as 10 of the 60 rice bags. From the Gallery Team first discovering his Flowers in the Park wood panel series in 2019, Lee's art practice continues to evolve and expand. So much so that we are excited to include artworks as newly completed as this month!

Lee's artwork seeks to finds beauty in the ordinary and romanticizes the familiar, by presenting common cultural images and then reimaging them in new ways. The title of the exhibition, Flowers in the Park, is a play on the modernist architectural 'Towers in the Park' style in which St. James Town is based. In the artists own words, "These are the roses that grow from drywall. Despite the bareness of its plaster composite, they continue to take root. The lack of light only inches them closer, till one day they crack through the rows of their enclosures and overcome. "

This exhibition was online only as Town Hall was closed to the public. It was easily accessible online through our website and featured a 360 clickable virtual tour, high resolution photographs of all the works, friendly didactics unpacking the two primary artworks, and accompanying Art Bytes videos to be released throughout the duration of the exhibition.

Art Bytes:
Art Bytes are an ongoing online series which accompanies our exhibitions and give viewers an opportunity to deepen their understanding about the art and artists.

- Thursday June 10 - In Conversation with Sangmin Lee Video
- Behind the Scenes installation video

Art Bytes can be found here:
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/flowers-in-the-park/flowers-in-the-park-art-bytes/#fitpbts

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to make it impossible to offer in person classes in the spring. Virtual programs were hosted as follows:

Child/Youth Multi-Week VIRTUAL Classes

1. Around the World with Art (Ages 7-10) March 6- April 10
2. Famous Artists & Their Styles (Ages 11-15) March 6 – April 10
3. You Can Uke It! 8+ March 10 – April 14
4. Spring Break Arts Buffet (Ages 4-12) April 12- April 16

Adult - Multi-Week VIRTUAL Classes

6. Start Painting Now with Acrylics, March 9 – April 6
7. Exploring Watercolours, March 10 – April 7
8. Ukuele for Beginners, March 10 – April 14
9. Beginning Guitar, March 10- April 14
10. Expand Your Horizons in Acyrlics 2, March 11 – April 8

Adult - One-Day VIRTUAL Classes

12. KITS PD – Drama & Arts Int. WS, May 4
13. KITS PD - Drama & Arts Int. WS, May 11
14. Cherry Blossom Paint-Along, May 22
15. Crepe Paper Daffodils, May 29
16. Exploring Acrylics, June 5
17. Watercolours; Basics & Beyond, June 12
18. KITS PD – Drama & Arts Int. WS, June 16
19. The Magic of Pastels, June 26
20. Free Watercolour Painting Workshop, June 29
21. Free Watercolour Painting Workshop, June 30

KALEIDOSCOPE IN THE SCHOOLS

In May 2021, we offered our second suite of virtual free KITS Teacher PD workshops in Drama & The Arts Integration with Marjie Chud. The workshop focused on simple ways to integrate drama and the arts into the curriculum, and more specifically how to engage students in this element in the virtual sphere. The workshop was incredibly well received, and in a feedback survey teachers said:

- It was really great to do the workshop and get a boost of enthusiasm, inspiration and creativity to get through the rest of the school year! Much appreciated!
- It was an amazing workshop. I am so happy to have been able to participate. Thank you for giving me tools I can take back to virtual learning!
- I really was pleasantly surprised that Marjie could get a group of exhausted educators to not only turn on their cameras and microphones but actually get us participating, laughing, and having fun! Very promising for using these activities with our students.

Community Programs

Centre-Pieces: Colour me Sunny: Solstice Edition
June 17-June 20

More sunshine = more time to create happy memories. We were delighted to announce our second Centre-Pieces tote – Colour Me Sunny: Solstice Edition, connected to the Summer Solstice and Father's Day on Sunday June 20, 2021.

We sparked the creative glow as we set to celebrate summer's start! This *Centre-Piece* tote is set with four activities reflecting on the radiant season ahead and embraces multi-disciplinary activities such as paint, craft and theatre/storytelling. This tote is accompanied by three videos for origami, and silhouette portrait painting activities plus a video from special guest's artist Puzzle Théâtre for a theatre activity. Direct links were sent to our patron's inbox on Sunday June 20th.

Activities & materials included:

- **Father's Day Silhouette Portraits** – Canvas & paints (activity can be used for fathers, father-figures or self-portrait)
    - https://vimeo.com/565065830/22b26ab8b8
- **Sun Folding** – origami paper
    - https://vimeo.com/565066447/b860b1e306
- ***Scarfing Around*** with special guest Puzzle Théâtre – play scarf (and objects found around home)
    - https://vimeo.com/563672695/93a2cac15f
- Sketchbook & pencil

Volunteer Program

National Volunteer Week was celebrated April 18 - 24th with personalized emails of gratitude, social media highlights and volunteer zoom hangout. The Zoom social was attended by nine operational volunteers, 2 board members and seven staff. It was the first month of the year an operational volunteer was reengaged with the Media Binder upkeep being transferred to their home.

Diversity & Inclusion Collaborative Working Group members (alphabetical order)
Phiona Durrant, Brianne Evelyn, Jacob Gal, Sharon Kelly (Board representative), Mae Khamissa, Aitak Sorahitalab, Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux
Staff: Clare Bolton, Leanne DiMonte, Suzanne Haines, Jane Taylor

ACTIVITY STATS YTD Q2 2021

	2021	Q1	Q2
1	Educational Programs	13	21
2	Volunteer hours donated	272	267
3	Art Exhibitions	2	2
4	Art Bytes and Social Media Engagements	21	7
5	Art Bytes Online Views	434	333
6	Artists Exhibited	31	32
7	Gallery Tours	virtual	virtual
8	Virtual Gallery Views	1331	840
9	Performing Arts Events	2	7
10	Free Community Events	1	1
11	Public Meeting	0	2 (April & June)
12	Visitors	3681	5,181

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Please see Q2 Financial Report attached.

Organizational Information

CENTRE HOURS

Business Hours	Temporarily closed	
Staff Office Hours	Monday to Friday	8:30 AM – 4:30 PM plus in-person programming needs
Gallery Hours	Online 24/7	
Events	Temporarily closed, digital programming only	
Classes	Virtual for Q2	
Community Facility Rentals	Rental program now closed due to Aurora Town Square project	

AURORA CULTURAL CENTRE STAFF

Executive Director	Suzanne Haines
Administration & Operational Services Manager	Carol Sharp
Communications & Events Manager	Jane Taylor
Gallery Manager	Clare Bolton (on leave)
Acting Gallery Manager	Stephanie Nicolò
Education & Outreach Manager	Leanne DiMonte
Box office & Digital Services Coordinator	Matthew Knox
Administrative Assistant	Jennifer Marrocco
Gallery Assistant	Christina DiPaola
Volunteer Manager & Events Coordinator	Robert Hess
Facility Supervisor (part time)	Laura Beaton, Christina DiPaola, Emma Kakush
Artistic Outreach Coordinator (contract)	Glenn Marais
Aurora Pops Up! Producer (contract)	Kalaisan Kalaichelvan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Q2 at end of June 2021

EXECUTIVE		**DIRECTORS**
President	Eric Acker	Nicole Asquith
Treasurer	Laura Hostick	Nitin Bagga
Secretary	Sharon Kelly	Andrea Chan
		Damien Chan
		John De Faveri
		Christina Kerr
		Mandana Gholami Mobarakabadi
		Parisa Sabet
		Councillor Wendy Gaertner*
		Councillor Rachel Gilliland*

*Ex officio Town of Aurora Directors

COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee
Finance & Audit Committee
Fund Development Committee
Governance & Nominating Committee
Outreach Committee
Facility Task Force

MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meet approximately 8 times per year and committees meet monthly as required.

**Ex-officio Directors have the full rights & responsibilities of Directors of a corporation under the Ontario Corporations Act.*

COMPLIANCE & REPORTING CONTROLS

The Centre has strict compliance, oversight, and reporting procedures in place; third party bookkeeping, a Finance & Audit Committee, several specialized Board committees, the day-to-day oversight of the Executive Director and the monthly review by the Board of Directors who each have personal and collective fiduciary responsibilities related to the governance and financial health of the Centre.

MONTHLY

Financial

- Third Party bookkeeper reconciles financial activity each month and creates financial statements that are reviewed by Treasurer, Finance & Audit Committee and Executive Director (ED).
- Statement of Account for Current Source Deductions (and payment) made to CRA.

Operational

- ED creates monthly activity report and presents to Board of Directors; once approved this is posted to the public website.

QUARTERLY

Financial

- Treasurer creates GAAP quarterly financial report based on bookkeeper's financial statements. This is reviewed by the Finance Committee and presented to the Board. Opportunity for questions from Directors. Once approved, ED provides this report to the Director of Community Services at the Town of Aurora as per our Agreement (and to the Mayor, Town Council, and Town CAO as a courtesy).

Operational

- ED creates a Managerial Commentary reporting on activities during the quarter in question.
- This is presented to the Board. Once approved, ED provides this report along with the Quarterly financial Report to the Director of Community Services (and Mayor, Council, and CAO). This report is posted on public website.

Oversight

- ED provides a compliance statement to the Board stating that all payments have been made and all areas of the Centre's compliance responsibilities have been met.

ANNUALLY

Town of Aurora

- As per Agreement

Canada Revenue Agency (Federal Government)

- Registered Charity Information Return
- Ontario Corporations Information Act Annual Return

Imagine Canada

- Annual report on compliance of the Standards identified by IC as a requirement of our accreditation.
- Board reviews Compliance report and IC comments

Current Funders (this is variable)
Young Canada Works in Museum Organizations via Canadian Heritage, (Federal Government)
Canada Summer Jobs via Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), (Federal Government)
Canada Arts Presentation Fund, Canadian Heritage
New Horizons, Canadian Heritage
Ontario Arts Council
Ontario Trillium Foundation

Financial Review
Third Party Audit undertaken annually (not legally required until budget reaches $1 Million). Financial standing publicly posted annually on the websites of the CRA, Imagine Canada, and our website.

ONGOING COMPLIANCE

- Town of Aurora
- Banks
- Insurance
- Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL)
- Service Ontario (Provincial Government)
- Canadian Code of Practice for Consumer Protection in Electronic Commerce
- SOCAN

IN SUMMARY
We continued to host digital programming in the second quarter while planning for in person possibilities. Staff also advanced strategic directions to prepare for programming that further reflects the growing diversity in our community. We join our colleagues provincially and nationally as we wait for the pandemic to abate and offer the opportunity to program with artists and our community in person.

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzanne Haines
Executive Director

*www.auroraculturalcentre.*ca
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