Aurora Cultural Centre

Managerial Commentary – Q2 2024

Introduction

Our 2023-2024 performing arts season wrapped up in June 2024, with the final performance being Mia Sheard's "Songs Are Like Tattoos" Joni Mitchel Tribute. The launch of our 2024-2025 season will take place on September 25, 2024 as part of our VIP invited event for sponsors, donors, community partners, and the industry to visit Aurora Town Square.

Kaleidoscope in the Schools was busy in April – June to complete our 2023-2024 season in elementary schools in Aurora and low-capacity schools throughout York Region. The project continues to inspire the teachers, principals, students, and the producing team with wonderfully professional artists joining us in the schools and captivated and responsive students and teachers.

We continue to work closely with Town staff on the governance and operational requirements for Aurora Town Square. The delays in construction have deeply affected our operations and fundraising efforts. Relationships are blossoming now in all areas of collaboration across Town staff. Moving towards opening bookings to the community has been exciting and rewarding, with steep learning curves for all involved.

Our Annual General Meeting for 2023 was held on June 24, 2024. Our 2023 external financial audit was concluded with a clean audit and no management letter or direction to the Board for changes in operation. John De Faveri continues in his role as Board President, with a strong executive team of Morry Patoka as Vice President, Michelle Lockie as Treasurer, and Anita Townsend as Secretary for our upcoming year.

The second quarter of 2024 brought optimism with audiences returning, success in granting to build for our future in Aurora Town Square, and a continued strong relationship with our stakeholders, including our sustaining partner, the Town of Aurora.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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A SNAPSHOT OF AURORA CULTURAL CENTRE Q2 OPERATIONS
April – June 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 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.

Supper Club

June 5, 2024

It was an evening of sophistication and artistry at the Aurora Cultural Supper Club on June 5, 2024, held at the iconic Niagara College Aurora Armory. This event showcased keynote speaker Denise Donlon, one of Canada's most innovative broadcasters and respected corporate leaders. She is renowned for incorporating music, journalism, social issues, and human rights advocacy in her work. Limited to an intimate gathering of 10 tables, attendees enjoyed a fusion of fine dining, art, and insightful discourse, in support of the transformative arts education program, Kaleidoscope in the Schools.

Glenn Coulson welcomes guests to Supper Club

Visit from Dawn Gallagher-Murphy

June 18, 2024

It was such a pleasure to welcome MPP for Newmarket-Aurora Dawn Gallagher Murphy to the Gallery for an in-depth tour of Early Bird Gets the Worm. Curator Samantha Jones spoke about the origins of this vibrant group show, a meditation of the sentimental relationship that humans have with the objects that they choose to collect, keep and/or discard throughout the timeline of their life.

MPP Dawn Gallagher-Murphy and Curator Samantha Jones

Metrolinx Outreach
June 19, 2024

Aurora Cultural Centre's Outreach staff greeted commuters heading for the train on June 19th to share information about the Centre, including summer camps and other programming. A $100 gift card draw and cookies from Aurora-based Cookie It Up were also on offer to engage with GO riders.

Commuters were greeted with a display featuring summer camp information and Cookie It Up cookies.

2024/25 Digital Season Launch
June 20, 2024

We were thrilled to announce our 2024-2025 season, marking our 15th anniversary with a bang! This will be our biggest performing arts season yet, featuring a mix of familiar favourites and exciting new genres and artists.

See the launch video.

Aurora Farmer's Market
June 22, 2024

Staff & volunteers had a lot of fun interactions at the Aurora Farmer's Market, promoting our summer camps that run through July & August, and engaging with the community through beading and coloring art activities. This was the first of several engagements at the Farmer's Market this summer.

Connecting with the community at the Aurora Farmer's Market

PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS

Julian Taylor Supported by Tanya Joy

April 27, 2024 at 7:30pm
NC Aurora Armoury
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/julian-taylor/

The Aurora Cultural Centre Voices of the World Series was 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
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

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 was supporting artist **Naghmeh Farahmand**, a similarly renowned musician, who jammed along with him on a few tunes.

Charles Richard-Hamelin

May 10, 2024 at 7:00pm
Trinity Anglican Church

https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/charles-richard-hamelin/

Pianist Charles Richard-Hamelin made a thrilling return to Aurora by popular demand!

Silver medalist and winner of the Krystian Zimerman Prize at the 2015 International Chopin Piano Competition, pianist Charles Richard-Hamelin has emerged as one of the most important pianists of his generation. Recipient of the Ordre des arts et des lettres du Québec and of the prestigious Career Development Award conferred by the Women's Musical Club of Toronto, he was awarded the Prix Denise-Pelletier in November 2022, becoming the youngest recipient in the history of the Prix du Québec.

The artist began the evening with a pre-concert talk at 7 pm with Rick Philips of CBC Radio's Sound Advice.

Richard-Hamelin has been invited to a variety of major festivals, including La Roque d'Anthéron and the Nohant Festival in France, the Prague Spring Festival, the Chopin and his Europe Festival in Warsaw, the Lanaudière Festival and the George Enescu Festival in Bucarest. As a soloist, he has performed with many ensembles including the major Canadian symphony orchestras (Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Metropolitan, Quebec City, Edmonton, Calgary, etc.) as well as the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, Sinfonia Varsovia, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Korean Symphony Orchestra, OFUNAM (Mexico), Les Violons du Roy and I Musici de Montréal. In addition, he has performed under the baton of renowned conductors including Kent Nagano, Rafael Payare, Bernard Labadie, Antoni Wit, Vasily Petrenko, Aziz Shokhakimov and Peter Oundjian.

Charles Richard Hamelin records on the Analekta label. With 10 recordings to date, his most recent release is Schumann: The Three Violin Sonatas in collaboration with Andrew Wan, violin. Five of these recordings are dedicated to the solo piano works of Frédéric Chopin.

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/charlesrichardhamelin/

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/

Qiu Xia He, pipa (Chinese lute) virtuoso, made an exclusive Ontario appearance travelling in from her Vancouver home. Originally hailing from Shaanxi, Qiu Xia has made a career of performing with her Montrealer husband André Thibault, with symphonies and her Silk Road ensemble. China Speaks Your Language is a music performance that will introduce audiences to different cultures through the experiences, discoveries and travels of the Silk Road Duo. Qiu Xia and André traveled the world with their instruments and stories presenting an engaging family presentation that delighted and enlightened.

Qui Xia He and André Thibault.

Wee Festival – Paper Playground

May 25 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Aurora Public Library

https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/weefestival-paper-playground/

The Aurora Cultural Centre was pleased to present Paper Playground, a special WeeFestival performance created especially for early childhood presented in partnership with the acclaimed WeeFestival of Arts and Culture for Early Years. Paper Playground was offered at both 11 am and 2 pm, to ensure the widest opportunity for families to participate. The 11 am performance was specially-adapted for the very youngest audience members (between the ages 8 months to 3 yrs); the 2 pm performance was geared to children from 3 yrs – 6 yrs. All were welcome to either performance.

Paper Playground provided an immersive experience that welcomed children as true creative collaborators, where they become an essential part of the "under the sea" performance. Exploring the theme of water with boats, fish, crabs and sharks, the artists offered irresistible invitations to roll like a wave, fill with air like a cloud and draw the ocean. This was a stimulating experience set on a large paper carpet created especially for children six and under that is full of live music, drawing, colourful projections and movement. A playful and interactive dance performance where children are free to join in and explore – because that's what young ones do best!

These performances offered a relaxed ending, and extended "stay-and-play" arts activities for all children and their families inspired by the shows.

Mimi O'Bonsawin Family Presentation

June 2, 2024 at 11:00am
Yonge Street, at Church Street
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/mimi-obonsawin-family-presentation-2024/

A Free Family Performance at the Aurora Chamber Street Festival!

Hot off a busy year, including the release of her latest album "Live In Concert", touring France and a couple nominations at the Northern Ontario Music and Film Awards, we welcomed the return of her storytelling in song, informed by her Abenaki and Franco-Ontarian roots. Accompanied by her drummer husband Ryan Schurman, Aurora enjoyed sounds from the forest, uplifting melodies and introspective lyrics woven with pop sensibilities and acoustic instruments.

A presentation of the Aurora Cultural Centre on the Aurora Chamber Street Festival Stage.

Mimi O'Bonsawin performs at the Aurora Chamber Street Festival

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/mimiobonsawin/?hl=en

Gryphon Trio

June 7, 2024 at 7:00pm
Trinity Anglican Church
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/ gryphon-trio/
ANNALEE PATIPATANAKOON, violin
ROMAN BORYS, cello
JAMES PARKER, piano

With a third JUNO win this year, the Gryphon Trio has firmly established itself as one of the world's preeminent piano trios, garnering acclaim and impressing international audiences with its highly refined, dynamic and memorable performances. With a repertoire that ranges from traditional to contemporary and from European classicism to modern-day multimedia, the Gryphons are committed to redefining chamber music for the 21st century.

Gryphon Trio performing at Trinity Anglican Church

The artists began the evening with a pre-concert conversation discussing the evening's repertoire.

Creative innovators with an appetite for discovery and new ideas, Gryphon Trio has commissioned over 85 new works and frequently collaborates on projects that push the boundaries of Classical music. Christos Hatzis' multimedia work Constantinople – produced by the Gryphon Trio in partnership with Banff Centre, Tapestry New Opera, Ex Machina, and Music Toronto – continues to enrapture audiences in venues such the Royal Opera House, Linbury Studio.

Gryphon cellist Roman Borys is Artistic and Executive Director of the Ottawa Chamber Music Society. Annalee Patipatanakoon and Jamie Parker serve as OCMS' Artistic Advisors in addition to their responsibilities at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music, where Mr. Parker is the Rupert E. Edwards Chair in Piano Performance and Ms. Patipatanakoon is Associate Professor of Violin and Head of Strings.

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/gryphon_trio/

Mia Sheard – "Songs Are Like Tattoos" Joni Mitchell Tribute

June 14 at 7:30pm
NC Aurora Armoury
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/ mia-sheard-joni-mitchell-tribute

Mia Sheard and guest singers walked through one of the greatest songbooks of all time; Lori Cullen, Jennifer Foster and Brian MacMillan, the latter joining a band featuring Chris Gartner (bass) and Ryan Granville-Martin (drums).

Mia Sheard pays tribute to iconic singer Joni Mitchell.

Mia Sheard received classical training in music from the Royal Conservatory of Music. The pop singer-songwriter has released four albums over her career, including With Love and Squalor, and 2013's Curse of the Vorus. Fans of John Sheard Presents will recognize Mia Sheard from the many times she fronted vocals for this popular series. This show has its roots as early as 2008 when she organized a Joni Mitchell tribute at Hugh's Room in Toronto.

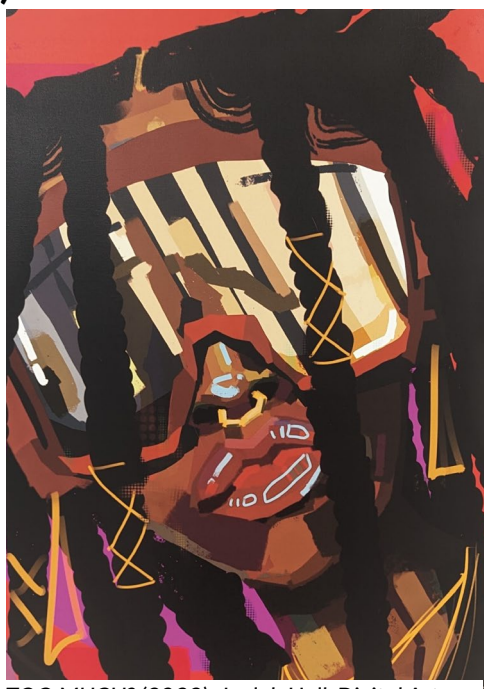
GALLERY PROGRAM

In-person gallery visits were 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 were also accessible through our online gallery and a virtual 3D map.
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/gallery-exhibitions/

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/



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

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.

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 were 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 were 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* was composed of select artworks from the archive that have been dusted off for a first-ever collective public exhibition.

Early Bird Gets the Worm

Featuring Phuong Nguyen, Carrie Perreault, Joejene C. Santos, Jonah Strub, and David Trotter
In person: May 16 – August 10
Online: May 23 – August 30, 2024
Temporary Gallery Location: Aurora Town Hall, Second Floor
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/early-bird-gets-the-worm/

Early Bird Gets the Worm focused on the annual re-awakening of yard-sale season through a curation of kitschy, curious, and questionable works by artists of varying practices, cultures, and identities.
Throughout the Spring-Summer season, homes across the region open their doors for an annual purge of personal goods. Driving through the town of Aurora on a crisp, Saturday morning, one may find streets and boulevards painted with neon Bristol board signs, scribbled with arrows and addresses in permanent marker – directions to nearby sales. Beneath the sun at first light, neighbours that may be friends, acquaintances, or strangers spill contents of their interior life out the front of their home in hopes for a quick profit from passersby or seasoned bargain hunters. Early Bird Gets the Worm meditated on the sentimental relationship that humans have with the objects that they choose to collect, keep, and/or discard throughout the timeline of their life. Pulling together a collection of object-orientated works by five artists, this exhibition was a deep-dive into what compels us to our inanimate counterparts. Featured artworks span across a diverse range of media, and include paintings, a 240+ piece drystone installation, ceramics, and leatherwork amongst other explorations.

The Barn at Mitchell Corners (2012) by David Trotter. Photo credit: Oh Canada Creative

The opening reception for Early Bird Gets the Worm took place on Thursday, May 16 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Build Your Alter-Ego with Jonah Strub

Exhibition Activation
Saturday, June 1, 11:00 am
Temporary Gallery Location: Aurora Town Hall, Second Floor
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/build-your-alter-ego/

Fool's Gold

A pop-up installation by Laura Fedynyszyn
In person: June 11 – August 21, 2024
Location: Front Foyer, Aurora Family Leisure Complex
https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/fools-gold/

We were thrilled to announce *Fool's Gold* by Laura Fedynyszyn as our third offsite art installation at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex.

Fool's Gold called attention to the increasing population of invasive goldfish in Ontario's fresh waters, and particularly within Aurora.

A public reception and Q&A with artist Laura Fedynyszyn was held on June 12.

Fool's Gold at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex

Gallery 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	Related Exhibition	Date Posted
Arranging Early Bird Gets the Worm	Early Bird Gets the Worm	May 23, 2024
Build Your Alter-Ego with Jonah Strub	Early Bird Gets the Worm	June 7, 2024
Artist Talk & Leatherwork Demo with David Trotter	Early Bird Gets the Worm	July 26, 2024
Fool's Gold at Aurora Family Leisure Complex	Fool's Gold	June 24, 2024

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Term Education Classes

The spring term education programs, most of which began in April, wrapped up in June, with multi-week classes, weekend workshops and PA Day programs. 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 that ran in Q2 and their target age group. Registration for all Aurora Cultural Centre educational programs is now on the Town of Aurora's e-PLAY website. We look forward to welcoming our summer campers start in

early July. To see full descriptions of current educational offerings, please visit: https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/adult-classes/ or https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/childrens-classes/

Class/Workshop	Dates	Adult/Youth
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+
Drawing Fundamentals (55+)	April 11 – June 20	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 2	April 13 – June 15	7 - 10
Exploring Printmaking	May 8 – May 29	16+
Indigenous Beading Art for Mother's Day	May 12 (2 Sessions)	16+
iPad/Tablet Drawing for Artists	May 26	16+
PA Day Program	June 7	4 - 12
Creative Artistry of Bookmaking	June 12 – July 3	16+
PA Day Program	June 28	4 - 12

Kaleidoscope in the Schools (KITS)

In the second quarter of 2024 we hosted four KITS productions: Carousel Players "Lig & Bittle", Lua Sheyenne's "Yassama & the Beaded Calabash", and two shows by Qiu-Xia & Andre Thibault: "China Speaks Your Language" and "Joutou". A stand-out moment was when a young boy shifted his perspective on his culture from ambivalence to pride after experiencing one of these

performances and the encouragement of the artist. We are so thrilled how well the KITS program is being received by children and educators alike. These 21 shows (see schedule below) brought us to the end of the KITS 202/2024 Season with tremendous support from educators and students. With this season closing, we have now served over 30,000 students and teachers.

Production Schedule (April – June 2024)

Date	Performers	School	Community
9-Apr-24	Carousel Players	Prince of Peace CES	Keswick
10-Apr-24	Carousel Players	St. John Chrysostom CES	Newmarket
11-Apr-24	Carousel Players	Discovery PS	Maple
12-Apr-24	Carousel Players	St. Mark CES	Whitchurch-Stouffville
15-Apr-24	Carousel Players	Teston Village PS	Maple
16-Apr-24	Carousel Players	St. Nicholas CES	Newmarket
17-Apr-24	Carousel Players	Waabgon Gamig	Georgina Island
Apr-30-24	Lua Sheyenne	Regency Acres PS	Aurora
1-May-24	Lua Sheyenne	Jean Béliveau PS	East Gwillimbury
2-May-24	Lua Sheyenne	Black River PS	Sutton
3-May-24	Lua Sheyenne	Deer Park PS	Keswick
6-May-24	Lua Sheyenne	Hartman PS	Aurora
7-May-24	Lua Sheyenne	Fairwood PS	Keswick
8-May-24	Lua Sheyenne	Jersey PS	Keswick
22-May-24	Qiu-Xia & Andre Thibault	EEC St. Jean	Aurora
23-May-24	Qiu-Xia & Andre Thibault	Jersey PS	Keswick
24-May-24	Qiu-Xia & Andre Thibault	Devins Drive PS	Aurora
27-May-24	Qiu-Xia & Andre Thibault	EE Chantal-Benoit	East Gwillimbury
28-May-24	Qiu-Xia & Andre Thibault	EEC Jean Béliveau	East Gwillimbury
29-May-24	Qiu-Xia & Andre Thibault	Meadowbrook PS	Newmarket
30-May-24	Qiu-Xia & Andre Thibault	Lester B. Pearson PS	Aurora

ACTIVITY STATS YTD Q2 2024

	2024	Q1	Q2
1	Educational Programs	41	40
2	Volunteer hours donated	440	499
3	Art Exhibitions*	1	2
4	Art Bytes	5	4
5	Art Bytes Online Views	382	166
6	Artists Exhibited	18	56
7	Virtual Gallery Views	2149	330
8	Performing Arts Events	6	6
9	Free Community Events	2	2
10	Public Meeting	0	2
11	Visitors*	88,324	43,944

***Includes visitors to Aurora Family Leisure Complex during public exhibition periods**
****Does not include attendance at Mimi O'Bonsawin concert at Aurora Chamber Street Festival. Festival in total welcomed 25,000+visitors**

Organizational Information

CENTRE HOURS

Business Hours	In-person temporarily closed; available by phone and webchat	
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 Online 24/7	
Events	As programmed	
Classes	In-person in Q2	

AURORA CULTURAL CENTRE STAFF

Executive Director	Suzanne Haines
Communications Manager	Jane Taylor
Audience & Digital Services Supervisor	Matthew Knox
Marketing Assistant	Shikha Chowhan
Development Officer	Glenn Coulson
Development Assistant	Jordana Polito
Gallery Manager	Samantha Jones
Gallery Assistant	Adora Lau
Education Manager	Aitak Sorahitalab
Education Coordinator	Jessica Falcioni
Performing Arts Manager	Derek Andrews
Production Coordinator	Robert Hess
Volunteer & Front of House Coordinator	Claire Acott
Finance Associate	Melanie Ryan
Customer Services Representatives	Laura Beaton, Nazia Munar
Administrative Assistant (on leave)	Jennifer Marrocco
Administrative Assistant (virtual; temporary)	Helena Barkla

Outreach Intern (temporary)	Finley Roberts
Senior Camp Counsellor (temporary)	Caitlin Plestid
Senior Camp Counsellor (temporary)	Emma Taylor
Senior Camp Counsellor (temporary)	Jenna Chiddenton
Senior Camp Counsellor (temporary)	Kelly Ho
Junior Camp Counsellor (temporary)	Amitis Almasi
Junior Camp Counsellor (temporary)	Jem Mabee
Junior Camp Counsellor (temporary)	Kia Gabbari

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Q2 (up to end of June)

EXECUTIVE		**DIRECTORS**
President	John De Faveri	Edlene Antonio
Vice President	Morry Patoka	Phiona Durrant
Treasurer	Michelle Lockie	Sharon Kelly
Secretary	Parisa Sabet	Stephen Lusk
		Mary Ann McConkey
		Mandana Gholami Mobarakabadi
		Sharmilee Patel
		Anita Townsend
		Councillor Harold Kim*
		Councillor Michael Thompson*

*Ex officio Town of Aurora Directors. *Ex-officio Directors have the full rights & responsibilities of Directors of a corporation under the Ontario Corporations Act.*

COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee
Finance & Audit Committee
Development Committee
Governance & Nominating Committee
Outreach Committee
Facility Task Force

MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meet approximately 10 times per year and committees meet monthly as required.

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, 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

Government of Canada
Ontario Creates
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
- Imagine Canada

- Banks
- Insurance
- Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL)
- Service Ontario (Provincial Government)
- Canadian Code of Practice for Consumer Protection in Electronic Commerce
- SOCAN/Entandem

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Haines, Executive Director