Aurora Cultural Centre

Managerial Commentary – Q1 2023

Introduction

It was delightful to start the year open and active in the community again. We were able to host all three programs, performing arts, education and gallery programs in person and continue to assess what virtual programming options are still in demand.

With the support of a Canadian Heritage COVID recovery grant, we brought our Aurora Pops Up! artists back to Aurora in a day-long event on Family Day at the Aurora Armoury and Trinity Anglican Church. We saw over 1200 residents that included new community members and those in our community that had a vested interest in the artists they had encountered during the summer programming.

Once again, we were able to be in schools with a full program of Kaleidoscope in the Schools, branching further into York Region as contemplated in our strategic plan to schools where the capacity for arts programming is low. There has been extremely positive reception from these schools.

The Aurora Cultural Centre experienced some turnover and recruited for existing and new roles to meet the needs of our programming. We look forward to working with this new team as we build for our offsite season in 2023.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

A SNAPSHOT OF AURORA CULTURAL CENTRE Q1 OPERATIONS
January – March 2023

SPECIAL EVENTS

Family Day Aurora Pops Up – A Magical Family Day
February 20, 2023 at The Armoury and Trinity Anglican Church
We invited families to bring the kids in out of the cold with the warmth of sing-alongs, live musical performances and family art activities. Offered at two accessible locations in the heart of Aurora. Lots to do, including the Town of Aurora's Arctic Adventure in Town Park.

AURORA POPS UP! Live Music Reunion at The Armoury
Performers from our popular 2021 & 2022 outdoor summer music series

10:00 am – 10:50 am	**MUSIC CIRCLE** with **Glenn Marais, James Brown and Sina Bathaie** | Creating music all together
11:00 am – 11:30 am	**George St. Kitts** | Motown, funk, soul
11:45 am – 12:15 pm	**Basset** | Folk duo
12:25 pm – 12:55 pm	**Jessica Sevier** | Country
1:05 pm – 1:35 pm	**Yanchan Rajmohan** | Mridangam (South Indian hand drum)
1:45 pm – 2:15 pm	**Hasheel Lodhia** | Bansuri (Hindustani flute)
2:25 pm – 2:55 pm	**Sophie Lukacs** | Kora (West African 21-stringed instrument)
3:05 pm – 3:35 pm	**Justin Massey** | Saxophone
3:45 pm – 4:15 pm	**Mimi O'Bonsawin** | Indigenous & French-Canadian Roots

AURORA POPS UP! Live Music Reunion at Trinity Anglican Church
Performers from our popular 2021 & 2022 outdoor summer music series

10:00 am – 10:45 am	**Bryan Holt & Bora Kim** | Cello & violin
10:55 am – 11:40 am	**Rebekah & Jurecka Duo** | Classical, jazz, world music
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	**MUSIC CIRCLE** with **Glenn Marais, James Brown and Sina Bathaie** | Creating music all together

Wizard Wand-Making Workshop
10:00 am – 2:30 pm || Drop in and create!

PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS

John Sheard Presents Tribute to the Beatles Part 2
January 10, 2023 at St. Andrew's College
Probably best known as music director for Stuart Mclean's Vinyl Café from 1997-2016, Toronto's John Sheard has released 8 solo piano recordings and continues to work with artists of all styles and mentor many young musicians. Since 1975, he has appeared on hundreds of recordings with artists such as Rita MacNeil, Olivia Newton-John, Ian and Sylvia Tyson, Dan Hill, Rita Coolidge, Mary-Margaret O'Hara, Celine Dion, Matt Anderson, Danny Michel, and many, many more. He has performed live with too many artists to count, including Rough Trade, Jackie Richardson, John McDermott, Owen Pallett, Suzie Vinnick, Dala, Jill Barber and Art Garfunkel. As a producer and arranger, he has worked with The Guess Who, Buster Poindexter, Russell de Carle, Dan Hill, Shirley Eikhard and The Good Brothers. John has also produced and written music for television shows such as A+E.'s Biography, Sesame Street, So You Think You Can Dance, Dancing with the Stars, and David Letterman's Hollywood Film Festival.

Payadora Tango Ensemble
January 27, 2023 at Trinity United Church
Payadora is a contemporary chamber music ensemble that performs Argentinian/Uruguayan tango and folk music and original compositions inspired by that tradition. Payadora has self produced two albums and has developed a loyal following across Canada over the past six years. The ensemble balances a combination of virtuosity and creativity, with stylistic accuracy.

The ensemble features a collection of some of the most respected chamber musicians in Canada. Founded in 2013, Payadora has become one of Toronto's most vibrant and sought-after acts. Their broad scope in tango draws from the height of Buenos Aires' Tango tradition, including compositions by De Caro, Pugliese, Troilo, and Salgan, to the masterful, contemporary sounds of Astor Piazzolla and beyond. Drawing from eclectic backgrounds in Classical, Jazz, Latin, Eastern European folk music, and improvisation, Payadora's performances exude technical virtuosity, playful spontaneity, and rhythmic vitality.

Their recordings are played regularly on Jazz FM's Cafe Latino and Classical 96.3. The Argentinean consulate recently made a video in support of Payadora showcasing interviews and live videos from Payadora's concerts. In addition, Payadora is the featured ensemble in the 2019 documentary "The Sounds of Canada: Argentina."

Highlights from Payadora's past performances include sold-out shows at the Ottawa Chamberfest, Indian River Music Festival in PEI, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto Music Festival, the Lula Lounge, the Jazz Bistro, the TD Toronto Jazz Festival, and for the Canadian Opera Company's World Music Series at the Four Seasons Centre. Payadora has been featured with the London Symphonia, Cathedral Bluffs Symphony and the Hannaford Street Silver Band, Festival of the Sound in Parry Sound, Stratford Summer Music Festival, Leith Festival in Owen Sound, Music in the Morning in Vancouver and Vancouver Island Music Festival.

The Sandbox
February 11 at Theatre Aurora
In The Sandbox, a world of stories emerges through shadows, objects, and music! Two performers take us on a journey from the playground to lands faraway in a performance that engages all the senses and our imaginations.

Created by Tenon Mortaise, The Sandbox is an interdisciplinary performance introduces children to puppetry, clowning and shadow play. It's a playful and poetic journey through the five senses, organized around a sandbox full of surprises.

Amanda Rheaume
March 4, 2023 at NC The Armoury
Amanda Rheaume's rootsy, guitar-driven ballads introduce crucial dimensions to the world of Heartland Rock. In a genre characterized by anthems of underdogs, assumptions and unfair advantages, Rheaume's sound and story crucially and radically expand the boundaries, geographic and cultural, to make space for new perspectives on resistance and resilience. A Citizen of the Métis Nation, and an active and proud member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, Rheaume's music is indeed from the heart, and the land.

First a songwriter, Rheaume comes from a long line of tireless, transformational organizers and activists, and carries this lineage forward in her ever-growing role as a crucial builder of Indigenous music infrastructure and community. From the International Indigenous Music Summit, to newly-founded Ishkode Records, and the National Indigenous Music Office, the goal of raising Indigenous sovereignty in the music industry drives all of Rheaume's work.

Rheaume (she/her) has released five full-length albums over a period of 15 years, a self-managed career that has traveled countless tours and milestones. 2013's Keep a Fire was nominated for a JUNO Award and won a Canadian Folk Music Award for Indigenous Songwriter of the Year. With a new single "100 Years," a driving, surging Copperhead Road-esque journey through a wilfully, harmfully misrepresented chapter in a violent colonial timeline, Rheaume makes a powerful statement about history and identity.

Hogtown Brass
March 11, 2023 at St. Andrews College
Hogtown Brass is a dynamic Canadian ensemble comprised of accomplished musicians from a variety of diverse artistic backgrounds. Known for their unique arrangements and new compositions, collaborations with vocalists and instrumentalists, along with an affinity for both standard and non-traditional performance spaces, Hogtown Brass is on a mission to reinvigorate the entire concert experience for their audiences.

Hogtown Brass is committed to presenting unique concert experiences, as well as entertaining and informative educational programs including workshops, masterclasses, and residencies. Recent performances include: TD Toronto Jazz Festival, Guelph Connections Concert Series, Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts, Toronto Chamber Players, CityTV Carol Sing, and a tour through Atlantic Canada with performances in Dartmouth, Lunenburg, Atlantic

Festivals of Music, as well as a residency with the Sistema New Brunswick music education program.

Dominique Fils-Aime
March 24, 2023 at St. Andrews College
Dominique Fils-Aimé traverses the broad spectrum of stripped-down blues to the emotional lushness of Soul music of yesterday and tomorrow, celebrating the rich legacy of African-American music. On stage, whether in Canada, Europe or the United States, Fils-Aimé draws the listener in with her refreshingly powerful yet subdued voice and radiant glow.

Making a remarkable entrance on the music scene in 2018 with her debut 'Nameless', Dominique Fils-Aimé's sophomore album 'Stay Tuned!' won several awards including the JUNO for Vocal Jazz Album of the Year, the Félix for Jazz Album of the Year at the ADISQ Gala in addition to being shortlisted for the Polaris Music Prize and featured among the 19 best Canadian albums of 2019 from CBC.

John Sheard presents Legends of Motown
March 25, 2023 at St. Andrews College
The 60's and 70's were the glory days of Motown featuring some of the best songs ever written, sung by some of the greatest voices. John Sheard and his 7-piece band celebrate the reign of superstars, including Marvin Gaye, The Supremes, The Four Tops, The Temptations, Smokey Robinson, Gladys Knight, Stevie Wonder and many others. The concert featured **Vocals:** Selena Evangeline, Quisha Wint and Thomas Nelson, **Guitar:** Steve Briggs, **Bass:** Dennis Pendrith, **Drums:** Ryan Granville-Martin, **Piano & Host:** John Sheard

GALLERY PROGRAM

In-person gallery visits are in the temporary gallery space on 2nd floor of Aurora Town Hall. Gallery hours are now Monday - Saturday from 8:30am-4:30pm during exhibitions. Exhibitions are also accessible through our online gallery and a virtual 3D map.
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/gallery-exhibitions/

Inspirations From a Space of Healing

December 10, 2022 – January 28, 2023
Virtual Gallery available until February 10, 2022
Curated by the Aurora Historical Society and Aurora Cultural Centre

Featured from the Society of York Region Artists:
Bill Lunshof, Carol Walthers, Catherine Fairs, Christine Valentini, George Keltika, Hans Backer, Karin Adams, Kevin McBean, Linda Welch, Lucy Quin, Melinda Schnalzer, Sharon Nielsen, and Vikki Mikkola

Inspirations From a Space of Healing is a multisite exhibition located at the Hillary House National Historic Site and the Aurora Cultural Centre's temporary home at the Aurora Town Hall (second floor). Featuring work by artists of the Society of York Region Artists, this exhibition looks to artifacts within the Hillary House National Historic site for inspiration.

Built in 1862, Hillary House is recognized by the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board as one of the best examples of Gothic Revival architecture in Canada. It was used as a doctor's practice and family residence for over 100 years and contains a significant collection of medical instruments, books, papers, household furnishings dating from the early nineteenth to the late twentieth century.

An Opening Reception for *Inspirations From a Space of Healing* was held on Saturday December 10 from 1 – 3 pm at Hillary House National Historic Site.

https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/inspirations/2022-12-10/

Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts (MCOYA)

February 11, 2023 – March 18, 2023
Virtual Gallery available until April 1, 2023

The Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts (MCOYA) student art exhibition continues now into its twelfth year! We are elated for this year's exhibition featuring artwork from the grade 12 students from across Aurora and runs in person from **Saturday, February 11th – Saturday, March 18th, 2023 and online from Saturday, February 11th to Saturday, April 1st, 2023** on this webpage.

MCOYA23 will showcase the student artwork in a professional exhibition installed in the gallery space at Aurora Town Hall. To best celebrate the work of these creative senior students, this exhibition will feature accompanying engaging virtual content.

Students will get the opportunity to participate in curating, installing, and being critically engaged throughout each stage of the exhibition and meet new and fellow like-minded artists in each other.

Opening Reception at Town Hall
Wednesday February 15, 2023 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm

https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/mcoya2023/

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
Create, Curate and Collaborate	Inspirations from a Space of Healing	Dec 9-Jan 28
Inspirations with Kevin McBean	Inspirations from a Space of Healing	Dec 9-Jan 28
Inspirations with Melinda Schnalzer	Inspirations from a Space of Healing	Dec 9-Jan 28
Inspirations with Karin Adams	Inspirations from a Space of Healing	Dec 9-Jan 28

Curation 101	MCOYA 2023	Feb 11 – Apr 1
Meet Hania	MCOYA 2023	Feb 11 – Apr 1
Meet Luna	MCOYA 2023	Feb 11 – Apr 1
Meet Sophie	MCOYA 2023	Feb 11 – Apr 1

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Kaleidoscope in the Schools (KITS)

The first quarter of 2023 hosted two KITS shows, Hogtown Brass (NO FUN ALLOWED!), and Little Pear Garden Dance Company (The Tales of Goddesses and a Painter). Half of the Hogtown Brass performances have been rescheduled to May as one member of the group was COVID positive in the week prior to the tour. The first week was cancelled and rescheduled. The 2nd week went ahead as scheduled.

Hogtown Brass (NO FUN ALLOWED!)

NO FUN ALLOWED! is designed to break down preconceived notions of how we should attend and participate in musical performances, particularly within the culture of stuffy Classical concerts. Performers Hogtown Brass focus on basics like rhythm, melody, dynamics, and pitch, but also touch on the physics of sound and how it relates to instrument families and music. Students are encouraged to applaud when they feel like it, to clap along with jazz and Latin tunes, and to be engaged, rather than passive listeners.

Hogtown Brass is a dynamic Canadian ensemble comprised of accomplished musicians from a variety of diverse artistic backgrounds. Featuring the trumpet, horn, trombone, and tuba, they are known for their unique arrangements and new compositions, collaborations with vocalists and instrumentalists, along with an affinity for both standard and non-traditional performance spaces, Hogtown Brass is on a mission to reinvigorate the entire concert experience for their audiences.

Curriculum Connections: Classical Music and Brass Instruments, Music as a means of learning, Experiential Learning

Little Pear Garden Dance Company (The Tales of Goddesses and a Painter)

In this story exploring the creation of cave paintings along the Silk Road, audience members follow the Chinese Empire's best painter as he travels and is inspired by the many cultures along the way. This visually stunning performance introduces the history of the Silk Road through classic Chinese storytelling and dance and includes audience participation to learn some basic movements from a number of ethnic dance styles.

Started in 1994 as a Peking Opera collective, then transformed into a professional dance company in 2007, the Little Pear Garden Dance Company is one of the most sought-after dance troupes in Canada. Inspired by the rich and diverse tapestry of Chinese dance vocabularies, the Company has created an acclaimed and powerful body of work that encompasses both classical and contemporary productions, warmly received by audience of all ages and cultures. The Company is actively involved in many

projects of dance development and promotion, and has enjoyed a consistent presence in festivals, performing seasons and tours. Their current artistic director is Ms. Emily Wing-Mei Cheung.

Curriculum Connections: Introduction to Chinese culture and history, Dance as a means of storytelling, choreography and movement, music, Character Development, Equity & Inclusion

School	Performance	Date	Community
Sutton Public School	Hogtown	27-Feb-23	Sutton
St. Jerome Catholic Elementary School	Hogtown	28-Feb-23	Aurora
Morning Glory Public School	Hogtown	01-Mar-23	Pefferlaw
Aurora Heights Public School	Hogtown	02-Mar-23	Aurora
Hartman Public School	Little Pear	28-Mar-23	Aurora
Jersey Public School	Little Pear	29-Mar-23	Keswick
R.L. Graham Public School	Little Pear	30-Mar-23	Georgina
Northern Lights Public School	Little Pear	31-Mar-23	Aurora

Term Education Classes

Class/Workshop/Camp	Dates	Adult/Youth
You Can Uke It!	January 18 - March 8	Youth
A Journey Through Art & Time	January 28 - March 25	Youth
Around the World with Art	January 28 - March 25	Youth
Beginning Guitar	January 18 - March 8	Adult
Carve Your Own Love Spoon	February 5	Adult
Drawing & Sketching	January 23 - March 6	Adult
Expand Your Horizons in Acrylics Level 2	January 17 - March 7	Adult
Exploring Watercolours (Intermediate/Advanced)	January 18 - March 8	Adult
Famous Artists & Their Styles	January 28 - March 25	Youth
Make Your Own Mosaic	February 26	Adult
Make Your Own Stained Glass Suncatcher	January 21, 22	Adult
March Break Arts Buffet	March 13 - 17	Youth
PA Day Programs	January 20, February 3	Youth
Start Painting Now with Acrylics	January 17 - March 7	Adult
The Art of Calligraphy	March 5	Adult

Ukulele for Beginners	January 18 - March 8	Adult
VIRTUAL - FREE! Learn to Draw with Jan Dolby	January 18	Adult
VIRTUAL - Winter Walks in Watercolours	February 2 -23	Adult
Watercolours: Basic & Beyond	January 19 - March 9	Adult
Woodcarving 101: Make Your Own Bunny	March 26	Adult

ACTIVITY STATS YTD Q1 2023

	2023	Q1
1	Educational Programs	30
2	Volunteer hours donated	836
3	Art Exhibitions	2
4	Art Bytes	4
5	Art Bytes Online Views	345
6	Artists Exhibited	32
7	Gallery Tours	0
8	Virtual Gallery Views	2046
9	Performing Arts Events	9
10	Free Community Events	2
11	Public Meeting	0
12	Visitors	7823

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	In person Monday – Saturday 8:30am – 4:30pm	
Events	Online 24/7 As programmed	
Classes	Virtual and In-person in Q1	

AURORA CULTURAL CENTRE STAFF

Executive Director	Suzanne Haines
Communications Manager	Jane Taylor
Development Officer	Glenn Coulson
Gallery Manager	Samantha Jones
Gallery Assistant	Kristen Donoghue-Stanford
Acting Education & Outreach Manager	Jessica Falcioni
Performing Arts Programmer	Derek Andrews

Production Coordinator	Robert Hess
Program & Administrative Assistant	Lisa MacDonald Perron
Artistic Outreach Coordinator	Asleysha Ramasamy
Audience & Digital Services Supervisor	Matthew Knox
Facility Supervisor (part time)	Laura Beaton, Nazia Munar, Jordana Polito
Administrative Assistant (on leave)	Jennifer Marrocco

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Q1 at end of March 2023

EXECUTIVE		**DIRECTORS**
President	Eric Acker	Edlene Antonio
Vice President	John de Faveri	Damien Chan
Treasurer	Laura Hostick	Michelle Lockie
Secretary	Andrea Chan	Mandana Gholami Mobarakabadi
		Sharon Kelly
		Parisa Sabet
		Anita Townsend
		Councillor Harold Kim*
		Councillor Michael Thompson*

*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

- Accountant creates GAAP quarterly financial report based on bookkeeper's financial statements. This is reviewed by the Treasurer and Finance & Audit 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.
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

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Haines, Executive Director