

AGENDA
Board of Directors Meeting #5A 2025
In Person and TEAMS
School House Meeting Room
Wednesday June 18, 2025 @ 6pm

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 231 911 681 769 2

Passcode: sk7fP6hN

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 meeting on May 14, 2025 as presented	Mary Ann McConkey
3 (1 min)	Statements of Conflict of Interest	ALL
4 (15 min)	Finance & Audit Committee Report from the committee Q1 Interim Financial Statement to March 31, 2025 MOTION to Approve the unaudited interim financial statements for the 3 months ended March 31, 2025 (the Q1 Report) and to approve the filing of the Q1 Report with the Town of Aurora as per the Provision of Cultural Services Agreement and to release the statement to the Public. MOTION to acknowledge the review of Finance Committee policies F1 F3, F4, and F6 with no changes. MOTION to Accept the Finance & Audit Committee Report	Michelle Lockie (guest Paulina Vujinovic)
5 (30 min)	Strategic Plan Workbook Feedback and next steps	Morry Patoka
6 (5 min)	Consent Agenda - Executive Director Report - Development Committee Report - Governance & Nominating Committee Report - Outreach Committee Report MOTION to Accept the Consent Agenda Reports	Mary Ann

7	Next Meeting • June 18, 2025 at 7pm Annual General Meeting • June 18, 2025 after AGM – meeting of the new Board	
8	MOTION to Adjourn Meeting	ALL



MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting #5A 2025
HYBRID (In Person and virtual)
School House Meeting Room
Wednesday June 18, 2025 @ 6pm

Chair: Mary Ann McConkey

Present: Mary Ann McConkey (Chair), Edlene Antonio, Sharon Kelly, Michelle Lockie, Morry Patoka, Anita Townsend

Regrets: Phiona Durrant, Councillor John Gallo, Stephen Lusk, Mandana Gholami Mobarakadadi, Councillor Ron Wesse

Guest: Paulina Vujinovic

Staff: Suzanne Haines (Executive Director)

1 (1 min)	Agenda MOTION to Approve the Agenda. Moved: Morry Patoka 2nd : Michelle Lockie CARRIED	Mary Ann McConkey
2 (2 min)	Previous Minutes MOTION to approve the minutes for the Board meeting on May 14, 2025 as presented. Moved: Sharon Kelly 2nd : Morry Patoka CARRIED	Mary Ann McConkey
3 (1 min)	Statements of Conflict of Interest	ALL
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	MOTION to acknowledge the review of Finance Committee policies F1 F3, F4, and F6 with no changes. Moved: Anita Townsend 2nd: Edlene Antonio CARRIED MOTION to Accept the Finance & Audit Committee Report Moved: Sharon Kelly 2nd : Morry Patoka CARRIED	
5 (30 min)	Strategic Plan Workbook Feedback and next steps	Morry Patoka
6 (5 min)	Consent Agenda - Executive Director Report - Development Committee Report - Governance & Nominating Committee Report - Outreach Committee Report MOTION to Accept the Consent Agenda Reports Moved: Sharon Kelly 2nd: Michelle Lockie CARRIED	Mary Ann
7	Next Meeting July 16, 2025 at 7pm School House Meeting Room	
8	MOTION to Adjourn Meeting 6:50 pm Moved: Sharon Kelly 2nd: Michelle Lockie CARRIED	ALL

Minutes recorded by:
Anita Townsend – Secretary of the Board

Anita Townsend

Aurora Cultural Centre
Board of Directors Post AGM meeting #5C
JUNE 18, 2025
School House Meeting Room and TEAMS

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 277 875 393 999

Passcode: ak3n44if

1	Election of Officers Nominations will be called for the positions of: • President • Vice President • Treasurer • Secretary MOTION: To elect [] as President Elected President will preside over the meeting MOTION to elect [] as Vice President MOTION to elect [] as Treasurer MOTION to elect [] as Secretary	Suzanne Haines, ED President
2	Welcome and Introductions	President
3	Committee membership Board members will be asked to choose at least one committee to join. Committee Chairs will be chosen at the first meeting of the committee. • Finance & Audit • Development • Governance & Nominating • Outreach	President/Suzanne
4	Confirmation of the Signing Authority Current policy states that there is one to sign under \$10,000 and two to sign >\$10,000. Signing authority is assigned to the President, Treasurer, and Executive Director	President

	MOTION: to confirm [President], [Treasurer], and Suzanne Haines as signing authorities for the Aurora Cultural Centre	
6	Other Business - Communication (invites, monthly/quarterly roundups) - New member orientation	Suzanne Suzanne
6	Confirmation of next meeting • July 16, 2025 at 7pm in the School House Meeting Room	President
7	Adjourn MOTION to adjourn	

1	Election of Officers. The ED called for mominations for the role of President: Morry Patoka nominated Mary Ann McConkey for the role of President. Anita Townsend 2nd the nomination. Mary Ann accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations from the floor. MOTION: To elect Mary Ann McConkey as President Moved: Morry Patoka 2ND: Anita Townsend CARRIED Elected President Mary Ann McConkey then presided over the meeting and called for nominations for the following positions: • Vice President • Treasurer • Secretary Edlene Antonio nominated Morry Patoka for the role of Vice President. Mandana Gholami Mobarakabadi 2nd the nomination. Morry accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations from the floor. MOTION to elect Morry Potaka as Vice President Moved:Edlene Antonio 2nd: Mandana Gholami Mobarakabadi CARRIED	Suzanne Haines, ED Mary Ann McConkey
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	Mary Ann McConkey nominated Paulina Vujinovic for the role of Treasurer. Morry Patoka 2nd the nomination. Paulina accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations from the floor. MOTION to elect Paulina Vujinovic as Treasurer Moved: Mary Ann McConkey 2nd: Morry Patoka CARRIED Morry Patoka nominated Anita Townsend for the role of Secretary. Mandana Gholami Mobarakabadi 2nd the nomination. Anita accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations from the floor. MOTION to elect Anita Townsend as Secretary Moved: Morry Patoka 2nd: Mandana Gholami Mobarakabadi CARRIED	
2	Welcome and Introductions The new Board did a roundtable of introductions including their background, term, and role on the Board to date.	Mary Ann McConkey
3	Committee membership Board members will be asked to choose at least one committee to join. Committee Chairs will be chosen at the first meeting of the committee. • Finance & Audit • Development • Governance & Nominating - • Outreach Updated document of committee members to be in the next Board meeting notes, July 16.	Mary Ann McConkey
4	Confirmation of the Signing Authority. Current policy states that there is one to sign under \$10,000 and two to sign >\$10,000. Signing authority is assigned to the President, Treasurer, and Executive Director.	Mary Ann McConkey

	MOTION: to confirm, Mary Ann McConkey (President], Paulina Vujinovic (Treasurer), and Suzanne Haines (Executive Director), as signing authorities for the Aurora Cultural Centre. Moved: Edlene Antonio 2nd: Phiona Durrant CARRIED Other Buisness • Staff to send calendar invite to Board members for all events indicating if attendance is required or optional. Board members are to confirm attendance. • Morry Patoka provided a Strategic Plan update for new Board members giving an overview of where we are in the process and next steps. All new members have an updated Strategic Planning booklet to review. • Season Launch Perfroming Arts, June 26, <i>Let our Stage Surprise You</i>, June 26, 7:00. Tickets can be purchased on line. Tickets for each performance and subscription packages will be available to public June 27. • New Board member orientation: please stay back after the meeting to set an orientation date	Suzanne Haines Morry Patoka Suzanne Haines Suzanne Haines
6	Confirmation of next meeting. • Hybrid meeting on July 16, 2025 at 7pm, available on Teams and in the School House Meeting Room	Mary Ann McConkey
7	MOTION to adjourn meeting. Moved: Paulina Vujinovic 2nd: Morry Patoka CARRIED	Mary Ann McConkey

Minutes recorded by:

Anita Townsend – Secretary of the Baord

Anita Townsend

Board of Directors – June 2025 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

May 2025

Special Events

Helen Lucas Estate Sale

May 22, 2025 – June 5, 2025

Helen Lucas Studio & Online

We were grateful to partner with the family of Helen Lucas to facilitate a spring sale of final works within her estate. This includes over 200 drawings, prints, and, of course, her grandiose flower paintings offered in a variety of sizes.

From May 22 – June 5, patrons have been purchasing their own Helen Lucas', both online and in-person, at her home studio. Proceeds from the sale go to her estate, with a portion supporting Aurora Cultural Centre programs.



A small sample of works from Helen Lucas' collection

Performing Arts Programs

Cheng² Duo

May 3, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Davide De Simone Performance Hall

Attendance: 137

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/2024-25-cheng2-duo/>

Named one of CBC Music's "30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians Under 30" young and dynamic brother and sister team the Cheng² Duo (pronounced Cheng Squared Duo) have been making music together for the past 16 years. They have gained worldwide recognition after winning major international competitions and receiving a 2024 JUNO nomination for 'Classical Album of the Year; Small Ensemble'. Captivating audiences and critics alike with their unique and refreshing programs, cellist Bryan Cheng and pianist Sylvie



Cheng² Duo

Cheng share an undeniable chemistry, and demonstrate a rare balance of infectious exuberance and mature and profound interpretations. Their recitals are in high demand in major concert halls throughout North America, Europe and Asia.

The concert was preceded with a talk by Rick Phillips, Host and Producer of Sound Advice at 7 pm.

The Once

Saturday, May 24, 2025 at 7:30pm
Davide De Simone Performance Hall
Attendance: 224

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

Newfoundland has a storied history of stunning songwriters, poets and players. Over the course of the last decade **The Once** (Geraldine Hollett, Andrew Dale and Phil Churchill) have writ and knit themselves into that story. Their harmonies grab you by the heart, and their music melts what's left of it.

With the release of 2024's *Out Here*, the band has delivered a thoughtful and playful assembly of songs mingling their musical roots from Newfoundland along with folk, bluegrass, country, Americana, and modern indie rock. The trio has written and toured for more than a decade, and been recognized with multiple Music NL Awards, EMCAs, JUNO nominations and three Canadian Folk Music Awards.



The Once

Upcoming Performing Arts Events

Angelique Francis supported by Jay Blues

Saturday, June 7 at 7:30 pm
Davide De Simone Performance Hall
<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/2024-25-angelique-francis/>

Sue Foley

Saturday, June 21 at 7:30 pm
Davide De Simone Performance Hall
<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/2024-25-sue-foley/>

Gallery Programs

When Aurora Thaws

A Visual Soliloquy by Jianming Chen

In person: May 1, 2025 – July 13, 2025

Lower Hall Gallery

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

Over the last decade, Newmarket-based painter Jianming Chen has documented settings of York Region through captivating oils. A plein air painter, Chen has become a recognizable figure in the community, setting up his easel at recreational trails, residential streets, and farmer's markets, to paint for hours on end. Only rarely, is he deterred by the natural elements.

This winter, Chen was selected as the Aurora Cultural Centre's first artist-in-residence. He dedicated his residency period from February 1 to April 20 to test the limits of his plein air practice, painting in conditions as low –13 Degrees Celsius though until the spring thaw. This solo exhibition is a culminative celebration of his accomplishments during the residency. His first solo exhibition, it is also a spotlight on his incredible multi-year practice for the community to recognize.

Said Through Silence

Group Exhibition - Jing Fu, Karim Abed, Rollex Austin, William Lottering

In person: May 1, 2025 – July 27, 2025

Great Hall Gallery

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/said-through-silence/>

The Digital Age has transformed the world through groundbreaking technological advancements. Computers, smartphones, the internet, and artificial intelligence have reshaped how we live—from how we gather information to how we communicate and relate to one another. While some recall life before technology was embedded into daily routine, some have never known a world without it, putting forth unique challenges in the ways we communicate and relate to each other. In a world so 'connected', how is it that we feel so distant?

Said Through Silence meditates on this phenomenon, bringing together the introspective works by four local artists, into direct visual conversation. Touching on themes of home, nature, technology, and abstraction, the exhibited works look inward on what life is like growing and adapting within a rapidly changing world, with a particular focus on our shared home of York Region.

This exhibition is curated by Samantha Jones.

Public Reception | Thursday, May 1, 6:30 – 8:30 pm | Lower Hall Gallery

- Thursday, May 1, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, celebrating the opening of all exhibitions in the hallway galleries. Refreshments were provided and all were free to attend. Remarks at 7 PM.

Laurence Vallières

Solo Exhibition

In person: May 8, 2025 – July 22, 2025

Homeroom Galleries

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/laurence-vallieres/>

The Aurora Cultural Centre is excited to introduce Montreal-based sculptor Laurence Vallières to the community through a one-of-a-kind, all-sculpture exhibition in our Homeroom Galleries.

Laurence Vallières (born in Québec City, 1986) is a Montreal-based artist, internationally acclaimed for her larger-than-life cardboard sculptures. Initially focusing on ceramics during her education at Concordia University, her art evolved following a 2010 artist residency in St. Petersburg, Russia, where she was exposed to the practice of urban art.

Environmental concerns and sustainability lie at the core of Vallières's practice, which she expresses through depictions of animals and references to pop culture characters like Mickey Mouse and Tweety Bird. Each of her creations are made from recycled cardboard, often gathered from the very location where her projects take place. Reflecting on her ties with urban art, where work is often created in response to pressing cultural, social, and political issues, her dedication to cardboard in her art serves as a call for sustainability—a commentary on consumer culture, advocating for the movement of reuse over consumption and waste.

Come witness unimaginable feats of cardboard art through the renowned lens of Laurence Vallières in this special visiting artist showcase. This exhibition is free for all ages and family friendly.

Reception + Artist Meet & Greet

- Thursday, May 8, 6:30 – 8:30 PM in Homeroom Galleries. Refreshments are provided and all are free to attend. Remarks at 7 PM.

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/>

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.

No new Art Bytes were added in May. Art Bytes can be found here: [Gallery Art Bytes link](#)

Upcoming Gallery Events

Jianming Chen

In Plain Sight

Artist talk and plein air walk with Jianming Chen

Wednesday, June 11

6:00 – 8:00PM

Art Activity Room (Level B1)

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

Said Through Silence

“End of the Line” by Will Lottering

June 19th at 7:30pm

Homeroom Galleries

A staged reading, as part of *Said Through Silence*

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/end-of-the-line/>

Laurence Vallieres

Closing Talk

July 22 at 7pm

Homeroom Galleries

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/laurence-vallieres-talk/>

Education Programs

Term Classes, Workshops and Short Courses

The busy spring season continued with the courses that kicked off in April, including classes and workshops for ages pre-school through to older adults (55+).

Class	Start Date	End Date	Age Group
Watercolour Level 1 (55+)	March 31, 2025	June 23, 2025	Older Adult
Watercolours The Basics (55+)	April 7, 2025	June 2, 2025	Older Adult
Comic Drawing for Children	April 7, 2025	June 2, 2025	Children
Watercolour Level 2 (55+)	April 8, 2025	June 10, 2025	Older Adult
Expand Your Horizons in Acrylics Level 2	April 8, 2025	May 27, 2025	Adult
Drawing Fundamentals	April 9, 2025	June 11, 2025	Adult
Watercolours – Intermediate & Advanced	April 9, 2025	May 28, 2025	Adult
Learn Anime	April 9, 2025	May 7, 2025	Youth
Guitar Intermediate	April 9, 2025	May 28, 2025	Adult
Acrylic Paint Beginner (55+)	April 10, 2025	June 12, 2025	Older Adult
Acrylic Paint Intermediate (55+)	April 10, 2025	June 12, 2025	Older Adult

Drawing Fundamentals (55+)	April 10, 2025	June 12, 2025	Older Adult
Watercolours: Basics & Beyond	April 10, 2025	June 5, 2025	Adult
Lil' Jammers Caregiver & Child (2)	April 12, 2025	June 14, 2025	Pre-school
Rhythm Kids	April 12, 2025	June 14, 2025	Children
Children's Visual Art 1	April 12, 2025	June 14, 1025	Children
Children's Visual Art 2	April 12, 2025	June 14, 2025	Children

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

Additionally, summer camps registration is open and can be viewed here:

<https://auroraculturalcentre.ca/summer-camps/>

Administration

- Staff enjoyed a team building and fun event working from the 'Dome' on May 15th.
- In July, I will conduct a full review of the education program including volume of classes possible within capacity, suitability of venue for each class, class size, demand and revenue potential, and compensation tied to industry standards and skills required.
- Angela Fang (Outreach Committee Member) was recognized at the Town of Aurora Community Recognition Awards on May 26th. **Congratulations Angela** and thank you for all of your incredible support and impact on our organization and the community.
- Staff and Board members attended a strategic planning workshop on May 27th.
- Aurora Cultural Centre has been nominated as Not-for-profit of the Year as part of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence awards. Board President and ED will attend networking session on May 16th to determine if we have been chosen in the top 3 to be considered for the award.

Human Resources

- Please welcome summer education team members: Christy Lai and Shericko Chen and Milaina Colucci as our Outreach Intern.

Facilities/Aurora Town Square

- Training has been booked on June 25th for the ATS Fire Safety Plan for the Town and ACC team. A fire drill is scheduled for June 26th.
- Cultural Centre staff are being trained on the Town's incident report process so we can have one system for ATS.
- ATS Collaborative Programming Team meets monthly. The recent meeting toured the facility with summer team supervisors and established joint wayfinding for the venue.
- Quarterly review of the Temporary Amending Agreement with Director of Community Services and Manager of Cultural Services

Board Activities

Development Committee Meeting: June 5, 2025

Outreach Committee Meeting: June 9, 2025

Governance & Nominating Committee Meeting: June 10, 2025

Finance & Audit Committee Meeting: June 13, 2025

Board Meetings & Annual General Meeting: June 18, 2025

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
- Attended Canadian Jewish Heritage Month virtual workshop titled 'Antisemitism: Then and Now, hosted by the Town of Aurora on May 28
- Attended Aurora Chamber of Commerce Street Fair on June 1
- Attended Bureau du Québec à Toronto partner reception June 11

Respectfully Submitted by

Suzanne Haines
Executive Director