Aurora Cultural Centre

AGENDA

Board of Directors Meeting #9 2023
HYBRID (in person and virtual)
Tannery Room, Aurora Town Hall

Wednesday November 15, 2023 @ 7pm **John De Faveri, Chair**

1 (1 min)	Agenda **MOTION** to Approve the Agenda	John De Faveri
2 (1 min)	**Statements of Conflict of Interest**	ALL
3 (5 min)	**Executive Director Report** • Monthly Report – reporting on September activity **MOTION** to Receive the Executive Director Report	Suzanne Haines
4 (25 min)	**Development Committee** Report from the Committee • 2023 YTD report and new projections • Ambassador roles for Committee and Board **MOTION** to Accept the Development Committee Report	Morry Patoka
5 (25 min)	**Finance & Audit Committee** Report from the committee • Interim Financial Statement to September 30, 2023 ○ New YTD projections **MOTION** to Approve the Interim Financial Statements to September 30, 2023 **MOTION** to Accept the Finance & Audit Committee Report	Michelle Lockie
6 (10 min)	**Outreach Committee Report** Report from the committee **MOTION** to Accept the Outreach Committee Report	Alicia Lauzon
7 (25 min)	**Governance & Nominating Committee** Report from the Committee • G19 – Anti-Harassment Policy for the Board	Parisa Sabat

	• G20 – Equity and Inclusion Policy **MOTION** to Approve G19 – Anti-Harassment Policy for the Board as presented. **MOTION** to Approve G20 – Equity and Inclusion Policy as presented. **MOTION** to Accept the Governance & Nominating Committee Report	
8	**New Business** • Board/Staff social	ALL
9	**Next Meetings** November 20, 2023 at 6pm – Budget Presentation at Council Chambers December 13, 2023 at 5pm – Board and Staff social December 13, 2023 at 6:30pm – PUBLIC Board meeting followed by Regular Board meeting	
10	**MOTION** to Adjourn Meeting	ALL

Aurora Cultural Centre

MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting #9 2023
HYBRID (in person and virtual)
Tannery Room, Aurora Town Hall

Wednesday November 15, 2023 @ 7:10pm **John De Faveri, Chair**

In attendance: Morry Patoka, John De Faveri, Michelle Lockie, Alicia Lauzon, Parisa Sabat, Edlene Antonio, Mandana Gholami Mobarakabadi
Regrets: Anita Townsend, Sharon Kelly, Damien Chan, Councillors: Harold Kim, and Michael Thompson
Staff: Suzanne Haines

1 (1 min)	Agenda **MOTION** to Approve the Agenda Moved: Morry Patoka 2nd: Parisa Sabet CARRIED	John De Faveri
2 (1 min)	**Statements of Conflict of Interest** **None**	ALL
3 (5 min)	**Executive Director Report** • Monthly Report – reporting on September activity **MOTION** to Receive the Executive Director Report Moved: Michelle Lockie 2nd: Morry Patoka CARRIED	Suzanne Haines
4 (25 min)	**Development Committee** Report from the Committee • 2023 YTD report and new projections • Ambassador roles for Committee and Board • **MOTION** to Accept the Development Committee Report Moved: Michelle Lockie 2nd: Parisa Sabet CARRIED	Morry Patoka
5 (25 min)	**Finance & Audit Committee** Report from the committee • Interim Financial Statement to September 30, 2023 ○ New YTD projections	Michelle Lockie

	MOTION to Approve the Interim Financial Statements to September 30, 2023 Moved: Parisa Sabet 2nd: Morry Patoka CARRIED **MOTION** to Accept the Finance & Audit Committee Report Moved: Edlene Antonio 2nd: Morry Patoka CARRIED	
6 (10 min)	**Outreach Committee Report** Report from the committee **MOTION** to Accept the Outreach Committee Report Moved: Michelle Lockie 2nd: Morry Patoka CARRIED	Alicia Lauzon
7 (25 min)	**Governance & Nominating Committee** Report from the Committee • G19 – Anti-Harassment Policy for the Board • G20 – Equity and Inclusion Policy **MOTION** to Approve G19 – Anti-Harassment Policy for the Board as presented. Moved: Mandana Gholami Mobarakabadi 2nd: Edlene Antonio CARRIED **MOTION** to Approve G20 – Equity and Inclusion Policy as presented. Moved: Edlene Antonio 2nd: Alicia Lauzon CARRIED **MOTION** to Accept the Governance & Nominating Committee Report Moved: Michelle Lockie 2nd: Edlene Antonio CARRIED	Parisa Sabat
8	**New Business** • Board/Staff social The Board will host a Board/Staff social prior to the next Board meeting on December 13, 2023. This has typically been organized by members of the Board	ALL

9	**Next Meetings** November 20, 2023 at 6pm – Budget Presentation at Council Chambers December 13, 2023 at 5pm – Board and Staff social December 13, 2023 at 6:30pm – PUBLIC Board meeting followed by Regular Board meeting	
10	**MOTION** to Adjourn Meeting at 8:24 Moved: Morry Patoka 2nd: Michelle Lockie CARRIED	ALL

Signed,
Parisa Sabat
Secretary of the Board
16/11/2023

Aurora Cultural Centre

Board of Directors –November 2023
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

October 2023

Special Events

Culture Days 2023
Camp Retrospective: A Journey Through Young Artistry
September 25 – October 14, 2023
Temporary Gallery Location: Aurora Town Hall, Third Floor
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/camp-retrospective/

Now announcing *Camp Retrospective: A Journey Through Young Artistry* – a pop-up exhibition as part of Culture Days 2023! This exhibition features artwork by the talented young artists of our 2023 Summer Camps. It is located on the 3rd floor of Aurora Town Hall (our temporary home) and runs from September 25 – October 14.

Youth Volunteer Fair
October 19, 2023
Aurora Family Leisure Complex

The Town of Aurora hosts a Fall Youth Volunteer Fair each year to provide an opportunity for youth to speak with community organizations about current or potential volunteer opportunities. They hope to inform youth ages 12 to 17 not only about opportunities to complete their high school community service hours requirement, but also about how they can get involved in their communities at large. The Aurora Cultural Centre participated with our own Claire Acott, volunteer and FOH coordinator, informing youth and adults about volunteering opportunites within our programs.

Performing Arts Programs

Joe Sealy & Paul Novotny supported by Thompson Egbo-Egbo
October 20, 2023 at 7:30pm
Trinity Anglican Church
Attendance: 105 (257 capacity) and 28 livestream views
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/joe-sealy-thompson-egbo-egbo/

Toronto based jazz legend Joe Sealy was joined by long-time collaborator Paul Novotny on bass for a special piano concert supported by Thompson Egbo-Egbo with an opening set. An Order of Canada recipient, Joe won a JUNO Award for his Africville project that captured an enormous piece of Canada's Black Cultural history.

Joe Sealy and Paul Novotny are celebrated Canadian musicians and composers. Their journey together as a piano and bass duo began in 1989 with their first co-led recording titled Double Entendre, on which they arranged and performed originals and standard songs from the Great American songbook. Their timeless recordings have achieved international acclaim, several Juno nominations, and a Juno Award for Joe Sealy's iconic Africville Suite in 1996. Their piano and bass duo concert repertoire continues to evolve while it remains rich with visceral emotion and melodies that invite the audience to immerse themselves in the moment.

Thompson Ego-Egbo, a Nigerian-born Canadian jazz pianist, embarked on his musical journey at the age of six after moving to Toronto with his family. He honed his skills at Toronto's Humber College, specializing in Jazz Performance, and later furthered his education at Boston's Berklee College of Music with the support of partial scholarships and generous benefactors.

Upcoming Performing Arts Events

Basia Bulat
November 4, 2023 at 7:30pm
NC Aurora Armoury
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/basia-bulat/

Philip Chiu
November 16, 2023 at 7:30pm
Trinity Anglican Church
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/philip-chiu/

David Francey
November 24, 2023 at 7:30pm
NC Aurora Armoury
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/david-francey/

Gallery Programs

A Path to Totality
Solo Exhibition by Vicky Talwar
Opening Reception: September 14, 2023 at 7pm
In person: September 9 – November 18, 2023
Online: September 11 – December 1, 2023
Temporary Gallery Location: Aurora Town Hall, Second Floor
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/a-path-to-totality/



Transcendence (2023). Vicky Talwar. Acrylic and mixed media on canvas. 30 x 70 in (triptych).

A Path to Totality seeks to bring together the multi-media manifestations of Talwar's research to form an immersive space for meditation and self-reflection, while encouraging others to contemplate on their own journey through life.

Talwar's paintings are recognizable by their vibrant, evocative colours and dream-like, tactile surfaces. Layers of translucent media atop each canvas brings forth an illusory visual effect, with painted mala, abstract shapes, flowers, and other elements of nature dancing to the surface. Himalayan pink salt is utilized in the process for textural effects and symbolic meanings. Bordering somewhere between imagination and reality, works are unplanned and painted directly from the artist's intuition. Accompanying Talwar's paintings are three immersive installations, which each use Himalayan pink salt rocks as one of their main mediums. Mandalas, depicted in *Opening into Transcendence*, and *A Return to Wholeness*, are an essential symbol in Talwar's practice. The bright colours of the salt within each mandala obtain their hue from dyes within her paintings.

Vicky Talwar is an interdisciplinary artist who draws upon her personal experience as a Hindu Canadian to produce painting, mixed media, performance, and installation artworks. Talwar holds a BFA and MFA in Art, Media, & design from the Ontario College of Art and Design (OCADU), as well as a Bachelor of Education from York University. She has exhibited her work nationally and internationally, including Toronto, Canmore, Los Angeles, New York, the United Kingdom, and more. In completing MFA at OCADU, Talwar exhibited her solo thesis exhibition, *Inward Identities*, at Latcham Arts Centre. Recently, she exhibited her solo exhibition, *Enlightened Mind* at Station Gallery. She has also participated in multiple group and solo exhibitions, including Hashtag Gallery (Toronto), Elevation Gallery (Canmore, AB), and The Elaine Fleck Gallery (Toronto). In 2017, she was awarded the Juror's Award for the Annual Juried Exhibition by Latcham Art Centre. Her work has been acquired in a permanent collection for international display by the Global Affairs Canada Visual Art Collection.

Art Bytes

Art Bytes are an ongoing online series that 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

Upcoming Gallery Exhibit

Perennial Darkness
Open Call Group Exhibition
In person: December 2 – January 27, 2024
Temporary Gallery Location: Aurora Town Hall, Second Floor

Education Programs

Term Classes, Workshops and Short Courses
The Fall term education programs began in September and run into mid-December, including workshops and PA Day programs. In October, we offered a workshop for adults on modern brush calligraphy and a PA day program for youth 4 – 12 years. Our commitment to providing a vibrant and inclusive learning environment is evident in the range of classes offered and the positive feedback received from participants. Below is a listing of the programs running through October and their target age group. To see current educational offerings please visit: https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/adult-classes/ or https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/childrens-classes/

Program	Dates	Age	Enrolled	Capacity	Percentage
Introduction to Modern Brush Calligraphy	October 15	16+	7	12	58%
PA Day	October 20	4 - 12	16	16	100%
Wood Carving	September 25 – November 6	16+	7	10	70%
Expand Your Horizons in Acrylics Level 2	September 26 – November 14	16+	12	12	100%
Start Painting Now with Acrylics	September 26 – November 14	16+	4	12	33%
Exploring Watercolours (Intermediate/ Advanced)	September 27 – November 15	16+	12	12	100%
Ukulele for Beginners	September 27 – November 15	16+	9	12	75%
Beginning Guitar	September 27 – November 15	16+	11	12	92%
Watercolours: Basics and Beyond	September 28 – November 16	16+	11	12	92%
[After School] Comic Drawing	September 25 – November 20	7 - 10	12	12	100%
Around the World with Art	September 30 – November 25	7 - 10	11	12	92%
Famous Artists & Their Styles	September 30 – November 25	11 - 15	6	12	50%

Kaleidoscope in the Schools (KITS)

The KITS 2023-2024 season is available to 52 elementary schools. Each production has its own voice and vision for performing arts excellence with young audiences within the overall programming ethos of voices from Black, Indigenous, and racialized communities, with French and English offerings across several performing arts disciplines.

Through October we have been receiving booking forms and contacting schools about available shows. The 2023-24 KITS production tour begins November 6, 2023 with Carnival of Animals. School principals make their show selections through our website: https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/kaleidoscope-in-the-schools/

Administration

- Economic Impact Study surveys out to the patrons and our creative artists. Open until November 25, 2023
- Meeting with new partners, Chartwell Retirement Residences and Bureau du Québec à Toronto
- Submitted Ontario Creates grant for Music presenting in 2024
- Shifted our Launch of Phase 2 of Voices of the World performing arts programs to a digital platform to take place on **November 21, 2023 at 2:00pm.**
- **Town Budget presentation on Monday November 20, 2023 at 6pm in Town Council Chambers**

Human Resources

- Caitlin Plestid joined us as our new Customer Service Representative on November 2, 2023. Please welcome them to the team.

Facilities

- Gallery in person visits continue Monday – Saturday from 8:30 – 4:30pm. Monday – Friday patrons enter through the main front door. Patrons are welcomed through the 3rd floor entrance on Saturdays and for after hours special events.
- Health & safety information for the Aurora Town Square Program Rooms and Aurora Town Hall from Town – we have received documentation outlining procedures for power failure and fire alarms at Town Hall and have been asked to use these documents for the rooms at Aurora Town Square. We await a guide being completed by Town staff for the program rooms we are operating in for the summer and Town Hall. The guide will provide instruction for the following items: Fire Safety, Persons Requiring Assistance, Medical Emergencies. Elevator Entrapment, Power Failure, Threatening Calls/ Bomb Threats, and Building Evacuations.
- Fall educational programs have returned to Aurora Town Hall, except the children's programs that run during the day. Daytime children's programs are offered in the Program Room at Aurora Town Square. All programs from April – June have backup venues.

Aurora Town Square

- ACC Staff are working with Town booking staff to prepare for transition to ActiveNet for Spring and Summer education programming.
- ACC Staff reviewed the performance hall fit up and sent feedback on equipment purchases. We are working with Town staff to schedule our consultative role on the installation.
- Our regular budget presentation to Town Council will include the expected contribution to ACC for Aurora Town Square services.

Board Activities

Executive Committee Meeting: none
Development Committee Meeting: November 9
Facility Task Force Meeting: none – planned for November 30
Finance & Audit Committee Meeting: November 2
Governance & Nominating Committee Meeting: November 10
Outreach Committee Meeting: November 6

Community Connections/Artistic Events

- CAPACOA National Presenting Conference, Ottawa Nov 4 – 8, 2023
- Monthly meeting with Director of Community Services
- Cultural Partners monthly meetings
- Culture Days, October 14, 2023
- Informal mentorship with Phiona Durrant, Aurora Black Community Gala
- Informal mentorship with Niell Kernohan, Theatre Aurora

Respectfully Submitted by

Suzanne Haines
Executive Director