



AGM
7:00-8:30PM AST

WEDNESDAY JUNE 8, ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?zAtdeuhqzgtGd3kQwMzgsLNxvzwR2PD5H>
[Mq](#)

(Bold text indicates a motion is required. For ease of procedure via Zoom, only votes in opposition to motions, and self-nominations, will be recorded in the chat.)

Attendance:

A Ritchie, Alana Wilson, Annik Gaudet, B Mosher, Benny Welter-Nolan, Beverley Kelly, Camille-Zoé Valcourt-Synnott, Carley Mullally, Carol Morrison, Carri MacKay, Carrie Phillips Kieser, Charles Doucette, Cinthia Arias Auz, Dawn MacNutt, Duane Jones, Ellen Sim, Emily Lawrence, Evan Cameron, Frank Forrestall, Gabrielle Theano, Gerard McNeil, Heather Wilkinson, Jacqueline Steudler, Jenny Yujia Shi, Jessie Fraser, Jocelyn Li, Julian Covey, Onya Hogan-Finlay, Rosalynd Coulter, Stephanie Kossmann

Call to Order 7:05 PM

Welcoming remarks, and procedures - Zoom voting explained, grey box, asking for motion, type in the chat with your name for the motion, etc.

1. Approval of the agenda

Motion by Julian Covey and Jessie Fraser

2. Approval of the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

Motion to approve Annik Gaudet. Seconded by Rosalynd Coulter. Motion carried.

3. Annual Report

President's Report: Jenny Yujia Shi presented report

Discussion:

- Highlights include Sustainability, Strategic Planning, Advocacy
- Jenny shared send-off remarks acknowledging the contributions of outgoing board members Frankie Macaulay, Josephine Clarke, Michelle Sylliboy and Julian Covey.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Benny with screen share of spreadsheet in the absence of outgoing Treasurer, Josephine Clarke.

Executive Director's Report: Benny Welter-Nolan

Discussion:

- Benny outlined primary funders, Canada Council, Arts NS (for Strategic Planning), Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage (NSCCTH) (for *Artists in Mind*), etc. Funds focused on leadership development, Anti-Oppression Board Training with LaMeia Reddick, direct support to BIPOC artists through Open Grants, etc.
- Education: Highlights include Mentorship, Workshops, Peer Review, Arts Recess (is discontinuing, YouTube videos will remain publicly available through 5-year licensing fees), New Grad program (is discounting) and Corridor Gallery (is on hiatus).
- Communication: Visual Arts News Magazine returned to a regular schedule, creation of *Guide to Getting Your Project/ Event Promoted Digitally*, social media campaigns included infographics for arts advocacy issues, Kordeena Clayton was artist-in-residence (AIR) at Black Loyalist Heritage Centre, etc.
- *Artists in Mind* final report identified that artists experience financial precarity and require adequate support to access mental health treatment.
- VANS continues to distribute info to policymakers with a “nothing about us without us” approach.
- *Building Back Better* report provided recommendations to the province emphasizing the need for increase in operating support to arts organizations and increased funding limits for individual artist projects.
- Panel: *Supporting Art Audiences with Disabilities: A Roundtable Discussion* with Syrus Marcus Ware and guest presenters was widely attended (online).
- Residence: Negotiations with NS Writers Federation about Jampolis Cottage in Avonport are ongoing with anticipated agreement to be finalized in early 2023. The property / building has been assessed. The Writers Federation will be the sole owner. VANS will develop a partnership agreement for visual artists to have access to the space which may create a support gap for residency opportunities for artists in the province. An application for artists interested in the residency opportunity will be developed and circulated at a later time.
- Staff Updates: Cinthia Arias Auz is in the role of Programming Coordinator while Carri MacKay is on parental leave.

Discussion:

N/A

4. 2020-21 Financial Statements Amendment

- Error noted in 2020-2021 Financial statements
 - Restatement of deferred revenues: Due to a misinterpretation of a funding agreement, with an amount not being eligible for deferral, the deferred revenues have been decreased and grant revenue increased by \$11,700. Excess of revenues over expenses and unrestricted surplus have been increased by \$11,700.
- VANS will submit Canada Council reports to wrap up the grant cycle.
- Mitch removed and replaced the adjusted statements for membership approval.
 - The members of Visual Arts Nova Scotia acknowledge that Mitchell L

Miller has withdrawn the financial statements issued and approved at the AGM held on June 28, 2021. Motion to approve the amended statements as presented removing Canada Council emergency funding from the deferred revenues.

Motion: Julian Covey motions to approve. Seconded by Jocelyn Li. Motion carried.

5. 2020-21 Financial Statements (draft)

Presentation

- Benny underlined that the majority of VANS funds are redirected to artists and outlined the recent transition to the CADAC system chart of accounts which will simplify reporting. Comparative numbers/analysis are not viewable in CADAC.

Discussion

Motion to update the name of the Portia White Prize and to notify Mitch to correct the Award.

Motion: Jocelyn Li motions to approve. Seconded by Jessie Fraser. Motion carried.

6. 2021-22 Budget

Presentation

- Benny reports that no major projects are planned in this “building year” as we redefine our strategic planning and carry regular programs with core operating budget. VANS is projecting a \$7 K deficit this year (we had a \$7 K surplus in the prior year), due to rising inflation and paying out higher CARFAC fees which are increasing. VANS has adopted a 3% salary increase for staff and contractors to accommodate for inflation.
- Highlights: New Grad Program discontinued; No Special Projects; and Strategic Planning Year

Discussion

Motion: Julian Covey motions to approve budget. Seconded by Rosalynd Coulter. Motion carried.

7. Appointment of Auditor

Presentation

- Benny indicated that Mitch Miller has been instrumental in supporting transition to CADAC

Motion: Jocelyn Li motions to approve Mitch Miller as auditor. Seconded by Annik. Motion carried.

8. Election of Directors

- Returning: Jenny Yujia Shi, Annik Gaudet, Onya Hogan-Finlay, Jocelyn Li, Charles Doucette, I'thandi Munro
- New: Evan Cameron, Carrie Phillips-Kieser, Carley Mullally, Alana Wilson

Each new board member shared bios and introductions

- Current board now represents the geographical diversity across the province.
- Nominations from the floor requested three times (please indicate nomination in chat):
None

Motion: Julian motions to approve slate of board members as presented. Seconded by Annik. Motion carried.

- Jenny outlined the work of past board members and shared a heartfelt appreciation for Julian Covey as Past President, Frankie Macaulay and their support of the hiring matrix, Josie Robinson and their service as past Treasurer, and Michelle Sillyboy set momentum for equity-based strategic planning.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Jocelyn Li 7:48 PM.

Following the adjournment of the meeting each new board members shared a personal introduction and a video from Board members was played to thank VANS staff for their excellent work.