

## **BEING Studio Annual General Meeting**

September 21 2022, 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Held via Zoom Webinar

Minutes of the Meeting

### **Present:**

Naheen Ahmed, Gbenga Aliu, Aida Asfour, Lydia Blanchard, Sharlene Cooney, Zoey Feder, Leah Eustace, Hannah Evans, Patricia Gagnon, Stephanie Germano, Eleanor Glor, Rachel Gray, Fiona Harrison, Ashley Hiscott, Me-won Hong, Walter Howell, Rob Hyams, Ayesha Kanani, Abigail Kashul, Eilidh Kyte, fin-xuan lee, Karen McRae, Claire Nedzela, Namitha Rathinappillai, Bill Staubi, Angela Vanveen, David Woods, Muneah, Rythmic Cats Special Olympics.

### **Quorum/Call to Order of the Annual General Meeting (R. Hyams)**

- R. Hyams welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.
- N. Ahmed verbally confirmed quorum.

### **1. Approval of the Agenda (R. Hyams)**

Motion to approve the agenda

Moved: B. Staubi

Seconded: S. Cooney

Vote displayed

Motion approved

### **2. Approval of the minutes from the 2021 Annual General Meeting (R. Hyams)**

Motion to approve the agenda

Moved: A. Hiscott

Seconded: S. Cooney

Vote displayed

Motion approved

### **3. Chair's Report (R. Hyams)**

- Thank you to Rachel for her work as ED this past year
- Welcome Walter Howell, new Executive Director.

Strategic Planning:

- Our strategic planning sessions were inclusive, including the artists, staff, board of directors and external facilitator, visioning exercises of what BEING could become.
- Next steps: the executive board committee will develop a simple strategic plan based on the feedback from the sessions, within the next few months.
- The final plan will be approved by the directors.

### **4. Executive Director's Report (W. Howell)**

- Introduction to himself and his extensive experience, expressed delight and excitement to join the Being team.

### **Executive Director's Report (R. Gray)**

- A Year in review
  - The year faced a lot of change: reopened from the pandemic lock down and then had to close again due to the trucker convoy. Being has shown its ability to adapt.
  - Projects:
    - Articipate: three artists from Being directed their own films (Ada Chan, Jessie Hugett and Jake Riseborough).
    - Digital Projects:
      - Podcast: SPEAK
      - Visualizing Justice (artists from Being, with other artists, made videos about disability justice.
    - Exhibitions: Double Dutch
      - Ottawa City Hall (newly purchased for the collection: Bing Cherry)
    - Digital Skills: outside artists provided workshops for the Being artists, then the Being artists provided workshops for each other.
    - Strategic Planning: our community came together to have everyone imagining the future of Being.
- Gave thanks to the staff, board, artists, funders and volunteers. Said goodbye.

#### **Executive Director's Report – Continued (W. Howell)**

- Closes Executive Director report by sharing excitement and the bright future ahead.

#### **5. Treasurers Report (G. Aliu)**

- We were originally planning for a deficit this year but we have reported a surplus
- Thanks Karen, Hamid and auditors for all the work they put into these reports.

##### Revenues:

- Sales increased
- Participant fees are higher
- Grants increase, due to the significant amount of grants we've received

##### Expenses:

- Salaries and wages: a significant portion is funded by program grants
- Professional fees have increased, also due to program grants
- Most of the significant increases to expenses are directly related to project grants.

Surplus: \$111,237

#### **6. Appointment of Auditors (G. Aliu)**

Motion to appoint Welch LLP as auditors for next fiscal year ending March 31, 2023

Moved: P.Gagnon

Seconded: C. Nedzela

Vote displayed

Motion passed

#### **7. Election of Directors (R. Hyams)**

- We have seven (7) people committing to another year on the board.
- New people coming on the board:
  - Lydia Blanchard
  - Yvette (taking over as treasurer, Gbenga will be staying on the board)
  - David Woods

Reviewed the slate of proposed Directors (R. Hyams):

Rob Hyams (Board Chair)

Yvette (Treasurer)

Analisa Kiskis (Co-Vice-Chair)

Stephanie Germano (Secretary)

Gbenga Aliu

AnaLori Smith

Eilidh Kyte

Zoey Feder

Lydia Blanchard

David Woods

Motion to approve the election of the slate of Directors as presented (R. Hyams)

Moved: E. Glor

Seconded: A. Vanveen

Vote displayed

Motion passed

## **8. Questions:**

Question (Rhythmic cats): Do you have parents/caregivers in the strategic plan?

Answer (R.Hyams): we have the artists but it's a good idea to include them in the next phase.

Question (Angela): are the artist honoraria being distributed evenly to all the artists?

Answer (R. Grey): artist fees to be paid for special projects and open opportunity for all artists to participate.

Comment (Angela) I think it's important that every artist receives an honoraria at some point.

Comment (R. Grey) I agree Angela, Thank you for bringing that up.

## **9. Adjournment (R. Hyams)**

Motioned to adjourn the meeting

Moved: G. Aliu

Seconded: H. Evans

Vote displayed

Motion passed