Aurora Cultural Centre

Managerial Commentary – Q1 2022

Introduction

We started the year in a lockdown due to COVID-19 which sent us into another phase of rebooking and shifting programs as we watched the health protocols keep us all safe. We had already planned our programs brochure and pushed its distribution to every household in Aurora to late February, with added banners across programming we knew had to change. The program brochure was an important signal to the community to indicate what we had planned, even if we had to shift it due to COVID. We pushed programming to start later when the situation was possible as health restrictions eased. We kept our staff, volunteers, and contractors accountable with mandatory vaccine policies and polled our venues to discover the highest standard to adopt to reopen. We started with virtual education programs and then opened in-person education classes and workshops on February 12. We opened gallery visits on February 23 with visits to the Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts. Lastly, we has a virtual performing arts presentation in February and opened in-person performing arts programming March 11th with a classical concert by Sarah Hagan, live streamed for free to members of the Aurora Senior's Association and residents in senior long term care facilities.

We look for ways to help residents feel safe to return by setting a maximum capacity of 65% of the venue and keeping masking intact, we have has incredible positive response. In performing arts, we asked residents to let us know how it felt to be back and we heard that it is "Outstanding to get the chance to hear live music again" and "Uplifting, Inspiring, Community Building" among many others posted on our website homepage (https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/#post-it).

We continue to watch health protocols and hope we can continue to offer exceptional programming to the community in 2022. A deep thank you to students, gallery visitors, patrons, guests, donors, sponsors and funders who have stuck with us and joined us as we reopen.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

A SNAPSHOT OF AURORA CULTURAL CENTRE Q1 OPERATIONS
January – March 2022

SPECIAL EVENTS

CRAFTERNOON @ ARMOURY
MARCH 16, 2022

The Aurora Cultural Centre was excited to bring back this popular family March Break activity once again – and in anticipation, have extended the hours. It's a family "Crafternoon" that actually starts in the morning!

Patrons brought their kids to tap into all of that creative energy with a variety of free art activities. All ages were welcomed; offered at no charge. No advance registration was required.

PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS

Sounding Thunder: The Song of Francis Pegahmagabow
Great Artist Music Series
February 3, 2022

Commissioned by the Festival of the Sound in 2018, Sounding Thunder is a musical journey into the life of the renowned Ojibwe WWI sniper and decorated officer of the Canadian military, Francis Pegahmagabow. Composed by Tim Corlis and written by Ojibwe poet Armand Garnet Ruffo, it is a complex work divided into three acts, exploring Pegahmagabow's early years immersed in the world of the Anishinaabe spirits, his extraordinary accomplishments in the trenches of WWI, and finally his political life as Chief of the Wausauksing Ojibwe and founder of the early Indigenous political movement in Canada.

Patrons were able to stream the phenomenal work that is Sounding Thunder: The Song of Francis Pegahmagabow. The recording included a short documentary on The Making of Sounding Thunder, intro remarks from Brian McInness (Pegahmagabow's great grandson), and a the professionally-produced filmed debut of this seminal work at The Festival of the Sound. We welcomed our patrons to the live-online Zoom Reception, as we heard from the creators and curators of this work in a lively and informative panel event.

Film Premiere: **Thursday, February 3rd, 2022, 7:00pm**
The livestream link was accessible through **February 10th, 7:00pm**

A musical journey into the life of renowned Ojibwe WWI sniper and decorated officer of the Canadian military, Francis Pegahbagabow, captured on film.

Virtual Reception: **Thursday, February 10th, 2022** 7:00-8:00 PM
We hosted an open roundtable discussion with composer Timothy Corlis, author Dr. Brian D. McInnes and Festival of Sound artistic director Jim Campbell as explore how this powerful story was brought to life.

Kattam and his Tam-Tams

Kaleidoscope Family Series
February 21, 2022

To the sound of the n'goni, balafon, djembe, naffar, derbouka and dhol, Montreal-based percussionist Kattam invites you to discover Africa, the Middle East and India through rhythm, song and dance! From African rap and desert dance to trance sufi rhythm and Bollywood dance. Accompanied by his favourite stuffed animal, a monkey named Takoum, Kattam never fails to involve his audience in an all-encompassing and joyful musical experience.

Kattam – who is part Québeçois and part Moroccan – first trained in classical music, studying piano, singing and percussion. He has continued learning percussion, dance and singing traditions across the globe – from Havana to Guinea, India to Marrocco, and many points in between. He's worked with the Cirque du Soleil, performed at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, and has appeared on numerous movie and television soundtracks in Quebec.

Sarah Hagen Presents "Perk Up, Pianist!"

Great Artist Music Series
March 11, 2022

Often referred to as the next Victor Borge, Sarah has transformed her award-winning role as "concert pianist" into a stand-up, or rather, sit-down comedy. Pairing anecdotes with music, "Perk up, pianist!" takes audiences deep inside the world of a classical musician as she shares her earnest efforts to keep her spirits up in the midst of troublesome times. Described as "one of the best hours I've ever spent at the Fringe" (The Coast, Halifax), "Perk up, pianist!" tells the tale of a touring classical musician remaining optimistic in the midst of challenging and ridiculous situations. Of the show's debut at the Toronto Fringe Festival, Montreal Rampage wrote, "Hagen reminds us the beauty of how an honest solo performance can make you so easily fall in love with

its performer." Directed by Rick Roberts. Created, written, and performed by Sarah Hagen, with original compositions.

Awarded as Artist of the Year by both Ontario Contact (2017) and the BC Touring Council (2015), and mentioned by The Guardian (Charlottetown) as the Best Classical Performance of 2014, pianist Sarah Hagen's interpretations have been described as "outstandingly inventive" [University of Waterloo Gazette]. Her extensive touring has taken her across Canada, to Sweden, France, Germany and Italy, and twice to New York City's Carnegie Hall. Sarah's latest album, Women of Note, highlights two forgotten female composers of the 18th century, and was awarded the 2021 Music PEI Instrumental Recording of the Year.

DuffleBag Theatre Presents Robin Hood

Kaleidoscope Family Series

March 19, 2022

March Break fun alert!

While the King is away, the people of England suffer under the oppressive rule of his dastardly brother, Prince John. Only Robin Hood, the best archer in the land, can save England! By stealing from the rich and giving back to the poor, Robin keeps the spirit of justice alive, with the help of a few friends along the way, including Maid Marian, Friar Tuck, and Little John. But what if the Prince and the dreaded Sheriff of Nottingham lay a trap for our hero?

DuffleBag Theatre brings classic fairy tales and folktales to life in their signature fun-filled and humorous fashion, using audience members as the stars. Audiences are enchanted by the clever stagecraft and witty narration and thrilled to watch their peers be included in the company's performances, especially when the performers don't go exactly by the book!

GALLERY PROGRAM

Constellations: Solo Exhibition and Sale

Online October 30 2021 to February 5, 2022

Constellations is a solo exhibition and sale featuring the artwork of award winning emerging artist Emily Carriere. Installed in Aurora Town Hall, *Constellations* was viewed on our website until the beginning of February with in person viewings to be determined. We were thrilled to host Carriere's first solo exhibition outside of Toronto!

MCOYA Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts

February 23 to March 29, 2022

Online: February 15 – March 25, 2022
In-Person: February 23 – March 19, 2022
The annual Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts 2022 presents the artwork of Aurora's senior high school students in our Aurora Town Hall 2nd floor gallery. Showcasing the hard work of these talented and creative students, the exhibition was available for viewing both in-person and online.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Q1 2022 brought some continued challenges due to COVID, as upon returning from the holiday season, the Province had declared "Ontario Temporarily Moving to Modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen", which did not allow our in-person classes to begin as scheduled in January. We were able to offer a virtual PA Day workshop on Zoom with provided art kit via curbside pick-up in January to the community. Diligently watching the news and staying tuned in to updates, we were again able to offer our in-person classes beginning in mid-February. This was our first season operating out of Town Hall, with the exception of our March Break camp which operated out of the CFWI-Aurora Armoury. From January-March 2022, we began 18 programs, serving 161 students of all ages. We also offered two free virtual workshops in Watercolour in Q1. These programs were incredibly well-received, with both workshops filling, and a waitlist of over 100 students was created.

Class	**Dates**
VIRTUAL – PA Day Program	January 14
VIRTUAL– Winter Walks in Watercolours	February 3
VIRTUAL – PA Day Programs	February 4
IN PERSON- A Journey Through Art & Time	February 12 – April 2
IN PERSON – Around the World with Art	February 12 – April 2
IN PERSON – Famous Artists & Their Styles	February 12 – April 2
IN PERSON – Drawing & Sketching	February 14 – March 28
IN PERSON – Painting in Acrylics	February 15 – April 5
IN PERSON – Exploring Watercolours (Intermediate/Advanced)	February 16 – April 6
IN PERSON AFTER SCHOOL – You can Uke It!	February 16 – April 13
IN PERSON – Ukulele for Beginners	February 16 – April 13
IN PERSON – Beginning Guitar	February 16 – April 13
IN PERSON - Watercolours: Basic & Beyond	February 24 – April 24
IN PERSON – The Art of Calligraphy	February 27

IN PERSON – Make Your Own Stained Glass Suncatcher	March 6
VIRTUAL – Drawing with Lines	March 6
IN PERSON – Floral Pin Beading	March 27
VIRTUAL – FREE! Watercolour Workshop	March 30
VIRTUAL – FREE! Watercolour Workshop	March 31

Kaleidoscope in the Schools (KITS)

In early March, we reached out to our Superintendent contacts to ask about the possibility of assembly in schools and allowing external visitors. Our Board partners replied that while there was some hesitation around bringing students together, assemblies and external visitors were in fact now permitted under the Province's latest guidelines. In late March, we began confirming dates with our three performing artist groups and subsequently reaching out to the principals to offer dates throughout the month of May.

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ACTIVITY STATS YTD Q1 2022

	2022	Q1
1	Educational Programs	18
2	Volunteer hours donated	484.15
3	Art Exhibitions	2
4	Art Bytes and Social Media Engagements	8
5	Art Bytes Online Views	451
6	Artists Exhibited	30
7	Gallery Tours	Virtual
8	Virtual Gallery Views	2523
9	Performing Arts Events	5
10	Free Community Events	1
11	Public Meeting	0
12	Visitors	4237

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	As programmed	
Classes	Virtual and In-person in Q1	

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/Vana Chainani
Volunteer Manager & Events Coordinator	Robert Hess
Artistic Outreach Coordinator	Glenn Marais
Performing Arts Producer	Kalaisan Kalaichelvan
Facility Supervisor (part time)	Laura Beaton, Christina DiPaola, Julia Lyubarsky, Jordana Polito

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Q1 at end of March 2022

EXECUTIVE		**DIRECTORS**
President	Eric Acker	Nitin Bagga
Vice President	John de Faveri	Andrea Chan
Treasurer	Laura Hostick	Damien Chan
Secretary	Sharon Kelly	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	Governance & Nominating Committee
Finance & Audit Committee	Outreach Committee
Fund Development Committee	Facility Task Force

MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meet approximately 10 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 processes bi-weekly AP/AR and payroll, 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)
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 are grateful to have a place to program and honoured by those who are able to join us in our programming. It has been a long couple of year and we continue to shift programming as we need to. We want to keep our residents and our team safe through this major health crisis. We look forward to seeing you when you feel comfortable to join us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Haines, Executive Director
*www.auroraculturalcentre.*ca
Follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram