Aurora Cultural Centre

AGENDA

Board of Directors Meeting #4 2024
HYBRID (in person and virtual)
Tannery Room, Aurora Town Hall
Wednesday May 15, 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 April 18, 2024 as presented	John De Faveri
3 (1 min)	**Statements of Conflict of Interest**	ALL
4 (40 min**)**	**Finance & Audit Committee** 2023 Audited Financial Statements Report from the Auditor **MOTION** to Move XX from the Classical Music Reserve Fund. **MOTION** to Move XX from the Special Project Reserve Fund. **MOTION** to Move In Camera with the Auditor. **MOTION** to Approve the Aurora Cultural Centre's 2023 Audited Financial Statements with changes above. Report from the committee • Interim Financial Statement to March 31, 2024 • F5. Working Capital & Reserves Policy update **MOTION** to Approve the Interim Financial Statements to March 31, 2024	Michelle Lockie Guest: Linda Thibault

	MOTION to Accept the Finance & Audit Committee Report	
5 (10 min)	**Executive Director Report** • May ED Report – reporting on April activity **MOTION** to Receive the Executive Director Report	Suzanne Haines
6 (20 min)	**Governance & Nominating Committee** Report from the Committee • Imagine Canada Compliance response • Board Assessment Results • F5. Working Capital & Reserves Policy update • Board recruitment update **MOTION** to approve the updated F5. Working Capital & Reserves Policy as presented. **MOTION** to Accept the Governance & Nominating Committee Report	Parisa Sabet
7 (10 min)	**Development Committee** Report from the Committee • 2024 Activity for Committee and Board • June 5, 2024 Supper Club **MOTION** to Accept the Development Committee Report	Morry Patoka
8 (10 min)	**Outreach Committee Report** Report from the committee **MOTION** to Accept the Outreach Committee Report	Anita Townsend
9 (10 min)	**Facility Task Force report** Report from the Task Force **MOTION** to Receive the Facility Task Force Report	Suzanne Haines
10	**New Business**	ALL
11	**Next Meeting (THREE MEETINGS)** • June 19, 2024 at 6pm Regular Board meeting of current members • June 19, 2026 at 7pm Annual General Meeting • June 19, 2024 after AGM – meeting of the new Board All meetings will take place at Town Hall and be available in hybrid	

	formats.	
12	**MOTION** to Adjourn Meeting	ALL

Aurora Cultural Centre

Board of Directors –May 2024
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

April 2024

Special Events

Volunteer Appreciation Week –
April 14 - 20, 2024

Our volunteers are instrumental in fostering our growth over the years by sharing their love of people and the arts. Volunteers' hours of donated time have resulted in the creation of an inclusive community where all are welcomed. We appreciate you and all you do to ensure that the Aurora Cultural Centre continues to thrive.



Aurora Cultural Centre thanks our volunteers to recognize Volunteer Appreciation Week.

Aurora Chamber Home & Living Show
April 20 & 21, 2024
Stronach Aurora Recreational Complex

Great conversations were had all weekend at the Aurora Home & Living Show. Volunteers & staff were present to chat with over 450 visitors from the community and give away shortbread cookies from Aurora-based bakery Cookie It Up.



Board & Committee Member Anita Townsend chatting with Councillor Ron Weese & Geoff Dawe.

Performing Arts Programs

Julian Taylor Supported by Tanya Joy

April 27, 2024 at 7:30pm
NC Aurora Armoury
Attendance: 140 (175 capacity)
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/julian-taylor/

The Aurora Cultural Centre Voices of the World Series is proud to present 2024 Juno Prize nominee Julian Taylor on Saturday, April 27th at 7:30 pm.



Award-winning Canadian folk singer-songwriter Julian Taylor.

A Toronto-based, award-winning singer-songwriter, radio host and label owner, Julian Taylor is a rising star in the Canadian folk scene. With a soulful voice and captivating stage presence, his unique blend of blues, roots, and folk music has earned him a growing fanbase and critical acclaim. Over the course of his esteemed career as the leader of Staggered Crossing, Julian Taylor Band, and his solo work, he's established himself as one of Canada's greatest troubadours.

Julian Taylor has amassed three Juno Award nominations, a pair of Canadian Folk Music Awards for Solo Artist and English Songwriter of the Year, five Native American Music Award nominations, plus a nomination for Canada's most prestigious music accolade, the Polaris Music Prize.

Folk-roots musician **Tania Joy** has been using the last few years hone her songwriting, following up her EP, I'll Be Around, with the release of her EP I Will Stand. Her stories, so far, have been about relationships, in all their complicated forms. In 2020, Tania found herself taking on a more complex narrative as the world around her shifted, bringing increased and global attention to Black Lives Matter. With mentorship from Hillside's Girl with Guitars program, Tania wrote her first protest song, Planks and Marietta, which was released on Bandcamp during Black History month with all proceeds from downloads being directed to Black Lives Matter.

Tania Joy is the Executive/Artistic Director of the Springtide Music Festival in Uxbridge, Ontario.

Amir Amiri Supported by Naghmeh Farahmand

April 6, 2024 at 7:30pm
Trinity Anglican Church
Attendance: 56 (255 Capacity)
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/amir-amiri-naghmeh-farahmand/

Canada's Santur player, composer, and cultural inventor **Amir Amiri** dwells at the centre of a unique musical universe where ancient inspiration, dazzling virtuosity, and bold creativity meet. Born in Tehran, Iran, Amiri is a master of the santur, a 72-string instrument dating from approximately 500 BCE. Surrounding himself with outstanding collaborators from the worlds of jazz, classical and world music, Amiri fearlessly transcends genres and borders, exquisitely transporting his ancient instrument into the musical conversations of our time.



Amir Amiri accompanied by Naghmeh Farahmand

Discover a mesmerizing solo performance as the hammers delicately wander across the trapezoid box zither exploring tradition, woven with Amiri's fresh ideas.

Since arriving in Canada in 1996, Amiri has created numerous groundbreaking ensembles including the Amir Amiri Ensemble, inspired by the fluidity of musical influences in Iran and featuring the hypnotic presence of a Whirling Dervish; and Ensemble Kimya, a Montreal-Paris collaboration, combining early classical and contemporary music from Europe, the Middle East and India. Perséides, his duo with double bass player Jean Félix Mailloux, was featured at the National Arts Centre's Sounds of Persia: Canada's New Music Masters in 2018, where Amiri was Artistic Director. His ensemble was showcased WOMEX 2021 in Porto, Portugal.

Amir Amiri was awarded the 2003 CBC Artist of the Year from the Galaxie Rising Stars Program. He performs and tours with a vast spectrum of ensembles, enchanting with his signature down-to-earth style and profound connection with audiences.

Accompanying him is supporting artist **Naghmeh Farahmand**, a similarly renowned musician, who will jam along with him on a few tunes.

Upcoming Performing Arts Events

Charles Richard-Hamelin

May 10, 2024 at 7:00pm
Trinity Anglican Church
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/charles-richard-hamelin/

Qiu Xia He & André Thibault – "China Speaks Your Language"

May 18, 2024 at 2:00pm
Trinity Anglican Church
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/qiu-xia-he-andrew-thibault/

WeeFestival – Paper Playground

May 25 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Aurora Public Library
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/weefestival-paper-playground/

Gallery Programs

Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts (MCOYA)

Annual Student Art Exhibition
In person: February 10 – April 20, 2024
Online: February 15 – May 17, 2024
Temporary Gallery Location: Aurora Town Hall, Second Floor
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/mcoya24/
Since 2011, the Aurora Cultural Centre has showcased up and coming artistic talent from graduating high school students across Aurora. This year, 55 artists from Aurora High School, Cardinal Carter Catholic Highschool, Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, École Secondaire Catholique Renaissance, and St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School have brought their work into the gallery – in-person and virtually – for a collective celebration of their creative achievements.

The public reception for the Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts 2024 (#MCOYA24) was Thursday, February 22 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm.



TOO MUCH? (2022), Jaylah Hall, Digital Art on Canvas, 24 x 36 in.

Featured Artists:

Dorsa Abedi, Avail A., Romy Barakat, Nicholas Bascevan, Melissa Bianchi, Samara Brown, Alyssa Bruno, Sophie Cao, Liam Cappelli, Victoria Cappiello, Isabella Chiu. Angelina Ciani-Sanchez, Cassandra Connor, Taryn Conrad, Zenyx Crombez, Elijah Da Silva, Mona Dadras, Olivia DelleCese, Nikki Downes, Ava Dracopoulos Ives, Manaal Durrani, Mariella Fernandes, Rose Fragomeni, Sophia Granada, Jaylah Hall, Erin Hannaway, Samantha Herschmiller, Afifa Hossain, Kristztina Incze, Kia Jabbari, Justina Kandiotis, Uliana Kobyakova, Kyle Lam, Alexandra Lavric, Martin Leung, Jem Mabee, Elise Mazzawi, Angie Moreno Patino, Sarah Polthion, Kabin Ravi, Emma Robinson, Rain R., Megan Sayewich, Amanda Seguel–Rodgers, Vasilissa Sekreteva, Ava Sepp, Jaidyn Silvera, Victoria Soares, Audrey Tang, Emma Wang, Ruihan Wang, Emma Wong, Eric Zhang, Jeffrey Zhu, and Maya Zoebelein.

Assignments of Art Class Past

Pop-up Installation
February 10 – April 17, 2024
Aurora Family Leisure Complex
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/assignments-of-art-class-past/

We are honoured to exhibit select sculptures from the Aurora High School (A.H.S.) Visual Art program archive in a temporary installation in the foyer of the Aurora Family Leisure Complex for the duration of the Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts 2024.

These large-scale sculptures are inspired by the work of public art sculptor, Claes Oldenburg. As a summative project, A.H.S. art students are challenged with completing a larger than life sculpture of their own as a final project. For years, the Aurora High School Visual Art Department has been saving these large sculptures by keeping them safe in the art classroom long after the young artists have graduated. The kept artworks have fueled inspiration for generations of students up until present time. This installation, titled *Assignments of Art Class Past* is composed of select artworks from the archive that have been dusted off for a first-ever collective public exhibition.

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
Final Installation Party	MCOYA	February Gallery Event - Art Byte
Meet Kyle, Amanda, and Elise	MCOYA	MCOYA Students – Art Byte
Meet Romy, Jem, and Zenyx	MCOYA	MCOYA Students – Art Byte

Upcoming Gallery Exhibit

Early Bird Gets the Worm
Group Exhibition
In person: May 16 – August 10, 2024
Temporary Gallery Location: Aurora Town Hall, Second Floor
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/early-bird-gets-the-worm/

Education Programs

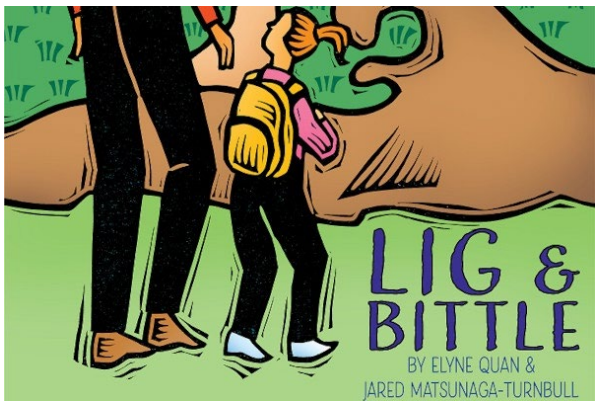
Term Classes, Workshops and Short Courses

The spring term education programs began in April and includes multi-week classes, weekend workshops and PA Day programs. In April, we offered 4 youth classes, and 9 adult classes. 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 April and their target age group. Registration for all Aurora Cultural Centre educational programs is now on the Town of Aurora's e-PLAY 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
Watercolours: The Basics (55+)	April 8 – June 24	55+
[After School] Comic Drawing	April 8 – June 3	7 - 10
Expand Your Horizons in Acrylics Level 2	April 9 – May 28	16+
Watercolours: Level 1 (55+)	April 9 – June 11	55+
Watercolours: Level 2 (55+)	April 9 – June 11	55+
Watercolours: Intermediate/ Advanced	April 10 – June 5	16+
Drawing Fundamentals (55+)	April 10 – June 19	55+
Watercolours: Basics & Beyond	April 11 – June 6	16+
Acrylic Paint – Beginner (55+)	April 11 – June 20	55+
Acrylic Paint – Intermediate (55+)	April 11 – June 20	55+
Children's Visual Art 1	April 13 – June 15	4 - 6
Children's Visual Art 2	April 13 – June 15	7 - 10
Youth Visual Art	April 13 – June 15	11 - 15

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/



Carousel Players production Lig & Bittle



KITS Performer Lua Shayenne

The 2023-2024 KITS spring season began on April 9 - 17 with Carousel Players' production *Lig & Bittle* followed by *Yassama and the Beaded Calabash* by Lua Shayenne.

KITS 2023-24 April Tour Schedule

Date	Production	School*	Community	Attendance
April 9 – 17, 2024	Lig & Bittle by Carousel Players	Prince of Peace CES, St. John Chrysostom CES, Discovery PS, St. Mark CES, Teston Village PS, St. Nicholas CES, Waabgon Gamig School	Keswick, Newmarket, Maple, Whitchurch-Stouffville, Maple, Georgina Island	1,288

April 30 – May 8	Yassama and the Beaded Calabash by Lua Shayenne	Regency Acres PS, Jean Beliveau EEC, Black River PS, Deer Park PS, Hartman PS, Fairwood PS, Jersey PS	Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Sutton West, Keswick	1,204
* CES = Catholic Elementary School, EEC = École Élémentaire Catholique, PS = Public School				

Administration

- Received funding for 6 positions from Canada Summer Jobs and one position from Ontario Summer Employment Opportunities Fund.
- Aurora Home Show was on April 20 and 21st with wonderful engagement through our Outreach efforts
- We have finalized bookings at Aurora Town Square for our 2024-2025 performing arts season. The season will be announced publicly digitally on June 20, 2024 and with an in-person VIP Donor and Sponsor event launching our season on September 25, 2024.
- Hosted Aurora Town Square tour with Canadian Heritage program officer May 14

Human Resources

- Please welcome the summer team:
  - Caitlin Plestid, Arts Camp Senior Counsellor Lead starting May 31, 2024
  - Kelly Ho, Arts Camp Senior Counsellor Lead starting May 31, 2024
  - Jenna Chiddenton, Arts Camp Senior Counsellor starting May 31, 2024
  - Emma Taylor, Arts Camp Senior Counsellor starting May 31, 2024
  - Kiyarash Jabberi Sebagh, Arts Camp Junior Counsellor, starting June 26, 2024
  - Jem Mabee, Arts Camp Junior Counsellor, starting June 26, 2024
  - Finley Roberts, Outreach Intern, starting June 6, 2024
- Due to lower funding than anticipated, we have restructured the education department with Jessica Falcioni, Education Coordinator as supervisor for our summer camps.

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.

Aurora Town Square

- Brevik Hall new equipment plans are in progress. We are working in collaboration with Town staff about IT capabilities for an internal network required for equipment to speak to each other, and Town contractors of record for the installation of house lights.

Board Activities

Development Committee Meeting: May 8
Facility Task Force Meeting: May 13
Finance & Audit Committee Meeting: May 9
Outreach Committee Meeting: May 13
Governance & Nominating Committee Meeting: May 13
Aurora Cultural Centre Board Meeting: May 15

Community Connections/Artistic Events

- Monthly meeting with Director of Community Services
- Cultural Partners monthly meeting
- Collaborative Programming Team monthly meeting
- Cultural Action Plan to Council May 7
- Spectrum of Connection by Little Pear Garden Dance Company, May 9
- Markham Theatre season launch, May 13
- Informal mentorship with Niell Kernohan, Theatre Aurora

Respectfully Submitted by

Suzanne Haines
Executive Director