



Eastern Edge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Eastern Edge 2023 AGM Minutes

Saturday, Nov 19th, 12:00 PM, remote (Zoom) and in-person hybrid

Order of Business

Call to order:

12:10 PM by Larry.

Larry introduces AGM & recites land acknowledgment.

Agenda:

Larry presents the AGM agenda.

- ● What's an AGM?
- ● Land acknowledgement
- ● Approval of the Agenda
- ● Welcome
- ● Approval of 2021 AGM Minutes
- ● Chair's Report
- ● Director's Report
- ● ArtforceNL Collab + Emerging Artist Workshop Series
- ● Mainframe
- ● Art as a Tool for Change
- ● HOLD FAST + Zine Fest
- ● Safety and Professional Development
- ● Main Gallery Committee
- ● Residency Committee
- ● rOGUE Committee
- ● Governance and Policies
- ● HR Committee
- ● Financial Report
- ● Break for Pie
- ● Voting on new Board Members
- ● New Business Arising

Motion to adopt agenda by Michelle
Seconded by shan and Anhelina.

Minutes:

Larry presents the minutes from last year's AGM (2022)

QUERY: Membership is interested in clarification on the paid board proposal in the 2022 minutes.

Larry clarifies that it was an advisory committee proposed. Board members would not be paid or a part of this committee.

ACTION ITEM: Shan to amend 2022 AGM minutes; "board" should be changed to "committee."

Pending the tweak, the motion to approve the 2022 AGM minutes is made by Michelle.
Seconded by Anhelina.

Chair's Report:

Larry presents the chair's report and highlights the excellent team that has been working on staff at EE over the past year, addressing our HR overhaul and board of governance policy which will assist in catering to the more robust policy foundations now demanded by key funding opportunities like Canada Council.

Larry proceeds to present a substantial overview of all the other activities that have occurred at EE this past year, acknowledging the growth of Hold Fast. Albeit its growth also raises concern about the amount of additional work this will impose upon staff.

Director's Report:

Ashley presents the director's report and introduces all staff who have worked with EE since the last AGM.

Ashley hits on highlights throughout the past year and discusses major programming that took place, including community partnerships, workshops, and festivals.

Ashley reports that fundraising events such as the Hold Fast Garage sale were incredibly successful. EE tabling at the Farmer's Market, Lawnya Vawnya, the Art Crawl, and a tech conference at the rooms achieved effective outreach. Fare & SQUARE was a big success last year.

Ashley confirms that membership has doubled (increased by 81%!) and the annual Members' Show's participants also increased.

ArtforceNL Collab + Emerging Artist Workshop Series:

Laura presents Artforce report, describing the exhibit and workshop series.

With support from the Averbach Foundation, EE was able to collaborate with Artforce to put off Wake Up Inspired, which proved to be a great opportunity for first-time exhibitors to get their foot in the door. It was one of our highest reception turnouts of the year - partially due to new exhibitors reaching out to their friends and family who don't normally attend EE events.

Laura elaborates on the PD-oriented workshops that occurred, both in person and online, which can still be found on the EE YouTube channel, serving as a no-cost resource accessible for the foreseeable future.

Laura describes the substantial level of participation that was seen during these workshops and provided paid teaching opportunities for artists as well, thereafter showing a list of workshops which are all available to see online.

Mainframe:

Rachel presents the Mainframe project, introducing it as a digital media resource that provided artist residencies and 19 workshops involving digital/new media to increase the toolkit for digital arts and familiarize local creators with innovative tools and ideas. Members still have ongoing access to our tech cart which offers a variety of digital tools to play with. All folks who are a part of membership can avail of this.

Art as a Tool For Change:

Rachel announces that EE has released the hard copy publication of Art as a Tool For Change and reserved time to celebrate and hold a symposium with artist talks. The goal was to be more inclusive with the selection of artists featured, successfully supporting and prioritizing BIPOC creators.

Hold Fast and Zine Fest:

Elijah introduces Zine Fest and speaks to raising the profile of the fest, which involved year-round outreach and events. Zinefest had an overwhelming turnout with committed attendees. Many folks attended due to the additional outreach EE has done. Waiving table fees provided an open and accessible space.

Elijah presents the numbers re: Hold Fast which exhibit exponential growth that is attributed to a consistent member of staff with institutional knowledge at the helm.

Elijah: TO INCORPORATE OR NOT TO INCORPORATE?

This is an ongoing conversation among the staff and board regarding the best way forward. Elijah announces a working group targeted at researching what a sustainable future of Hold Fast might look like in order to present an action plan to the board, stakeholders, and those in membership who are interested, encouraging AGM attendees to come forward if interested in partaking.

Safety and Professional Development:

Amanda introduces herself and presents safety protocols, explaining that the entire staff has been trained and certified in emergency first aid, naloxone safety, and loads of other workplace safety programs. Eastern Edge trains staff annually through these courses.

Amanda presents housekeeping updates and repairs throughout the EE facilities, plus additions to make the washrooms more accessible and up-to-code

Amanda provides an overview of PD courses taken by staff over the past year regarding leadership, management, coordination, programming, outreach, archiving, grant writing, etc.

Main Gallery Committee:

Nasim introduces herself and presents the main gallery report, explaining that some exhibits were canceled and subsequently filled with Zine Fest activities in the gallery space.

Nasim presents each exhibit and their unique contents, confirming that they collectively celebrate diverse perspectives and mediums.

Nasim elaborates on the main gallery procedures and the impressive amount of submissions to the main gallery - 99! She announces the exciting main gallery programming for 2024, boasting a well-rounded group of artists for the coming year.

Nasim describes future meetings for main gallery programming.

Residency Committee:

Drew presents the Residency Committee report, providing an overview of the past year's residency programming. The mainframe artists have done workshops and artist talks, thereafter presenting the studio residency artists.

Drew supplied a plan for upcoming residencies. EE received 106 submissions last year and 130 submissions received this year.

Drew describes the Artlink residency/exchange partnership with Fort Dunree gallery.

rOGUE Committee:

Michelle introduces the rOGUE Committee and its programming throughout 2023, congratulating rOGUE participants and elaborating on the most recent programming meeting, new committee members, and the voting results of the programming meeting for 2024-5. A slot is left flexible for more impromptu requests/to efficiently and effectively meet the needs of the community.

Michelle announces the upcoming exhibits to be placed in the rOGUE, demonstrating an eclectic and exciting blend of talent.

Michelle describes other committee considerations, like a formalized process to make it more straightforward for staff to organize and for submitting artists to apply.

Michelle expresses concern that the indigenous representation is still low so we are hoping that Spirit Song's partnership with EE will help get the word out to indigenous communities to change this in the future.

Governance and HR:

Jennifer introduces herself and proceeds to consult questions, concerns, and misinformation that have recently come to the board's attention. She addresses the governance policy, explaining its purpose and that the board worked together, with Jennifer as the primary HR chair, throughout the past year to fine-tune the HR policy. Jennifer announces that the policy is made public on the website for those interested in reviewing it and that the board is open to suggestions regarding improvements.

QUERY: Membership is interested in knowing whether the governance policy needs to be ratified by the membership. Is it just the board that has decision-making power?

Jennifer confirms that the AGM is where the constitution of bylaws is voted upon by the membership. The board adopts and approves all policies.

QUERY: Carmella claims that the conflict of interest policy is considered problematic by some people in membership. How is this being addressed? Does the policy state that board members can be exhibited and remunerated?

Michelle explains that prior to allowing board members to participate in paid EE opportunities ~4 years ago, no one on the board could ever be exhibited and this proved to discourage artists from joining the board, resulting in an artist-run centre with no artists on the governing body. Therefore, this policy was altered a few years ago to allow board members to submit to exhibits and opportunities so long as they are not sitting on the programming committee attached to that specific opportunity and have no decision-making power over the selection process in a project with their own work.

Motion made by Mireille to request that the board review the conflict of interest section of the governance policy within the next 30 days regarding board members being remunerated and to make an SGM (Special General Meeting) within the next 3 months to revise the conflict of interest policy to reinstate the rule that excludes board members from paid EE opportunities. Therefore, a draft can be made for the constitution next AGM that can be voted upon.

Motion voted on and approved by the majority of membership in attendance.

Rhyder motions to put a temporary pause on any board remuneration until the SGM occurs 30-90 days from now.

Membership vote and the majority approve this motion.

Jennifer confirms that we wish to be as transparent as possible with membership and that a proposal for a constitution change may be submitted 30 days before the next AGM.

ACTION ITEM: The board secretary to get minutes out to members who contact the board requesting to view them.

Jennifer addresses further concerns about the maternity leave policy and recent staffing changes.

Rhyder confirms that the mat leave contract can be altered legally after the mother's return to work.

Motion by Carmella that membership of EE moves to recommend the board consult with mediation or consultants to hopefully reach a resolution and rehabilitate relationships impacted by recent staffing changes.

Seconded by Greg.

Motion by John to reorder the agenda to vote in new board members and then continue with financial reports afterward.

Kelly Bruton seconds the motion.

Membership votes in favor of this agenda change.

Voting on New Board Members:

Ashley presents board members who are up for re-election.

Jennifer retracts her request to be re-elected and steps down from the board.

Ashley presents prospective board members, with those present introducing themselves.

Voting for new board members occurs.

Re-elected board member:

Michelle LaCour

New board members:

Kelly Bruton

Susan Furneaux

Luke Barry

ACTION ITEM: Follow Jane Walker's suggestion to supply a typeform for voting during the next AGM to streamline the voting process.

Financial Report:

Jennifer presents the financial report with a financial analysis laid out in pie charts; revenue v expenses.

Other Business:

No additional issues.

Closing

Motion to adjourn by Rhyder at 3:22 PM.

Seconded by Rachel.