Aurora Cultural Centre

Managerial Commentary – Q2 2022

Introduction

We burst into the second quarter with a lot of energy and new programming. Our performing arts season resumed with performances we could reschedule, at reduced capacity and with COVID impacts still hampering some participation. We also added a few new ideas. We hosted our first I.D.E.A. conference to hear from and experience workshops from thought leaders in Indigenous, Black, 2SLGBTQ+ and diverse communities to build capacity for artists and others in our community. Constellations Music Festival was added as a fully subsidized free world music one-day summer festival in the park which captured the imaginations of audiences from across York, Simcoe and GTA regions.

Our education program continued to run in person, and we were able to reignite Kaleidoscope in the Schools in May. The schools opened and we connected to see if they would be able to host us. Our ongoing discussions and work with artists helped us prepare for a quick turnaround and we were able to deliver the fully subsidized program to 10 schools.

Our gallery program continued to offer in person gallery visits alongside the now internationally popular digital program. We continue to grow back our gallery audience as we have limited access to the space within the capacity of our team. We also continued to plan for public art projects to be in the community in Q3 and Q4 of 2022.

At the end of Q2, we continued to see COVID impacts with artists and participants. Our flexible refund policy is still in place until we start to see these impacts reduce. Staff and instructors are still required to wear masks and in Q3 we will be relaxing the requirement for patrons to wear a mask. While audiences are smaller for indoor programming, we are delighted that we could offer a variety of fully-subsidized (free) programming to the community due to specialized granting programs and generous sponsorship opportunities.

Thank you to the Board and staff who have been supporting our plans and efforts to continue to be a leader in cultural activations in Aurora. Our team is exceptional in skill and expertise, with deep care and compassion for every resident who crosses our path.

Please enjoy the report which details our Q2 2022 activities and I encourage you to patronize those companies who help us make these programs possible.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

A SNAPSHOT OF AURORA CULTURAL CENTRE Q2 OPERATIONS
April – June 2022

SPECIAL EVENTS

Your Voice, One Community I.D.E.A. Artist Symposium
June 25 and June 26th, 8:30 – 3:00pm
CFWI Aurora Armoury
The Aurora Cultural Centre welcomed artists, facilitators and members of the arts community for a vibrant weekend of inspiring keynotes, incredible performances and workshops. This was an opportunity to experience the incredible; motivational talks, inspirational music and art and a fantastic networking opportunity for people working in the arts.
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/idea/

PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS

Leela Gilday
Signature Series
April 7, 2022
CFWI Aurora Armoury

Leela Gilday's power comes straight from the earth, conveying her feelings of love and life in a rugged environment and vibrant culture. Born and raised in the Northwest Territories, she writes about the people and the land that created her, most recently winning her a 2021 Juno Award for Indigenous Artist of the Year. Confessing her stories to her audiences with a gutsy voice and open stage presence, Gilday weaves her experiences as a northerner, a member of the Dene Nation, and a traveler into a beautiful world that transports the listener. If you're from the North, Leela's music is home. If you've never been, it will take you there.

Leela Gilday has connected with fans for over 20 years – playing with her 4-piece band in every territory and province, and touring across the United States, Greenland, Australia and New Zealand. "Leela Gilday's voice comes straight from the heart. It's the voice of a winner; the song of a warrior. That's the call of Leela Gilday." – David Newland, *Roots Music Canada*
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/leela-gilday/

John Sheard Presents Legends of Canadian Folk

Signature Series
May 6, 2022
CFWI Aurora Armoury
From Lightfoot to Joni, Cockburn to Cohen, it's an evening where the icons of Canadian folk music – those woven into our musical fabric – are placed on centre stage. John leads a 7-Piece All-Star band, with players and singers from Dala, Classic Albums Live and musical heroes-Russell de Carle, Steve Briggs and bass legend Dennis Pendrith.
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/john-sheard-legends-of-canadian-folk/

TiKA

Signature Series
May 20, 2022
St. Andrew's College
Embracing the genre rightfully coined as "futuristic nostalgia," TiKA's compositions offer "ethereal sounds that wrap around you, reminding you of other memories." Her songs address deeply personal relationships to ones' inspired by TiKA's Jamaican roots to others that are sonic representations of conversations with the self.

TiKA is a multidisciplinary artist based in Montreal. A singer-songwriter-filmmaker-model-mental health advocate, her fans flock to her magnetic live performances. Her long-awaited album, Anywhere But Here, came out in 2019. Connect with TiKA on IG @withlovetika.
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/tika/

Crozman and Chiu, Cello and Piano

Great Artist Music Series – In-Person Concert and Virtual Livestream
June 2, 2022 @ 7:30pm
Trinity Anglican Church
Acclaimed Canadian chamber musicians Cameron Crozman and Philip Chiu performed in person with their program including Spanish music inspired by Crozman's cello El Tiburón, a circa 1769

Spanish cello attributed to Joannes Guillami, on loan from Canada Council's Instrument Bank. The program features works from their highly acclaimed recording of the same title by de Falla, Albéniz, Ponce, Huré, and Ravel. https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/crozman-chiu-cello-piano-2/

WeeFestival: Yassama and the Beaded Calabash

Meridian Magic Carpet Series
June 5, 2022 @ 11am
Aurora Seniors Centre
Yassama and the Beaded Calabash is the story of a young girl who, with the help of the old Baobab tree, saves her village from drought and delivers a powerful lesson about the importance of respecting and honouring Mother Earth. Acclaimed artist Lua Shayenne weaves vibrant dance and music with engaging storytelling in an interactive performance created especially for young children. https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/weefestival-arts-culture-for-early-years/

John Sheard Presents Homeward Bound: A Tribute to Simon & Garfunkel

Signature Series
June 11, 2022 @ 7:30pm
St. Andrews College, Wirth Theatre
John Sheard brought an all-start line-up to present the music of one of the best-selling music groups of the 1960s. Their biggest hits reached the number one on singles charts worldwide. Simon & Garfunkel won 10 Grammy Awards and were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990. Their final album together, Bridge over Troubled Water, is ranked at number 51 on Rolling Stone's 500 Greatest Albums of All Time. They are among the best-selling music artists, having sold more than 100 million records.
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/john-sheard-homeward-bound/

Constellations Music Festival

Featuring OKAN, TIO CHORINHO WITH FLÁVIA NASCIMENTO, and WESLI
June 25, 2022, 7-10pm
Aurora Town Park
OKAN: A JUNO award-winning, women-led ensemble that fuses Afro-Cuban roots with jazz, folk and global rhythms in songs about immigration, courage and love.

TIO CHORINHO WITH FLÁVIA NASCIMENTO: Flávia Nascimento joins Canada's first ensemble dedicated to performing Brazilian choro music. Combining Northeastern Brazilian styles such as forró and maracatu, Tio Chorinho is known for their unique repertoire, virtuosity, dynamics and easy-going charm on stage.

WESLI: JUNO award-winning, Montreal-based Haitian musician brings together his 7-piece band, linking Haitian voudou and rara with reggae, Afrobeat and hip-hop. Don't miss out on this grand finale with Wesli's infectious grooves and creativity!
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/constellations-music-festival/

GALLERY PROGRAM

In-person gallery visits are in the temporary gallery space on 2nd floor of Aurora Town Hall. Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturday from 10am-3pm during exhibitions. Exhibitions are also accessible through our online gallery and a virtual 3D map.
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/gallery-exhibitions/

UPON REFLECTION – PORTRAITS OF PERSONAL HISTORY

Nicole Crozier, Eden Graham, and Joon Hee Kim - Group Exhibition and Sale
In-Person: Friday April 1 – Saturday April 23, 2022
Online: Thursday March 31 – Friday May 6, 2022

Upon Reflection; Portraits of Personal History is a multi-disciplinary exhibition featuring the work of GTA artists Nicole Crozier, Eden Graham and Joon Hee Kim. Coming from different backgrounds and lived experiences, the artists meet on shared themes of identity and self-representation, challenging each through creative explorations in portraiture. To further their connection, collage is a predominant tool in their processes, both materially and conceptually. Through the layering of media, imagery, and iconography, the artists each present a storyboard of personal experience, offering viewers an intimate look into the perspectives of themselves, their histories, and the world around them.
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/upon-reflection-portraits-of-personal-history/

Backstories: The Researching Artist as Traveller & Interviewer

Andrew Cheddie Sookrah - Solo Artist Exhibition and Sale
In-Person: Wednesday May 11 – Friday July 8, 2022
Online: Friday May 13 – Friday July 15, 2022
Artist Reception: June 4th, 1 – 3pm in Temporary Gallery

Backstories: The Researching Artist as Traveller & Interviewer exhibits paintings, drawings, and sculptures taken from Sookrah's life as both traveller and artist. Recognized for his bright and expressive technique, Sookrah takes us on a journey through rivers, lands, and into the intimate solitaries of his studio during a time of limited movement; The COVID-19 pandemic. Harnessing media as a tool for visual communication, Sookrah presents an internal dialogue that reflects upon his subjects and their deeper societal connections. In observing his work, viewers are privy to an underlying social commentary that is carefully interlaced into the threads of his canvas.
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/backstories/

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. Art Bytes are available for viewing through our YouTube channel during and after gallery exhibitions. Art Bytes can be found here:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLm2UcSbw79AnUmsFQYUd_cQ5m9GGQleHn

	Art Byte Topic	Related Exhibition	Date Posted
1.	In Conversation with Nicole Crozier	Upon Reflection – Portraits of Personal History	April 18, 2022
2.	The Book of Faces – Andrew's Return to Portraiture	Backstories: The Researching Artist as Traveller & Interviewer	June 7, 2022

3.	The Fire Within - Backstories and Inspirations of Andrew Cheddie Sookrah	Backstories: The Researching Artist as Traveller & Interviewer	June 7, 2022
4.	A Calling to Ragged Falls	Backstories: The Researching Artist as Traveller & Interviewer	June 7, 2022

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Q2 classes were successful and well registered, at 87% full, with 215/246 possible registrations filled. Programs were a blend of virtual offerings on Zoom, as well as in-person offerings at Aurora Town Hall, CFWI Aurora Armoury, and a community collaborative workshop with Rosa Calabrese-Teal at Royal Rose Gallery (formerly Caruso's). New workshops were introduced, including Punch Needle Rug Hooking, Oil Painting in Still Life, and Chip Carving

Class	Ages	Dates
Signs of Spring: Watercolours*	16+	April 14 - 28
Expand Your Horizons in Acrylics Level 2	16+	April 19 – June 7
Start Painting now with Acrylics	16+	April 19 – June 7
AFTER SCHOOL – You Can Uke It	8+	April 20 – June 8
Beginning Guitar	16+	April 20 – June 8
Exploring Watercolours	16+	April 20 – June 8
Ukulele for Beginners	16+	April 20 – June 8
Watercolours: Basics and Beyond	16+	April 21 – June 16
A Journey Through Art & Time	4 - 6	April 23 – June 18
Around the World with Art	7 - 10	April 23 – June 18
Famous Artists & Their Styles	11 -15	April 23 – June 18
Card Making	16+	April 24
Wood Carving	16+	April 25 – June 20
The Process of Printmaking	16+	May 1 – May 8
Springtime Paint Along	16+	May 5

Florals Up Close	16+	May 12 – May 26
Introduction to Mixed Media	16+	May 14
Make Your Own Stained Glass Suncatcher	16+	May 15
Crepe Paper Flowers	16+	May 29
PA Day program	4 - 12	June 2
Punch Needle Rug Hooking for Beginners	16+	June 5
The Magic of Pastels	16+	June 19
Oil Painting in Still Life	16+	June 25
Chip Carving 101	16+	June 26

* Indicates virtual class

Kaleidoscope in the Schools (KITS)

KITS had a very successful and exciting return to programming in May 2022. An easing of COVID restrictions meant that were allowed back into the schools, much to the delight of the approximately 1881 JK-Grade 4 students who enjoyed the program. We had three incredible productions and 10 performances across YCDSB, YRDSB, and MonAvenir.

The first production was a mime show offering in both French and English by Trevor Copp of Tottering Biped Theatre called ***The Carnival of Animals*** that used the famous classical song of the same name by Camille Saint-Saëns to help bring the animals to life. The second production was also available to schools in French or English called ***Kattam and his Tam-Tams*** by Kattam Laraki-Cote that brought the students across Africa, the Middle East and India through rhythm, song and dance. The third production was ***The Fitzgeralds***, a trio of siblings named Julie, Kerry and Tom, whose mind-blowing fiddling techniques and Ottawa Valley stepdance moves shone a light onto music, dance and history that is unique to our country's capital. The program was well received and included post-show workshops with the performing artists for Grade 4 students from each school, serving 370 students and 95 teachers.

KITS Production	Dates	Elementary Schools
Le Carnaval des Animaux	May 4	EEC St. Jean
The Carnival of Animals	May 5	Regency Acres Public School
Kattam and his Tam Tams	May 10	St. Thomas Aquinas
Kattam et ses Tam-Tams	May 11	St. Joseph
Kattam and his Tam Tams	May 12	Hartman Public School
Kattam and his Tam Tams	May 13	St. Bernadette
The Fitzgeralds	May 24	Holy Spirit
The Fitzgeralds	May 25	Our Lady of Grace

The Fitzgeralds	May 26	St. Jerome
The Fitzgeralds	May 27	Prince of Peace

ACTIVITY STATS YTD Q2 2022

	2022	Q1	Q2
1	Educational Programs	18	24
2	Volunteer hours donated	484.15	527.45
3	Art Exhibitions	2	2
4	Art Bytes	8	4
5	Art Bytes Online Views	451	360
6	Artists Exhibited	30	4
7	Gallery Tours	Virtual	Virtual
8	Virtual Gallery Views	2523	1609
9	Performing Arts Events	5	5
10	Free Community Events	1	7
11	Public Meeting	0	2
12	Visitors	4237	5676

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 (on leave)	Carol Sharp
Communications Manager (on leave)	Jane Taylor
Interim Communications Manager	Kayla van Zon
Gallery Manager	Samantha Jones
Education & Outreach Manager	Leanne DiMonte
Box office & Digital Services Coordinator	Matthew Knox
Administrative Assistant (on leave)	Jennifer Marrocco
Development Assistant (part-time)	Jordana Polito
Gallery Assistant	Vana Chainani
Audience Services & Production Coordinator	Robert Hess
Artistic Outreach Coordinator	Glenn Marais
Performing Arts Producer	Kalaisan Kalaichelvan
Facility Supervisor (part time)	Laura Beaton, Julia Lyubarsky, Jordana Polito

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Q2 at end of June 2022

EXECUTIVE		**DIRECTORS**
President	Eric Acker	Edlene Antonio
Vice President	John de Faveri	Damien Chan
Treasurer	Laura Hostick	Roger Feng
Secretary	Andrea Chan	Mandana Gholami Mobarakabadi
		Sharon Kelly
		Parisa Sabet
		Anita Townsend
		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
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 do grateful for the support we have received to make this quarter possible. We are becoming experts in spontaneous reinvention as we navigate the pandemic and all of its impacts on our community. We welcomed the opportunity to bring back so much programming so

quickly. Thank you to those who could join us, we appreciate your support, your creativity to build with us, and your excitement alongside us as we brought arts to Aurora.

Respectfully Submitted,

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