



Visual Arts Nova Scotia

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MONDAY, June 28, 6-7:30PM AST ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING: 232 051 4924

Minutes

1. Members Present:

Board Members & Staff:

Emily Lawrence, Andrea Ritchie, Frankie Macaulay, Zorica Markovich, Josie Robinson, Jenny Yujia Shi, Carri MacKay, Benny Welter-Nolan, Sera Senakovicz, Julian Covey, Jessica Lynn Wiebe, and Charles Doucette.

Members:

Lou Sheppard, Jocelyn Li, Annik Gaudet, Jessie Fraser, I'thandi Munro, Michelle Sylliboy, Claudia Legg, Onya Hogan-Finlay, Linnet Finley, Mahnaz Roshan, Susan Pfeiffer, and Michael Greer.

2. Welcoming remarks, and procedures.

3. Call to Order at 6:07pm by Julian

4. Approval of the agenda. Jenny. Frankie.

Edit: Sera Senokovictch and Kelly Zorica will not be staying on. Josie is staying.

5. Approval of the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting. Josie. Sera.

6. Staff Reports

President's Report: Julian Covey

Discusses the ease of the board and committees pivoting to online meetings during the pandemic and we have been able to continue functioning throughout this year. For a year that has been in a pandemic, VANS has been very active, expansion of staff, and Canada Council Core Funding received, as well as adding Anti-Oppression training for the board and staff with the BLM movement and new programming for BIPOC members. Reflecting back on the last two years, this is my last meeting as chair, and I want to thank everyone for their service. The incoming Chair is Jenny Yujia Shi!

Treasurer's Report: Frankie Macaulay

Our main funding comes from Canada Council, NS Department of Communities Culture and Heritage, and the City of Halifax. We also receive subsidies from the province's funding for the Cultural Federation of Nova Scotia (CFNS).

Programs are funded by Canada Council, Arts Nova Scotia, the Emergency Funding received from the government, Donation from Photopolis for Artist Emergency Fund, Young Canada Works Employee, and a donation from Inkwell.

Executive Director's Report: Benny Welter-Nolan

VANS has done an incredible job to make sure all of our programs ran despite the pandemic. The only major adjustment made to programming was changing workshop series to online. The Hear Tell was very successful. We also ran all of our PAINTS programs online. So even when students were in school they were able to participate in art workshops via google classroom. We just launched art recess: 15 minute videos that students can access with supplies from home to make art! These are launched via youtube. We also launched the Creative Consults Program. We designated our Open Grants to BIPOC artists in a response to what our community needs. We advised the government in the emergency and new funding options that the province provides for culture, very broadly. We also did a three part anti oppression workshop for the Board and staff and contractors and will bring what we learned to our Strategic Plan in the next year.

On the magazine front we hired a new publisher with some of the new funds from the Canada Council Core funding. We also co coordinated the Meeting Waters Panel with Nocturne which was online making it very accessible for people across the province. We also rewrote the magazine's mandate which aligns with the work we have done in the equity training we have done.

The hiring and expansion of staff helps us to continue providing resources and advocacy for artists.

7. 2020-21 Financial Statements (draft)

Benny: The financial statements are also up on our website. We have received our operating funding from the province and are in good financial standing. We ended the year with a \$40,794 Unrestricted surplus. This was due to our success in grant funding as well as funding from the government for the PAINTS programs, as well as the overhead for programs was down because workshops and programming was moved online.

You can see the summary of our revenue and summaries in an overhead way. We did not see a drop in membership revenue. So a big thank you to all our members that continued to support us when it was a tough year for everyone. The programming and special projects, we did more than we have in the past so our project funding and revenue was up!

There was an increase in salaries because we hired more staff. Other expenses were for staff and board development and other professional development that we were able to access this year.

We also like to highlight the deferred revenue that we are expecting to spend in the next fiscal year.

Julian: We also raised the writers fees for the magazine because of the Core Grant funding.

Andrea: Artist fee for Paints went up this year because of this funding as well.

Claudia: Which company did the review engagement?

Benny: Mitch Miller is our auditor.

Motion to approve the 2020/21 Financial Statements. Claudia Legg. Jessie Fraser.

8. Appointment of Auditor. Frankie. Josie.

9. 2021-22 Budget

Benny: Major change is a drop in ad revenue for the magazine because we partner with Nocturne for the panel and this funding is applied to the funding in the special projects and human resources section. Another increase was salary increase for staff and hiring new staff: three new project coordinators, social media coordinator, magazine publisher, and new book keeper.

Motion to approve the 2021/22 Budget. Jenny. Frankie.

10. Election of Directors

- Returning: Josephine Clarke, Julian Covey, Charles Doucette, Frankie Macaulay, Jenny Yujia Shi.
 - New: Annik Gaudet, Onya Hogan Finlay, Jocelyn Li, I'thandi Munro, Michelle Sylliboy.
- Nominations from the floor (please indicate nomination in chat):

Julian: "Are there any nominations from the floor?" repeated three times. No one nominated themselves.

Motion to approve Board members for the coming year. Jessie Fraser. Sera.

11. Adjournment:

There being no further business Julian declared the meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Wiebe
Secretary of the Board