Aurora Cultural Centre

AGENDA

Board of Directors Meeting #2 2024
HYBRID (in person and virtual)
Tannery Room, Aurora Town Hall
Wednesday February 21, 2024 @ 7pm

Click here to join the meeting
Meeting ID: 223 950 659 626
Passcode: Yd3QVN
Download Teams | Join on the web

John De Faveri, Chair

1 (1 min)	Agenda **MOTION** to Approve the Agenda	John De Faveri
2 (2 min)	Previous Minutes **MOTION** to approve the minutes for the Board meeting on January 17, 2024 as presented	John De Faveri
3 (1 min)	**Statements of Conflict of Interest**	ALL
4 (30 min)	**Presentation on Gallery Programming**	Samantha Jones
5 (5 min)	**Special Thank you to departing Board Member**	John De Faveri
6 (15 min)	**Presentation of 2024-2025 Transitional Plan**	Morry Patoka
7 (30 min)	**Executive Committee** Report from the Committee • ED Performance Review **MOTION** to move in camera **MOTION** to Receive the Executive Director's performance evaluation for 2023 activity. • **2024** ED Goals **MOTION** to Accept the 2024 Executive Director Goals **MOTION** to Accept the Executive Committee Report	John De Faveri
8 (10 min)	**Executive Director Report** • Monthly Report – reporting on January activity	Suzanne Haines

	MOTION to Receive the Executive Director Report	
9 (15 min)	**Finance & Audit Committee** Report from the committee • Interim Financial Statement to December 31, 2023 **MOTION** to Approve the Interim Financial Statements to December 31, 2023 **MOTION** to Accept the Finance & Audit Committee Report	Michelle Lockie
10 (10 min)	**Development Committee** Report from the Committee • 2024 Activity for Committee and Board **MOTION** to Accept the Development Committee Report	Morry Patoka
11 (10 min)	**Outreach Committee Report** Report from the committee • Board sign up for April 2024 Home Show **MOTION** to Accept the Outreach Committee Report	Anita Townsend
12 (5 min)	**Governance & Nominating Committee** Report from the Committee • Mentorship Program report • Imagine Canada tracking for each committee **MOTION** to Accept the Governance & Nominating Committee Report	Parisa Sabet
13 (5 min)	**Facility Task Force Report** Report from the task force **MOTION** to Accept the Facility Task Force Report	Suzanne Haines
14	**New Business**	ALL
15	**Next Meeting** • April 17, 2024 at 6:30 – PUBLIC MEETING • April 17, 2024 at 7pm – REGULAR MEETING	
16	**MOTION** to Adjourn Meeting	ALL

Aurora Cultural Centre

MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting #2 2024
HYBRID (in person and virtual)
Tannery Room, Aurora Town Hall
Wednesday February 21, 2024 @ 7pm

Attendance: John De Faveri (Chair), Edlene Antonio, Michelle Lockie, Anita Townsend, Morry Patoka, Parisa Sabat, Alicia Lauzon, Cllr Michael Thompson, Cllr Harold Kim, Sharon Kelly, Damien Chan
Regrets: Mandana Gholami Mobarakabadi
Staff: Suzanne Haines (Executive Director), Samantha Jones (Guest Presenter)

1 (1 min)	Agenda **MOTION** to Approve the Agenda MOVED: Morry Patoka 2nd by: Edlene Antonio CARRIED	John De Faveri
2 (2 min)	Previous Minutes **MOTION** to approve the minutes for the Board meeting on January 17, 2024 as presented MOVED: Morry Patoka 2nd by: Anita Townsend CARRIED	John De Faveri
3 (1 min)	**Statements of Conflict of Interest**	ALL
4 (30 min)	**Presentation on Gallery Programming**	Samantha Jones
5 (5 min)	**Special Thank you to departing Board Member**	John De Faveri
6 (15 min)	**Presentation of 2024-2025 Transitional Plan**	Morry Patoka
7 (30 min)	**Executive Committee** Report from the Committee ● ED Performance Review **MOTION** to move in camera MOVED: Parisa Sabet	John De Faveri

	2nd by: Morry Patoka CARRIED **MOTION** to Receive the Executive Director's performance evaluation for 2023 activity. ● **2024** ED Goals MOVED: Morry Patoka 2nd by: Anita Townsend CARRIED **MOTION** to Accept the 2024 Executive Director Goals MOVED: Anita Townsend 2nd by: Edlene Antonio CARRIED **MOTION** to Accept the Executive Committee Report MOVED: Morry Patoka 2nd by: Alicia Lauzon CARRIED	
8 (10 min)	**Executive Director Report** ● Monthly Report – reporting on January activity **MOTION** to Receive the Executive Director Report MOVED: Alicia Lauzon 2nd by: Michelle Lockie CARRIED	Suzanne Haines
9 (15 min)	**Finance & Audit Committee** Report from the committee ● Interim Financial Statement to December 31, 2023 **MOTION** to Approve the Interim Financial Statements to December 31, 2023 MOVED: Morry Patoka 2nd by: Anita Townsend CARRIED **MOTION** to Accept the Finance & Audit Committee Report	Michelle Lockie

	MOVED: Edlene Antonio 2nd by: Morry Patoka CARRIED	
10 (10 min)	**Development Committee** Report from the Committee ● 2024 Activity for Committee and Board **MOTION** to Accept the Development Committee Report MOVED: Anita Townsend 2nd by: Edlene Antonio CARRIED	Morry Patoka
11 (10 min)	**Outreach Committee Report** Report from the committee ● Board sign up for April 2024 Home Show – please write to jordana@auroraculturalcentre.ca **MOTION** to Accept the Outreach Committee Report MOVED: Morry Patoka 2nd by: Parisa Sabet CARRIED	Anita Townsend
12 (5 min)	**Governance & Nominating Committee** Report from the Committee ● Mentorship Program report ● Imagine Canada tracking for each committee **MOTION** to Accept the Governance & Nominating Committee Report MOVED: Morry Patoka 2nd by: Edlene Antonio CARRIED	Parisa Sabet
13 (5 min)	**Facility Task Force Report** Report from the task force **MOTION** to Accept the Facility Task Force Report MOVED: Morry Patoka 2nd by: Michelle Lockie CARRIED	Suzanne Haines

14	**New Business** none	ALL
15	**Next Meeting** ● April 17, 2024 at 6:30 – PUBLIC MEETING ● April 17, 2024 at 7pm – REGULAR MEETING	
16	**ADJOURN** Meeting Adjourned at 9:09 **MOTION** to Adjourn Meeting MOVED: Morry Patoka 2nd by: Michelle Lockie CARRIED	ALL

Submitted by Parisa Sabet
Secretary, Board of Directors

Aurora Cultural Centre

Board of Directors –February 2024
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

January 2024

Special Events

Ontario Trillium Foundation Recognition Event

January 19, 2024
Aurora Town Square



Pictured from Left: OTF Volunteer Shelley Wister Smith, Mandana Gholami Mobarakabadi, MPP Michael Parsa, ED Suzanne Haines, Mayor Tom Mrakas

MPP Michael Parsa delivered a certificate to the Aurora Cultural Centre acknowledging and congratulating our receiving two significant grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. These grants are the 2023 Capital Grant of $125,000 to purchase and revitalize Brevik Hall with new lighting, sound equipment, and acoustic treatment, and the 2023 Resilient Communities Fund Grant of $195,800 to support the Aurora Cultural Centre with programming realities that create sustainability. We were honoured to be a recipient of funding, and for the presence of Mayor Mrakas, MPP Parsa, and OTF volunteer Shelley Wister Smith at the event.

Performing Arts Programs

The Last Waltz
January 19, 2024 at 7:30pm
St. Andrew's College
Attendance: 421 (525 capacity)
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/the-last-waltz/



Performance from January 19, 2024 concert 'The Last Waltz' at St. Andrew's College.

In an homage to the legendary milestone, Juno Award-winning producer and musical director Lance Anderson's critically acclaimed performance of 'The Last Waltz – a Musical Celebration of The BAND – Live' celebrates the 48th Anniversary of this historic concert.

Anderson has assembled an all-star Canadian cast of award-winning blues and roots musicians to perform selections from the hit show that recreates the final concert atmosphere. In addition, Anderson's special guests will perform a few of the songs played and sung by the special guest artists who were invited to perform at the 1976 concert. The concert will feature 4 guests: Chuck Jackson (Downchild Blues Band), Matt Weidinger, Johnny Max, and Verese Vassell-Bowen. Backed by a 9-piece band that includes Jerome Levon Avis (godson of Levon Helm) on drums and vocals, Terry Blersh on guitar, Wayne DeAdder (Jimmy Bowskill) on bass, Rob Gusevs (Blood, Sweat and Tears) on organ, Steve McDade on trumpet and Anderson (Matchedash Parish) on piano and vocals, this is a group of seasoned veterans who love the music. Anderson's band also features a stellar four-piece horn section including, Simon Wallis (Lighthouse) on Bari sax, Gord Meyers (Blood, Sweat and Tears) on trombone and tuba, and Scott Marshall on Tenor sax. Truly an all-star band! Special guest Bill Avis (Business Bill), longtime road manager for The Band and Levon Helm will also make an appearance.

Elizabeth Shepherd supported by Charlotte McAfee-Brunner
January 27, 2023 at 7:30pm
NC Aurora Armoury
Attendance: 113 (175 Capacity)
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/elizabeth-shepherd-charlotte-mcafee-brunner/

"Velvet voiced" nu-jazz piano keyboardist based in Quebec has come a long way from her Salvation Army family upbringing. Classically trained, her soulful delivery is alluring and innovative. "Wholly unique and unclassifiable style that blurs the boundaries between jazz, R&B, pop and hip hop" – MOJO (UK) – "a jazz virtuoso blessed with a pop sensibility" (Real Detroit Weekly) Elizabeth's quartet will be joined by renowned collaborator guitarist Michael Occhipinti. Sensational rising jazz star Charlotte McAfee-Brunner will support with her trombone led trio. Joining Charlotte will be Jared Higgins on guitar, and Chris Adriaanse on bass.

Upcoming Performing Arts Events

Ana Vidovic
February 3, 2024 at 7:00pm
Trinity Anglican Church
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/ana-vidovic/

Shuffle Demons
February 10, 2024 at 7:30pm
St. Andrew's College
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/shuffle-demons-girma-woldemichael/

Gallery Programs

Perennial Darkness
Open Call Group Exhibition
Opening Reception: December 7, 2023 at 6:30pm
In person: December 2 – January 27, 2024
Online: December 2 – February 9, 2024
Temporary Gallery Location: Aurora Town Hall, Second Floor
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/perennial-darkness/



Self-portrait (2018), Emily Andrews, Oil on Canvas, 45 x 30 in.

As the heavy, slumbering blanket of winter is gradually pulled over the land, flattening flower beds and stripping trees into a state of dormancy, prolonged periods of darkness hover; laying influence on the natural rhythms of its inhabitants and to no exception, the artists within.

Artists in this exhibition bring forth their personal connection to the renewal of shorter days and longer nights; some making work specifically for the show, and others with work already coincidently prepared; the theme being a subject of their regular practice. For the duration of this exhibition, the gallery serves as a temporary home for the products of the artists' dreams, memories, feelings, observations, and contemplations, as triggered by the darkness of this season's nights.

Interweaving the complimentary forms of visual art and written word, the Aurora Cultural Centre collaborated with poets within the Writer's Community of York Region (WCYR) to create written responses to the exhibited artworks, sparked from a gathering between the poets and artists together. Dialogues from this collaboration are on view as part of the exhibition.

Participating Artists: Leeay Aikawa, Emily Andrews, Spenta Chothia, Kristen Elizabeth Donoghue-Stanford, D. Ahsén:nase Douglas, Rahil Ghandi, Nancy Hallas, Janet Hinkle, Kate Jones, Kayley Liu, Yasaman Mehrsa, Kathy Morgan, Caroline Popiel, Molly Steels, Carol Walthers, David Woodward, Jinming Ye, and Rose Zhao, with contributions from the Writer's Community of York Region.

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

Art Byte Topic	Exhibition	Link
Artist-Poet Gathering with the Writer's Community of York Region	Perennial Darkness	December 2 Event - Art Byte
Artist Opening	Perennial Darkness	December 7 Event - Art Byte
Re-imaging the Archive with Molly Steels	Perennial Darkness	Molly Steels Art Byte
Foraging for Installation with Janet Hinkle	Perennial Darkness	Janet Hinkle Art Byte

Upcoming Gallery Exhibit

Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts

Annual Student Art Exhibition
In person: February 10 – March 23, 2024
Temporary Gallery Location: Aurora Town Hall, Second Floor
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/mcoya24/

Education Programs

Term Classes, Workshops and Short Courses

The Winter term education programs began in January which includes multi-week classes, weekend workshops and PA Day programs. In January, we offered 2 youth classes, 7 adult classes, 3 workshops for adults, and a PA Day program. 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 in January, their target age group and enrollment. Educational programs are on sale through the digital box office on our website. To see full descriptions of current educational offerings, please visit: https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/adult-classes/ or https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/childrens-classes/

Program	Dates	Age
An Introduction to Indigenous Beading Art	January 14	16+
[After School] Comic Drawing	January 15 – March 4	7 - 10
Drawing and Sketching	January 15 – February 12	16+
Start Painting Now in Acrylics	January 16 – March 5	16+

Expanding Your Horizons in Acrylics Level 2	January 16 – March 5	16+
Exploring Watercolours (Intermediate/ Advanced)	January 17 – March 6	16+
Ukulele for Beginners	January 17 – March 6	16+
Beginning Guitar	January 17 – March 6	16+
Watercolours: Basics and Beyond	January 18 – March 7	16+
PA Day	January 19	4 - 12
Around the World with Art	January 20 – March 23	7 - 10
Whimsical Bark Carving	January 21	16+
iPad/ Tablet Drawing for Artists	January 28	16+

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. School principals make their show selections through our website: https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/kaleidoscope-in-the-schools/



KITS Performer Kesha Christie.



KITS Performer Mimi O'Bonsawin.

The 2023-24 KITS season tour began in November 2023 with *Carnival of Animals* by Tottering Biped Theatre and *Tales of Goddesses and A Painter* by Little Pear Garden Dance. There were no performance dates in January, but tour resumes February 5 to March 6 with three new productions – *Earth, Seas, and Air* by Chris McKhool, *Anasi & Turtle Go to Dinner* by Kesha Christie, and musical performances by Mimi O'Bonsawin .

Administration

- Received Ontario Creates grant for music programming January 2024 – June 2024. This is a new grant for the Centre.
- Received New Horizons grant for Seniors to support recruitment for the volunteer program moving into Aurora Town Square with an emphasis on creating programs through an I.D.E.A lens and working with our long-term care partners.
- Ontario Trillium Foundation recognition event held with MPP Michael Parsa at 22 Church Street in Brevik Hall to announce two existing grants received late 2023 spanning the 2024 and 2025 years.
- Land Acknowledgement session held on January 25th for staff and Board members. Thank you to all who attended. It was an opportunity to further education for personal and

professional growth.
- Presented 2020-2024 financials to the Town Finance Advisory Committee meeting on February 13th with Board Treasurer and Board President.

Human Resources

- Jordana Polita has moved into a full-time permanent role as our Development & Administrative Assistant as of January 22, 2024
- The current leave from a staff member has been extended to August 2024.

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 continue to wait for policies from Town staff.
- Tour and review of layout and spaces at Aurora Town Square, office space review and equipment planning for offices.

Aurora Town Square

- ACC educational program registrations will be active with Town CSR as of March 15, 2023 in ActiveNet. Our education programs will be in the Program guide outlined in an ad at the front of the guide, and available to the public through e-Play starting with the spring/summer guide.
- Communications has delivered training and guidance to the Town's CSR team to better understand our programs that they are now responsible for selling to the community. This included a 30-minute onboarding session with all fulltime CSR staff on February 15th and with parttime CSR staff coming up on February 25th. This comprehensive training is important because all programs will be available at all CSR locations at the Town. One of the two fulltime Town CSR dedicated to Aurora Town Square has been identified and we will be helping her take leadership in building a cultural community with her colleagues.
- The performance hall fit-up started in January. We are doing inventory of the equipment received thus far to help build the operational procedures and guidelines, technical questionnaire for users, and policy based on actual equipment available.
- A tour of Aurora Town Square with relevant facilities and cultural staff resulted in simplified layouts identifying use of space and office allocations. The Town further offered to help with design and procurement of office furniture required to meet the needs of our now larger team.
- The Lighting Designer for the Brevik Hall lighting as part of the larger upgrade of Brevik Hall technology has been secured and design work will start in March, followed by procurement of equipment based on three quote process outlined in our procurement policy.
- At our request, the Town has restarted the Collaborative Programming meetings, monthly to discuss the timing of Aurora Town Square and opportunities to work together on programming. APL, ACC and the Town (including the Museum) programming staff are in attendance.
- Clarity that the Grand Opening for Aurora Town Square is expected to be in line with Culture Days in 2024 (exact dates to be confirmed). Continued conversation about our involvement to come.

Board Activities

Executive Committee Meeting: February 16
Development Committee Meeting: February 15
Facility Task Force Meeting: none – February 20
Finance & Audit Committee Meeting: February 15
Governance & Nominating Committee Meeting: February 16
Outreach Committee Meeting: February 12

Community Connections/Artistic Events

- Monthly meeting with Director of Community Services (x2 in February)
- Cultural Partners monthly meeting
- Collaborative Programming Team monthly meeting
- Cultural Action Plan consultation with Town staff
- Mayor's Luncheon with the Chamber of Commerce
- Presented two awards at the Maple Blues Gala Awards for the music industry
- Informal mentorship with Phiona Durrant, Aurora Black Community Gala
- Informal mentorship with Niell Kernohan, Theatre Aurora

Respectfully Submitted by

Suzanne Haines
Executive Director