

**Visual Arts Alberta - CARFAC
Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes**

Location: **Edmonton location: Harcourt House Education Room (10211 112 Street, Edmonton) and by conference call from locations in Alberta: phone: 1.866.219.8638 enter access code 8529447**

Date: Saturday September 29th, 2018

Register: between 10:30am – 10:55am on the telephone line or in-person in Edmonton

Time: 11:00am – 12:00pm

Chair: Sara McKarney (president)

The AGM is open to all. Only members in good standing of Visual Arts Alberta – CARFAC can vote at the AGM.

1. Quorum Assessment & Call to Order & Voting Instructions

Quorum: Board Members present: Sara McKarney, Paddy Lamb, Jean Lindsay, Agnieszka Matejko, Patrick Close, Charles Cousins, Natalie Lauchlan, Ruby Mah (8 Current Board Members) + 17 additional Members in Good Standing

Call to Order at 12:08pm by Sara McKarney: President

Chris W. Carson discussed voting procedures for those present in-person and on the conference line.

2. Welcome and Introduction of 2017 / 2018 Board

3. Motion to approve Agenda

MOTION: Margaret Witschl

Seconded: Sydney Lancaster All in Favour

4. Motion to approve AGM Minutes from September 30th, 2017

MOTION: Chris W. Carson

Seconded: Jean Lindsay All in Favour

5. REPORTS

a. President's Report (Sara McKarney)

This past year, Visual Arts Alberta - CARFAC has been focused on where we want to go as an organization. We have advocated on behalf of Alberta's visual artists while remaining flexible to changing needs of artists in this province. We have also focused on serving the needs of all artists— emerging, marginalized, and professional. We have worked found strategies for serving the province as a whole; targeting beyond Calgary and Edmonton to better represent Albertan artists.

This year we have investigated alternative funding models, such as sponsorship. In the last few months several board and staff members have received training and mentorship through the Business for the Arts' sponsorship training program, ArtsVest. This program focused on strategies for artistic organizations to build and maintain sponsorship relationships with the private sector. As public funding in the arts continues to be limited, this is something I would highly encourage the oncoming board to continue look at in the future.

We have also spent a large amount of time this year refining how we present ourselves as an organization. Today we have launched our rebranding as CARFAC Alberta, which will help communicate our organization's goals and our relationship to CARFAC. Along with this rebranding, we have made major updates to our website to improve the accessibility of content there. We also started smaller initiatives, like actively profiling members on social media and showcasing the successes of Alberta Artists.

We have also spend a great deal of time this year in consultation with our members, as well as with government agencies. We have been approached by several artist-run organizations over this last year concerning the changes made by the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commissions, who seem to be altering their qualifications for casino revenue eligibility. This decision has very serious effects on organizations that are already operating on limited revenue streams. We are gathering as much information as possible on these changes to help inform discussions with the AGLC, as well as communicating these affects to the provincial government.

On a more positive note, we were also asked to participate further in the Status of the Artist consultation sessions by the Arts Branch of the provincial government. This was the second round of consultations that were started last year– this time with the goal of finding tangible strategies to achieve what the of arts community wants to see in this type of legislation. This is a very encouraging step forward and we are now awaiting to see what next steps are taken the Arts Branch towards achieving Status of the Artist legislation in Alberta.

This year has been busy and were lucky to have a very strong group of people on the board and staff who have worked together to make this organization more visible, approachable, and relevant to Alberta artists. Thanks to all of those who have worked with me over this year. Your work has taken us to a place I am proud of this organization for getting to, and I know will continue to make the future for Alberta's artists that much better

b. Treasurer's Report (Jean Lindsay) report & audited financial statement

Jean Lindsay described the financial situation as of March 31st, 2018. Lindsay indicated that the figures for 2017 -18 are very similar to those in 2016 -17. Lindsay indicated that we are maintaining a healthy surplus and as the outgoing Treasurer, Lindsay advised the new Board to develop a second internally restricted fund.

c. CARFAC Report (Paddy Lamb)

This year CARFAC and RAAV entered into collective bargaining and renegotiated a scale agreement with the National Gallery of Canada resulting in a new improved agreement for artists. Work continued to expand the scope of CARFAC's Minimum Recommended Fee Schedule to include media arts and performance art fees and research into independent curatorial fees.

In October both CARFAC and RAAV will give presentations to the federal government as part of the Copyright Act review process. These will include lobbying for the inclusion of the Artist's Resale Right; a redress of the "fair dealing" exemptions that have resulted in a 60% reduction in reproduction royalty payments to artists since 2013; and the protection of work produced before 1988 not currently covered in copyright legislation.

CARFAC is a co-owner (with RAAV) of Copyright Visual Arts (previously known as CARCC). As such it has acquired funding to do a Copyright Presentation tour of Ontario this fall. This will be expanded across the country as funding becomes available. Copyright Visual Arts has also acquired funding from Access Copyright to develop a resource guide for indigenous intellectual property aimed at visual artists, galleries and the public.

The 50th Annual CARFAC Conference and AGM was held in Ottawa earlier this month. Panel discussions included:

- Artists Working for Artists: Past, Present and Future

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- Copyright for Visual Artists: Copyright Visual Arts, CARFAC and Access Copyright
- Best Practices for Artists: An International Perspective. Presented by Patrick Close from CARFAC Alberta and Esther Anatolitis from NAVA [Australia's National Association for the Visual Arts]
- Solidarity: Artists' Unions in Conversation
- A Taxing Time for Artists

With only two full-time staff and some amazing part-time interns it's difficult to think of an organization that could achieve similar results with such limited resources.

It has been my pleasure to serve on the National and Provincial CARFAC Boards for the last six years. I wish Sydney Lancaster, the new Alberta representative, every success. I'm sure that she will be a strong voice for Alberta artists. I hope she will make as many lasting friendships and learn as much as I have.

d. Best Practices Report (Patrick Close)

Best Practices Working Group Report to CARFAC Alberta AGM September 29 2018

The BPWG was established by VAA CARFAC Alberta Board Motion on April 7 2018 and has met regularly by teleconference since then.

Members: Patrick Close Agnieszka Matejko, Paddy Lamb Candace Makowichuk, Helene Giguere Chris W Carson

Mandate : to produce draft plans, budget and timeline for a possible Best Practices Project for the Visual Arts Sector in Alberta

Work completed : -CARFAC Alberta Board briefed on history and development of Best Practices (BP), how BP / Industry Standards relate to Status of the Artist, what BP can and cannot do, outcomes of a BP project

-Drafts prepared

Project Description, Goals, Intended Outcomes, Current Landscape

-Best Practice / Industry Standards **DRAFTS** for Phase 1 prepared:

Commercial Galleries Public Galleries, Fundraising Public Art, Juried Competitions Contracts, Agreements, Negotiation

Phase 2 - Indigenous project recommendations - *Confidential Draft*

-Office actions:

Liaison & permissions ... CARFAC Sask

Draft Project Timeline & Budget

CIP grant application prepared and submitted for Phase 1 project

-BPWG will complete its initial mandate in October, when the draft documents will be forwarded to the Board. We thank all the BPWG members for their time and excellent efforts. We thank

CARFAC Sask for their assistance and permission to use and revise their documents.

-Recommend that CARFAC Alberta consider continuing BPWG as a standing advisory committee to the BP Project

Submitted on behalf of the BPWG

e. Membership Report (Natalie Lauchlan)

Membership Committee Report to the Visual Arts Alberta- CARFAC Board

2017-2018 members: Natalie, Sharon, Ruby, Donna, Heather
(thank you to retiring committee members Ruby and Heather)

The Membership Committee has started the partnership with emergeHUB in Calgary:

The Membership Committee has begun the initial workings of the partnership with emergeHUB, as discussed at the last board meeting July 25th, 2018. Natalie has been meeting with emergeHUB (<http://www.emergehub.ca>) in NE Calgary, a space for craftspeople, artists, makers, and small business owners who are in the early stages of their development and careers, and provides community space for collaborative learning for the growth and development of these individuals. We are still in the early stages of the developing partnership, but the possibilities are exciting.

Decisions made:

- 1- Visual Arts Alberta- CARFAC has begun working with emergeHUB to determine the needs of its community members, as well as the skills and knowledges they are working with already.
- 2- Visual Arts Alberta- CARFAC has recognized the need for a professional development talk supporting artists in finding their way in to the arts community. The PD talk has been developed by Chris Carson, and will be presented in November (exact date: TBD).

In the works:

- 1- Partnership between membership of VAA CARFAC and emergeHUB to access each others spaces and programs, mutually. (Visual Arts Alberta- CARFAC members use emergeHUB space for free, emergeHUB members attend Visual Arts Alberta- CARFAC events for free, etc.)
- 2- Future PD programming based on initial response from membership.
- 3- Future input and connections built with the NE community in Calgary, to reach a broader population of artists for membership, connection and community.
- 4- emergeHUB is seeking to connect the population of NE Calgary (largely new Canadian) to provincial community of resources and connections, Visual Arts Alberta- CARFAC can support connecting creatives to their sought resources, organizations, opportunities, etc.

Seeking Board input on potential partnership goals, or ideas to bring forward to the negotiations.

f. Executive Director's Report (Chris W. Carson)

The goal of Visual Arts Alberta – CARFAC is to work with all Alberta artists and to give them the tools to become more professional in their practice.

Written in our latest strategic plan (January 2018), the above statement about becoming more professional can also refer to our organization. In the past eight years (I became Executive Director in August 2010), Visual Arts Alberta – CARFAC has become more professional in both our programming and behind the scenes, in the administration of a non-profit organization. By working together we are building a healthy art organization, an organization with a vision for the future. An organization like ours cannot function without good people that step up to fill volunteer positions. We value the contribution made by all the volunteers that have worked for us in the past, those that continue to volunteer their time for us and those that will be working for Visual Arts Alberta – CARFAC in the future. Without dedicated volunteers and a loyal staff (Sharon Moore Foster, Danyon Reeves, Graeme Dearden) we would not have been able to become an organization that is needed and valued.

Our goals and mandate evolve as we grow as an organization, and the needs of our community change. During the next few years, Visual Arts Alberta – CARFAC is focusing on three goals: financial security, outreach and equity.

In terms of financial security, the results of our three year grant from our major funder the Alberta Foundation for the Arts was received in June 2018. Visual Arts Alberta – CARFAC's AFA PASO grant funding increased by about 2% from the 2017 -18 year. As the funding pool did not increase, our 2% increase means that other organizations received a decrease. There is much to be done to improve provincial grant funding in Alberta.

Outreach can best be achieved by a substantial increase in funding so that we can serve Visual Artists in all parts of Alberta. Until funding increases, we are working on developing webinars that can be viewed by visual artists throughout Alberta. Starting in October 10th, we will begin our first series of four webinars over a two month period.

Equity is one of our guiding principles. In 2018, we developed our second mentorship program for Indigenous and new Canadian artists. Sharon Moore Foster along with myself and seven mentors have been working with seven talented artists (an Indigenous artist and artists from Nigeria, Eritrea, Pakistan, Russia and Syria). In the summer of 2018, our project space featured the exhibition Re-Imaging Normal combining Queer Alberta History with artwork by LGBTQ+ professional and student artists. The panel discussion for this TREX exhibition had an audience of over 60 people. Visual Arts Alberta – CARFAC was proud to be the first venue for this AGA travelling exhibition for the AFA travelling exhibition program.

Other goals mentioned in the Strategic Plan are to increase our membership base (increasing the diversity of membership along with membership numbers). As of September 26th, we have 356 members on our books. Our membership has been increasing at a rate of just under 10% for the past 3 years. A slow and steady increase of membership numbers. Like many organizations, we are working on getting new people to join and retaining our active members.

The goal of increasing awareness and clarity of who Visual Arts Alberta – CARFAC is, and what we do, is vital to our goal of reaching new audiences. Since March 2018, we have been working on a new website. The design and functionality of our website has been improving. We are currently working on website content. As the CARFAC Affiliate, we are the visual arts information hub for Alberta, with a website, a weekly email newsletter and a presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The goal of increasing the value of art and artists in Alberta by participating in writing Status of Artist legislation is a work in process. In the fall of 2017 and the spring of 2018, staff and Board members participated in Status of the Artist sessions organized by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts at the instigation of the government. While no firm legislation is in sight, it was great to see Albertan talking about Status. Provincial Status of the Artist legislation remains an important and vital goal, that we will continue working on until we succeed. Along with Status, Best Practices can provide visual artists with the knowledge on what the accepted industry standards are. Beginning in 2018, we are developing Best Practices documents for use in Alberta based on templates developed by CARFAC Saskatchewan. As the visual arts sector is an unregulated industry, best practice documents can help create a socio-economic climate that is conducive to the production of Visual Arts in Alberta.

The goal of improving and streamlining our educational programming along with developing professional resources for artists and the general public can refer to the resources being developed by the Alberta Best Practice project along with the creation of more professional webinars and professional development that engage Alberta's visual artists. To diversify financial sources of funding to achieve financial stability remains a goal that will need more work during the next years. In 2017 – 18, we enrolled in the ArtVest program. While we did not attain any sponsorship dollars during this program, we learned more approaches on how to get businesses to sponsor our programs. Another means of achieving financial stability is to get more money from non-traditional sources. In the past few years, we have increased our revenues from our projects and services that we provide and by including in-kind revenue that we generate. As an organization, we are beginning to find new and necessary revenue sources.

As an organization, we advocate for visual artists through our alliances with other organizations. We are working with APAC (Alberta Partnership of Art & Culture), a coalition of Provincial Arts Service Organizations and Cultural Services Associations in Alberta, to provide input and advice on the sector to the government. We are members of PACE, the Edmonton Arts Council, the Canadian Arts Coalition and the Allied Arts Council of Lethbridge. We partner with the Edmonton Community Foundation and the Edmonton Arts Council to award the Eldon and Anne Foote Edmonton Visual Arts Prize, to recognize the talents of a greater Edmonton visual artist every year. In June 2017, the \$10,000 prize was awarded to Gillian Willans for an exhibition at the Scott Gallery in Edmonton.

As always, we invite your active membership and participation in our programs, and in the future of both CARFAC and Visual Arts Alberta – CARFAC. If you are a current member – thank you for your support! If you know of other artists who should be members, tell them about us and what we do – do your part and convince them to join. The greater our Alberta based membership is the stronger a provincial and national voice we have.

6. Motion to accept all reports as presented.

MOTION: Patrick Close

Seconded: Paddy Lamb All in Favour

7. 2018 / 2019 Visual Arts Alberta - CARFAC Board Slate of Nominees (by acclamation)

- Helene Giguere: 2 year term
- Richard Honkanen: 2 year term
- Sydney Lancaster: 2 year term
- Candace Makowichuk: 2 year term
- Agnieszka Matejko: 2 year term
- Dana McLean: 2 year term
- Troy Patenaude: 2 year term
- Danielle Siemens: 2 year term

8. Introduction of New Board (Board Members with one year remaining: Patrick Close, Charles Cousins, Natalie Lauchlan and Mark Vazquez Mackay) + Thank you to retiring Board Members (Paddy Lamb for completing 6 years on the board, Sara McCarney, Ruby Mah, Jean Lindsay for completing 4 years on the board, Heather Shillinglaw for completing 3 years on the board and to Julianna Barabas for completing 1 year on the board).

9. Adjournment at 12:09pm by Sydney Lancaster

Recording Secretary : Chris W. Carson
For Agnieszka Matejko
