

Minutes – 2024 Annual General Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 26, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Location: PIE Education Centre – MacLaren Art Centre

In attendance: Dr. Matthew Follwell, Craig Nixon, Angela Aujla, Andrea Arajuo, Ashleigh Oke, Rosalind Naccarato, Peter Bogle, Frances Thomas, Carol-Ann Ryan, Michael Kuluva, Jill Price, Dorothy Ramsey, Christina Mancuso, Marlisha Lewis, Gary Pearson, Kathy Chen, Jessie Larche, Marlene Hilton-Moore, Yasmeeen Kazak, Tyler Durbano, Robyn Clarke, Sandra Fraser, Ted Fullerton, Michelle Huggins and Jim Harris.

Minutes recorded by: Rosalind Naccarato

1. Call to Order

Time: 5:39PM

Chair: Dr. Matthew Follwell

2. Welcome and Acknowledgments

- Dr. Matt Follwell welcomed attendees and offered a land acknowledgement:

"We acknowledge the traditional territory of the Anishinaabek, which include the Odawa, Ojibwe and Pottawatomi Nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. The local bands consist of the Chippewa Tri-Council, who are made up of Beausoleil First Nation, Georgina Island First Nation and Rama First Nation. We would also like to acknowledge the Wendat Nation (Huron) who occupied these lands prior to the middle of the 17th century. The MacLaren Art Centre is committed to moving forward in the spirit of healing and reconciliation and respect with all First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples."

3. Approval of Agenda – Dr. Matthew Follwell

Motion: To accept the agenda for the MacLaren Art Centre's 2024 Annual Generation Meeting.

Moved by: Frances Thomas

Seconded by: Ashleigh Oke

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting – Dr. Matthew Follwell

Motion: To approve the minutes from the June 18, 2023, Annual General Meeting without amendment.

Moved by: Tyler Durbano

Seconded by: Jim Harris

Carried

5. Recognition of Sponsors and Artists that have passed away in 2024-2025 – Tyler Durbano

- Gerry Pilon, Kim-Brett Thibodeau, and Janet Jones were recognized for their contributions to the MacLaren Art Centre.

6. Finance Report – Kathy Chen, Treasurer

- Year-end financial review delivered; PowerPoint presentation attached.
 - o **2024 Financial Summary**
 - The MacLaren closed 2024 in solid financial position in comparison to budget and came out ahead.
 - Revenues and expenses largely aligned with the financial forecast.
 - Operating stability was achieved through careful cost control.
 - Staffing transitions and inflationary pressures were successfully navigated.
 - o **Strategic Process through Restructuring Building Confidence**
 - Restructured senior management is delivering positive results.
 - The leaner leadership model implemented in 2024 has improved decision making and cross functional coordination.
 - o **2025-2026 Funding the Vision**
 - Delivering on strategic plan goals will require expanded institutional support.
 - Core funding from City of Barrie and partners is essential in achieving goals set out in the Strategic Plan.
 - The MacLaren Team is ready to deliver but will need support through sustained investments.

7. Appointment of the Auditors for 2025 – Angela Aujla, Programming Committee Chair

Motion: To appoint BDO as the auditors for the MacLaren Art Centre's 2025 fiscal year.

Moved by: Dr. Matthew Follwell

Seconded by: Craig Harris

Carried

8. Elections to the Board of Directors – Angela Aujla, Programming Committee Chair

Motion: To nominate Dr. Matthew Follwell President Chair of the Board for a final 3-year term.

Moved by: Frances Thomas

Seconded by: Kathy Chen

Carried

Motion: To nominate Gary Pearson in a director role for a 2nd term.

Moved by: Ashleigh Oke

Seconded by: Michael Kuluva

Carried

9. President & Chair's Report – Dr. Matthew Follwell

- **2024 Year in Review Stats**

- o 14,413 visitors
- o 13 exhibitions and curatorial projects
- o 258 programs in and outside the Gallery
- o 456 members
- o 8,558 participants in art education activities
- o 103 businesses involved in sponsorships and donations
- o 1,031 volunteer hours
- o 176 youth participants
- o Black Tie Gala raised over \$166,000. Live auction raised over \$54,000.
- o OFF THE HOOK Silent Art Auction raised \$92,000.
- o Benefactor Program has grown to 72 members, and 115 artworks were donated.
- o 2024 Annual Campaign raised \$60,000

- **Notes of Recognition**

- o Special recognition was given to staff members as their work brings value to the Barrie and Ontario arts community by allowing access to art and education. Recognition was also given to board members, volunteers, members, sponsors, donors, supporters and patrons.

10. Programming Report – Angela Aujla, Programming Committee Chair

- Since the 2023 Annual General Meeting, the Programming Committee has met 3 times and despite leadership and staff changeover, the 2023-2024 MacLaren exhibition schedule has remained strong.
- Throughout the year, the MacLaren has focused on building relationships with sister organizations within the province and presented exhibitions that for fronted Indigenous voices, strengthened partnerships and allowed the community to experience new and exciting artworks.
- Angela spoke to each exhibition throughout 2023-2024 and acknowledged exhibition intent and artist statements.

11. Programming Report – Christina Mancuso, Education Officer: Schools & Community Programming.

- Christina spoke to the following educational programs and their importance and impact in the community and gave recognition to the sponsors and community partners who helped fund the programs.
 - o *Creative Spark*. In partnership with The Alzheimer Society of Simcoe County and funded by Guys That Give Barrie.
 - o *Elevate! Lillian Place*. In partnership with Redwood Park Communities and funded by the Kiwanis Club of Barrie.
 - o *Grace Note: Programming for Culture Days*. In partnership with Simcoe Contemporary Dancers. *Grace Note* funded by Pratt Homes.

- *Mini-Drum Making and Knowledge Sharing* in partnership with the Barrie Native Friendship Centre and James Carpenter.
- *Canvas for Change: Black Youth Art Celebration* in partnership with Making Change. Exhibition was awarded Runner Up for Mayor's Innovation Award.

12. Strategic Plan Update – Tyler Durbano, Interim Artistic Director

- Highlights

- The Strategic Plan will guide MacLaren through 2025-2029.
- The Strategic Plan process was made possible by a 2023 Trillium Foundation Grant which allowed the MacLaren to contract The Osbourne Group. The Osbourne Group worked with architects, MacLaren Staff, MacLaren Board Members, and MacLaren Strategic Planning Committee to create a plan grounded in community engagement and regional realities. Surveys and public relation initiatives were organized to gain feedback from the community regarding their current thoughts of the MacLaren, and their future wishes for the institution.
- Preparing the MacLaren to gain Category A Status is vital to the future of the institution as it will enhance the prestige of the collection, obtain major donations, allow the gallery to compete nationally, create deeper community partnerships and renew artistic vision rooted in diversity and inclusion particularly within the Indigenous community.
- Tyler explained the focus for each year of the plan and the impact these outcomes will have on the growth of the institution. The goals set out in the earlier years of the plan will help create the foundation for the MacLaren to achieve Category A Status at the beginning of 2030.
- The Exhibition Matrix will guide curatorial decision making over recurring three-year cycles and will ensure the exhibitions are relevant with local, regional and national communities and represents a highly diverse collection of artists of all skill levels who exhibit works that reflect our unique community. Indigenous voices will be a key focus within the matrix, and the institution will dedicate its space and resources to support First Nations, Metis, and Inuit artists.
- Tyler encouraged attendees to visit the MacLaren website for more information regarding the Strategic Plan.

13. Questions – Matt Follwell

- Question posed by Frances Thomas, “What is the recommendation by the architect to increase art storage within the facility?” Tyler explained some recommendations from Elaine Chow and Workshop Architects
 - Expanding the loading dock for artwork to be delivered safely and in climate-controlled conditions,
 - The potential of turning all of Molson Gallery into art storage.
 - Reconfiguring Lehman Gallery and 3D storage to create a larger space for art storage.
 - Returning the framing area back to an art holding and framing clean space.
- Question posed by Ted Fullerton, “Has there been discussion regarding collaboration or partnership with the new Design and Visual Arts Georgian College Campus moving across the street that will compliment both institutions?”
 - Tyler confirmed there has been discussion regarding the collaboration and pointed out that the physical proximity will benefit both institutions and will further strengthen their current relationship. In conversation with Amy Bagshaw, a current Georgian College Professor and past Programming Committee Chair and MacLaren

Board Member, ideas have been discussed on how to engage the students and make the MacLaren a learning hub for them by giving opportunities for practical experience in a gallery setting. There have been no concrete plans put in place, however both institutions have expressed excitement about possible future collaboration opportunities.

- o Tyler explained the positive impact of bringing another arts focused cultural institution to Downtown Barrie in that it will help strengthen to the arts community in Barrie and will hopefully draw more patrons to both institutions.
- Tyler mentioned that more details regarding timeline for facility updates and funding initiatives regarding the Strategic Plan will be discussed in future meetings.

14. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the MacLaren Art Centre’s 2024 AGM.

Moved by: Jim Harris

Seconded by: Gary Pearson

Carried

Meeting Adjourned: 6:40 PM

Signatures

President:  Matt Follwell **Date:** 2 June 2026

Vice President:  Wade **Date:** June 2 2026