




Aurora
Cultural
Centre

 Aurora
Cultural
Centre

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



Aurora
Cultural
Centre

PERFORMING ARTS
GALLERIES
EDUCATION

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OUR VISION, MISSION & CORE VALUES

VISION

The Aurora Cultural Centre aspires to be broadly recognized as a cultural leader and artistic hub that delivers exceptional experiences through diverse performing arts, engaging and thought-provoking visual arts, and serves as a vibrant centre for advancing arts education where people of all backgrounds can deepen their appreciation for creative endeavours.

MISSION

Our mission as a not-for-profit charitable organization is to be a leading cultural and artistic hub, offering excellent and inclusive experiences to our community and beyond, celebrating diverse voices, and connecting people through the presentation of live performance, visual arts, and arts education that...

- Deepen our engagement with the creative industries that support our growth and strengthen our connections with the community;
- Provide tangible opportunities for artists to learn and grow;
- Invite partnerships to build our reputation, inspire innovation, and expand our voice;
- Stimulate economic activity and tourism in Aurora with exciting, entertaining, and distinctive experiences.

CORE VALUES

- Excellence
- Collaboration & Community Engagement
- Inclusivity
- Artistic Integrity
- Responsible Governance & Stewardship

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



This Annual Report is a celebration of our shared journey and a testament to the exciting evolution underway at the Aurora Cultural Centre. As we celebrate our 15th anniversary, the Board of Directors has worked with care and dedication to ensure that our move into our stunning new home at Aurora Town Square is supported by a revitalized strategic heart that will nourish our community for years to come.

Our plans for the future are guided by a new vision: to be a cultural leader and a welcoming artistic hub where every neighbor, from every background, can find a sense of wonder and deepen their love for the arts. To bring this to life, we are devoted to being a leading inclusive home that celebrates diverse voices, offers artists a place to truly grow, and sparks a vibrant energy throughout Aurora through distinctive and soulful experiences. These goals are anchored by values we cherish: Excellence, Collaboration, Inclusivity, and a Compassionate Stewardship of the resources you entrust to us.

The Board embraces our responsibility with gratitude, providing the oversight needed to keep our Centre a healthy, transparent, and thriving home for creativity. We are overjoyed that our commitment to excellence has been reaffirmed through our Imagine Canada reaccreditation, a badge of trust that ensures we remain a leader you can depend on. Our Board and committees have served as the “beating heart” of this progress, with members and volunteers acting as Cultural Ambassadors to ignite support and weave our mission into the very fabric of the York Region. Together, these efforts breathe life into our new vision, creating a sustainable and inclusive future where every voice is celebrated.

The pages that follow capture the vibrant life of our Centre—the magic on our stages, the creative sparks in our classrooms, and the stories told in our galleries. We invite you to read on and see how our shared vision is blossoming into a legacy of connection for everyone in our wonderful community.

To my fellow Directors, I am deeply moved by the passion and professional skills you have poured into this landmark year. Whether you were navigating complex transitions with wisdom or acting as a friendly face for the Centre in the community, your individual spirit allows the transformative power of the arts to flourish. It is a profound honor to serve alongside leaders who give so selflessly of their time to ensure Aurora remains a vibrant, inclusive, and culturally rich home for us all.

MARY ANN MCCONKEY, PRESIDENT
Aurora Cultural Centre Board of Directors

Executive Committee members in 2025: Mary Ann McConkey (President/ Chair), Morry Patoka (Vice President), Michelle Lockie (Treasurer to June 2025) Paulina Vujinovic (Treasurer commencing July 2025), Anita Townsend (Secretary)
Staff Supporting Committee in 2025: Suzanne Haines



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2025 has been a landmark year for the Aurora Cultural Centre as we celebrate our 15th anniversary while simultaneously navigating our first full programming year at Aurora Town Square. This period was defined by the excitement of activating our new home and deepening our roots within the community we serve.

Our return to a permanent onsite location allowed for the launch and refinement of several key programs that define our creative mission. We celebrated our first summer camp season back onsite, utilizing two dedicated rooms to separate day-long programs by age and collaborating with Town staff to co-program the shared spaces. This summer also saw our largest complement of summer interns and student employment opportunities to date. Beyond our walls, our commitment to broader community reach was further realized through the Kaleidoscope in the Schools (KITS) program, which had a deep impact in 26 elementary schools, specifically targeting low-capacity schools across York Region and the Waabgon Gamig First Nation School. By bringing high-level professional performances and workshops directly into the classroom, KITS fostered school community and cultural understanding while providing barrier-free access to the arts for over 4,500 students. Within our galleries, we experienced a significant increase in walk-in traffic and introduced a dedicated student gallery to showcase emerging talent. We were also pleased to announce and fill our Gallery Artist-in-Residence program with artists Jianming Chen and Julia Mobbs.

Our performing arts season was equally vibrant, featuring a diverse array of talent that included internationally recognized blues artist, Sue Foley, nostalgia favorite Skydiggers, welcoming back the energetic Le Vent Du Nord, featuring classical music superstars Moshe Hammer and Angela Park to name a few. Furthermore, we introduced the Brevik Creates! and Brevik Collaboratory programs, providing professional development for popular music artists through access to creative space and workshops with industry professionals. The success of these initiatives is underscored by our Key Performance Indicators, which reveal exceptional satisfaction levels: 94% for gallery programs, 93% for live performing arts, and 88% for our overall program mix. Our educational offerings were equally well-received, with satisfaction ratings of 86% for adult programs and 83% for youth programs, while our volunteer program achieved an 88% satisfaction rate from a team that contributed over 5,000 hours to our mission.

Central to these achievements is the exceptional work of our team, who have dedicated themselves to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where artists consistently share how much they love being treated with such care. By ensuring every artist has what they need to do their best work—whether on our stages, in our galleries, or within our arts education classrooms—we continue to uphold our vision as a premier artistic hub.

Transitioning into a facility of this scale required a significant focus on operational foundations and logistical excellence. Throughout the year, we prioritized strengthening and deepening our relationships with Town of Aurora staff and the Aurora Town Square Leadership Team, which resulted in improved communications, more transparent reporting, and greater clarity regarding our collective roles and responsibilities. Our team was actively engaged in generating and continuing discussions to finalize Aurora Town Square's operational policy and Fire Safety Plan. Furthermore, we supported essential capital projects designed to enhance the community use and overall professionalism of our performance hall.

To our staff, artists, Board of Directors, and volunteers, I offer my sincerest thanks. Your dedication, energy, creativity, and compassion have shaped this year into something extremely special for the community. You continue to inspire and shape the future of the Aurora Cultural Centre with compassion and vision.

With gratitude and excitement,

SUZANNE HAINES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2025 HIGHLIGHTS: SNAPSHOT OF 2025 ACTIVITIES

Aurora Cultural Centre Programs

- 27 professional music concerts
- 2 comedy shows
- 4 professional performing arts shows for families
- 14 emerging artists in month-long performing arts professional development program
- 20 performing arts workshops
- 5 shows with emerging artists
- 13 professional visual art exhibitions
- 1 student visual art exhibition
- 117 educational arts classes for all ages with professional artists
- 26 professional performing arts events in elementary schools
- 27 workshops for students in elementary schools
- 16 summer visual arts camps
- 6 performing arts events offered to the community at no cost
- 293 artists contracted
- 127 performing artists on stage
- Collaborate & facilitate programs with 52 community partners
- 144 active volunteers including operational, Board & committee volunteers
- Over 5,000 volunteer hours donated
- Volunteer program participants increased by 69% year over year
- 125,310 visitors to Aurora Cultural Centre programs

Aurora Town Square Rentals

- 56 third party rentals supported with production and front of house services
- Supported 6,472 patrons in attendance through rental programs in the two performance spaces

Administration and Operations

- In-house management of all activities and events
- Production and Front of House coordination and services to 3rd party rental clients at Aurora Town Square
- Production Management and Technical Direction for performance venues
- Bookkeeping, accounting, audit
- In-house marketing and communications
- Maintain and grow active website and social media platforms

Governance

- Board of Directors assumes fiduciary responsibility for the governance of the Centre and provides broad oversight of the Centre's operations
- Creates, reviews and administers policies and procedures
- Develops & monitors strategic plans
- Oversees all aspects of the organization through the Executive Director
- Oversees compliance, legal and reporting protocols
- Ensures compliance with Canada Revenue Agency, Imagine Canada Standards, Provision of Cultural Services Agreement (PCSA), 2024-2025 Transitional Operating Plan, Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act
- Serves as a resource to Town of Aurora for various cultural leadership projects, studies, committees etc.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI)*

KPI (reference to PCSA)		How Calculated	Measure
1a.	Customer satisfaction with Program mix	Question in Annual customer satisfaction survey**	88% satisfied or very satisfied
1b.	Customer Satisfaction with Quality Level	Question in Annual customer satisfaction survey**	The quality of each program is assessed by those using them (ranked satisfied or very satisfied)
	1. Educational Programs		1. 86% adult, 83% youth
	2. Gallery Programs		2. 94%
	3. Live Performing Arts Programs		3. 93%
	4. Special Events		4. 83%
	5. Volunteer Program		5. 88%
1c.	Public perception of how well the Aurora Cultural Centre is governed	Question in Annual customer satisfaction survey**	Survey respondents rated the organization as 4.9 out of 5 stars
1d.	Customer Recognition and Awareness of Centre	Question in Annual customer satisfaction survey**	Our Net Promoter Score (NPS) is 61. Of the total survey respondents, 69% are ranked as Promoters of the Centre (with a score of 9 or 10 in response to the question)
2.	Programming spending vs. total spending	Programming Spend / Total Spend	86%
3.	Town Grant as % of Total Revenue	Town Grant / Total Revenue	30%
4.	Town Grant per capita	Town Grant/ Population	\$8.44
5.	Number of Partnerships	Current year partners	52
6.	Volunteer hours as a % of total paid staff hours to operate the Centre annually+	Total volunteer hours / (Paid + Volunteer hours)	Total volunteer hours are 5154.75
			15%
7.	Number of Visits Annually both virtual and in-person	Current year visits	125,310
			(Plus 6,472 patrons supported through 3rd party rentals)

*The Aurora Cultural Centre is required to report on key performance indicators (KPI) identified by the Provision of Cultural Services Agreement with the Town of Aurora. Additional organizational KPIs can be found on page 20.

**Customer satisfaction information is gathered through an annual survey distributed in the winter of the following year of operation.

+ Volunteer program information can be found on page 18.



PROGRAMMING AT THE CENTRE

LIVE PERFORMING ARTS

The Centre's performing arts program was presented in venues at Aurora Town Square: the Davide De Simone Performance Hall, Brevik Hall and the Mirkopoulos Plateia outdoor stage.

This season, four series served different community engagements:

- Aurora Cultural Centre Presents includes established and emerging artists on the same playbill, giving new artists greater exposure and talent growth synergies;
- Great Artist Music Series featuring classical music artists and a pre-show lecture to support classical music education;
- And a Family Series featuring music, theatre, dance and multi-discipline artists for families with children.



LIVE PERFORMING ARTS

Date	Artist/Event	Series	Genre
January 17	Campbell, Fagan, Park Trio 15th Anniversary Celebration Concert	Great Artist Music Series	Classical
January 25	John Sheard's Salute to the Beatles + Quisha Wint & Paul Neufeld	Aurora Cultural Centre Presents	Pop
February 1	Micah Barnes' Micah Sings Leonard	Aurora Cultural Centre Presents	Pop
February 15	Kattam and His Tam-Tams	Family Series	Family
February 22	Kellylee Evans supported by Sammy Jackson	Aurora Cultural Centre Presents	Jazz
March 1	Newberry & Verch	Aurora Cultural Centre Presents	Folk
March 7	New Orford String Quartet	Great Artist Music Series	Classical
March 15	Quest for the Moon	Family Series	Family
March 22	Danny Michel supported by Drew Gonsalves	Aurora Cultural Centre Presents	Folk
March 29	Genticorum	Aurora Cultural Centre Presents	Folk
April 5	Lance Anderson's "Genius & Soul" - The Music of Ray Charles	Aurora Cultural Centre Presents	Blues
April 26	Martha Chaves & Guests' "United Colours of Canada"	Aurora Cultural Centre Presents	Comedy
May 3	Cheng² Duo	Great Artist Music Series	Classical
May 24	The Once	Aurora Cultural Centre Presents	Folk
June 7	Angelique Francis supported by Jay Blues	Aurora Cultural Centre Presents	Blues
June 21	Sue Foley	Aurora Cultural Centre Presents	Blues
September 18	Skydiggers	Aurora Cultural Centre Presents	Folk, Pop
September 27	Cooo	Family Series	Family
October 3	Payadora	Great Artist Music Series	Classical, Tango
October 18	Lori Cullen supported by Talia Schlanger	Aurora Cultural Centre Presents	Folk, Pop
November 8	Le Vent du Nord	Aurora Cultural Centre Presents	Folk, Traditional
November 15	Divine Brown Sings Ella, Billy & Sarah	Aurora Cultural Centre Presents	Jazz, Nostalgia
November 21	Martha Chaves & Guests' "Age Against the Machine"	Aurora Cultural Centre Presents	Comedy
November 30	Moshe Hammer & Angela Park	Great Artist Music Series	Classical
December 7	Dufflebag Theatre: A Christmas Carol	Family Series	Family
December 13	Allison Lupton Christmas Show	Aurora Cultural Centre Presents	Folk, Celtic

BREVIK CREATES! BRIGHT LIGHTS IN THE SUMMER

Launched in January 2025, Brevik Creates is a performing arts residency providing Brevik Hall to professional and aspiring artists for refining production elements to potentially hit our stage in a future season. This ideal creative space supports new or evolving repertoire. Complementing this, the Brevik Collaboratory offers professional development for musicians, vocalists, and multidisciplinary performers. Following summer sessions in Brevik Hall, the program culminated in five public showcase performances at the Mirkopoulos Plateia in the summer.



GALLERY PROGRAMS

EXHIBITIONS

 In-person  Virtual Gallery

The Living Corridor

Annwin Arts & Joaquin Varela

September 21, 2024 – January 19, 2025

Lower Hall Gallery



Congruent (by definitions)

Group Exhibition & Sale

October 24, 2024 – January 18, 2025

Great Hall Gallery



Seven Masters (GCAC Permanent Collection)

Group Exhibition

November 28, 2024 – January 26, 2025

Homeroom Galleries



#MCOYA25

Group Exhibition

February 8 – April 20, 2025

Homeroom Galleries, Great Hall Gallery

& Lower Hall Gallery



When Aurora Thaws – A Visual Soliloquy by Jianming Chen

Solo Exhibition

(Artist in Residence Exhibit)

May 1 – July 13, 2025

Lower Hall Gallery



Laurence Vallières

Solo Exhibition
May 9 – July 22, 2025
Homeroom Galleries



From Rocks to Brushstrokes: A Geologist's Artistic Transformation

Solo Exhibition by Rose Zhao 赵寿薇
(Zhào Shòuwēi)
July 31 – October 30, 2025
Great Hall Gallery



Stories Woven in Fabric

Solo Exhibition by Sharon Rigby
September 20 – November 30, 2025
Lower Hall Gallery + Additional Sites



What does a winter night hold?

Group Exhibition featuring Aurora
Cultural Centre artist instructors
November 6, 2025 – January 25, 2026
Great Hall Gallery



Forever-22

Solo Exhibition by Artist in Residence
Julia Mobbs
December 4, 2025 – January 25, 2026
Lower Hall Gallery



Said Through Silence

Group Exhibition featuring Jing Fu, Karim
Abed, Rollex Austin & William Lottering
May 1 – July 27, 2025
Great Hall Gallery



Streaming

Solo Exhibition by Carol Walthers
July 17 – September 14, 2025
Lower Hall Gallery



Sabzeh

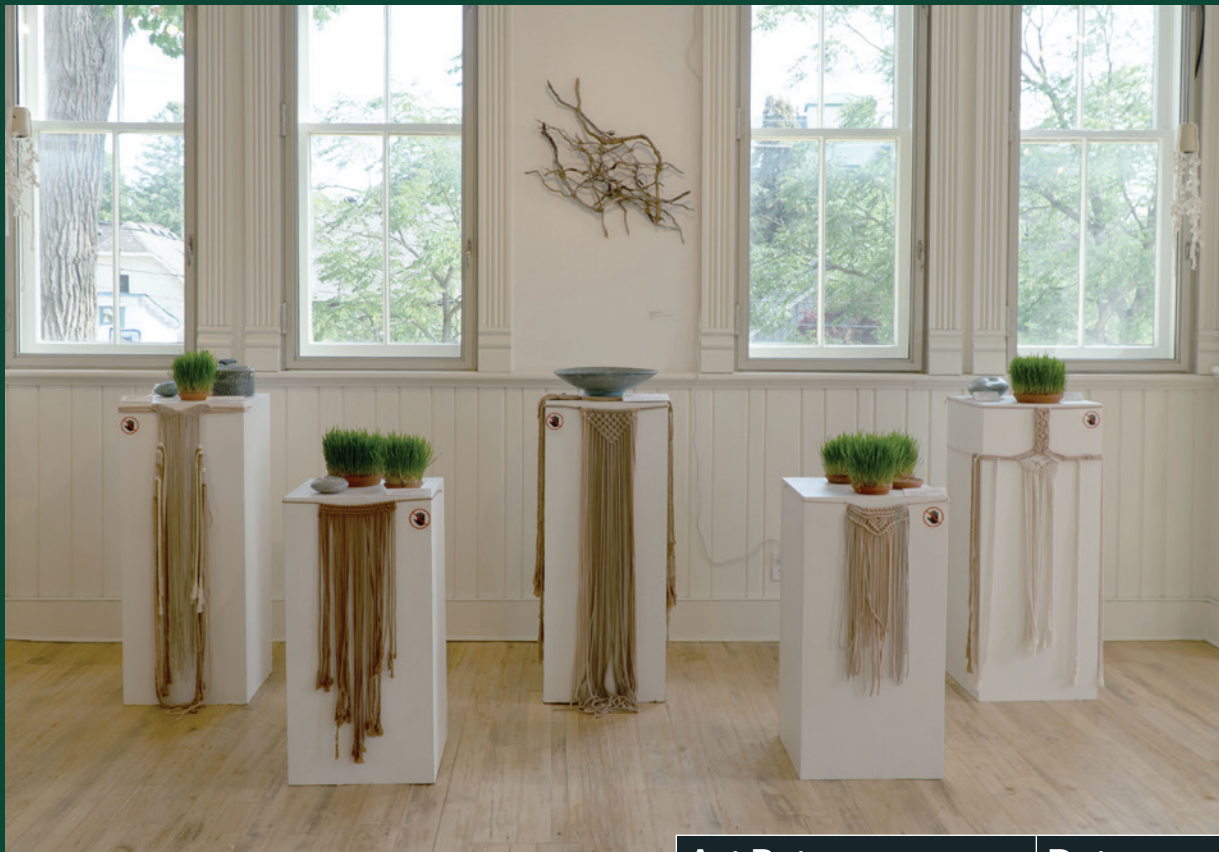
Group Exhibition by Parisa Sabet
& Laura Friedman
August 14 – October 19, 2025
Homeroom Galleries



Shifting Realities: Adventures in Portraiture

Exhibition by Eva Folks & Judy Sherman
October 30, 2025 – January 17, 2026
Homeroom Galleries





GALLERY EVENTS AND ART BYTES

Each exhibit is accompanied by a gallery launch event for the artist(s), tours, and at least one educational event for the public. In addition, exhibitions may include digital Art Bytes, including conversations with the artists.

The Gallery offered several events for artists, including Artist-Poet Gatherings (quarterly), Crit Club (quarterly), and Fall Open Studio (weekly). Youth Arts of the Rise (YAR) offered free programs to high school students, including Open Studio + Critique, Muddle Mural Meet-Up, Underground Gallery, and a Portfolio Review.

Art Bytes	Date
Seven Masters, Origins	January 7
#MCOYA25 – Meet Jelena, Narmineh, Helena & Jasmine	March 19
#MCOYA25 – Meet Charlie, Joycelyn, Wayne & Kingsman	March 19
Jianming Chen: ACC Winter Artist-in Residence	April 4
Said Through Silence – Said by the Artists	June 11
Visiting Artist Laurence Vallieres	June 27
Carol Walthers: The Flow of Artmaking	Sep 11
Sabzeh/Sprouts: Homeroom Gallery Exhibition	Sept 24
Rose Zhao: Great Hall Gallery Exhibition	Oct 15
Julia Mobbs: Fall 2025 Artist-in-Residence	Dec 2
Eva Folks & Judy Sherman: Shifting Realities – Adventures in Portraiture	Dec 3

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

TERM CLASSES, WORKSHOPS AND SHORT COURSES

Term education classes are built around the two disciplines produced in our other pillars of programming: visual arts and performing arts. Courses are most often eight weeks long, with some short courses over 4 weeks, and weekend or one-day workshops. The summer term exclusively offers children and youth visual art camps.

❄️ Winter Season 🌱 Spring Season 🍁 Fall Season ☀️ Summer Season

WINTER: We offered 34 in-person programs for adults and youth during the winter terms including 21 adult classes and 13 youth classes.

SPRING: Throughout April to June, 25 in-person programs were offered.

FALL: The busy fall season saw 42 programs running, including classes, workshop and PA Day programming.

PA Day Programs 4 – 7 years (2) ❄️ 🌱 🍁

PA Day Programs 7 – 12 years (2) ❄️ 🌱 🍁

Family Day Learning Event ❄️

Comic Drawing for Children ❄️ 🌱 🍁

March Break Camp 7 – 12 years ❄️

March Break Camp 4 – 7 years ❄️

Winter Break Daily Art Camp 4 – 7 years (multi-session) 🍁

Winter Break Daily Art Camp 7 – 12 years (multi-session) 🍁

Lil Jammers Caregiver & Child (2) ❄️ 🌱 🍁

Rhythm Kids ❄️ 🌱 🍁

You Can Uke It! Beginner & Intermediate 🍁

Children's Visual Art 1 ❄️ 🌱 🍁

Children's Visual Art 2 ❄️ 🌱 🍁

Learn Anime 🌱

Learn Cartooning 🍁

Acrylic Paint – Beginner (55+) ❄️ 🌱 🍁

Acrylic Paint – Intermediate (55+) 🌱 🍁

Acrylic Pouring and Mediums ❄️ 🍁

Expand Your Horizons in Acrylics Level 2 ❄️ 🌱 🍁

Wood Carving ❄️ 🍁

Crepe Paper Flower-Hybrid Team Rose ❄️





Crepe Paper Butterfly Ranunculus Flower 🌸
 Indigenous Beaded Earring & Necklace Set ❄️
 Textile Sculpting: Creating a Seated Figurine ❄️
 Introduction to Textile Sculpting 🌸
 Opportunities in Music with Derek Andrews ❄️
 Drawing Fundamentals (55+) ❄️ 🌸 🌸
 Drawing Club Intermediate 🌸
 Watercolour Level 1 (55+) (2) ❄️ 🌸
 Watercolour Level 2 (55+) ❄️ 🌸 🌸
 Watercolours – the Basics (55+) ❄️ 🌸
 Watercolours: Basics & Beyond (55+) ❄️ 🌸
 Watercolours: Intermediate & Advanced ❄️ 🌸 🌸
 Printmaking: Linocut Basics ❄️ 🌸 🌸
 Printmaking: Monoprint Technique ❄️ 🌸
 Printmaking: Linocut Reduction 🌸
 Printmaking: Sketchbook & Cover ❄️
 Ukelele Beginner & Intermediate ❄️ 🌸
 Guitar Beginner & Intermediate ❄️ 🌸
 Sculpt Your Own Light 🌸
 Expressive Painting for Wellness 🌸
 Crepe Paper Cosmos Workshop 🌸
 Merry Monograms & Watercolour Florals 🌸

SUMMER ☀️

Our summer “Art Yard” camp programs ran successfully through July and August. We offered 8 weeks of full-day visual arts camps with programming for Junior & Senior campers, for a total of 16 programs.

Week 1: The Wonderful World of Nature and Animals
Week 2: Artistic Imaginations
Week 3: Art & Science Fusion
Week 4: Eco Art
Week 5: Art Through the Ages
Week 6: Visual Art & Music Harmony
Week 7: Famous Artists & Their Styles
Week 8: Now Streaming: Animation!



KALEIDOSCOPE IN THE SCHOOLS

KALEIDOSCOPE IN THE SCHOOLS (KITS) IS A SUBSIDIZED IN-SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM THAT OFFERS EACH SCHOOL A PERFORMANCE FOR JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 4 STUDENTS AND WORKSHOPS FOR GRADE 4'S WITH THE ARTISTS.

Performances and workshops engage professional artists who bring ready-to-use study guides for teachers to use for pre and post-show activities for all students who see the show. The artists deliver an in-depth workshop to grade 4 students who age out of the program. By going to the school, the program creates a shared community experience, and removes barriers so all students can participate regardless of developmental needs or socio-economics.

KITS was offered to 26 elementary schools in the 2024-2025 school year, including Aurora schools, low-capacity schools across York Region, and the Waabgon Gamig First Nation School on Georgina Island. The overall programming ethos brings young audience content from Black, Indigenous, and world voices, in French and English from several performing arts disciplines.

January through June 2025 brought four shows to 5663 participants in 26 shows and 27 workshops.

KITS is offered to the following School Boards: Georgina Island First Nations, Mon Avenir, Viamonde, York Catholic District, and York Region District.

KITS PRODUCTION	DATES	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	COMMUNITY
Kattam et ses Tamtams	11-Feb	École St Jean EEC	Aurora
Kattam et ses Tamtams	12-Feb	École Chantal-Benoit EE	Sharon
Kattam et ses Tamtams	12-Feb	École Élementaire La Fontiane	Kleinburg
Kattam et ses Tamtams	14-Feb	Académie de la Moraine	Richmond Hill
Kattam & His Tamtams	14-Feb	Our Lady of Grace CES	Aurora
Kesha Christie: Talkin' Tales	20-Feb	Jersey PS	Keswick
Kesha Christie: Talkin' Tales	21-Feb	Prince of Peace CES	Keswick
Kesha Christie: Talkin' Tales	24-Feb	St John Chrysostom CES	Newmarket
Kesha Christie: Talkin' Tales	25-Feb	Devins Drive PS	Aurora
Kesha Christie: Talkin' Tales	26-Feb	Northern Lights PS	Aurora
Kesha Christie: Talkin' Tales	3-Mar	Maple Leaf PS	Newmarket
Karima Essa: Body Positive Bollywood Dance	3-Apr	Moraine Hills PS	Richmond Hill
Karima Essa: Body Positive Bollywood Dance	4-Apr	École Chantal-Benoit EE	Sharon
Karima Essa: Body Positive Bollywood Dance	7-Apr	Meadowbrook PS	Newmarket
Karima Essa: Body Positive Bollywood Dance	8-Apr	Aurora Heights PS	Aurora
Karima Essa: Body Positive Bollywood Dance	9-Apr	Wilclay PS	Markham
Karima Essa: Body Positive Bollywood Dance	10-Apr	Bayview Glen PS	Thornhill
Karima Essa: Body Positive Bollywood Dance	11-Apr	Jersey PS	Keswick
Kung Jaadee: Haida & Squamish Stories	23-Apr	Deer Park PS	Keswick
Kung Jaadee: Haida & Squamish Stories	24-Apr	Fairwood PS	Keswick
Kung Jaadee: Haida & Squamish Stories	25-Apr	Teston Village PS	Maple
Kung Jaadee: Haida & Squamish Stories	28-Apr	Black River PS	Sutton West
Kung Jaadee: Haida & Squamish Stories	29-Apr	Lester B. Pearson PS	Aurora
Kung Jaadee: Haida & Squamish Stories	30-Apr	Devins Drive PS	Aurora
Kung Jaadee: Haida & Squamish Stories	1-May	Regency Acres PS	Aurora
Kung Jaadee: Haida & Squamish Stories	2-May	Waabgon Gamig	Sutton West

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS



FAMILY DAY

February 17



AURORA HOME & LIVING SHOW

April 26 & 27

AURORA PRIDE FESTIVAL

May 31



AURORA CHAMBER STREET FESTIVAL

June 1

AURORA FARMER'S MARKET

June 28, July 19, August 9



TOWN OF AURORA CANADA DAY COMMUNITY ZONE

July 1

DOORS OPEN

September 21



AURORA TOWN SQUARE CHRISTMAS MARKET

December 6



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

5,154.75 HOURS IN 2025

3,917.75 VOLUNTEER TEAM HOURS
IN 2025 (EXCLUDING BOARD HOURS)

1,237 BOARD HOURS

45,725.75 HOURS TO DATE
(JAN 2011 – DEC 31, 2025)

ASSIST WITH

- Greeting & Wayfinding
- Ticket taking/scanning
- Ushering
- Hosting patrons with accessibility needs
- Board Committee members/duties
- Administration and office support
- Gallery docents
- Supporting special events and fundraisers
- Photography
- Supporting Education programs
- Supporting Summer Camp programs
- Fundraising
- Outreach
- As Cultural Ambassadors in our community

GOVERNANCE & NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT



The Governance and Nominating Committee oversees organizational governance, compliance, and Board health. It maintains high standards through quarterly risk assessments and a robust activity schedule. A significant milestone in 2025 was achieving Imagine Canada reaccreditation, reinforcing a commitment to operational excellence. The committee manages succession planning, nominations, and regular reviews of committee Terms of Reference. The internal mentorship program, established in 2022, continues to receive positive feedback. Furthermore, the committee maintains a strategic partnership with the Town to enhance cultural experiences at Aurora Town Square. We acknowledge the committee members for their ongoing contributions to the Aurora Cultural Centre's governance framework.

EDLENE ANTONIO

BOARD GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN 2025:

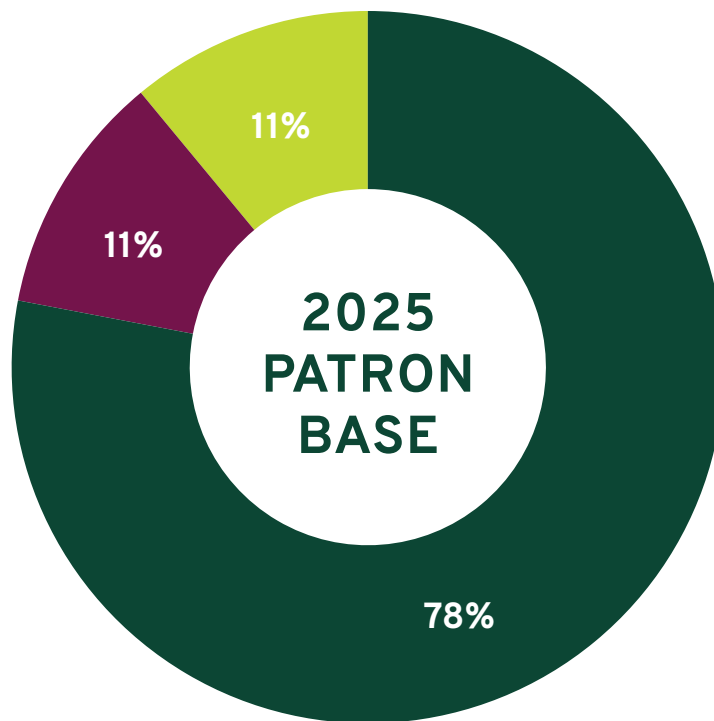
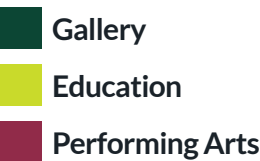
Edlene Antonio (Chair), Garry Blye, Colette Nemni, Mary Ann McConkey (Ex-officio), Jane St. Germain

STAFF SUPPORTING COMMITTEE IN 2025:

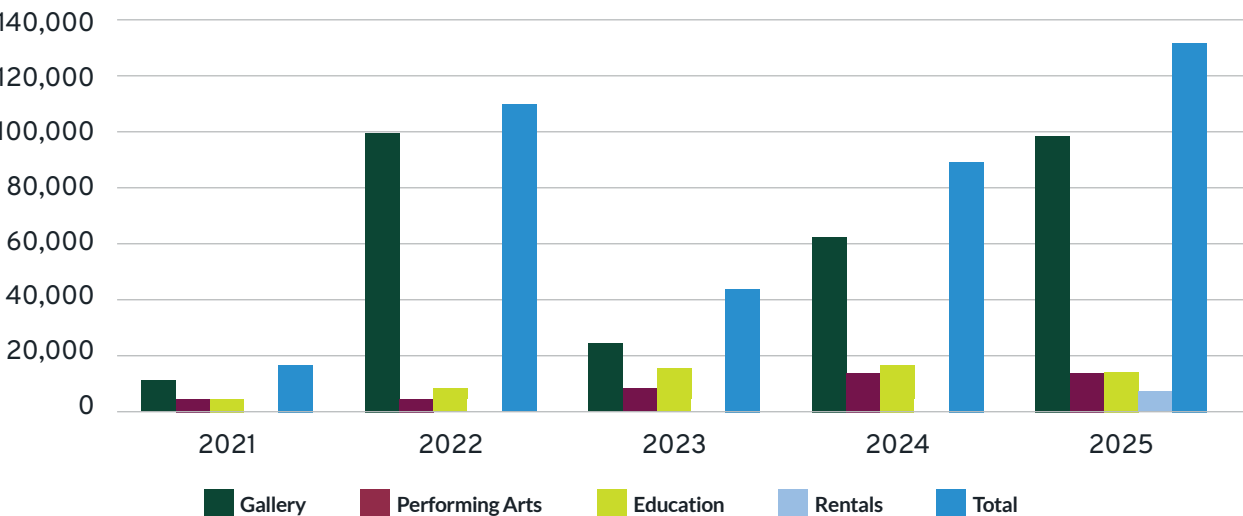
Helena Barkla, Suzanne Haines

IM  GINE
CANADA

ORGANIZATIONAL KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



WHY DID PEOPLE VISIT THE AURORA CULTURAL CENTRE

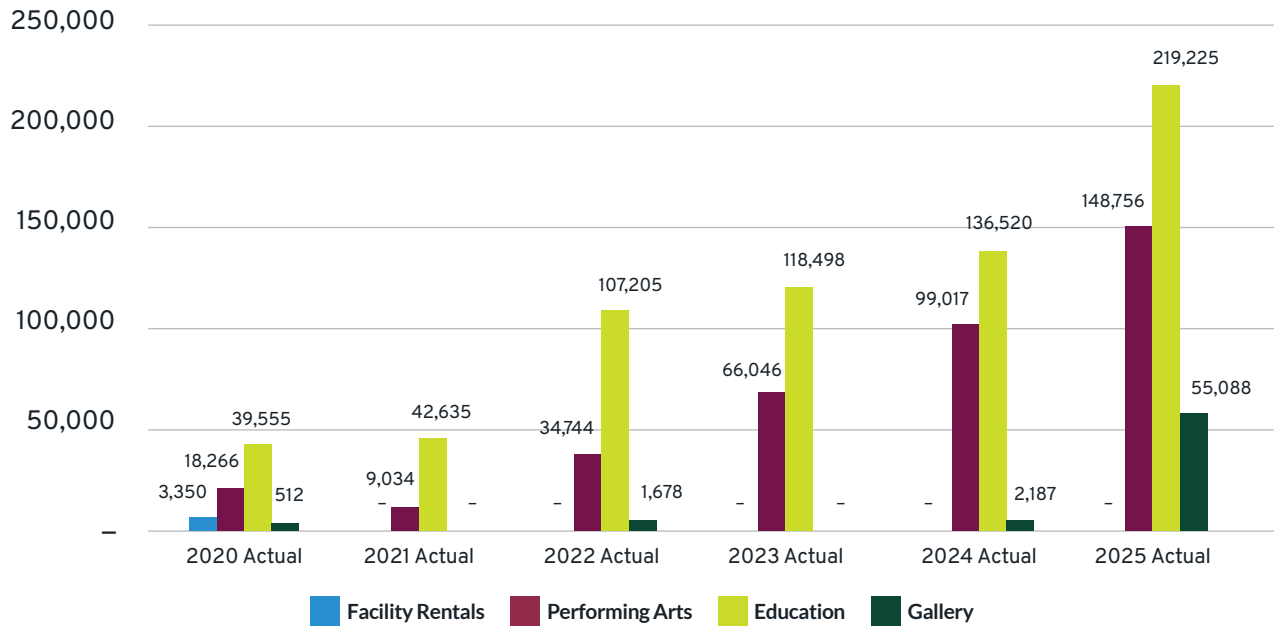


	Gallery*	Performing Arts**	Education	Total
2025	98362	13766	13182	125310

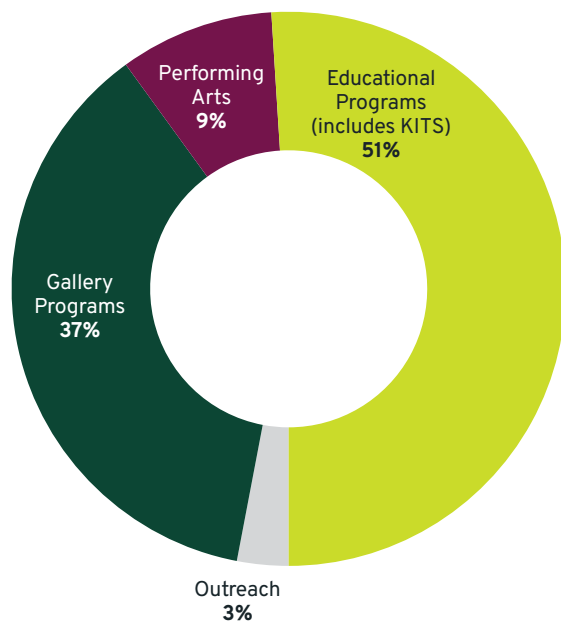
*including 4,307 virtual visits

**including Outreach

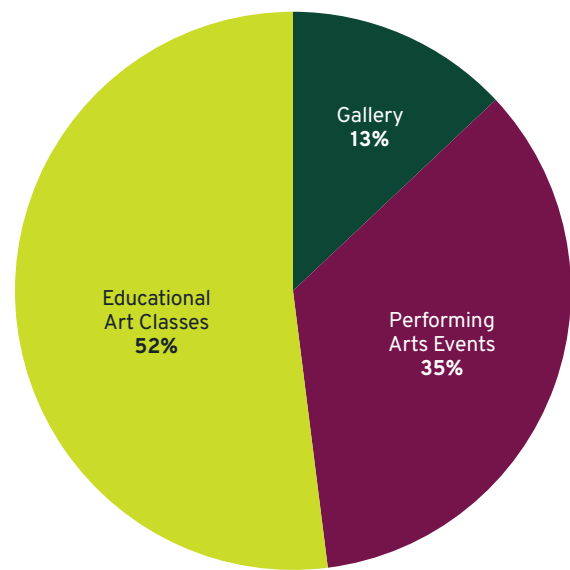
PROGRAM REVENUE



TYPES OF ACTIVATION



DIRECT REVENUE



FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT AND TREASURER REPORT

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Finance & Audit Committee meets monthly to review the operations and the financial position of the Aurora Cultural Centre (ACC).

2025 marked an exciting first full year in Aurora Town Square. While certain line items experienced unfavourable budget variances, the overall net income variance remained minimal and aligned with expectations.

Despite lower grant revenues, the ACC achieved a surplus in 2025 as compared to 2024. This positive result was driven by year-over-year growth in program revenues and increased fundraising contributions. The ACC continues to maintain a strong Statement of Financial Position. Looking ahead to 2026, the organization is well positioned to make meaningful progress in reducing the working capital deficit

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE IN 2025:

Michelle Lockie (Chair to June), Paulina Vujinovic (Chair from June), Eric Acker, Garry Blye, Heidi Franken, Mary Ann McConkey (Ex-officio), Robyn Morgan, Morry Patoka

STAFF SUPPORTING COMMITTEE IN 2025:

Suzanne Haines

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Aurora Cultural Centre undergoes an annual external audit. The 2025 audit is now complete, with no misstatements or difficulties encountered. Additionally, there were no findings to report in the Management Letter. The Board of Directors approved a reserve fund transfer to the Classical Music Fund Reserve as a result of a surplus in The Great Artist Music Series. This transfer was performed in accordance with our policy on this reserve fund and program.

PAULINA VUJINOVIC, CPA, TREASURER AND CHAIR,
Finance & Audit Committee

Full audited financial statements are available on our website.



2025 OPERATING BUDGET AND ACTUAL

2025 Operating Budget and Actual	2025 Budget (approved Sept 2024)	% of Total Budget	2025 Year End Audited	% of Total Actual
REVENUE				
Town of Aurora Operating Grant	560,600	30%	560,560	30%
Aurora Town Square Operations	230,000	12%	230,000	12%
Fundraising: Grants, Donations and Sponsorships	679,789	36%	557,106	30%
Programs	417,343	22%	524,515	28%
Total Income	1,887,732	100%	1,872,181	102%
EXPENSES				
Administrative Salaries and benefits	75,184	4%	68,059	4%
Program Salaries and benefits	1,022,434	54%	880,504	48%
Aurora Town Square Operations	230,000	12%	230,000	12%
Programs	486,579	26%	471,374	26%
Professional fees	36,000	2%	66,110	4%
Fundraising	18,195	1%	29,566	2%
OTHER (Office, phone, equip lease, bank, insurance etc.)	21,050	1%	63,006	3%
Total Expense	1,889,442	100%	1,808,619	100%
Excess/-Deficiency of Revenues over Expenditures	(1,710)	0%	63,562	3%
Less: Amortization			(32,497)	
Net Operations			31,065	2%
Working Capital Deficit			(138,000)	
Net Position			(106,935)	

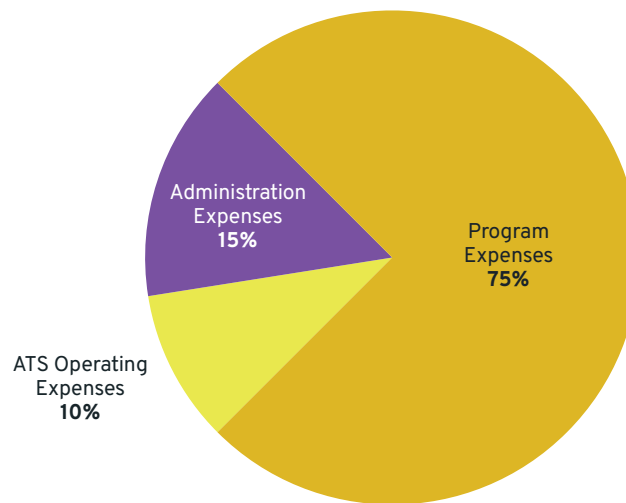
2025 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

2025 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		2025 YEAR END AUDITED
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash		5,066
Restricted Cash		309,253
Amounts Receivable		90,749
Prepaid Expenses		9,620
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		414,688
FIXED ASSETS		
Capital Assets		132,723
TOTAL ASSETS		547,411
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and Accruals		104,931
Revenues Received in Advance		20,750
Deferred Grants		34,000
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		159,681
LONG TERM LIABILITIES		
Deferred Contributions		118,939
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted		(54,246)
Internally Restricted		309,253
Invested in Capital Assets		13,784
TOTAL NET ASSETS		268,791
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		547,411

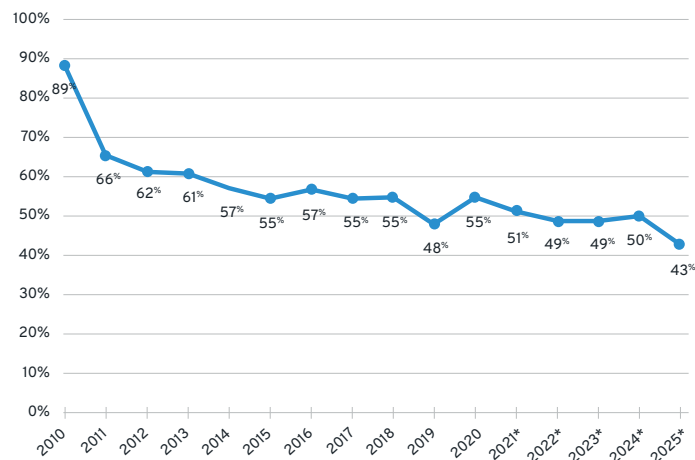
2025 RESERVES

CONTINGENCY RESERVE FUNDS	\$182,274
CLASSICAL MUSIC RESERVE FUNDS	\$76,979
SPECIAL PROJECT RESERVE FUND	\$50,000

PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES



TOWN GRANT DEPENDENCY



AURORA CULTURAL CENTRE EARNED REVENUE AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOWN GRANT

	2010 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual*	2021 Actual*	2022 Actual*	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual
Town of Aurora Base Operating Grant	340,000	415,700	482,700	501,680	523,100	538,760	549,600	560,560
Total Revenue	382,496	870,392	707,764	816,949	1,347,885	1,363,109	1,605,712	1,872,181
Other Earned Revenue	38,698	454,692	225,064	315,269	824,785	824,349	1,056,112	1,311,621
Earned Revenue as a % of Town Grant	11%	109%	47%	63%	158%	153%	192%	234%
*Earned revenue impacted by COVID-19								

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

The Aurora Cultural Centre's Outreach Committee—composed of board members, volunteers, and staff—works to strengthen community connections and audience development. The Committee meets monthly to set marketing priorities and expand the Centre's visibility across the York Region. Members serve as ambassadors at various community events, such as the Aurora Street Festival and Farmers' Markets, to promote the Centre's mission. A key focus remains youth engagement, facilitating opportunities for students in grades 9–12 to volunteer and collaborate with Gallery staff. These collective outreach efforts foster public awareness and reinforce the Centre's role as a welcoming hub for arts and culture.

ANITA TOWNSEND



OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN 2025:

Anita Townsend (Chair), Edlene Antonio, Phiona Durrant, Jia Yi (Angela) Fang (to June), Daniella Farsalas, Sharon Kelly, Mary Ann McConkey (Ex-Officio), Diyar Moghaddam, Grazyna Tonkiel

STAFF SUPPORTING COMMITTEE IN 2025:

Helena Barkla, Suzanne Haines, Steve Klein

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT



In 2025, the Development Committee prioritized financial sustainability through strategic corporate partnerships and donor engagement. A major achievement was securing a five-year sponsorship from Serpa Automotive Group to support performing arts and gallery programs. This, combined with deepened donor relationships and new sponsors, allowed the Centre to meet its financial goals. Operationally, the committee refined the fundraising pipeline, improved CRM systems, and worked with the Board to develop a 2026-2030 Strategic Plan focused on growth and community connection. The Centre's Imagine Canada reaccreditation remains a badge of trust, ensuring it remains a leader that donors and sponsors can depend on.

As we can continue to diversify our funding model towards financial sustainability we looked to expand our reach beyond Aurora and into the broader York Region community. The ACC has the opportunity to be the premier cultural destination in the region. We also look to expand our corporate sponsorship model, foundation grants and innovative fundraising programs.

We extend sincere thanks to Glenn Coulson and Jordana Polito for their dedicated leadership before their departures. We warmly welcome Debra Wilson as Director of Development and Tamae Vassell as Development Coordinator. We are deeply grateful to the corporate leaders and donors whose contributions ensure our continued programming excellence

STEPHEN LUSK

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN 2025: Stephen Lusk (Chair), Garry Blye, Mary Ann McConkey (Ex-officio), Mandana Gholami Mobarakabadi, Morry Patoka

STAFF SUPPORTING COMMITTEE IN 2025:

Glenn Coulson, Suzanne Haines, Jordana Polito, Tamae Vassel

To learn more about donating to the Aurora Cultural Centre, please refer to auroraculturalcentre.ca/donate

RECOGNIZING OUR DONORS: 2025

GOLD CIRCLE

Glenn Coulson
Bonnie & Norbert Kraft
Maple Cross Fund, Jan Oudenes and Isobel Ralston
The McAlpine Family

CREATIVE VIRTUOSO

Eric Acker
Damien Chan
Kent Dinning
Suzanne Haines & Joao Canhoto
Sharon Kelly
Craig & Nancy Mather
Morry & Jo-Anne Patoka

BRAVO

Edlene Antonio
John De Faveri
Heidi & Bob Franken
MaryLou Kumagawa
Stephen Lusk
Colette Nemni
Jo Anne Richardson
Anita & Gerry Townsend

STANDING OVATION

Geoff & Cindy Bartle
Glenn Fortin
Rosalyn & George Gonsalves
Mary Beth & Richard Hess
Sandra Iacobelli
Fangying L
Mary Lusk
Victoria Marshall
Mary Ann McConkey
Mary Anne Miller
Janet Riches
Susan Roncadin
Margaret Stevens
Rosanne & Alex Thomson
Jennifer Walker

APPLAUSE

Scott Allan
Jeff & Karin Allan
Philip Allan
Janette Armour
Marlene Ash
Mary Bastedo
Marion Blum
Bill Bryant
D Bruce Corbett
Judy Craig
Joan Dottori
Colleen Forrest
John Gallo
Anthony Garramone
Anne Gerrits
Emily Hlusko-Huard
Doug Jure
Hee Jeong Kim
Matthew Knox
Melinda Moore
Mary Jeanne Oliver
Kayla Van Zon

FRIENDS

Helena Barkla
Stephen Chait
Sonia Chin
John Connolley
Phiona Durrant
Daniel Fortunato
Debera Fung
Suzanne Hexham
Scott Hill
Francine Johnson
Don Kawaja
Ulrike Lamm

Michelle Lockie
Caron Lusk
Robin McDougall
Robyn Morgan
Joseph Persechini
Vito Polaia
Jordana Polito
James Reive
Krista Richards
Betty Jane Richmond
Phil Rose
Gail Rutherford
Andre Soares
Jane St Germain
Paulina Vujinovic
Councilor Ron Weese

CORPORATE DONORS

Fidelity Investments
RBC Foundation
Phiona's Coconut Village

Our Sponsors

Season Sponsor



Presenting Sponsors



Lead Sponsors



Sustaining Partner



Program Supporters



Funders



Hospitality Partners



Media Partners



STAFF LIST

Executive Director – Suzanne Haines
Finance Associate – Franca Zumpetta
Administrative Assistant – Helena Barkla

Director of Development – Debra Wilson
Development Coordinator – Tamae Vassell

Director of Marketing – Steve Klein
Marketing Assistant – Jenny Burton
Digital Services Specialist – Matthew Knox

Education Manager – Aitak Sorahitalab
Education Coordinator – Anna Vander Heide

Gallery Manager – Samantha Jones
Gallery Assistant – Adora Lau
Performing Arts Manager – Derek Andrews

Production Manager/Technical Director – Robert Hess
Technicians – Anne Keillor, Caitlin Stafford, Drew Chale, Erwin Lau, Hussein Esmail, Jake Robertson, Jasper Jacobs, Jonny Juffs, Mikaila Strickland, Shawn McNamara, Sina Momtahan

Audience Services Manager – Alyssa Spear
Front of House Managers – Debbie Bunze, Drew Chale, Shelagh Carlini

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President – Mary Ann McConkey
Vice President – Morry Patoka
Treasurer – Michelle Lockie (to June 2025) /
Paulina Vujinovic (June 2025 on)
Secretary – Anita Townsend

DIRECTORS

Colette Nemni
Edlene Antonio
Garry Blye
Mandana Gholami Mobarakabadi (to June 2025)
Phiona Durrant
Stephen Lusk
Councilor John Gallo (Ex-officio)
Councilor Ron Weese (Ex-officio)



2025

ANNUAL REPORT



Aurora
Cultural
Centre

PERFORMING ARTS
GALLERIES
EDUCATION