

AGENDA
Board of Directors Meeting #3 2025
HYBRID (in person and virtual)
School House Meeting Room
Wednesday April 16, 2025 @ 7pm

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 283 253 626 286

Passcode: 3Sz293UJ

Mary Ann McConkey, Chair

1 (1 min)	Agenda MOTION to Approve the Agenda	Mary Ann McConkey
2 (2 min)	Previous Minutes MOTION to approve the minutes for the Board meetings on February 19, 2025 as presented	Mary Ann McConkey
3 (1 min)	Statements of Conflict of Interest	ALL
4 (30 min)	Strategic Advisory Team • Vision, Mission, Core Values statements • Next Steps MOTION to Accept the Vision, Mission, and Core Values as presented	Morry Patoka
5 (10 min)	Executive Director Report • Monthly Report – reporting on February & March activity • Q1 Compliance & Complaints Report • Q1 Managerial Commentary MOTION to Receive the Q1 Compliance & Complaints reports MOTION to Approve the Managerial Commentary for Q1 2025, AND that Q1 Commentary be sent to Town of Aurora, AND that Q1 Commentary be made available for public release MOTION to Receive the Executive Director’s Report	Suzanne Haines

6 (10 min)	Finance & Audit Committee Report from the committee • Cumulative February 2025 interim statement MOTION to Approve the interim financial statements to February 28, 2025 interim statement MOTION to Accept the Finance & Audit Committee Report	Michelle Lockie
7 (20 min)	Governance & Nominating Committee Report from the Committee • Review of Imagine Canada application feedback and updated application • ACC Business Continuity Plan • Quarterly risk assessment • D2: Donor Policy • G12: Board Compensation Policy • G20: Equity and Inclusion Policy • F6: Working Capital & Reserves Policy MOTION: to approve the updated application for Imagine Canada accreditation, to be submitted by April 30, 2025 MOTION: to approve the Q1 risk assessment as presented MOTION: to approve the D2: Donor Policy update as presented. MOTION: to approve the G12: Board Compensation Policy update as presented. MOTION: to approve the G20: Equity and Inclusion Policy update as presented. MOTION: to approve the F6: Working Capital & Reserves Policy update as presented. MOTION to Accept the Governance & Nominating Committee Report	Mary Ann McConkey
8 (10 min)	Development Committee Report from the Committee • 2025 Budget and YTD report • June 12, 2025 Fundraiser MOTION to Accept the Development Committee Report	Morry Patoka

9 (5 min)	Outreach Committee April 26/27 Home show MOTION to Accept the Outreach Committee Report	Anita Townsend
9	New Business	ALL
10	Next Meeting May 14, 2025 –7- 9 pm	
11	MOTION to Adjourn Meeting	ALL

AGENDA
Board of Directors Public Meeting #1 2025
Aurora Town Square
Homeroom Gallery 1
In Person
Wednesday April 16th, 2025 6:30 pm

Mary Ann McConkey, Chair

1 (1 min)	Agenda MOTION to Approve the Agenda	Mary Ann McConkey
2 (1 min)	Welcome to Guests and description of participation	Mary Ann McConkey
3 (15 min)	Executive Director Report Report on Q1 Activity MOTION to Approve the Managerial Commentary for Q1 2025, AND that Q1 Commentary be sent to Town of Aurora, AND that Q1 Commentary be made available for public release	Suzanne Haines
4 (15 min)	Question & Answer Opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of staff or the Board of Directors	Mary Ann McConkey / Suzanne Haines
5	New Business	ALL
6	Confirmation of next Public Meeting June 18, 2025 at 7pm Annual General Meeting Aurora Town Square, Homeroom Galleries	ALL
7	MOTION to Adjourn Meeting	ALL



MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting #3 2025
HYBRID (in person and virtual)
School House Meeting Room
Wednesday April 16, 2025 @ 6:30

Chair: Mary Ann McConkey

Present: Mary Ann McConkey (Chair), Councillor John Gallo, Phiona Durrant Sharon Kelly, Michelle Lockie, Stephen Lusk, Morry Patoka, Anita Townsend,

Regrets: Edlene Antonio Mandana Gholami Mobarakadadi, Councillor Ron Weese

Staff: Suzanne Haines (Executive Director)

1 (1 min)	Agenda MOTION to Approve the Agenda Moved: Morry Ptoka 2 nd : Michelle Lockie CARRIED	Mary Ann McConkey
2 (2 min)	Previous Minutes MOTION to Approve the minutes for the Board meetings on February 19,2025 as presented Moved: John Gallo 2 nd : Michelle Lockie CARRIED	Mary Ann McConkey
3 (1 min)	Statements of Conflict of Interest	ALL
4 (30 min)	Strategic Advisory Team Vision, Mission, Core Values statements • Morry presented a review of the and process for the strategic planning to date and outlined next steps. • Team ahead of timeline for development and the Board acceptance of the Vision Mission and Core values statement. • The Board accepted document now goes to designer to layout for formal presentation and release, May 30. • Presently initiating the process for the development of the SWOT and PESTLE – Mary Ann McConkey and Geoff Bartle leads on the PESTLE and Stephen Lusk and Anita Townsend Leads on the SWOT. • Review progress at next board meeting, May 14,2025 MOTION to Accept the Vision, Mission, and Core Values as presented Moved: Mary Ann McConkey	Morry Patoka

	2nd: Anita Townsend CARRIED	
5 (10 min)	Executive Director Report • Monthly Report – reporting in February & March activity • Q1 Compliance & Complaints Report • Q1 Managerial Commentary MOTION to Receive the Q1 Compliance & Complaints reports Moved: Michelle Lockie 2nd: Morry Patoka CARRIED MOTION to Approve the Managerial Commentary for Q1 2025, AND that Q1 Commentary be sent to Town of Aurora, AND that Q1 Commentary be made available for public release Moved: Anita Townsend 2nd: Sharon Kelly CARRIED MOTION to Receive the Executive Director’s Report Moved: John Gallo 2nd: Phiona Durrant CARRIED	Suzanne Haines
6 (10 min)	Finance & Audit Committee Report from the committee • Cumulative February 2025 interim statement MOTION to Move the dollar amount of, \$2301.44 from the classical reserve fund to working capital. Moved: Morry Patoka 2nd: John Gallo CARRIED MOTION to Approve the interim financial statements to February 28, 2025, statement. Moved: Morry Patoka 2nd: Michele Lockie CARRIED	Michelle Lockie

	MOTION to Accept the Finance & Audit Committee Report Moved: John Gallo 2nd: Sharon Kelly CARRIED	
7 (20 min)	Governance & Nominating Committee Report from the Committee • Review of Imagine Canada application feedback and updated application • ACC Business Continuity Plan • Quarterly risk assessment • D2: Donor Policy • G12: Board Compensation Policy • G20: Equity and Inclusion Policy • F6: Working Capital & Reserves Policy MOTION: to Approve the updated application for Imagine Canada accreditation, to be submitted by April 30, 2025 Moved: John Gallo 2nd: Anita Townsend CARRIED MOTION: to Approve the Q1 risk assessment as presented Moved: John Gallo 2nd: Anita Townsend CARRIED MOTION: to Approve the D2: Donor Policy update as presented. Moved: John Gallo 2nd: Anita Townsend CARRIED MOTION: to Approve the G12: Board Compensation Policy update as presented. Moved: John Gallo 2nd: Anita Townsend CARRIED MOTION: to Approve the G20: Equity and Inclusion Policy update as presented. Moved: John Gallo 2nd: Anita Townsend CARRIED	Mary Ann McConkey

	MOTION: to Approve the F6: Working Capital & Reserves Policy update as presented. Moved: John Gallo 2nd: Anita Townsend CARRIED MOTION to Accept the Governance & Nominating Committee Report Moved: John Gallo 2nd: Anita Townsend CARRIED	
8 (10 min)	Development Committee Report from the Committee 2025 Budget and YTD report - June 12, 2025, Fundraiser MOTION to Accept the Development Committee Report Moved: Morry Patoka 2nd: Sharon Kelly CARRIED	Morry Patoka
9 (5 min)	Outreach Committee April 26/27 Home show MOTION to Accept the Outreach Committee Report Moved: Michele Lockie 2nd: Morry Patoka CARRIED	Anita Townsend
10	New Business	ALL
11	Next Meeting May 14, 2025, 7- 9 pm	
12	MOTION to Adjourn Meeting Moved: Michelle Lockie 2nd: John Gallo CARRIED Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 pm	ALL

Minutes recorded by:

Anita Townsend
Anita Townsend – Secretary of the Board

Special Events

#MCOYA25 Pre-opening Gala

February 7, 2025

6:30pm – 8:30pm

Artists, their friends and families, and the community at large joined together to celebrate the opening of #MCOYA25 with light bites and refreshments. Wearable art and funky attire was encouraged and all were welcomed. Opening remarks commenced at 7pm with Mayor Tom Mrakas and others.



Visitors take in the artistic works of Aurora's talented youth artists at #MCOYA25.

Chamber After Five Social

February 25, 2025

5pm – 7pm

The Aurora Cultural Centre was pleased to host the Aurora Chamber's first After 5 of 2025. It was an opportunity for local business leaders to catch up with friends and make new connections, which enjoying some refreshments in the Homeroom Galleries.



Executive Director Suzanne Haines mingles with members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce in the Homeroom Galleries.

Brevik Creates! Open House

February 26, 2025

5pm – 7pm

Brevik Hall

Visiting Artists Judy Luo and Andrea Nann of Dreamwalker Dance Company hosted an informal gathering on the final day of their Brevik Creates! Residency at the Aurora Cultural Centre. The event included a guided reflection, a sneak peak at their new duet in development, and an opportunity to for guests to mix & mingle.

Teen Opportunities Fair

March 12, 2025

Aurora Public Library

Cultural Centre team members Alyssa Spear and Jenny Burton represented the Centre at APL's Teen Opportunities Fair. Teens were invited to drop by to hear about all the ways youth can get involved with activities at the Centre.



New Horizons Senior Recruitment

The recruitment video for this community initiative has been created and can be [viewed here](#).

Performing Arts Programs

Micah Sings Leonard

February 1, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Davide De Simone Performance Hall

Attendance: 181

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/2024-25-micah-sings-leonard/>

Alma/Universal Recording Artist Micah Barnes saluted Montreal's favourite son in an intimate concert of Leonard Cohen classics! Micah's rich baritone voice brought a new perspective to Leonard Cohen's powerful lyrics- honouring the intricacy of the storytelling and the depth of musicality in these much-celebrated songs. Micah (vocals, piano) and his quartet of top flight musicians included guest vocalist Rique Franks on a magical journey through Leonard's world.



Micah Barnes

Kattam and his Tam-Tams (Family Show)

February 15, 2025 at 2:00pm

Brevik Hall

Attendance: 59

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/2024-25-kattam/>

Family Day Weekend brought a vibrant journey with percussionist Kattam! With the lively beats of the n'goni, balafon, djembe, naffar, derbouka, and dhol, Kattam brought the magic of Africa, the Middle East, and India to life through rhythm, song, and dance. Accompanied by his playful monkey, Takoum, Kattam created an unforgettable experience that captivated the audience with a perfect family adventure. Kattam, who is part Quebecois and part Moroccan, performs over 200 shows per year with a focus on both school, family and festival audiences. He has studied percussion around the world, and performed with the Cirque du Soleil, and at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games.



Young patrons take in Kattam's vibrant show.

Kellylee Evans + Sammy Jackson

February 22, 2025 at 7:30pm

Daide De Simone Performance Hall

Attendance: 109

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/2024-25-kellylee-evans/>

2018 and 2025 JUNO nominee **Kellylee Evans** is a high-octane, chameleon-like performer whose natural charm and improvisational vocal style embody jazz, soul, pop, and hip-hop. The singer-songwriter won a 2011 JUNO Award and has been captivating audiences along the way, opening for stars such as John Legend, George Benson and Willie Nelson. With six albums to her name, Evans' story includes a life-altering lightning strike in 2013 while in her home – and her astonishing return to performance. In 2023 Evans was the grand prize recipient of the Her Music Award from the SOCAN Foundation. **Sammy Jackson** is a fresh new face on Canada's jazz scene who earned the respect of her audience early by winning the Jazz Vocal JUNO Award with her sophomore EP *With You*. Sammy performed in a duo with a guitar accompaniment.



Two-time JUNO award winner Kellylee Evans.

Newberry & Verch

March 1, 2025 at 7:30pm

Davide De Simone Performance Hall

Attendance: 74

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/2024-25-verch-newberry/>

Missouri Ozarks banjo legend **Joe Newberry** sums it up best when describing his collaboration with Ottawa Valley fiddle sensation **April Verch**: “We may be from a couple of hollers over, but the heart pulse rhythms, her love of tradition mirrors my family’s love of tradition. My family in Central Missouri listened to Canadian broadcasts.” You won’t want to miss a magical evening of folk traditions and new discoveries.

Their show, with featured a cabaret-style seating arrangement, celebrated their musical roots, their love of performing and strong musical connection. Original songs joined timeless classics, with stories that warmed the heart, lively fiddle and banjo numbers that got toes tapping and traditional dance steps that celebrated hearth and home. While they’re on the road much of the time, they’re rarely homesick because their music means they always have a bit of home wherever they go.



Folk duo Newberry & Verch

New Orford String Quartet

March 7, 2025 at 7:30pm

Davide De Simone Performance Hall

Attendance: 122

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/2024-25-new-orford-string-quartet/>

Four Canadian musicians with equally stellar pedigrees form the JUNO Award-winning New Orford String Quartet. Toronto Symphony and Montreal Symphony concertmasters Andrew Wan and Jonathan Crow were joined by Montreal Symphony’s principal cellist Brian Manker and the dynamic violist Sharon Wei. Together, they brought passion, freshness and joy to the performance. The program included Schubert’s powerful Death and the Maiden quartet, as well as the new piece commissioned by the New Orford String Quartet from the esteemed Canadian composer Ian Cusson. Of Metis (Georgian Bay Metis Community) and French-Canadian descent, Cusson’s work explores the Canadian Indigenous experience and intersection of Western and Indigenous cultures. A pre-concert talk



New Orford Quartet

featured Ian Cusson in conversation with Norbert Kraft.

Quest for the Moon (Family Show)

March 15, 2025 at 11am

Daive De Simone Performance Hall

Attendance: 154

One night, the Moon goes missing so the fox must summon the courage to search for his friend. Along the way, he discovers a newfound independence and the wonder of the world beyond his den. A heartwarming and engaging story about the friendship between a young fox and the Moon told with the magic of shadow puppetry, music, and theatre, and the perfect March Break entertainment. Created by Olivia Wheeler.

The Magic Carpet morning performance was especially designed to enchant our youngest audiences.

Danny Michel + Drew Gonsalves

March 22, 2024 at 7:30pm

Daive De Simone Performance Hall

Attendance: 123

A creative spark plug that turns a phrase into an anthem, Danny Michel is a songwriter's songwriter. His thoughtful lyrics and charming performances have earned a devoted fan base, multiple JUNO nominations, The Polaris Prize, CBC's "Heart of Gold", and most recently the Canadian Folk Music Award's Producer of the Year and the Oliver Schroder Pushing the Boundaries Award.

"One of the most engaging storytellers you'll ever see live – both in his songs, and his onstage conversation."

Front man for the JUNO Award winning world music combo Kobo Town, Drew Gonsalves crams words into rapid fire song essays that make the head spin. Drawing on his Masters thesis on the history of Calypso, Drew is at the forefront of reshaping Trinidad's original music artform.



Danny Michel

Genticorum

March 29, 2025 at 7:30pm

Davide De Simone Performance Hall

Attendance: 137

Genticorum is a powerhouse in Quebecois traditional music, known for their high energy, magnetic stage presence, and exquisite vocal harmonies. For over two decades, founders Pascal Gemme and Yann Falquet, along with their newest member Nicholas Williams have captivated audiences worldwide with their masterful blend of fiddle, accordion, and guitar. Their music has graced prestigious stages, including Celtic Connections in Scotland, the Tonder Folk Festival in Denmark, and the National Folk Festival in Australia. With intricate melodies, rich textures, and infectious rhythms, JUNO Award-winning Genticorum continues to redefine and elevate the world of traditional and folk music.

Upcoming Performing Arts Events

“Genius + Soul” – The Music of Ray Charles

April 5, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Davide De Simone Performance Hall

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/2024-25-micah-sings-leonard/>

Martha Chaves’ “The United Colours of Canada” Comedy Show

April 26, 2025 at 7:30pm

Davide De Simone Performance Hall

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/2024-25-kattam/>

Gallery Programs

#MCOYA25

Mayor’s Celebration of Youth Arts 2025

In person: February 8 – April 20, 2025

All Galleries

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/mcoya25/>

The Mayor’s Celebration of Youth Arts (#MCOYA) began in 2011 as the annual Youth Art Exhibition. Celebrating the bold and diverse work of graduating students in Aurora, #MCOYA25 brings together participants from several local high schools, including (but not limited to) Aurora High School, Bayview Secondary School, Cardinal Carter Catholic High School, Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, École



Secondaire Catholique Renaissance, St. Andrew's College, and St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School.

This year's exhibition marks the first time in five years that MCOYA returns to its home base at 22 Church Street—the former Aurora Public School, originally built in 1886. Everyone is invited to join in the celebration of both our return to this historic building and the return of student art to its halls!

Featured Artists:

Gwendolyn Allen, Holly Binelli, Gaby Bossie, Dasha Briskin, Damian Calusic, Helena Cellucci, Sumaya Chaudary, Phoebe Clune, Zenyx Crombez, Milena Darbinyan, Kamilia Desroches Parchment, Kiran Dhargalkar, Charlie Emerson, Angela Fang, Danelle Feng, Christina Filosa, Gloria Foo-Fat, Jasmine Harding, Gabia Harris, Olivia Hashem, Rain Jiang, Myia Kandola, Thomas Kelly, Narmineh Khurram, Isabella Kim, Ryan Kiss, Uliana Kobyakova, Nathan Kurtes, Madison Kwok, Morgane Le Quere, Thandia Lord, Eleni Medeiros, Wayne Meng, Nava Mirbagher, Kiana Mottley, Alexandra Mumford, Claire Narduzzo, Coral Ng, Joycelyn Ng, Vanessa Phung, Sarah Poncelet, Myriam Portelance, Alessia Pugliese, Evelyn Scott, Jelena Shakkour, Allen Shi, Sarina Sajjadi, Brenda Salomone, Valerie Santoian, Kingsman Tang, Crystal Tran, Mikayla Tripolino, Raegan Whittaker, Elaine Yang, and Molly Zupancic

See The Works: <https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/mcoya25/mcoya25-artist-e-portfolio/Cultural Centre>

Open Studio

Weekly on Wednesdays

Art Activity Room

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/events-for-artists/>

YAR Muddle Mural Meet-Up

First Tuesday of every month

3 pm – 5 pm

Art Activity Room

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/muddle-mural/>

March Break Youth Studio

March 10 – March 14

12:00 – 4:00pm

Underground Gallery

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/march-break-youth-studio/Aurora Cultural Centre>

Youth Portfolio Review

March 14, 2025

1pm – 3pm

Art Activity Room

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/portfolio-review/>

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.

Two new Art Bytes were added in support of the #MCOYA25 Exhibit. Art Bytes can be found here: [Gallery Art Bytes link](#)

Art Byte Topic	Exhibition	Link
Seven Masters, Origins	Seven Masters	https://youtu.be/bYEME3tkVZ0?si=0Jj7bHuy0Z29mzFk
#MCOYA25 – Meet Jelena, Narmineh, Helena and Jasmine	MCOYA	https://youtu.be/4jiAm29oSko?si=GSu JiybUt10DjyR
#MCOYA25 – Meet Charlie, Joycelyn, Wayne, and Kingsman	MCOYA	https://youtu.be/E-TdhXCICM?si=SI_rTZigUotxQ0Ko

Upcoming Gallery Events

Laurence Vallieres

May 9 – July 22, 2025

Homerom Galleries

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/mcoya25/>

Jianmin Chen

May 1 – July 13, 2025

Lower Hall Gallery

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/jianming-chen/>

Education Programs

Term Classes, Workshops and Short Courses

Our winter programs which kicked off in January, including classes, workshop, and PA programs, continued. In addition, March Break programming ran from March 10 to March 14. Registration for the spring session launched on March 17, 2025.

Children & Youth		
March Break Camp Age 4 – 7	March 10 – March 14	4 – 7 years
March Break Camp	March 10 – March 14	7 – 12 years

To see current educational offerings please visit: <https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/adult-classes/> or <https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/childrens-classes/>

Administration

- New Sponsor and donor tours continue with the Development team
- Applied for OAC Multidisciplinary Operating Grant – March 6, 2025 for 2026 programming

year

- Engaged Interkom as Interim Marketing Manager until end of June 2025.
- Hosted YRDSB Secondary Visual Arts Leads regional meeting and Tour of the facilities on March 26
- Hosted De-escalation training for ACC and Town staff on March 27, 2025
- Hosted communications training for ACC staff on April 1, 2025
- Draft audit was received and is being reviewed by the Finance committee.
- Received funding from Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs for summer education positions.
- We are hosting a joint Volunteer Appreciation Event with the Town of Aurora on April 29th in the evening to honour community volunteers who support the Town, Museum and Cultural Centre programming. Aurora Public Library declined participation this year as they rebuild their adult volunteer program.
- We are organizing a joint 'breakfast' get together with all staff from the three resident organizations for staff to meet each other and celebrate the opening of the new space.

Human Resources

- Please welcome our new Education Assistant, Anna Vander Heide, who started March 10, 2025
- Jane Taylor, Communications Manager resigned her position as of March 21, 2025. We thank her for her 15 years and 3 months of incredible service to the Centre.
- Please welcome Kayla van Zon from Interkom as our Interim Marketing Manager until the end of June 2025, at which point we will reassess the structure and determine next steps.
- Education Manager is on a leave of absence expected to be 3-months starting March 17, 2025. We will not be backfilling this role – duties call to ED and Education Assistant, supported by Administrative Assistant and new marketing structure.
- Please welcome our new Finance Associate, Franca Zumpetta, who started April 14, 2025
- We are finalizing the staff team for summer employment.
- I will be out of the office April 17 – 25 inclusive.

Facilities/Aurora Town Square

- We continue to refine the process for receiving revenues and recoveries with Town Staff.
- ATS operational policy has been reviewed by Town staff to finalize for implementation.
- ATS detailed fire safety plan draft is available and being reviewed. Training will follow a finalized plan.
- ATS Collaborative Programming Team joint marketing for summer programming and joint programming initiatives.
- Quarterly review of the Temporary Amending Agreement with Director of Community Services and Manager of Cultural Services

Upcoming Board Activities

Development Committee Meeting: April 3

Outreach Committee Meeting: did not meet

Finance & Audit Committee Meeting: April 10

Governance & Nominating Committee Meeting: April 14

Community Connections/Artistic Events

- Monthly meeting with Director of Community Services
- Monthly meeting with ATS Leadership Group
- Aurora Arts, Culture and Heritage Network monthly meeting
- Spoke at RBC's International Women's Day event on March 4
- Tour for Kawartha Gallery on April 8
- Black History Month Gala – April 11
- Tour for Arts Society King on April 11

Respectfully Submitted by

Suzanne Haines
Executive Director