



Visual Arts Nova Scotia

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020 at 6-9PM AST ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING: 818 0044 9203

1. Members Present:

Board Members & Staff:

Jessica Wiebe, Carri MacKay, Benny Welter-Nolan, Frankie Macaulay, Sera Senakovicz, Josephine Clarke, Julien Covey, Barbara Lounder, Kelly Markovich, Savannah Anderson, Jenny Shi, and Andrea Ritchie.

Members: Eryn Foster, Ursula Johnson, Angela Parsons, Carol Morrison, Christene Anderson, Dawn MacNutt, Devon Berquist, Flora Doehler, Hana Nikcevic, Israel Ekanem, Jack Wong, Jacqueline Steudler, Jessie Fraser, Margaret, Melissa Marr, Michael Greer, Miya Turnbull, Nora Macphee, Andrea Terry, Christine C, and Ben Mosher.

2. Welcoming remarks, and procedures

3. Call to Order at 6:06pm by Julian Covey

4. Approval of the agenda. Barbara. Frankie.

5. Approval of the minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting. Josie. Jenny.

6. President's Report: Julian Covey

This has been my first year as board president. Our board is relatively new with an influx of new members. It has been an intense year of visioning and planning. Benny went on a grant writing spree and was very successful. It really helped solidify the trajectory of VANS for the next few years. Our response to COVID-19 and the civil rights movement has been strong and everyone is dedicated to making changes moving forward.

Julian additionally recaps VANS highlights from the year. The board has worked hard to update and address the policies at large.

7. Treasurer's Report: Frankie Macaulay

This has been Frankie's first year as board treasurer. Frankie provides an explanation of where VANS funding comes from and where it goes as well as new programs and how we adapted through COVID.

Frankie: VANS has received emergency funding due to the pandemic. This will help get our financial footing back. Additionally, we received a Canada Council Core Funding Grant!

8. Executive Director's Report: Benny Welter-Nolan

Benny: This is my second year on the job and it's interesting putting together the AGM via Zoom this year.

Benny leads everyone through an introduction to Board members and staff, and committees.

Benny: We have 330 members with 55% living in the HRM. We updated the website and have doubled the number of artist pages on our site from 75 to 150! I also want to highlight that we give free membership and workshops through bursaries. We put out an artist survey this year and had over 200 people responded to help do better across the province. COVID has actually helped the AGM, in that we can actually have an AGM where people can join across the province vs only having people in the area where it is hosted. Looking at our funds, we have the open grants, talent trust awards, and the artist emergency fund. We will talk more about the funding when we overview the budget.

Through our education programs, we had 14 workshops with a total of 121 people. We had 3 webinars with 75 participants. We had a panel with 15 participants, a Peer Review with 11 participants, and a Fresh Eyes crit with 6 participants.

Our PAINTS Program had 46 artists, 58 schools, 95 projects, 613 hours and 3118 students who participated! We are super proud of this program and Andrea's ability to organize PAINTS projects through COVID that were successful! The VANS in Residence in Bridgewater this year was with Marla Benton who created amazing work. Unfortunately at the end of the residence when there is normally a big show, this year it was severely impacted by the COVID pandemic and paused. This residency moves locations depending on our partnerships.

With Visual Arts News, we started putting calls out with a magazine theme. Writers have enjoyed this. We actually sold out of the Art & Design issue which was very exciting for us! We are seeing a larger audience outside of NS membership so we are excited to see where the magazine will go in the future! The architecture issue, we saw more in depth issues into the landscape in which artists are working. We print 800-1000 magazines per issue. We have been partnering with different organizations to get the magazine to a broader audience. We were also reached out to by Canadian Art Magazine who gave Visual Arts News a shout out in their newsletter.

As for special projects, Hear Tell: a podcast training initiative run by Eryn Foster, has been far more accessible with it being moved to an online platform, resulting in a much broader scope and attendance from accessibility. We are discontinuing the Subsidized Studio Program. What's great about this decision is that there was a huge need for studios that we were trying to address, though artists are now accessing other studios on a more permanent basis which is good. Our public panel, *How we build: On Craft and Blackness*, was an incredible panel with discussion on how we move forward to support black artists in Nova Scotia. It was a very enlightening panel. We are doing this with Nocturne again this year.

In regards to advocacy and policy, we did an anti-harassment workshop and we increased for high operating grants for all arts organizations in NS and we are hoping to see some traction with that now!

9. 2019 Financial Statements (draft)

Benny: These statements are on the website. This has been prepared by an auditor. There is not much to highlight on this. We do have a deficit of almost \$2000 this year but it has not impacted our unrestricted deficit. I want to highlight the purchases made for the two computers and software from the Capital Equipment Fund in the line for equipment.

Motion to approve the 2019 Financial Statements. Barbara Louder. Dawn MacNutt.

10. 2020-2021 Budget

Benny: We received a \$35,000 Canada Council Operating Grant for the first time! We also received the Emergency Support Fund for \$23,000. This will bring us back to normal as we had a lot of advertising revenue lost from the magazine due to COVID. We have boosted our Open Grants this year for \$500 grants for applicants. The Digital Strategy Fund, Arts NS Commissioning Grant, Arts NS Professional Development Grant and Young Canada Works.

Motion to approve the 2020-2021 Budget. Jessie Fraser, Christene Sandeson.

11. Appointment of Auditor:

Motion to approve _Mitch Miller_ as our auditor. Frankie Macaulay. Jessie Fraser.

Motion to elect the nomination slate of Directors. Flora Doehler. Jenny Shi.

Returning: Savannah Anderson, Josephine Clarke, Julian Covey, Barbara Louder, Frankie Macaulay, Kelly Markovich, Sera Senakovicz, Jenny Yujia Shi, and Jessica Wiebe.

Julian: Nominations from the floor. Please indicate nomination in chat.

Any nomination from the floor (repeated three times).

Any opposed to nominations in the chat?

Motion approved.

12. Adjournment:

There being no further business Julian declared the meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Wiebe
Secretary of the Board