Galeries Ontario Galleries | 50 YEARS • ANS

Annual General Meeting

April 3, 2024

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President's Report

to the Annual General Meeting

Galeries Ontario / Ontario Galleries (GOG)



It is my pleasure to report to you, the members of Galeries Ontario Galleries, that our year ended March 31, 2023, was remarkable for its in-year successes, as well as for the foundations it laid for the successes of the current year.

Before doing so, however, I must acknowledge the Governor General of Canada's announcement on December 28, 2023, that GOG's own Executive Director, Zainub Verjee, henceforth Zainub Verjee, C.M., had been appointed to the Order of Canada. On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff, volunteers, and members of GOG, I extend our most sincere and enthusiastic congratulations to Zainub on this extraordinary, and extraordinarily well-deserved honour.

We are fortunate indeed to have the opportunity to work together with Zainub in service of Ontario's art galleries, and thereby to come to know her exceptional passion, dedication, and intellect for ourselves.

2022/23 was a pivotal year for GOG, as we posted our largest deficit since the beginning of the pandemic at the March 31, 2023, year-end, with a much smaller deficit expected in 2023/24. This turnaround has arrived a full year earlier than planned in our budgets thanks to the careful management and successful innovation of the staff.

In 2022/23, final preparations were made for the Indigenous Futures in Public Art Galleries and Museums Summit, which was ultimately held with great success in November 2023, and which resulted in GOG's commitment to waive all future membership and registration fees for Indigenous organizations and individuals as a humble invitation to ongoing collaboration and conciliation within our sector.

I would also note that the 2022 GOG Awards was our 45th Annual celebration of the sector, and our first in-person celebration of the Awards since the onset of the pandemic. The staff, jurors, volunteers, nominators, and nominees deserve our congratulations on a difficult task carried out with complete success.

It is my pleasure to thank my fellow Directors, Francisco Alvarez, Glen Bloom, Lisa Daniels, Shelley Falconer, Nahed Mansour, Devyani Saltzman, Christian Bernard Singer, York Lethbridge, and beginning in 2023, Katerina Atanassova and Olinda Casimiro, for their dedication and diligence. I am also honoured to thank GOG's staff, Zainub Verjee, C.M., Jessica Lukas, Simon Flint, and Samantha Clarke, for the heroic efforts they continue to make to protect and advance the organization under the most challenging of circumstances. And I am humbled to thank our members, our funders, our sponsors, and our donors, including the Toronto Arts Council, the Ontario Arts Council, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Young Canada Works, and the Government of Ontario, for their support, which makes the work of GOG possible.

It has been a great honour for me to serve this organization in recent years, and I look forward to its continued growth and success as I retire from the Board this morning.



Robert Steven
President, Board of Directors
Galeries Ontario / Ontario Galleries

Executive Director's Report

to the Annual General Meeting

Galeries Ontario / Ontario Galleries (GOG)

GOG continued active participation in several fora to work together to advance the larger sectorial advocacy agenda including working with numerous Advocacy groups such as the Provincial Arts Service Organizations (PASO), the Monday group, Visual Arts Alliance and other networks such as Ontario Not for Profit Network.



GOG started amending its bylaws to be compliant with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) proclaimed on October 19, 2021. I would like to extend a special thank you to Susan Newall (Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP) for pro bono services and Board Member Glen Bloom for leading us through the process towards modernizing our bylaws which will be presented at the AGM.

GOG continues to bring new opportunities and for the membership to engage and build capacities. We have received considerable funds to continue building a digital and data literacy pathway toward digital transformation in our sector. We completed our Data Shy to Data Driven Executive program successfully and which culminated in a Data gathering event at the Aga Khan Museum.

The Awards remains our signature program. Our commitment to recognizing and celebrating excellence in our sector is particularly important in our equity efforts. We encourage and hope that all galleries will continue to support BIPOC professionals and champion their voices.

Thank you to the Department of Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council for their support and also to our sponsors and numerous partners.

I would like to thank the Board for their unwavering service and wish the retiring members every success. I would also like to thank Jessica Lukas and the numerous interns and volunteers who have worked with us during the year.

Respectfully yours,



Zainub Verjee, C.M.
Executive Director

Treasurer's Report

to the Annual General Meeting

Galeries Ontario / Ontario Galleries (GOG)

I am pleased to present to the members of the Ontario Association of Art Galleries, operating as Galeries Ontario Galleries, the audited financial statements of GOG for the year ended March 31, 2023. The statements were made available to members through the notice of this annual general meeting.

The independent auditor's report dated August 10, 2023, was provided by GOG's auditor, Chaplin & Co. Chartered Public Accountants, of Toronto. The auditor's unmodified opinion on the GOG financial statements is as follows:

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Ontario Association of Art Galleries as at March 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

The audited financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors of GOG on August 10, 2023.

I am pleased to again report that through prudent financial management by its Executive Director, Zainub Verjee, GOG completed the year with a manageable deficit of $59,410 for the year ended March 31, 2023. This is an expected increase from the deficit in the previous fiscal year of $11,494.

The only other item that I would like to highlight in the statements for the year ending March 31, 2023, is the modest increase in membership revenue to $48,774 from $45,090 for the previous fiscal year. A priority for GOG going forward is to continue to increase its membership revenue, but by a greater percentage.

In closing, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Audit and Sponsorship Committee, Shelley Falconer, Olinda Casimiro, Robert Steven, and Zainub Verjee, for their contributions. And on behalf of the Committee and the Board, I would like to thank our funders, the Ontario Arts Council, the Toronto Arts Council, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts, as well as GOG's many sponsors and donors.



Glen A. Bloom
Treasurer

Financial Statements

2023 Audited Financial Statements

Membership & Programming Report

to the Annual General Meeting

Galeries Ontario / Ontario Galleries (GOG)

Committee Three: Membership & Programming consists of Nahed Mansour, Devyani Saltzman, and Katerina Atassanova. The committee met over the course of the year with Zainub Verjee, Executive Director, and the GOG team to discuss membership and development programs.

1 | 2022-2023 GOG Membership

Total Paid Membership: 209

Member Classes (Voting)
Art Gallery - 47
Affiliate - 15
Business - 4
Colleague - 11
Total Voting Members: - 77

Member Classes (Non-Voting)
Student - 1
Complimentary Colleague - 92
Past Presidents - 38
Lifetime Members - 1
Total Non-Voting Members - 132

2 | 45th GOG AWARDS - Monday, November 28th, 2022

On Monday, November 28th, 2022, we presented the 45th edition of the GOG Annual Awards in-person, for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately 150 guests attended the ceremony at Hot Docs Cinema in Toronto, and our livestream (available on our Facebook page) received an additional 292 views.

A total of 72 nominations were received from 22 public art galleries across 15 cities. 24 Awards were presented in Exhibitions, Curatorial Art Writing, Public Programming, Art Publications, Design, Education, Partnerships, Volunteer, and Colleague categories including our Lifetime Achievement Award, Colleague of the Year Award, and our Changemaker BIPOC Award.

The evening was hosted by Toronto artist Keith Cole and we screened interdisciplinary Cree visual artist Kent Monkman's video "Casualties of Modernity". This Digital Program Book, designed by Donderdag, was circulated post Awards to all winners and attendees and made available on our website.

Marketing and Public Outreach included online Akimbo Web posts and promotions and C Magazine. Surface Impression and PACART were our leading sponsors.

3 | DATA SHY TO DATA DRIVEN FOR EXECUTIVE SENIOR MANAGEMENT

In collaboration with Surface Impression, The Data Shy to Data Driven for Executive and Senior Management Program focused on exploring and informing data driven decision making at public art galleries by their executives and senior management, and how data driven decision making can help to deliver the missions of these galleries. The Executive program was built on GOG's previous data initiatives: the GOG Digital Data Mixer and our two-year Data Shy to Data Driven Program.

Participating institutions included Aga Khan Museum, Ottawa Art Gallery, Thunder Bay Art Gallery, Vancouver Art Gallery. The participants explored how understanding and working with digital data can enhance operations, fundraising, collections management, stakeholder/board relationships, reporting, and many other aspects of their work. By participating in this project, public art gallery executives increased their digital literacy and gained strategies to achieve their own data-driven outcomes.

GOG also partnered with Niranjan Raja. Niranjan engaged with the project from his base at Simon Fraser University located in Surrey, British Columbia. Niranjan Raja mentored program participants during work periods throughout the program, provided participants a view through his ethical lens during the workshops held throughout the program, and contributed to program reporting.

As a result of our Data Shy to Data Driven programs, we developed a toolkit "Digital Pathways to Decision Making: Data Shy to Data Driven". This guide shows art galleries, museums, and cultural professionals how to leverage the power of data to achieve objectives and future growth. Toolkit Link http://www.data-shy-to-data-driven.guide.

4 | PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

GOG also hosted a workshop series titled “Re-Imagining the Sector: Galleries in a Post Pandemic World” at the Bata Shoe Museum on February 15th & 16th 2023. Throughout the two days, participants had the ability to ask one-on-one questions to cultural leaders and sector experts to receive guidance about the Present and Future of their institution.

Day One focused on “Grounding in New Realities” – exploring steps galleries can take to start the long post-pandemic recovery process. Presenters included: Christine Saly-Chapman (Collections Manager, Art Gallery of Burlington), Suzanne Peterson (Collections Manager/Registrar, Bata Shoe Museum), Nadja Pelkey (Digital Initiatives and Partnerships Coordinator, Art Windsor-Essex), and many more.

Day Two focused on “Future of the Gallery”- featuring cultural leaders and experts discussing the pandemic’s long-lasting effects on the sector and the important need to continue to adapt. Presenters included: Kelly Frances (Marketing and Communications Director, Aga Khan Museum), Peter Pavement (CEO & Creative Director, Surface Impression), Leah Resnick (Director, Digital Museum of Canada), Heather Russek (Co-President, Creative Futures), Jessica Thornton (Co-President, Creative Futures), Shelley Falconer (President and CEO, Art Gallery of Hamilton), and Susan Taylor (Executive Director, Kawartha Art Gallery).

Slate of Board Nominations

to the Annual General Meeting

Galeries Ontario / Ontario Galleries (GOG)

The Nominations Slate, prepared by the Nominations Committee and approved by the Board of Directors for recommendation to the members is as follows:

- **Stephen Borys**, Director and CEO, Winnipeg Art Gallery-Qaumajuq
- **Anik Glaude**, Curator, Varley Art Gallery of Markham
- **Melissa La Porte**, Executive Director/Curator, Temiskaming Art Gallery
- **Clayton Windat**, Executive Director of the Artist-Run Centres and Collectives Conference / Conférence des collectifs et des centres d'artistes autogérés (ARCCC-CCCAA, aka ARCA)

Brief biographies of the recommended nominees follow:

Slate of Board Nominations

to the Annual General Meeting

Galeries Ontario / Ontario Galleries (GOG)



Stephen D. Borys
Director & CEO
Winnipeg Art Gallery-Qaumajuq

Stephen D. Borys is the Director & CEO of the Winnipeg Art Gallery-Qaumajuq – where he oversaw the development of the new Inuit art centre, the first of its kind in the world and now open to the public. At the core of his directorship is the goal of advancing a meaningful dialogue with the public, and creating a welcoming forum where art and culture are at the forefront with audiences and stakeholders.

Dr. Borys is also an adjunct professor in the Cultural Studies department at the University of Winnipeg and has held leadership and curatorial posts at the Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, Florida; Allen Art Museum, Oberlin College, Ohio; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; and the Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal. He holds an Executive MBA, a PhD in Art and Architectural History from McGill University, an MA in Art History from the University of Toronto, and a BA Honours from the University of Winnipeg.

Slate of Board Nominations

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Galeries Ontario / Ontario Galleries (GOG)



Anik Glaude

Curator

Varley Art Gallery of Markham

Anik Glaude is a Franco-Ontarian curator based in Toronto, ON. She received an MA in Art Museum and Gallery Studies at Newcastle University in the UK, and her curatorial work has been recognized by the Ontario Association of Art Galleries.

As the Curator of the Varley Art Gallery of Markham, ON, she has curated projects such as Innovative Spirit: The Prints and Drawings of Pudlo Pudlat, Xiaojing Yan: Out from among the tranquil woods and Moving through darkness into the clearing, with works by Greg Staats.

Slate of Board Nominations

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Galeries Ontario / Ontario Galleries (GOG)



Melissa LaPorte

Executive Director/Curator

Temiskaming Art Gallery and Open Studio Libre

Melissa LaPorte has been the Executive Director/Curator of the Temiskaming Art Gallery and Open Studio Libre since 2017. She also serves on the board of Living Temagami and volunteers with community groups like the Haileybury Curling Club, the Scouts of Temiskaming and École Ste Croix.

She is devoted to the North, a place she believes has true beauty and boundless creative talent, where she and her husband are grateful to raise their family.

Slate of Board Nominations

to the Annual General Meeting

Galeries Ontario / Ontario Galleries (GOG)



Clayton Windatt

Executive Director

Artist-Run Centres and Collectives Conference

Clayton Windatt is a curator, multi-arts performer and filmmaker living and working in Ontario. As the former Executive Director of the White Water Gallery, Aboriginal Curatorial Collective and current Executive Director of the Artist-Run Centres and Collectives Conference, Clayton has an extensive history working in Artist-Run Culture and Community Arts.

Clayton maintains contracts with various governments, colleges and non-government organizations as a writer, consultant and knowledge broker negotiating between peoples, places, and communities. Clayton works in/with community, design, communications, curation, performance, theatre, technology, and consulting, and is a very active artist.

Appendix

- 2023 Bylaws For Approval
- 2023 Audited Financial Statements
- 2023 Articles of Amendment