

# MINUTES

## MISSISSAUGA ARTS COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday, April 30, 2025 at 6:00PM**  
Virtual Meeting (ZOOM)

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Mississauga Arts Council (MAC) Board President, **Ron Duquette**, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

MAC Creative Director & Strategist **Jacqueline Mak Almond** delivered the land acknowledgement as follows:

*The Mississauga Arts Council acknowledges that the land on which we gather is part of the Treaty and Traditional Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Huron-Wendat and Wyandot Nations. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land, and give our respect to these peoples and their ancestors who have been inhabitants of this land since time immemorial. We also recognize that Mississauga is now home to many global Indigenous Peoples.*

**Ron Duquette** explained the “show of hands” voting process for the meeting to all in attendance.

### 2. APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY

**Ron Duquette** motioned that MAC Administration Lead, **Susan Durnin**, be appointed secretary of the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

**MOTION: That Susan Durnin be appointed secretary of MAC’s Annual General Meeting.**

Motion: RON DUQUETTE

Second: JUNG AH KWON

Outcome: Motion Approved

**Susan Durnin** verified the following:

**Proof of Notice:** Pursuant to article 9.13 in the by-laws, *'notice of the time, place and date of this meeting of Members and the general nature of the business to be transacted shall be given at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting'*. Notice was sent to all members by email on Wednesday, April 16, 2024 - 14 days before the meeting.

**Report on Attendance:** There were 29 members in attendance. 1 proxy was received.

**Quorum:** Pursuant to article 9.15 in the by-laws which states that *'Twenty (20) Members present in person or represented by proxy shall be necessary to form a quorum for the transaction of business'* I deem that there is quorum for tonight's meeting.

### **3. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION TO MAC STAFF & BOARD**

MAC's Vice President, **Jason Chellew**, introduced MAC's Board of Directors.

In attendance:

Ron Duquette, President  
Jason Chellew, Vice President  
Charles Chu, Treasurer  
Helen Almeida, Director  
Brian Dec, Director & MBOT representative  
Wendy Furtenbacher, Director & city representative  
Christine Griffin, Director  
Jung Ah Kwon, Director  
Filip Plaskota, Director  
Jennifer Rabanillo, Director  
Tracy Xavier, Director  
Mike Douglas, MAC's Executive Director & board member

The following directors were unable to attend and sent their regrets:

Deta Constantine, Director  
Sumeeta Kohli, Director

MAC's Staff introduced themselves to everyone present:

Mike Douglas, Executive Director  
Susan Durnin, Administration Lead  
Jacqueline Mak Almond, Creative Director & Strategist  
Sherri Parliament, Communications Manager  
Sabrina Cunha, Multimedia Designer

### **4. READING OF THE MINUTES**

- **Annual General Meeting held on May 8, 2024**
- **Interim Meeting of MAC Members on September 17, 2024**

MAC Director, **Filip Plaskota**, confirmed that the Minutes from the 2024 Annual General Meeting (May 8, 2024) had been distributed to all MAC members by email.

Minutes from 2024 AGM: [macarts.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/240508\\_AGM-Minutes.pdf](https://macarts.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/240508_AGM-Minutes.pdf)

He moved that the reading of the Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting held on May 8, 2024 be waived and that the Minutes be approved as distributed.

***MOTION: That the reading of the Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting held on May 8, 2024 be waived and that the Minutes be approved as distributed.***

Motion: FILIP PLASKOTA

Second: CHRISTINE GRIFFIN

Outcome: Motion Approved

MAC Director, **Jung Ah Kwon**, reminded members that on September 17, 2024, MAC held a Special (virtual) Meeting of MAC Members to provide an update on MAC activities and to approve an update to the organization's By-Laws that ensured the document was in compliance with the new Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act and that the Minutes from this meeting were also distributed to members by email.

Minutes from the Special Member Meeting on September 17, 2024:

[macarts.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/240917\\_InterimMemberMeeting-Minutes.pdf](https://macarts.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/240917_InterimMemberMeeting-Minutes.pdf)

She moved that the reading of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of MAC Members held on September 17, 2024 be waived and that the Minutes be approved as distributed.

***MOTION: That the reading of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of MAC Members held on September 17, 2024 be waived and that the Minutes be approved as distributed.***

Motion: JUNG AH KWON

Second: WENDY FURTENBACHER

Outcome: Motion Approved

## **5. READING OF PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

MAC's President, **Ron Duquette**, shared the President's Report as follows:

2024 saw MAC lead many successes for hundreds of artists in our community, here's some big ones.

Fueled by the proceeds from our successful 2023 MACsquerade Ball fundraiser, MAC created the Sauga Neighbourhood Arts Program, better known as SNAP!. This bold, one-time program invested \$80,000 into 38 projects in neighbourhoods across all of Mississauga's 11 wards, amplifying neighbourhood access to the arts, all in celebration of the City of Mississauga's 50th anniversary.

MAC also enabled some big changes to arts funding within the City. Inspired by the feedback and needs of local arts groups, MAC brought a deputation to City Council on what the arts sector could do with more support.

This led to the formation of the Subcommittee on Arts, Culture, and Festivals, which, led by Councillor Butt, enabled arts groups and festivals to present their own deputations for increased funding and facility support. The result? 1 million dollars in new funding directly allocated towards the arts! We are grateful for the support of the City of Mississauga and are excited to see the impact this funding will have on our arts group and festival friends.

The Board wishes to recognize the MAC team for their great efforts in 2024, and look forward to reaching new heights together this year.

***MOTION: To approve the President's Report as presented:***

Motion: JASON CHELLEW

Second: BRIAN DEC

Outcome: Motion Approved

## **6. READING OF TREASURER'S REPORT / FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

MAC's Treasurer, **Charles Chu**, presented the Treasurer's Report as follows:

My name is Charles Chu and I'm the Treasurer for MAC. Thank you for coming and I wish to also thank the staff for their hard work as always.

In terms of the overall year, the economy is impacting MAC in the same ways that many are currently feeling. This also affects our grantors and sponsors as well. In the upcoming year, we will be focusing on obtaining new partnerships and identifying more fundraising opportunities.

MAC has also implemented cost reducing strategies and used some of those savings to further give back in our microgrant and SAMS programs. As a non-for-profit, our main goals will include giving back and this will continue as a priority in the upcoming year. We emphasize and reflect this within our financial report.

We can only give back with more support and I encourage all of you to continue advocating for MAC and the arts in Mississauga. Thank you

I also wanted to take a minute and say that this will be my last AGM at MAC and I'm proud of the 9 years I've given here.

**Charles Chu** continued by confirming that MAC's 2024 Audited financial statements have been made available to all MAC members - with a summary on pages 24, 25, and 26 of the 2024 Annual Report.

***MOTION: That the Audited Financial Statements for 2024 be approved and adopted.***

Motion: TRACY XAVIER

Second: FILIP PLASKOTA

Outcome: Motion Approved

## **7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS AND REMUNERATION**

MAC Director, **Christine Griffin** moved that HGVP be hereby appointed Auditors of the Mississauga Arts Council until the next Annual Meeting or until a successor is appointed and that their remuneration as such be fixed by the Board of Directors.

**MOTION: That HGVP be hereby appointed Auditors of the Mississauga Arts Council until the next Annual Meeting or until a successor is appointed and that their remuneration as such be fixed by the Board of Directors.**

Motion: CHRISTINE GRIFFIN

Second: BRIAN DEC

Outcome: Motion Approved

## **8. RATIFICATION OF THE ACTIONS OF THE DIRECTORS**

MAC Director, **Jung Ah Kwon**, moved that all acts, contracts, By-Laws, proceedings, appointments, elections, and payments enacted, made, done, and taken by the Directors and Officers of the Mississauga Arts Council since the last Annual Meeting of Members be approved, ratified and confirmed; and insofar as any such corporate proceedings have not been validly enacted, passed, sanctioned, confirmed, authorized or made, the same are hereby for greater certainty enacted, passed, sanctioned, confirmed, authorized or made, with retroactive effect, and in all other respects with the effect stated in the minutes and records of the Mississauga Arts Council.

MOTION: To ratify the actions of the directors.

Motion: JUNG AH KWON

Second: WENDY FURTENBACHER

Outcome: Motion Approved

## **9. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

**Ron Duquette** led the election of directors.

The following Directors were not required to stand for election:

BRIAN DEC

WENDY FURTENBACHER

DETA CONSTANTINE

SUMEETA KOHLI

JUNG AH KWON

FILIP PLASKOTA

CHARLES CHU

MIKE DOUGLAS

The following Directors were seeking election to the Board:

USMAN KHAN (1 year term)  
JENNIFER RABANILLO (2 year term)  
TRACY XAVIER (2 year term)  
HELEN ALMEIDA (2 year term)  
JASON CHELLEW (2 year term)  
CHRISTINE GRIFFIN (2 year term)  
RON DUQUETTE (2 year term)

***MOTION: That the proposed slate of candidates be approved as Directors of the Mississauga Arts Council for the 2025/2026 year.***

Motion: MIKE DOUGLAS  
Second: CHARLES CHU  
Outcome: Motion Approved

**Ron Duquette** declared:

USMAN KHAN  
JENNIFER RABANILLO  
TRACY XAVIER  
HELEN ALMEIDA  
JASON CHELLEW  
CHRISTINE GRIFFIN  
RON DUQUETTE

As Directors of the Mississauga Arts Council and thanking them for their commitment to the Arts Council and extending a warm welcome to brand-new board member, Usman Khan.

MAC director, **Helen Almeida**, introduced the Advisory Board members for 2025/2026, non-voting members of the board who are trusted advisors lending their expertise to the board and board committees.

This year's Advisory Board is:

STEPHEN DASKO - City Councillor for Ward 1  
AMENA MOHAMMAD - CPA and a partner at Ernst & Young LLP  
JANEY OBAD - Chartered Public Accountant and arts supporter

## **10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

MAC's Executive Director, **Mike Douglas**, presented a short video with a few highlights from 2024.

Video: [MAC 2024 Year End Reel Landscape.mp4](#)

Mike reminded everyone that they have received a PDF copy of MAC's 2024 Annual Report "Neighbourhood Arts".

2024 Annual Report: [macarts.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Annual-Report-2024-Web.pdf](https://macarts.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Annual-Report-2024-Web.pdf)

He then shared the Executive Director report as follows:

As you can see from MAC's Annual Report this year, MAC had another successful year and we are proud of the impact we are making on behalf of the arts in the community. In 2024, MAC paid more artists than ever before, 674 to be exact, nearly double the engagements we were able to support in 2023, which was our previous best year! We invested nearly \$274,000 in support for artist-led projects through MicroGrants, and neighbourhood arts projects through SNAP!, as you can see on pages 6, 7, and 8 of our Annual Report.

One of our most meaningful projects, the Seniors Arts and Music Series, funded by the Government of Ontario, began at the end of 2024 and went through winter into March this year. The program brought the feel-good chemicals of creative experiences to 680 residents of long-term care homes, while investing \$24,000 into local creative professionals. You can learn more on page 18 of the annual report.

The MARTY Awards last year were the biggest to date, with more nominations, finalists, and winners than ever before, continuing to celebrate and uplift the diverse artistic excellence our city is brimming with and becoming famous for.

***MOTION: To approve the Executive Director's Report as presented***

Motion: DETA CONSTANTINE

Second: TRACY XAVIER

Outcome: Motion Approved

## **11. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS**

A special recognition was extended to Stephen Dasko, Jennifer Rabanillo, Mike Douglas, and Ron Duquette who received the King Charles III Medal this year for outstanding contributions to the community.

MAC's president, **Ron Duquette**, thanked MAC board, advisory board members and staff for their contributions, MAC's funders for their continued support, and a shout out to all of MAC's Members and Volunteers for their ongoing commitment to MAC!

## **12. OTHER BUSINESS**

MAC's Administration Lead, **Susan Durnin**, made a special announcement as follows:

MAC's MicroGrants are entirely self-funded - MAC raises money for them through the cGaming program.

We have a group of dedicated volunteers who work 2 hour shifts at RAMA Gaming House, and through the cGaming program, MAC receives shares of the casino's profits for each volunteer shift. We could not support local artists without our volunteers, and during National Volunteer Week - MAC would like to send a huge THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who help fund MicroGrants.

Today, we are pleased to announce the 14 winners of our Spring 2025 round of MicroGrants! We received 80 really intriguing applications, but the winners stood out for their creative approaches and community impact and public reach.

Congratulations to:

Amanda Bernard - Indigenous Art Journey (community event)  
Anna Yin - Peace and Harmony through Poetry and Music (poetry & music project)  
Asha Ponnachan - Comical Depression (film)  
Cynthia Crofoot - Prioritized (film)  
Dechen Yee - STRINGS ATTACHED (community event)  
Emmanuel Teji - Shelf Life (Film)  
Leo Dias - Plein Air Competition at Riverwood Park (visual art event)  
Lincoln Blaché - Becoming (music recording)  
Mehad-Munawar Muhammad - Poetry By The River (community poetry event)  
NeoVoce Choir (Jing Ning) - Revitalizing Senior Lives Through Voice and Fine Arts (ArtsCare program)  
Radhika Baskar - Veena Jazz Odyssey (music recording)  
Raquel Jaworski (Raquel's Riot) - Let's Inspire Female Talent (LIFT) (music event)  
Saad Tauseef - Chai & Samosa Open Mic Series (community event)  
Stephanie Braganza - Until We Meet Again (music recording and video)

We look forward to supporting these projects that will take place throughout 2025.

MAC's Creative Director & Strategist, **Jacqueline Mak Almond**, shared an upcoming mural project set for installation this summer. The Region of Peel's construction hoarding project will cover over 4 km in Port Credit, with 6 sites featuring the work of 7 local Mississauga Artists. Everyone at the meeting saw a sneak peek of the murals.

MAC's Communications Manager, **Sherri Parliament**, reminded those present to sign up for *HUB Highlights* - MAC's weekly email newsletter listing all of our members' creative events. Or you can visit the event calendar on [SaugaArtsHUB.com](http://SaugaArtsHUB.com) to search events, arts news, and more.

MAC's Executive Director, **Mike Douglas**, invited everyone to The MARTY Awards on June 19, 2025 at the Mississauga Convention Centre. This year is the 30th Anniversary of the award show and the show will sell out.

Tickets & Tables to this gourmet dinner and gala awards show are on sale and for MAC members the tickets cost only \$85.

### **13. UPDATES FROM MEMBERS PRESENT**

There were no updates or new business presented.

### **14. ADJOURNMENT OF FORMAL MEETING**

MAC's president, **Ron Duquette**, asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

***MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.***

Motion: JASON CHELLEW

Second: HELEN ALMEIDA

Outcome: Motion Approved

## **15. POST-MEETING SIGN OFF**

MAC's Executive Director, **Mike Douglas**, thanked everyone for attending the meeting and shared a video of the recent announcement of the Sauga's Song of the Year Contest to close out the meeting. Congratulations were extended to the winner, **Joelle Rose** for her song ***Birdhouse***.

*Sauga Song of the Year Contest - Winner Announcement:* [https://youtu.be/VNeehF8eM\\_Y](https://youtu.be/VNeehF8eM_Y)