



VANS
VISUAL ARTS
NOVA SCOTIA

**VANS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY JUNE 14, 2023 7 - 8:30PM AST**

(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:

Carri MacKay, Benny Welter-Nolan, Jenna Piovesan, Onya Hogan-Finlay, Jenny Yujia Shi, Shelagh Howard, Therese Cruz, Tamara Smith, Janet Stritychuk, Karen Phillips-Curran, Dawn George, Ayoka Junaid, Andrea Ritchie, Carley Mullally, Cinthia Arias Auz, Jayne Wark, B Mosher, Grey Muldoon, Alana Wilson, Ted Lind, Jayme-Lynn Gloade, Elanor Jazzar, Jessica Winton, Annik Gaudet, Jocelyn Li, Israel Ekanem, Camille-Zoe Valcourt-Synnott.

Call to order: 7:10 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 Dawn George. Second by Ted Lind.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

Motion to approve Jenny Yujia Shi. Seconded by B Mosher. Motion carried.

3. Annual Report

Co-chair's Report: Onya Hogan-Finlay and Jenny Yujia Shi

Highlights:

- Continuation of values-driven strategic planning
- Board members now chair committees
- Letter writing advocacy campaign

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Benny in the absence of Treasurer, Jocelyn Li.

Highlights:

- We have really diversified revenue sources in our budget: Consistently, our main funding comes from the Nova Scotia Department of communities, culture, tourism, and heritage, which we successfully advocated for some increases in our operating for the following fiscal year. We also have Canada Council core operating, funding city of Halifax core

operating, funding, and also Department of Ed and Arts Nova Scotia, for our PAINTS program.

- We also have earned revenue through memberships, program fees, school fees, project grants which are variable.
- Last year our only project grant that we received was the Cultural Innovation Funding for our secession planning.

Executive Director's Report: Benny Welter-Nolan

Highlights:

- This year was a real development year, which was an intentional move by the Board and senior leadership to make sure that we had our house in order, so that we could better deliver on our programming.
- We decided to not pursue any project grant funding, so that we could focus on our vision mission values, rebuild and our strategic planning for the future.
- This year the operational changes that we've made are largely the equity-focused session planning for our next Executive Director.
- We also developed an explicit, clear policy to offer meal stipends for volunteers attending virtual meetings, and we added childcare reimbursements for parent volunteers.
- We took a holistic view of our programming, and we reduced our programming levels from 17 ongoing programs to 9 core operating programs.
- We also had huge successes this year in advocacy for operating, funding. VANS led an advocacy campaign. We saw major funding increases within the HRM and a doubling of the provincial operating budget for cultural organizations.
- We also developed a new welcome package and orientation book for volunteers and board members.
- We're working with Jamie Burnett at Pink Larkin to revise our code of conduct, to include a conflict resolution process.
- All of the operational changes and updates were very background this year - not a lot that you might see a press release about, but a really foundational change that's going to set up the organization for success in the future.
- Cinthia Arias Auz continues at VANS in the role of Social Media Coordinator now that her Programming Coordinator contract ended when Carri MacKay returned from maternity leave.

Committee Chair reports:

Programming Committee, Co-chair Carly Mullally reported with co-chair Carrie Phillips-Kieser

- Committee met twice, focused mostly on the PAINTS subsidy policy
- 20% of the PAINTS budgets will be earmarked to offer a 100% subsidy for schools who serve a significant population of BIPOC / equity-deserving populations.

Membership and Engagement Committee, Chair Alana Wilson reported

- Committee met a couple of times this year

- Removed the existing deadline for membership bursaries - now offering unlimited bursaries.

Fundraising and Finance Committee, Chair Jocelyn Li reported

- One meeting on fundraising priorities.
- Considering a VANS merchandise fundraiser, including an artist fee to design tote bags, sketchbooks, etc.

Governance and Nomination Committee, Chair Jenny Yujia Shi reported

- Committee has met twice since updating our terms of reference and brought on board members to chair the committees.
- Created a timeline that the Board can use going forward for recruiting, evaluating, and the succession of the board.

4. 2022-23 Financial Statements (draft)

Highlights:

- Much smaller deficit than we were projecting at the beginning of the year
- Salary increases both for contract and salaried staff (which didn't cover inflation) but are now part of our policy as well as CARFAC fee increases.
- To reduce the deficit significantly, we decided to forgo the major panel discussion that we regularly have with Nocturne because we didn't have any project grant funding to support it. We also discontinued our Open Grants program that we were also delivering out of our own operating funds.
- Charged PAINTS fiscal reporting date to match the organization's March 31 end of fiscal year.
- VANS is still in a really healthy financial position.
- Delivered \$2,000 of Artist Emergency Fund in the last fiscal, thanks to Photopolis for donating all of their remaining funding to the Artist Emergency Fund, which has really allowed us to continue to be able to support artists in need every year without having to do a major campaign on additional fundraising.

Motion: Carley Mullaly motions to approve. Seconded by Jocelyn Li. Motion carried.

5. 2023-2024 Budget

Presented by Benny Welter-Nolan

- There are major contributions from our partners in this upcoming fiscal
- We are seeing a bit of a decrease in the paints fees as a result of the 20% designation for fully funded paints programming
- We have now kind of combined the membership dues with the subscription that used to be separated so that's part of why we have projected a much larger revenue on our membership dues.
- New opportunities for online advertising this year with Visual Arts News and Natalie has

been increasing our overall ad sales in our magazine.

Motion: Annik Gaudet motions to approve budget. Seconded by Alana Wilson. Motion carried.

Discussion: This budget has put VANS in such a great place, and it is really credit to Benny's leadership. The team at vans that worked tirelessly, specifically through the pandemic to ensure that VANS was in a financially stable position. Thank you, Benny, and thank you to the team.

6. Appointment of Auditor

Presentation

- Mitch Miller has been the auditor for VANS for a number of years and for all the Cultural Federations.

Motion: Camille-Zoe Valcourt-Synnottmotions to approve Mitch Miller as auditor. Seconded by Jessica Winton. Motion carried.

7. Election of Directors

- Returning: Evan Cameron, Charles Doucette, Annik Gaudet, Onya Hogan-Finlay, Jocelyn Li, Carley Mullally, Carrie Phillips-Kieser, Alana Wilson
- New: Jayme-Lynn Gloade, Ayoka Junaid, Tamara Smith
Introductions of new board nominees Jayme-Lynn Gloade, Ayoka Junaid, Tamara Smith.
- Nominations from the floor requested three times (please indicate nomination in chat):
None

Motion: Jocelyn Li motions to approve new Board of Directors. Jessica Winton seconds. No opposition. Motion carried.

8. Vision, Mission, Values and Strategic Plan

- Benny reviewed updated vision, mission, and values. *This has been a major achievement of this board, and I'm so proud of everyone that contributed to this like staff, board, and volunteers and our facilitator as well, Louise Adongo.*
- Review of Strategic Plan

Motion: Alana Wilson motions to approve Strategic Plan updates. Jocelyn Li seconds. Motion carried and Strategic Plan has been adopted.

9. Thank You and Welcome remarks for Board Members and Executive Director

- Thanks to Benny, who has been VANS Executive Director for the past 5 years, and previously the Programming Coordinator with the organization. So in total 10 years of service.
- During the pandemic Benny led VANS to pivot programming online and then to hybrid format, but at the same time also delivering, implementing, using initiatives like the HEAR TELL podcast training, the Supporting Art Audiences with Disabilities roundtable, and the Artists in Mind, mental health, research.
- Benny raised over half a million for VANS in the past 5 years, and secured VANS' first Canadian Council operating grant along with other project grants increasing the operating funding by over 50%.
- Acknowledgement of the meaningful contributions that Jenny Yujua Shi has made to VANS as an individual and outgoing board chair. Thank you Jenny!
- Introduction of new Executive Director Therese Cruz. Therese is a community engager, artist, a mother, and an immigrant from the Philippines. She moved to Toronto, Ontario to pursue her studies in jewelry, arts, and relocated to Shelburne, Nova Scotia, in 2017, with her family. Her motivation to be part of VANS is to be an arts administration that creates multiple avenues for local artists to gain exposure and be able to advocate and promote on their behalf.
- Welcome Therese!

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Jocelyn Li at 8:40 pm.