Aurora Cultural Centre

AGENDA
Board of Directors Public Meeting #4 2022
6:30 pm
Aurora Public Library Board Room
In Person

Wednesday December 14th, 2022 **Eric Acker, Chair**

1 (1 min)	Agenda **MOTION** to Approve the Agenda	Eric Acker
2 (1 min)	Welcome to Guests	Eric Acker
3 (15 min)	**Executive Director Report** • Report on Q3 Activity **MOTION** to Approve the Managerial Commentary for Q3 2022, AND that Q3 Commentary be sent to Town of Aurora, AND that Q3 Commentary be made available for public release.	Suzanne Haines
4 (15 min)	**Treasurer's Report** • Report on Q3 Activity **MOTION** to Approve the unaudited interim financial statements for the 3 months ended September 30, 2022 (the Q3 Report) and to approve the filing of the Q3 Report with the Town of Aurora as per the Provision of Cultural Services Agreement.	Laura Hostick
5 (5 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** April 12, 2023 at 6:30pm	ALL
8	**MOTION** to Adjourn Meeting	ALL

Aurora Cultural Centre

Minutes
Board of Directors Public Meeting #4 2022
6:30 pm
Aurora Public Library
Board Room In Person

Wednesday December 14th, 2022 **Eric Acker, Chair**

Attendees: Eric Acker, Edlene Antonio, Andrea Chan, John de Faveri, Cllr Wendy Gaertner, Laura Hostick, Sharon Kelly, Anita Townsend,

Regrets: Damien Chan, Mandana Gholami Mobarakabadi Cllr Rachel Gilliland, Parisa Sabet

1 (1 min)	Agenda **MOTION** to Approve the Agenda Moved: Edlene Antonio Seconded: Sharon Kelly CARRIED	Eric Acker
2 (1 min)	Welcome to Guests	Eric Acker
3 (15 min)	**Executive Director Report** • Report on Q3 Activity **MOTION** to Approve the Managerial Commentary for Q3 2022, AND that Q3 Commentary be sent to the Town of Aurora, AND that Q3 Commentary be made available for public release Moved: John de Faveri Seconded: Anita Townsend CARRIED	Suzanne Haines
4 (15 min)	**Treasurer's Report** • Report on Q3 Activity **MOTION** to Approve the unaudited interim financial statements for the 3 months ended September 30, 2022 (the Q3 Report) and to approve the filing of the Q3 Report with the Town of Aurora as per the Provision of Cultural Services Agreement. Moved: Sharon Kelly Seconded: Edlene Antonio	Laura Hostick

	CARRIED	
5 (5 min)	**Question and 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** April 12, 2023 at 6:30 pm	
8	**MOTION** to Adjourn Meeting Moved: John de Faveri Seconded: Laura Hostick CARRIED Meeting Adjourned: 7:00pm	ALL

Aurora Cultural Centre

Managerial Commentary – Q3 2022

Introduction

The third quarter of the year started with incredible energy as we moved into the summer months. Programming was in full swing with Aurora Pops Up! and Aurora Bell Box Murals literally popping up for the community throughout Aurora. Both funded by the federal government, we were proud to once again serve those isolated in long term care facilities and bring vibrant and exciting artists to the community.

We launched our 2022-2023 season of professional programming with a full slate of concerts, family events, gallery exhibitions, and educational programs. Our brochure was sent across the community and throughout the region, attracting a new audience with fully subsidized family programs, from local sponsors and topped up by funding from federal funding. We also purchased our live stream mobile rig that allows us to capture and stream our events to the community. This investment through the Ontario Trillium Foundation makes it possible to continue to reach those unable to join us in person, through their screen should they continue to wish to. We revitalized our connection with Canoo and Access2, a newcomer immigration program and disability support program respectively. This added emphasis to accessibility bolsters our purpose and programming.

Education programs continued to be delivered at the CFWI Aurora Armoury and Aurora Town Hall as we waited for the program rooms to be completed at Aurora Town Square. We continued to plan for our return to the schools in the fall with Kaleidoscope in the Schools, confirming artists for residencies in our community with growth into York Region.

The Board developed a short-term strategic plan to cover the period from September 2022-December 2023, the period prior to our arrival at Aurora Town Square. We reconfirmed the programs, further developed I.D.E.A. strategies, and focused energy on rebuilding with the community as we come out of the global pandemic.

As the quarter came to a close, we felt the impact of rising costs and a slowing economy, and we continue to be impacted by artists and patrons ill from COVID. Patrons rely on our generous flexibility to cancel or change their participation as needed. Staff, volunteers and instructors continue to be masked as we carefully program the rest of the year.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Funded by:
Federal Economic Development
Agency for Southern Ontario

Financé par :
Agence fédérale de développement
économique pour le Sud de l'Ontario

A SNAPSHOT OF AURORA CULTURAL CENTRE Q2 OPERATIONS
July – September 2022

SPECIAL EVENTS

2022- 2023 Professional Arts Season Launch

August 4th, 6:00 – 8:00PM

Temporary Gallery at Aurora Town Hall

The Aurora Cultural Centre provided a video presentation on the upcoming 2022-2023 professional arts programming to invited guests, including government representatives and our board and committee members. Gallery Manager Samantha Jones, Performing Arts Producer Kalaisan Kalaichelvan, and Co-Artistic Director of the Great Artist Music Series Bonnie Kraft introduced the upcoming gallery exhibitions, projects, and live performing arts events.

https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/professional-arts-season-2022-2023/

Aurora Bell Boxes

Launch October 1 from 1-3pm, Aurora Town Hall

Public art installation around Aurora

From August-September 2022, artists from within and around Aurora are taking part in the Aurora Bell Box Murals project. This project is a response to **Call to Action #83** from the Truth & Reconciliation Commission Report: *Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process.*

One Indigenous and one non-Indigenous artist have been paired together for each Bell Box Mural. Following an assigned theme, artists will work together to conceptualize, design, and paint a collaborative mural to be enjoyed by our community and future generations to come.

Participating Artists and Themes

Artists		Theme
Sherlyn Hu	Ren Lonechild	Family Life and Ancestral Traditions
Joaquin Varela	Annwin Manitowabi	Truth and Reconciliation and the Path Forward Together
Atessa Hooshvar	Sharon Rigby	Indigenous History Specific to Aurora/York Region
Kim Egan	Jennifer Messon	The Natural Elements Working Together in Harmony
Jill Sciberras	Ren Lonechild	Language, Stories & Connection to the Land
Aurora Cultural Centre and York-Simcoe CMHA	Gloria Hope	The Seven Grandfather Teachings

Stacey Kinder	Jennifer Messon	Indigenous Relationship with Nature
Karen Roberts	Sharon Rigby	Stories of Creation
Hope Flynn	Gloria Hope	Meeting Places, Trade Routes and Cultural Connections

Find the Map of Aurora Bell Box Murals here: Aurora Bell Box Murals Map

Culture Days

September 24, 10:00 – 4:00PM

Aurora Town Park

We celebrated Culture Days during the Farmer's Market at Town Park with two fun and interactive arts activities!

Activity #1: The Exquisite Corpse – Participatory Painting Activity with Chantal Hassard

Pick up a paint brush and "create a portrait of the collective subconscious". Modelled after the surrealist drawing game, The Exquisite Corpse; participants were invited to contribute to a set of life-sized canvases. Throughout the festival, the canvases evolved into a collaboration of marks and brush strokes; a collective portrait of our community.

Activity #2: Family Take Home Activity – Community Love Signs

Creating colourful signs to celebrate the love for community, friendship, and diversity. We provided exterior paint – and glitter – so the signs can be displayed outside, in gardens, on porches … a piece of public art for all to enjoy.

https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/culture-days-2022/

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30, 3:00-5:00PM

Aurora Town Park

The day honoured the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families, and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

The Aurora Cultural Centre event was co-presented and hosted by Jared Big Canoe, a member of the Chippewa nation from Georgina Island. Jared is a singer/songwriter and community advocate whose passion for honouring his culture, passion for his people and his own journey of healing inform and inspire others to learn and advocate for Truth and Reconciliation and at the forefront of this day, to always remember the children.

Running concurrently along with the stage activities, guests were able to participate in the creation of healing cards. Facilitated by Asha Frost, these cards were collected and will be brought back to the Chippewa Nation from Georgina Island.

https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/ndtr2022/

PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS

Aurora Pops Up!

Public performance around Aurora

This outdoor performing arts festival is designed to revitalize the creative energy of Aurorans by staging a series of short live performances of music and dance in outdoor spaces across the town, open to everyone and free of charge.APU concerts will continue through to September 10th. Here are the performances in July and August.
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/aurora-pops-up/

Dates:	Time:	Organization/Space:	Artist:	Discipline:
Sat July 23rd	10:00AM	Aurora Farmer's Market	Sina Bathaie	Santur Player
Sat July 23rd	1:00PM	Coconut Village Nails Spa	Sina Bathaie	Santur Player
Thurs July 28th	10:00AM	Chartwell Park Place Retirement Residence	Glenn Marais	Singer/Guitarist
Sat July 30th	10:00AM	Aurora Farmer's Market	Rebekah and Jurecka Duo	Violin Duo
Sat Jul 30th	2:00PM	Thomas Coates Park	Rebekah and Jurecka Duo	Violin Duo
Thurs Aug 11th	10:30AM	Chartwell Long Term Care	George St. Kitts	Singer/Band
Thurs Aug 11th	1:00 PM	Kingsway Arms Aurora	George St. Kitts	Singer/Band
Sat Aug 13th	1:00 PM	Omar's Shoes	Basset	Folk Duo
Sat Aug 13th	2:00PM	Hickson Park	Basset	Folk Duo
Thurs Aug 18th	2:00 PM	Chartwell Park Place Retirement Residence	Sophie Lukacs	Kora Player
Thurs Aug 18th	4:00PM	St. Andrew's Shopping Centre	Sophie Lukacs	Kora Player
Sat Aug 20th	10:00AM	Machell's Alley	Freeplay Duo	Vocal Duo

Sat Aug 20th	1:00PM	Copland Park	Freeplay Duo	Vocal Duo
Thurs Sept 1	12:00PM	Hurst Bakery	Glenn Marais	Singer/Guitarist
Thurs Sept 8th	1:00PM	St. Andrew's Shopping Centre	Anh Phung	Flutist
Thurs Sept 8th	3:00PM	Norm Weller Park	Anh Phung	Singer/Guitarist
Sat Sept 10th	10:00AM	Aurora Farmer's Market	Yanchan Rajmohan	Carnatic Percussionist + Guitar
Sat Sept 10th	1:00PM	Chapman Park	Yanchan Rajmohan	Carnatic Percussionist + Guitar

Mark Fewer & John Novacek

In-Person Concert and Digital Livestream
Friday September 16 @ 7:30pm
Trinity Anglican Church
Legendary Canadian violinist Mark Fewer is known as soloist, chamber musician, orchestral leader, jazz musician and artistic programmer. He was joined by renowned pianist John Novacek, who is known for touring the world, performing with dozens of leading international orchestras in world-class venues.
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/mark-fewer-john-novacek/

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/

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/

Backwards and Forwards: Reflections in Porcupine Quills

Vanessa Dion Fletcher, Solo Artist Exhibition
In-Person: Wednesday July 27 – Saturday September 17, 2022
Online: Monday July 25 – Friday September 23, 2022
Location: Temporary Gallery at Aurora Town Hall
Artist Reception: July 30th, 1-3pm in Temporary Gallery space

Vanessa Dion Fletcher is a Lenape and Potawatomi neurodiverse Artist. Her family is from Eelūnaapèewii Lahkèewiitt (displaced from Lenapehoking) and European settlers. She employs porcupine quills, Wampum belts, and menstrual blood, to reveal the complexities of what defines a body physically and culturally. Reflecting on an Indigenous and gendered body with a neurodiverse mind, Dion Fletcher creates art using composite media, primarily working in performance, textiles, and video. https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/backwards-and-forwards/

#hopeandhealingcanada

Tracey Mae Chambers, Public Art Installation
September 13, 2022 – December 13, 2022
Aurora Family Leisure Complex, installed in front foyer

The #hopeandhealingcanada project created by Métis artist Tracey-Mae Chambers consists of a series of site-specific art installations across Canada. Each is made using crochet, knit, and woven red yarns. This ongoing body of work is used to illustrate connections between Indigenous, Inuit, and Métis peoples with Canadians, while also addressing the decolonization of public spaces. Once dismantled, the work is returned to the artist and will be reworked and repurposed at another site somewhere else in the country. The stories gathered from each participating venue will culminate in a book and traveling exhibition.
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/hopeandhealingcanada/

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: Gallery Art Bytes link

	Art Byte Topic	Related Exhibition	Date Posted
1.	Backwards and Forwards Vanessa Dion Fletcher	Installation Backwards Forwards	August 3, 2022
2.	Backwards and Forwards Vanessa Dion Fletcher	Porcupine Quills, Onion Skins…	August 10, 2022

3.	Backwards and Forwards Vanessa Dion Fletcher	Looking Back to Move Forwards	August 18, 2022
4.	#hopeandhealingcanada Tracey Mae Chambers	Interview #1 – Tracey Mae Chambers	October 14, 2022
5.	#hopeandhealingcanada Tracey Mae Chambers	Interview #2 – Tracey Mae Chambers	October 14, 2022

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Kaleidoscope in the Schools (KITS)

We are hopeful to reinvigorate the KITS program in this upcoming 2022/23 school year. Our "blue sky" scenario is to offer the program to Aurora schools, plus underserved schools, - as identified by our school board partners (YCDSB, YRDSB, MonAvenir, Viamonde) - in municipalities north of Aurora, including: Newmarket, East Gwillimbury, Keswick, Pefferlaw, Sutton, as well as Waabgon Gamig First Nation School on Georgina Island. Featured productions include: Njacko Backo (African Voyage), Puzzle Theatre (Bois/Wood), Hogtown Brass (NO FUN ALLOWED!), Little Pear Garden Dance Company (The Tales of Goddesses and a Painter), Bon Debarras (Playing Hooky), and Carousel Players (The Incredible Adventures of Mary Jane Mosquito). We continue to be mindful of factors beyond our control, including potential COVID-19 interference and potential job action amongst educators.

Summer Camp Classes

Summer camps were incredibly successful, albeit smaller in size due to venue availability. Enrollment was 98% full, with 231/236 possible registrations filled. In the first week, we had a maximum of 18 campers; once we realized we could fit more campers in the classroom, we added an additional 2 campers per week, totaling 20 per program. There were a few campers throughout the summer who were ill, and as such they dropped out, and in most cases, it was difficult to fill these spots mid-week. Camps took place at the CFWI-Aurora Armoury and featured programs for both 4-6 and 7-12 year olds, including both half-day and full-day programs. We had 4 guest artists throughout the summer: Andrew Cheddie Sookrah (exhibiting Gallery artist/clay); Vicky Talwar (mixed media artist/mandalas); Laura Burdi (digital artist); Marissa Magneson (mixed media artist/Cree-Metis Dot Art).

Class	Age Range	Dates
The Wonderful World of Nature and Animals	4 - 6	July 4 - 8
The Wonderful World of Nature and Animals	7 – 12	July 4 - 8
Artistic Imaginations	4 - 6	July 11 - 15
Artistic Imaginations	7 - 12	July 11 - 15
Colour Around Us	4 - 6	July 18 - 22
Colour Around Us	7 - 12	July 18 - 22
Sculpt It!	4 - 6	July 25 - 29
Sculpt It!	7 - 12	July 25 - 29
Art Around the World	7 - 12	August 2 - 5
Faces & Places	7 - 12	August 8 - 12
Art Through the Ages	7 - 12	August 15 - 19
Famous Artists & Their Styles	7 - 12	August 22 - 26

ACTIVITY STATS YTD Q3 2022

	2022	Q1	Q2	Q3
1	Educational Programs	18	24	19
2	Volunteer hours donated	484.15	527.45	973
3	Art Exhibitions	2	2	11
4	Art Bytes	8	4	3
5	Art Bytes Online Views	451	360	207
6	Artists Exhibited	30	4	20
7	Gallery Tours	Virtual	Virtual	Virtual
8	Virtual Gallery Views	2523	1609	4238
9	Performing Arts Events	5	5	3
10	Free Community Events	1	7	17
11	Public Meeting	0	2	1
12	Visitors	4237	5676	7841

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
Communications Manager (on leave)	Jane Taylor
Interim Communications Manager	Kayla van Zon
Box office & Digital Services Coordinator	Matthew Knox
Gallery Manager	Samantha Jones
Gallery Assistant	vacant
Education & Outreach Manager	Leanne DiMonte
Education Assistant	Jessica Falcioni
Performing Arts Producer	Kalaisan Kalaichelvan
Audience Services & Production Coordinator	Robert Hess
Administrative Assistant (on leave)	Jennifer Marrocco
Development Assistant (part-time)	Jordana Polito
Artistic Outreach Coordinator	Asleysha Ramasamy
Facility Supervisor (part time)	Laura Beaton, Nazia Munar, Jordana Polito

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Q3 at end of September 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
Our community is finding the best use of some normalcy, time and events that have been truly missed. Impact of COVID-19 on our patrons, artists and events continues to be felt and we are grateful for the reopening funding we received to help support creativity in the community. We felt the incredible success of our summer programs, albeit still smaller classes due to venue availability. Our biggest challenge is competition of activities for people who have missed so much in the past 2 years, and marketing in this very crowded market.

Respectfully Submitted,

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