

KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY KWAG.CA

**Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Location: KWAG
Wednesday May 28, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.**

1. Call to Order & welcome

The Annual General Meeting was called to order by KWAG's Chair, Danielle Deveau, at 5:39 p.m.

Danielle welcomed everyone, acknowledged the land that we live on, and outlined the agenda for the evening. Confirmation was given in accordance with the by-law that voting members were notified about KWAG's AGM via e-news emailed on May 12, 2025. Notice was also provided through the website and KWAG's Facebook and Instagram pages.

Danielle Deveau was appointed as scrutineer and Jenna Winter, Director of Finance and Administration, acted as secretary for the meeting. The scrutineer verified that a quorum was present. An explanation of the polls for voting members was provided.

2. Approval of the Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on May 29, 2024

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held May 29, 2024, were circulated electronically to everyone who registered to attend.

MOTION to approve the minutes of the May 29, 2024 Annual General Meeting. Motion made by Stephanie Stretch, seconded by Laird Robertson, carried.

3. Chair's Report

The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery continued to uphold its vision of amplifying the voices of diverse artists, expanding access to art's transformative impact and strengthening the gallery's distinctive legacy for future generations in 2024. Nearly 4400 works in the permanent collection continue to be held by the gallery in the public trust, and KWAG takes seriously its role as a space for public engagement, education and conversation. In service of this, the gallery continues to bring new visitors into the gallery by development new and existing partnerships.

With the Paris Prowler, the gallery continues to re-imagine ways that art and the public can interact. Sounds of children often permeate the gallery as they too engage in the art in ways that challenge ideas and expectations of how to engage in an art gallery.

On behalf the Board, Danielle acknowledged the exceptional leadership of Executive Director Shirley Madill, who has now led the gallery expertly for 14 years. Additionally, Danielle acknowledged the 15 years of service Bryce Kraeker has provided to the Board. Bryce has been a strong advocate for the Gallery in the community, and served as Chair for a number of years, including during the most recent strategic plan and during regulatory changes that required changes to bylaws.

4. Executive Director's Report

Shirley Madill reflected on the highlights of 2024. The strategic plan is what guides KWAG through the year and into the future. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion informs all that we do. The gallery always also pays respect to the vision of our founders – who, in 1956, had the foresight to understand what it means to take risks and show the art of the time.

Exhibitions in 2024 included: *Erratic Behaviour*, guest curated by Katie Lawson; *Bangishimo: The Medicines we Carry*; *Body Beautiful* (Community Curator); *Expressions 49: Breaking Through*; *FASTWURMS: #VOLCANO_LOV3R*; *Billy Gauthier: Sila*; *Kathleen Daly: Northern Exposures*; *This dream pays for its space in my heart* (curated by ellipses collective), *SOS: A Story of Survival, Part III – The Planet*; and *A Broken Planet*, featuring work from the gallery's permanent collection by Edward Burtynsky.

Sila marked the largest exhibition of Gauthier's work, from private and public collections across the country, and is one we will remember for years to come.

KWAG continues to collect work and purchased Billy Gauthier's work *A Beautiful Struggle*. We were able to do this with a grant from Elizabeth Gordon Arts Foundation, as well as a roster of community members who donated. We also acquired a donation of works by Shary Boyle. Public programs continued to thrive, as the gallery maintains strong partnerships with local organizations. Development was active with two *Feast for the Senses* events, and a new major development event away from the Black and Gold gala: *The Paris Prowler*, a very successful event that took place within our own space. Media and Communications concluded a new website that is AODA compliant and more user-friendly. Our social media and newsletter growth has increased substantially over the past year under the direction of Aine Belton.

Thank you to major funders, as well as our Sponsors and Members. Women for Women's Art was formed in 2018 – 2024 saw 47 members to support the exhibition of women artists and acquisitions. Thank you also to our Volunteers, with a special thanks to the Board of Directors, who give sound advice and are a model board for many organizations to follow. Thank you also to the staff at the gallery for supporting its success. 2026 will mark KWAG's 70th anniversary and we remain excited about what the future holds

5. Treasurer's Report

Alexandra Hardy reported on the financials for 2024. The Audited Financial Statements are in the Annual report starting on page 31.

KWAG eliminated the accumulated deficit in 2023; this gave a fresh start in 2024. Given inflation and general increases in supply costs, staff worked hard to manage costs and resources. We reported a surplus of nearly \$1,500. We continued to receive support from our members, funders and community during this year, for which we are very grateful.

Consistent with prior years, core annual funding from City of Kitchener, the Region of Waterloo (new) and City of Waterloo comprised nearly 40% of overall revenue in 2024 (compared to 35% in 2023). Ontario Arts Council and Canada Council provided 15.9% of overall revenue in 2024 (compared to 17.8% in 2023).

Overall revenues increased by \$66,825 (increase of 5% over 2023) and expenditures increased by \$114,423 compared to 2023 (increase of 9%).

Significant project grants from United Way Recovery Fund and Ontario Trillium Foundation that provided support towards a new website and platform were completed in 2024.

The Endowment fund contributed approximately \$18,000 in 2024. KWAG continues to engage professional investment management to ensure stewardship of these funds.

We would like to extend thanks to our community members, donors and sponsors who have supported us through the past several years. It was a successful year at the gallery made possible by the community coming together to support the gallery.

MOTION to receive the 2024 audited financial statements as presented. Motion made by Kris Schumacher, seconded by Rebecca O'Reilly, carried.

MOTION to appoint auditors Graham Mathew as auditors for 2025. Motion made by Bryce Kraeker, seconded by Alexandra Hardy, carried.

6. A Motion Seeking the Membership's Approval and Confirmation of the Work of the Gallery Board in the Past year.

MOTION – RESOLVED THAT all acts, contracts, by-laws, proceedings, appointments, elections and payments enacted, made, done and taken by the directors and officers of the Corporation since the last annual general meeting referred to in written resolutions of the board of directors or in the annual reports of the Corporation, or connected therewith, are hereby approved and confirmed.

Motion made by Danielle Deveau, seconded by Laird Robertson, carried.

7. Election of Directors

Danielle acknowledged and thanked Board members for the continuing contributions.

MOTION for election of Directors as follows:

Appointments (City Council representatives) for a one-year term:

- David Schnider, City of Kitchener
- Hans Roach, City of Waterloo,

Board Members to be elected for a 3-year term:

- Kris Schumacher (renewal)
- Kyle Brohman
- Shelley Boettger

Motion made by Danielle Deveau, seconded by Senta Ross, carried.

Proposed slate of officers for the year:

Chair: Danielle Deveau

Vice-Chair: Laird Robertson

Treasurer: Alexandra Hardy

8. Acknowledgement of retiring Board Members

Danielle Deveau acknowledges the retirement of Bryce Kraeker after 15 years on the Board, including many years as Board chair. Shirley also acknowledges Bryce’s retirement, his leadership as Chair during challenging times, and his deep support and advocacy for the gallery over the past 15 years.

9. Meeting Adjourned

Danielle thanked all for attending.

MOTION: To conclude the Annual General Meeting.

Moved by Rebecca, seconded by Alex, carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Approved at the Annual General Meeting of May 27 2026
