



Annual General Meeting of The 519 Church Street Community Centre

MEETING MINUTES

for the meeting held on September 27, 2015 5:00pm

Meeting Attendance	
Recording Secretary:	Grant Lehmann (Senior Consultant, Policy, Administration and Executive Management)
Meeting Minutes	
Welcome	
Tyler Fleming, Chair of the Board of Directors, opened the meeting at 5:09 PM. Tyler review housing keeping items including voting eligibly.	
1.	Quorum Confirmed
The Board Secretariat has confirmed quorum.	
2.	Approval of agenda
MOVED BY	Tom Lewis
SECONDED BY	Israel Kursey
THAT	The membership adopt the 2014-2015 Annual General Meeting agenda as circulated
DECISION	Carried
3.	Approval of Minutes
MOVED BY	Aqueela Nanjji
SECONDED BY	Gale Lynch
THAT	The membership adopt as circulated the 2013-2014 Annual General Meeting minutes
DECISION	Carried

4. Review of Financial Statements and Auditor's Report

Stephen Menon provided a high level overview of the 2013 financial statements:

- Overall, 2013 was another successful year with increased our operating revenue, this time by almost 21.5%. This follows an 8% increase in 2012.
- The audit was completed by Welch LLP who were newly appointed by City Council and completed the audit on all the Association of Community Centres (AOCC).
- I'm pleased to inform you that The 519 once again received a clean audit.
- The centre ended the year with a \$19,000 program deficit before amortization. This was due in part to setting up a new trust account for the Will Munro Memorial Fund, and the late signing of a provincial grant. The Provincial grant funds not used in 2013 to offset expenses will be brought forward to 2014.

- **The following are highlights of note:**
- In 2012, The 519 received a 10% cut (\$110,000) in core funding from the City. This reduction was expected and planned for, and impacted all Association of Community Centres.
- We managed with no reductions in front-line programs and services. Through core budget negotiations with City we were allowed to increase our core budget by over \$8,000 in 2013 and over \$17,000 in 2014 compared to the 2012 base year.
- Part of the reason we were able to prevent service impacts is as a result of our drive to diversify and increase our sources of funding in order to reduce our reliance on city funding.
- The Core funding is provided by the City of Toronto to pay to keep the building open and accessible and covers basic costs for building maintenance, cleaning, utilities, front desk information and referrals, and the basic administration and finance management services.
- In 2013, Core city funding represented one quarter (25%) of the overall operating budget, down slightly from 33% in 2012 and down significantly from five years ago when it represented 56% of the budget.
- In 2013, The 519 raised approximately \$2.89 in additional funds for every \$1 provided in City of Toronto core funding.
- Fundraising and Donations continue to be strong thanks to the Centre's generous donors and corporate partners, as well as our special fundraising activities including our Annual Spring Gala and our Green Space Festival held during Toronto Pride.
- Green Space 2013 was our biggest success ever (since surpassed in 2014). We had projected to earn more than \$211,000 and in the end raised more than \$241,000, exceeding our target by over 14%.
- Thank-you again to Salah Bachir our Honourary Patron for your leadership of the Gala and to BMO for being a lead sponsor for the event.
- As these are the 2013 audited statements, I've spoken about last year's numbers. However, I would be remiss if I did not note that the WorldPride edition of our 2014 Green Space Festival was remarkable success for the organization, netting a profit of over \$500,000.
- Our 2014 Green Space Festival was our largest event ever with 55,000 people joining us at our six events, hosted over 4 days at two venues.
- I'd like to thank all The 519 staff and the over 500 amazing volunteers who worked so hard to

make our Green Space events a success.

- I'd also like to thank TD and all our corporate sponsors and community partners who joined with us this year for the Green Space Festival – their support really helps us realize as much revenue as possible to support vital community programs and services.
- I'd like to thank the Finance Committee members Tom Lewis, Angelina Ico and Paul Bent for all their hard work during this past year. In the coming term the Finance Committee look forward to continuing its work creating a solid financial foundation which supports the 519 in its strategic plans and ambitious projects. In 2014/15 this includes a thorough review and update of financial policies.

MOVED BY Daniel Boyer

SECONDED BY Jake Peters

THAT The membership approve and accept the financial statements and 2013 Auditor's Report

DECISION Carried

5. Agency Reports

Chair's Report

- At The 519, we work every day to make a measurable, positive impact for the communities we serve and represent. We strive to create safe spaces where people are respected, valued and well-served.
- We undertook new education and training initiatives such as the Hear it! Stop it! #nobystanders campaign to challenge homophobic and transphobic language where we hear it, a campaign that has had a tremendous impact already and that's just getting started.
- We successfully launched The 519 Sports and Recreation Centre project, which will be the first LGBT centre of its kind anywhere in the world and a tremendous exercise in city-building.
- We've continued to expand our newcomer and refugee programs, helping more people establish vital links to our community, and to each other. Every year, we grow the 519 family and with it, our hearts grow a little more too.
- In addition to providing vital programs and services, people also look to The 519 to advocate for our community and our issues.
- I'm proud that this past year the 519 Board came out forcefully in response to homophobic and transphobic statements by the Mayor. Our community is not a political football and we should not be used and abused in a misguided attempt to gain votes at our expense.
- The unique character and mandate of our Centre is evident in the programs and services we offer, and the vibrant energy surrounding our Church Street home. It's also demonstrated through the unique model of community partnership The 519 has fostered over time.
- The 519 depends on the community to fund the essential programs and services we deliver.
- In 2014, we surpassed that level, raising an additional \$3.53 for every dollar of City funding through our fundraising activities, including an unprecedented \$550,000 through this year's Green Space Festival.
- With continued leadership of our Honorary Patron, Salah Bachir, our annual Gala continues to raise significant funds in support of The 519, with this year's upcoming Gala sold out.

- We have more than doubled our annual revenue in recent years, allowing us to significantly increase the resources behind our front-line programs and services.
- Let me wrap up by saying that, while big revenue activities tend to generate the headlines, it is the quiet, unheralded contributions from individual community members like yourselves that are the lifeblood of the centre.
- Whether you give us your time, your money, or your participation, I would like to thank you for making the work we do possible.
- I would also like to thank the 519's incredible staff, volunteers, and my Board colleagues for the tremendous work they do day in and day out on behalf of the Centre. The 519 succeeds because of the superhuman efforts you all make, and for that we are truly appreciative.

Executive Director's Report

- The theme for this year's Annual General Report is 'A Space For Change'. The report attempts to capture, the amazing work that happens in this space and throughout our city.
- The 519's name and our identity is so tied up in this *physical* space, this building, but our work and our impact touches so many communities, organizations and people, many of whom may never actually visit this *physical* space. Today I'm going to highlight just three.

'For me, a space for change can mean being a physical space where change happens'.

- In the last year, community groups and organizations made over 8000 room bookings to come together to meet, create, plan, advocate, dance, support, and organize.
- For many people, our community-led programs are the face of The Centre and their first point of contact with our organization and the community.
- This year we launched a Community-led Group Review to better understand who is using our space and how we can learn from the work that community members are doing here.
- Our settlement department has supported LGBTQ-identified newcomers and refugees from over 170 countries around the world. Every week, people gather here to find community, support and to build relationships that help them to settle in communities across Toronto.
- Their stories of courage and resilience that we hear every day continue to inspire us and push us to work harder for global human rights for queer and trans people everywhere.
- We announced our intention to develop the first ever LGBTQ inclusive sport and recreation centre. Too many members of our communities still experience barriers to physical activity, impacting their life-long health and wellness. We recognize the transformational power that community sport and recreation can achieve when we are come together in inclusive spaces that make us stronger and healthier.
- The sport and recreation centre will offer an inclusive space for children, youth, adults and older adults to learn, play, grow and get active together and exemplify inclusive space.
- The expanded space will create new opportunities for programs and community leadership.

'A space for change also means capitalizing on spaces in the public and political discourse where we can also make change happen'.

- In these spaces we extend our reach and increase our impact on a broad, systemic level.
- In April 2014 the Ontario Human Rights Commission released a new policy aimed at addressing the issue of discrimination on the basis of gender identity.
- We know that Trans individuals are among the most disadvantaged groups in society and routinely experience discrimination, prejudice, harassment and violence. Trans people also

face an unacceptable rate of unemployment and discrimination in the workplace.

- As the Human Rights Commission created space for this important public discussion about trans rights in Ontario, The 519 Education and Training Department, including our Trans Access team, have been busy delivering Trans Inclusion workshops to workplaces all over the city including a major effort to address homophobia and transphobia in the hospitality industry in the lead up to World Pride
- The 519 has also continued to push for a systemic response to the issue of LGBTQ homelessness – particularly youth homelessness in our City.
- We played a pivotal role in ensuring that the City of Toronto’s street needs assessment included a question about sexual orientation and gender identity, a question which - for the first time provided unambiguous evidence of a reality we know all too well – that LGBTQ people and in particular our youth are over-represented in the homeless population.
- We continue to work at a policy level with the city and our community partners to improve access to shelter and housing for our community - and for the first time this year we will have a Housing Support Worker on-staff to support people experiencing homeless access housing.
- In February, the Sochi Winter Olympics put LGBTQ rights in sport front-and-centre, underscoring the discrimination, harassment and barriers queer people still encounter at home and around the world. As trustee of PrideHouseTO, The 519 is honoured to be in a position to advance the conversation on human rights in sport and recreation.
- With its partners, The 519 is providing leadership to make the Pan/ParaPan Am Games the most LGBTQ-inclusive multi-sport games in history.
- Beyond 2015, The 519 has already committed, as part of the development of the sport and recreation centre, to work with partners and other levels of government to establish the world’s first policy institute focusing on LGBTQ inclusion in physical and recreational activity.

‘And finally, the theme of ‘a space for change’, for me, also means recognizing that there is always room to improve, and to do better’.

- We initiated an extensive evaluation of programs and services in an effort to better understand community needs and how we can respond to them.
- We have already implemented a number of program changes in our Meal Trans program as a consequence of the Trans Program review and anticipate there will be more positive changes.
- Last year we also reviewed our Bashing Line – an important part of our Anti-Violence Initiative and are looking ahead to better understand how we can more adequately address the all too familiar experience of violence faced by our community.
- We are also looking at ways to improve the direct services and draw on the expertise of the volunteers who provide support through both formal and informal counseling and peer support programs including, exploring the issue of trauma and asking questions about how we need to think differently and more expansively about our work
- It is an incredible honour, for myself and our entire team at The 519, to work at an organization that is constantly changing, constantly growing and constantly creating space for change – that makes the world a better place for all.
- And that’s what makes The 519 so successful as a community organization, as a charity and as an agency of City of Toronto– we are able to adapt and create a space for change, as our communities and our communities’ needs change.
- On behalf of our entire staff team, thank you to everyone who makes this reality possible, without our partners, volunteers, donors, funders and staff this would just be a building, but together, we’re turning these walls into spaces where change happens.

MOVED BY	Julia Lo
SECONDED BY	Luc Levasseur
THAT	the membership accept the reports of the Board Chair and Executive Director.
DECISION	Carried

6. Question and Answer Period

Question about the new program for LGBTQ Seniors in long-term care facilities

- Working with long-term care facilities to provide accessible and welcoming services
- Trying to secure a grant to develop training

7. Elections to the Board of Management

Margo reviewed the election process and the following candidates presented themselves: Tyler Fleming, Luc Levasseur, Stephen Menon and Wesley Watson.

MOVED BY	Barbara Centre
SECONDED BY	Israel Kursey
THAT	the membership elect Tyler Fleming and Luc Levasseur to the Board of Management
DECISION	Carried

9. Announcement of Election Results

Margo announced Tyler Fleming, Luc Levasseur and Wesley Watson to the Board. Tyler thanked departing members Angeline Ico, Scott Bomhof, and Stephen Menon.

14. Adjournment

MOVED BY	Aqueela Nanji
SECONDED BY	Barbara Centre
THAT	the Annual General Meeting be adjourned
DECISION	Carried