



Annual Report 2017

oakville
ARTS
council



Vision

Oakville has a vibrant artistic community and the Oakville Arts Council leads and represents arts and culture in Oakville.

Mission

The Oakville Arts Council will sustain and foster the community's engagement in the arts and champion artistic development.

Goals

The Arts are Valued

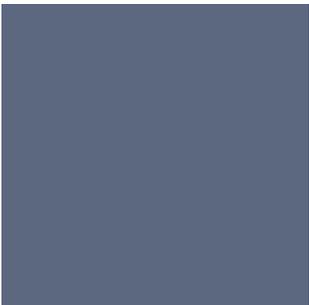
We offer our community opportunities to connect with our members to learn how to create or participate in the arts.

Artists are Respected

We provide services designed to encourage professional development and foster creative collaboration.

Oakville Arts Sector is Supported

We develop strong relationships in the community, recognize our local talent and search for innovative solutions to the many challenges facing our sector.



Values

Community. Creativity. Sustainability. Integrity. Collaboration.

Message from the President

Every organization looks forward to new beginnings and the Oakville Arts Council is no exception. We officially moved beyond our last strategic plan at the end of 2016. While we consider this past year to have been a transitional year, it was no less productive. The final strokes to our Strategic Plan 2018 - 2020 were penned while we continued to serve the arts and culture sector and the many artists and arts organizations with programs and services that support a richly creative community.

A part of our role is to watch for trends and identify gaps using the most current data we can access. We know that engagement in the arts is not at an all-time high and so we are not surprised to see membership plateau. We are pleased that the downward trend has levelled-off; we are hopeful that our new and refreshed programs and services developed with the strategic plan will help encourage past members to return to the fold and new ones to find value in membership with our organization.

As in previous years, we've noticed an increase in engagement with our social media channels and our subscriber membership. We continue to look for ways to increase our communications capacity to help the community access information about arts and culture.

Our regular programming for artistic development continued through 2017. This was the final year for our volunteer program, funded by the

Ontario Trillium Foundation. We completed this project with the OAC's first gallery exhibition featuring our local, not-for-profit arts and cultural organizations. We successfully showcased the wonderful work these organizations deliver for the community: over 2,200 visitors took in the exhibition over the span of three weeks in January 2017. As our OTF funding finished we said goodbye to Giulia Simonato, Coordinator of Volunteer Services in 2017. We wish her all the best in her new role as Special Project Coordinator at Arts Etobicoke!

We partnered with Work in Culture to deliver a series of webinars focused on enhancing the business acumen of Oakville's artists and continued with our networking series, Creative Connections and we continued to administer the cultural grants program on behalf of the Town of Oakville. The Brochure Rack Program has been a staple of our programming for more than 10 years. In 2017 we added Glen Abbey Community Centre to the list of facilities that present arts and culture information through this program.



We are very grateful for the continued support of the Town of Oakville, Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Ontario Arts Council. We also acknowledge the support of the Oakville Community Foundation and the Ontario Arts Foundation and our sponsors and donors. Their support not only sustains us financially, but encourages us to continue our work in the arts.

We are also very grateful for the hard work, passion and dedication of our Board of Directors and would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their contribution to the arts in Oakville.

This year, we would like to offer a special thank you to Chuck Havill, our auditor of many years. Chuck and his team have contributed a great deal to the arts and culture community in Oakville and we wish him and his staff all the best!

The Oakville Arts Council will continue to look for new ways to meet the changing needs of the arts and culture sector while encouraging the Oakville community to create or participate!





Director's Report

SUSTAINABILITY

■ *strong relationships and diversity in funding*

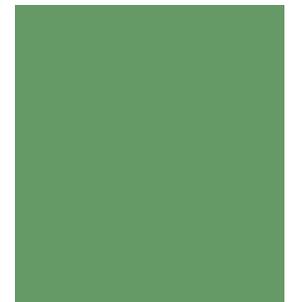
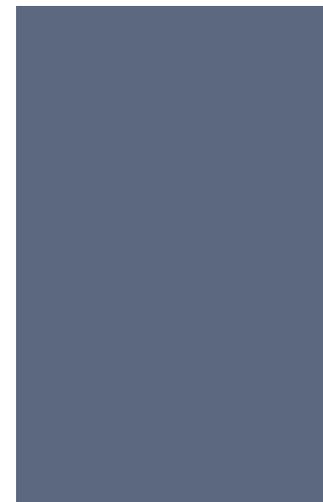
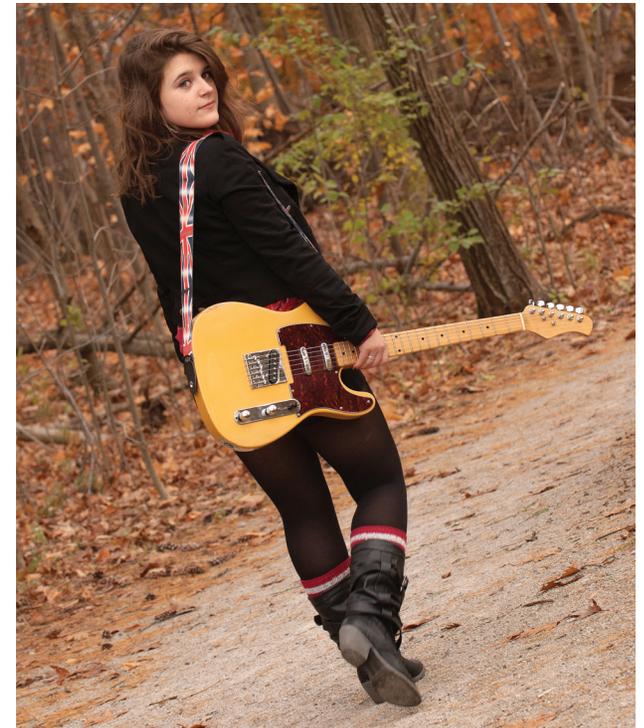
The need to establish and grow relationships within the community remains a cornerstone of our success as an organization. We continue to nurture and grow such relationships to ensure sustainability for the Oakville Arts Council. We seek out diverse revenue streams including grants, sponsorships, memberships and fund-raising activities. We received the final year of funding from our 3-year Ontario Trillium Foundation grant in March of 2017 with the successful completion of our volunteer program. The Ontario Arts Council provides operational support to local arts councils and we receive annual funding from this organization.

We continue to work with the Town of Oakville toward the goals outlined in the Cultural Plan and as Oakville's arts sector advocate and facilitator, resource and referral agent for arts information, and arms-length administrator of the Town's cultural grants. The Oakville Arts Council acknowledges the tremendous support from local companies that help us to recognize local artists and promote the activity of our members to residents of Oakville.

■ *understanding local needs: Oakville's voice at the table*

The Oakville Arts Council consults with arts groups, artists, local business and government leaders to obtain feedback and provide guidance. Understanding the needs of local artists, arts groups, and arts consumers remains essential to our role as representative for the arts sector in Oakville. We continue to create community connections to and awareness of our local arts, culture and heritage. The result is an increase in collaborations, education and communication, cultural mapping, and cross-pollination of the sectors.

We have been a contributing member in many municipal consultations including the Town's Parks, Recreation, Cultural & Library Master Plan, Oakville's Cultural Plan, Public Art Policy and Cultural Portal Project and development of Queen Elizabeth Park Community & Cultural Centre. In 2017, we participated on the Exhibition Review Committee for QEPCCC, the Public Art Working Group, and supported the Town of Oakville with their successful application to ArtsVest, a development training program that offers matching funds to local not-for-profits arts and cultural organizations who choose to participate in the program.



■ *planning for the future*

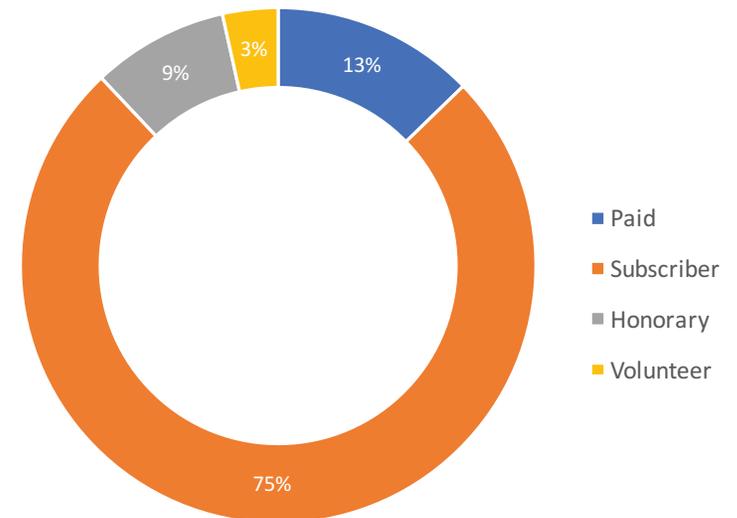
The Oakville Arts Council established an Ontario Arts Endowment Fund at the Ontario Arts Foundation (OAF) under the terms of the Arts Endowment Fund Program (AEF). The AEF is a program of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Culture administered by the OAF. The OAC receives investment income from our endowment to be used for operations. During the 2016/17 fiscal year, the Oakville Arts Council received investment income of \$4,350 (2016 - \$4,178) and the market value of the Oakville Arts Endowment Fund as at June 30, 2017 was 96,907 (2016 - \$93,826).

The Oakville Arts Council is also the beneficiary of the Oakville Arts Endowment Fund of the Oakville Community Foundation. The endowment fund was established in 1997 with a \$25,000 capital contribution from the Town of Oakville. The OAC receives investment income from the Oakville Arts Endowment Fund to be used for operations. This year, we received investment income of \$1,505 (2016 - \$1,550) and the market value at June 30, 2017 was \$44,947 (2016 - \$43,895).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

■ *affordable membership*

Membership in the Oakville Arts Council consists of individuals and organizations (both not-for-profit and local arts businesses), subscribers, honorary members and volunteer members. All membership categories receive our newsletter and promotional communications. Paid members have access to additional promotional services including additional promotional opportunities, mentoring and discounted or free access to workshops. Total membership in the Oakville Arts Council as of June 2017 was 690: 88 paid memberships, 519 subscribers, 59 honorary/supporter members and 24 volunteer members.



■ *collecting and disseminating arts information*

Collecting and disseminating information remains one of the most important aspects of the work that the Oakville Arts Council engages in. We continue to grow our social media channels; most years we meet or exceed our anticipated goals. In 2017 we reached 4,234 followers on Twitter, our Facebook Page with 513 “Likes”, 843 Instagram followers and 90 LinkedIn users. We continued our outreach efforts through the participation in Culture Days, Cultural Connections, Family Day and the Bronte Lakewalk.

Our publications including a regular newsletter, weekly and other communiques to our subscriber-base and the media continues with 193 different communiqués sent in the 2016/17 period. The Oakville Arts Council continues to offer a brochure rack service. Member brochures are placed in visible locations throughout Oakville so that the public has easy access to arts information. Our racks are currently located at Hopedale Shopping Mall and Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre and River Oaks Community Centre. Oakville Arts Council members who take out an Individual or Organizational Membership are also able to make use of the designated bulletin boards at QEPCCC for their posters.

■arts volunteerism

Volunteering is about giving, contributing and helping other individuals and the community at large. It is working with others to make a meaningful contribution to a better community. Oakville's arts sector has many volunteers and many opportunities to volunteer. We also encourage training and mentoring by taking on co-op students from local high schools, Sheridan College and McMaster University. Volunteers support operations through day-to-day activities, as well as through Board of Director ad hoc committees such as the Cultural Grants Review Committee, Membership Committee, By-law Review Committee and the Nominating Committee.

The governing body of the Oakville Arts Council is comprised of Board members with a broad range of demonstrated skills and talents in the areas of business, law, media/communications, finance and marketing. The Board of Directors is a champion for the Oakville Arts Council and board members are involved in advocating for the arts in our community. Over 162 volunteer hours contributed to the delivery of Oakville Arts Council programs and services in 2016/17.

We are pleased to note that the president of the OAC Board of Directors was recognized through the Community Spirit Awards in 2017. Bill was the recipient of the Community Arts Award for his volunteerism in the arts and culture sector.

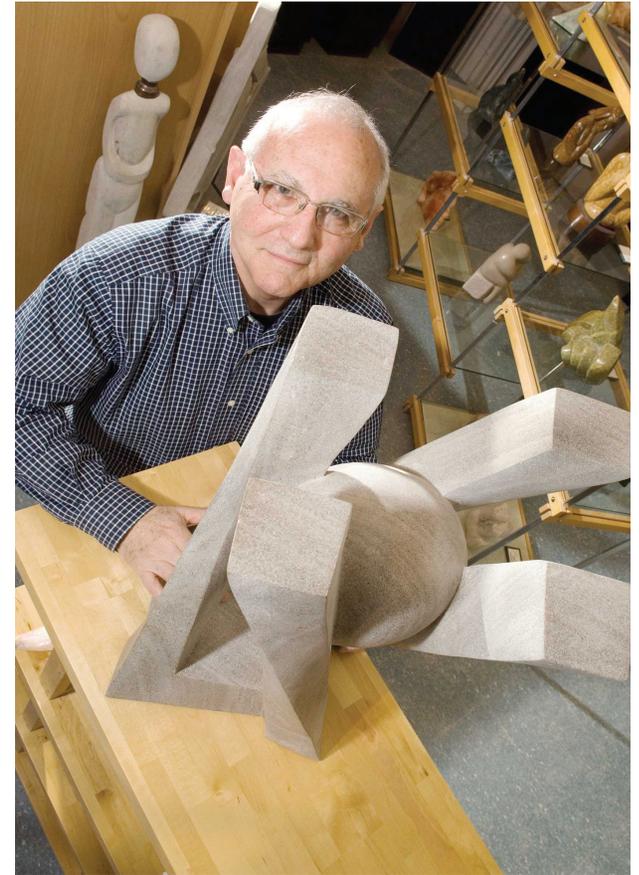
ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

■resource & referral

Through our role as a resource and referral agency, the Oakville Arts Council enables local artists, groups and businesses, connecting them to information vital to the business of making art. The Oakville Arts Council serves as a referral resource for artists, vendors to artists and consumers of art. Our website continues to be updated and supply important information and resources such as rental space inventory, member directory, arts calendar, etc. In addition, our member newsletter acts as a tool to connect members to opportunities. "Art Connections" presents opportunities for members, garnered from a variety of sources, which offer chances for our members to enhance their artistic careers in the categories of calls/auditions, funding, employment, space, workshops/lectures and networking opportunities.

■cultural grants

Every year, the Oakville Arts Council, on behalf of the Town of Oakville, administers the cultural grants program - operating and project grants available to qualified not-for-profit cultural organizations. Applications are reviewed by an arm's length Cultural Grants Review Committee convened by

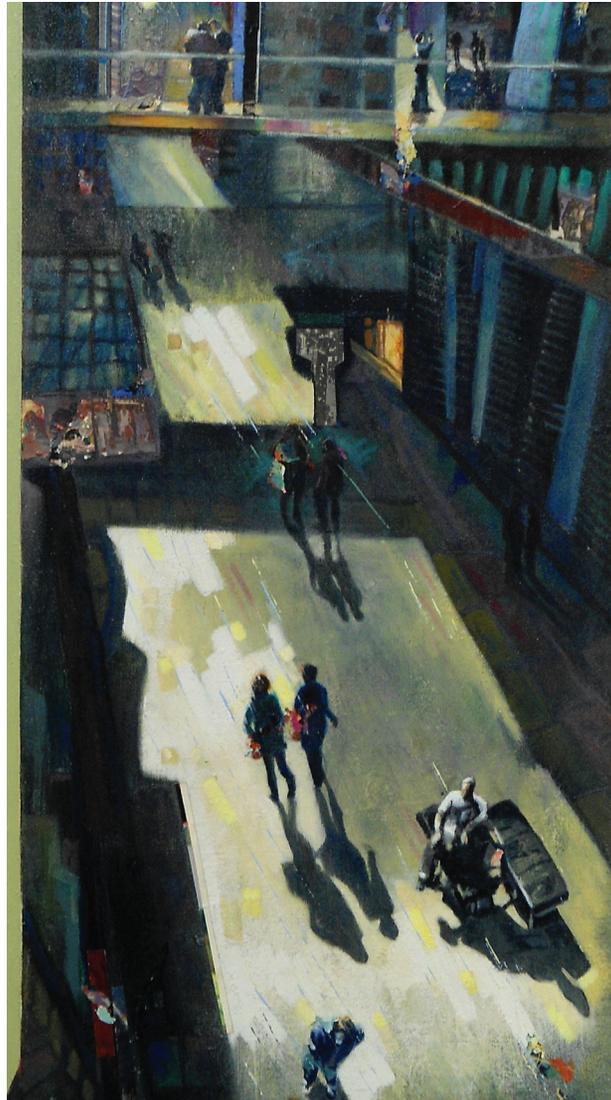


the Oakville Arts Council. Recommendations are presented to the Town's Budget Committee and then to Town Council for approval. Each year, the Oakville Arts Council advocates for an increase to the cultural grants program. In 2017, the Town of Oakville provided \$134,000 to local non-profit arts groups. The 2017 recipients are: ArtHouse for Children and Youth (ArtHouse), \$7,500, ArtWorks Oakville Association, \$4,500, Burl-Oak Theatre Group, \$5,000, Carousel of Nations Multicultural Association, \$4,500, Circle of Harmony Chorus, \$6,000, Halton Jazz Singers, \$1,000, Halton Mississauga Youth Orchestra, \$2,200, High Rendition Jazz, \$6,000, Intrada Brass of Oakville, \$3,800, Joshua Creek Heritage Arts Centre, \$3,000, Masterworks of Oakville Chorus and Orchestra, \$4,500, Musikay (Oakville Ensemble), \$4,000, Oakville Art Society, \$6,000, Oakville Camera Club, \$6,500, Oakville Chamber Orchestra, \$5,000, Oakville Chinese Network Society, \$6,000, Oakville Choral Society, \$3,500, Oakville Festivals of Film & Art, \$5,000, Oakville Improv Theatre Company, Inc., \$6,000, Oakville Sculptors and Woodcarvers Guild, \$3,000, Oakville Suzuki, \$3,000, Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital Art Council, \$5,000, Oakville Wind Orchestra Inc., \$4,000, Oakville Vocal Arts Festival, \$5,000, Tempus Choral Society, \$5,000, Tottering Biped Theatre, \$3,000, The Oakville Children's Choir, \$3,000, The Oakville Players (TOP), \$5,000, The Oakville Symphony Orchestra, \$5,000, World of Threads Festival, \$7,000.

■ *professional development, mentoring & consultation*

The Oakville Arts Council supports professional development for artists through workshops and

building managerial capacity through the cultural grants process. We support the arts sector through programmed workshops, consulting and mentoring of arts groups on the Cultural Grants Program on behalf of the Town of Oakville, providing in-office support to members about incorporation, fundraising, grant writing and setting budgets. In 2016/17, the Oakville Arts



Council partnered with the Oakville Camera Club. This partnership provided access to funding for a Canada 150th grant through the Oakville Community Foundation.

■ *networking, cross-pollination and sharing*

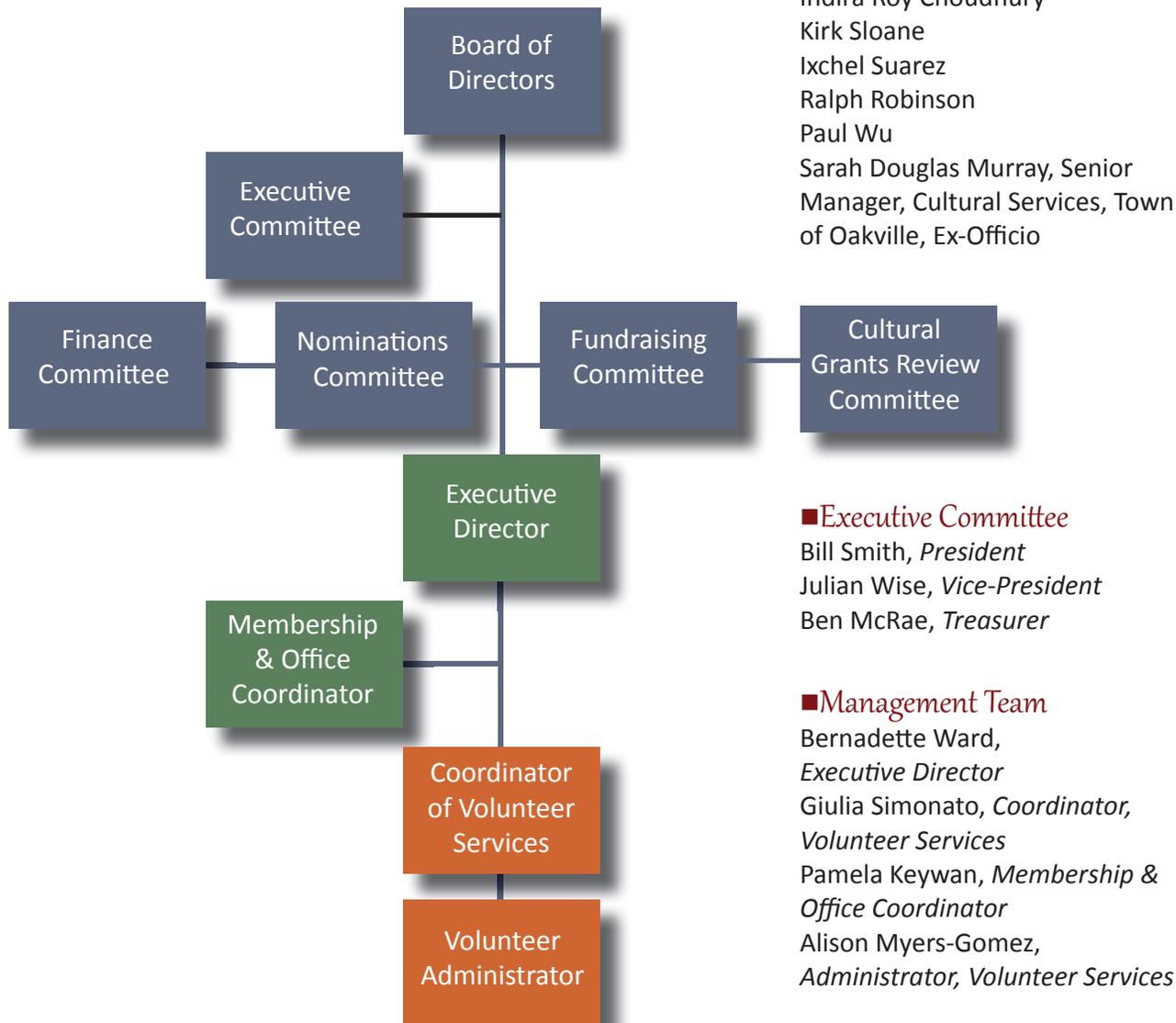
In partnership with the Town of Oakville, the Oakville Arts Council continues to offer networking sessions. Held the last Wednesday of each month, Creative Connections sessions are offered free of charge to artists and cultural workers across all disciplines. Creative Connections offers attendees the opportunity to share information about their art and activities, connect and collaborate on new projects and share ideas. The sessions (9) were held on August 31, September 26, October 26, November 30, February 22, March 29, April 26, May 31 and June 28.

■ *building capacity in Oakville's cultural groups*

Our 3-year Ontario Trillium Foundation grant designed to assist local arts groups build capacity through volunteerism wrapped up in March 2017. In addition to the accomplishments made in the previous years, we held "Cheers to Volunteers", an exhibition held in the Main Gallery at QEPCCC. The exhibition highlighted the work of Oakville's not-for-profit arts and culture organizations. Additionally, each week March 2017 we delivered a workshop in partnership with Work in Culture: BizSmarts Webinars 1 - 5. These webinars featured professional speakers on a variety of topics intended to enhance artists business acumen: Building Your Brand, Make Your Money Work for You, Beginning a Creative Entrepreneurship, E-commerce for Creatives and Preparing for Your Taxes.

Who We Are

Our organizational structure as of June 30, 2017



■ **Board of Directors**
 Catherine Bobesich
 Suzy Godefroy
 Indira Roy Choudhury
 Kirk Sloane
 Ixchel Suarez
 Ralph Robinson
 Paul Wu
 Sarah Douglas Murray, Senior Manager, Cultural Services, Town of Oakville, Ex-Officio

■ **Cultural Grants Review Committee**
 Suzy Godefroy – *Chair, Oakville Arts Council*
 Indira Roy Choudhury
 Karen Korody
 Karen Raymond
 Virender Paul Madan
 Bernadette Ward, *Executive Director, Oakville Arts Council*
 Sarah Douglas-Murray, *Senior Manager, Cultural Services, Town of Oakville*

■ **Finance Committee**
 Bill Smith, *Chair*
 Ben McRae
 Bernadette Ward

■ **Executive Committee**
 Bill Smith, *President*
 Julian Wise, *Vice-President*
 Ben McRae, *Treasurer*

■ **Nominating Committee**
 Catherine Bobesich, *Chair*
 Bill Smith
 Ralph Robinson
 Bernadette Ward

■ **Management Team**
 Bernadette Ward, *Executive Director*
 Giulia Simonato, *Coordinator, Volunteer Services*
 Pamela Keywan, *Membership & Office Coordinator*
 Alison Myers-Gomez, *Administrator, Volunteer Services*

■ **Fundraising Committee**
 Julian Wise, *Chair*
 Suzy Godefroy
 Ralph Robinson
 Bernadette Ward
 Bill Smith

■ **Governance & Ethics Committee**
 Kirk Sloane, *Chair*

Our Members

■ *members – organizations*

Appleby College
Art House
Artworks Oakville Assoc.
Bronte Historical Society
Burl-Oak Theatre Group
Canadian Caribbean Assoc.
Circle of Harmony
Crack Pot Studio
Grace Academy
Halton Green Screens
Halton JAZZ Singers
High Rendition
Intrada Brass
Joshua Creek Heritage Centre
King's Concert Series/King's
Christ College
Masterworks of Oakville
Metroland
Monday Night at the Movies
Musicboxx
Musikay / Oakville Ensemble
Oakville Arts Society
Oakville Arts Studio
Oakville BIA
Oakville Camera Club
Oakville Chamber Orchestra
Oakville Choral Society
Oakville Entertainers
Oakville Festivals of Film and Art
Oakville Galleries
Oakville Historical Society
Oakville Improv Theatre
Company

Oakville Public Library
Oakville Sculptors and
Woodcarvers Guild
Oakville Stitchery Guild
Oakville Stitchery Guild
Oakville Suzuki
Oakville Symphony
Oakville Vocal Arts Festival
Oakville Wind Orchestra
St. Judes Celebration of the Arts
Studio P.A.V.A.S
Tempus Choral Society
The Oakville Players
The Wearable Art Show
Tottering Biped Theatre
Trias Gallery
World of Threads Festival

■ *members – individuals*

Alan Kingsland
Azhar Shemdin
Bruce Outridge
Catherine Bobesich
Ralph Robinson
Cynthia Dempster
Cynthia Konopka
David Foster
David Newman
David Peck
Dawn-Angela Seeley
Dick Sanders
Elva Palo
Gordon Fenn

Howard Lopez
Jennifer Curran
Jennifer Jalal
Joanne MacNair
Julian Wise
Karen-Marie Siyanbola-Ellington
Lisa Ashby
Ljuba Simovic
Louise Boileau-Labrie
Lynn O'Grady
Manjot Nanner
Marda McLean
Mary Davidson
Michael Young
Morris Ellington
Myriam Suarez
Paul Wu
Rena Sava
Sally Jackson
Shirley Erskine
Susan Aglukark
Susan Hobson
Sushila Pereira
Teresa Biagi Gomez
Virender Paul Madan
Warren Nicholson



Funders, Grantors, Donors & Sponsors



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CHARLES (CHUCK) HAVILL, C.A.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

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