

Dawson City Arts Society  
Monday, June 26, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.  
KIAC Ballroom at Dënäkär Zho and online (Zoom)

**ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING AGENDA**

**(see below for minutes)**

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda & 2022 AGM Minutes
3. Year in Review
4. Financial Reports & Appointment of Accountants
5. Coming Up:
  - a. Dënäkär Zho Renovations
  - b. Artist Residency Changes
  - c. Staff Structure Changes
6. Committee Overviews & Board of Director Elections
7. Voice of the Membership

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## **ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING MINUTES**

Minute taker: Noelle Palmer, Office Administrator

### **In Attendance:**

Board: Peter Menzies (President), Blackbird L'Hirondelle (Secretary/Treasurer; Late), Justin Apperley (Director), Lue Maxwell (Director), Lana Welchman (Director), Valerie Williams (Director; via Zoom)

KIAC Staff: Capp Larsen (Operations Director), Sol Suarez Martinez (Culture Quest Fund Administrator/YRAF Coordinator), Noelle Palmer (Office Administrator), Arcane Perry (Events & Programs Assistant), Tara Rudnickas (ODD Gallery Director), Matt Sarty (Performing Arts & Events Producer)

*Members: Amy Ball, Andy Cunningham (KVA), Dan Davidson, Betty Davidson, Jason de Haan, Kayla Gagné, Lulu Keating, Jasmina Majcenic, Corbin Murdoch (DCMF), Aubyn O'Grady, Amira Strain, Marie Spina, Mike Erwood*

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Peter Menzies, meeting chair, called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m.

Peter Menzies highlighted that KIAC has been operating for 24 years. He acknowledged the over 100 event posters from the 2022-23 fiscal year on display.

Capp Larsen reviewed the colonial history of the KIAC building, highlighting the importance of strengthening ties with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the gifting of the building's Hän name, Dënäkär Zho, which means a house of mixed colours.

Capp Larsen provided an update regarding current, outgoing, and future KIAC staff.

Noelle Palmer, new Office Administrator, introduced herself.

Danielle Bossio, new Programs Manager, introduced herself.

Arcane Perry, new Events & Programs Assistant and future Programs Manager, introduced themselves.

Adonika Clark, not in attendance, is the new Artist-in-Residency Coordinator.

## **2. Approval of Agenda & 2022 AGM Minutes**

Resolution: Moved by Justin Apperley                      Seconded by Amy Ball  
*That the agenda be approved as presented.*

Blackbird L'Hirondelle (Board Secretary/Treasurer) arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Resolution: Moved by Justin Apperley                      Seconded by Corbin Murdoch  
*That the 2022 Annual General Meeting minutes be accepted as presented.*

## **3. Year in Review**

### **ODD Gallery (Tara Rudnickas)**

- The wide variety of exhibits and activities at the ODD Gallery attracted 2,946 attendees over the 2022-23 year.
- The ODD Gallery Mentorship Project paired local artists with non-local artist-mentees who have a connection with the Dawson City community.
- The ODD Gallery is seeking local writers for commissioned exhibition texts.

### **Education, Outreach & Programs (Capp Larsen on behalf of Devon Berquist)**

- Over 1,000 participants took part in KIAC and KIAC-partnered programs during the 2022-23 year.
- 2023 saw the return of a full Youth Art Enrichment program with 24 participants.
- AGM attendees were invited to use the feedback display to provide input.

### **Performing Arts (Matt Sarty)**

- A record 50 performances took place over the 2022-23 year.
- KIAC was able to access additional funding this year through the Canada Arts and Cultural Recovery Program (CACRP).
- KIAC partnered with the Klondike Visitor's Association (KVA) to co-present the Dawson City Summer Concert Series every Friday at noon.
- Performing arts residencies were held during which KIAC provided studio space and technical equipment to performers, including for two operas and local community theatre.

- Future goals involve formalizing a structure to foster collaboration within the performing arts community by using KIAC's infrastructure and resources to support local artists.
- An advisory Performing Arts Committee is being reinstated with the aim of increasing KIAC's connection with the community and awareness of its preferences.

### **Yukon Riverside Arts Festival (YRAF) 2022 (Sol Suarez Martinez)**

- In 2022, YRAF was held in June instead of August for the first time.
- The relaxing of Covid-19 restrictions allowed YRAF's previous format to be reinstated, including demonstration tents, physical installations and the gallery hop.
- Funding in 2022 was boosted by the increased funding in 2020 and 2021 and through an increase in sponsorships.
- In accordance with the terms of the DCAS partnership agreement with Parks Canada (Klondike National Historic Sites [KNHS]), performances and exhibitions were held in KNHS historic buildings, including at the S.S. Keno (100<sup>th</sup> anniversary), the Old Post Office and Lowe's Mortuary.
- There were over 2,500 attendees, principally Yukoners, as well as increased volunteer involvement.

### **General (Capp Larsen)**

- Overall, KIAC reached an audience of 10,082.
- There were 281 volunteer roles for a total of 1,463 volunteer hours.
- KIAC contributed \$8,506 in in-kind donations to local organizations and paid \$179,216 to artist and culture industry workers.
- 101 posts were made as part of the online 2023 KIAC Creators Challenge.

### **Dawson City International Short Film Festival (DCISFF) (Dan Sokolowski, Video Presentation)**

- The 2022 DCISFF returned to pre-pandemic conditions.
- Despite limited capacity, there was consistent attendance with many visitors from outside Dawson City.
- Film screenings were held during the summer.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> season of the week-long Dawson Film Lab residency took place.
- The Yukon 48 Film Challenge also occurred in 2022.
- Preparations for 25<sup>th</sup> DCISFF are underway.
- The DCISFF funders, volunteers and committee were acknowledged.

### **Artist-in-Residency Program (Dan Sokolowski, Video Presentation)**

- All artists previously cancelled due to the pandemic were able to be accommodated.
- Applications for next year have been reviewed.
- Macauley House is on the Parks Canada's asset disposal list, but KIAC is committed to offering some version of the Artist-in-Residency program.
- The Artist-in-Residency program is a flagship KIAC program that reaches beyond the Yukon.
- Adonika Clark was welcomed as the new program coordinator.

#### **4. Financial Reports & Appointment of Accountants**

Capp Larsen provided a financial overview of the 2022-23 fiscal year, highlighting that there was over \$1 million dollars in revenues and expenses, with a net gain of \$11,800.

Capp Larsen provided an overview of the 2023-24 budget. Expenses (\$872,573) are expected to be higher than revenues (\$842,102), leading to a deficit of \$30,471, to be covered by unrestricted funds reserves. She highlighted that core funding increases have not matched the rapidly rising inflation rate. She invited attendees to review the budget available at the AGM or by email, upon request.

Peter Menzies advised that the Board has signed off on the 2022-23 audit. He noted the need to balance future visioning with financial realities. Peter Menzies invited questions or a motion from the floor.

Resolution: Moved by Aubyn O'Grady                      Seconded by Dan Davidson  
*That the 2022-23 Financial Statements prepared by BDO Chartered Accountants of Salmon Arm, B.C., be approved as presented.*

Resolution: Moved by Lulu Keating                      Seconded by Lue Maxwell  
*That BDO Chartered Accountants of Salmon Arm, B.C., be appointed as accountant for the 2023-24 fiscal year.*

#### **5. Coming up:**

##### **Dënäkär Zho Renovations**

Lana Welchman spoke to the limitations of the current space to meet demands. She reviewed the steps taken to date, including a 2021 fundraiser to kickstart a renovation project, followed by a Request for Proposals, acceptance of the Cornerstone Planning Group & Kobayashi + Zedda Architects Ltd proposal, and their consultation process and production of a draft report and designs. She reviewed the reported current challenges, highlighting the need for an accessible space that allows for revenue generation in tandem with programming.

Attendees were invited to review and provide feedback on the draft concept plans at the AGM or by joining the Dënäkär Zho Renovations & Accessibility Committee. Renovations are expected to be funded through grants, such as through CanNor, or for accessibility, as well as accessing some building fund reserves.

### **Artist Residency Changes**

Capp Larsen advised that the Artist-in-Residency program will need to be adapted given that Macauley House is on the Parks Canada asset disposal list and the KIAC lease ends in 2024. She reviewed potential options for moving forward. If the Yukon Government was interested in purchasing the property, KIAC could seek a nominal lease of the building; KIAC has shovel-ready plans for a fourplex development project, potentially for SOVA student housing, which may make the property appealing to YG as a revenue generator. Other potential Parks Canada facilities include Ruby's Place or the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the BNA Bank. Ruby's Place is unfinished inside and would require a significant investment. The BNA Bank would only be able to operate seasonally. Other alternatives include sourcing a private rental or hosting group residencies. DCAS members were invited to join the Artist-in-Residence Future Visions Committee.

### **Staff Structure Changes**

Lana Welchman advised that the previous Executive Director position was no longer viable given KIAC's growth. This role has been split into a 0.8 Operations Director position and a 0.8 Director of Development & Fundraising position. Capp Larsen has accepted the position of Operations Director. KIAC has recently received funding to trial the vacant Director of Development & Fundraising position, which is expected to be posted this summer. Lana Welchman is currently on a small contract to help bridge this gap.

Lana Welchman encouraged attendees to join the Fundraising, Events & Sponsorships Committee to start planning for KIAC's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on New Year's Eve 2024.

## **6. Committee Overviews & Board of Director Elections**

Tara Rudnickas reviewed the role of the ODD Gallery & Artist-in-Residence Committee, whose members are usually determined by vote. The committee usually has a two-year term and members are involved in the ODD Gallery and Artist-in-Residency selections processes as well as fundraising. She noted that there is some overlap with the Artist-in-Residence Future Visions Committee and recommended that members consider joining both committees.

Capp Larsen outlined the focus of the seven KIAC committees: Film Festival; Fundraising, Events & Sponsorships; ODD Gallery & Artist-in-Residence; Artist-in-Residence Future Visions; Yukon Riverside Arts Festival; Dënäkär Zho Renovations & Accessibility; and Performing Arts). She noted that the committees are small, not generally labour-intensive and work in an advisory capacity to Board and staff.

Lana Welchman noted that the Board meets six times a year and is responsible for financial and governance matters.

Peter Menzies noted that a second SOVA Governance Council representative is being sought to sit alongside David Curtis.

Peter Menzies called for new Board member nominations at 7:09 p.m.

Capp Larsen nominated Lulu Keating to the Board. Lulu Keating declined.

Peter Menzies called a second time for new Board member nominations at 7:10 p.m.

Kayla Gagné accepted nomination to the Board.

Kayla Gagné nominated Lue Maxwell to the Board. Lue Maxwell declined.

Peter Menzies made a final call for new Board member nominations at 7:11 p.m.

Kayla Gagné nominated Aubyn O'Grady to the Board. Aubyn O'Grady declared a conflict of interest.

Amy Ball nominated Marie Spina to the Board. Marie Spina accepted nomination to the Board.

### **2023-24 BOARD MEMBERS (ACCLAIMED)**

#### **Returning Members:**

1. Peter Menzies
2. Lana Welchman
3. David Curtis
4. Blackbird L'Hirondelle

#### **New Members:**

5. Kayla Gagné
6. Marie Spina

Ten individuals have expressed interest in the ODD Gallery & Artist-in-Residence Committee. A vote was held, and all were in favour of their election to the

committee in spirit. They will be contacted to confirm acceptance of their nomination to the committee.

## **7. Voice of the membership**

Capp Larsen invited feedback from the floor and also noted that feedback could be provided through the forms at the AGM or post-meeting discussions.

Jasmina Majcenic voiced her interest in KIAC pursuing Ruby's Place.

Justin Apperley stated that a Parks Canada maintenance supervisor had indicated to him that Ruby's Place would be the best scenario for KIAC, with Parks Canada being responsible for operations and maintenance of the building.

Aubyn O'Grady pointed out that initial construction costs would be huge.

Capp Larsen noted that roles would need to be clarified with Parks Canada.

Aubyn O'Grady voiced her appreciation for the mentorship program, including the relationships, work and discussions that it gave rise to, and she congratulated KIAC on its success.

Kayla Gagné stated that she liked the mentorship program.

Peter Menzies noted that the Bechstein piano will be leaving the ballroom the following week.

Lana Welchman clarified that the piano belongs to Parks Canada and is not fully functional.

Capp Larsen noted that a new stage will be installed in the ballroom.

Peter Menzies stated that he hopes the piano will be put on display at the Transportation Museum in Whitehorse.

The meeting adjourned at 7: 19 p.m.