



Minutes: Annual General Meeting (2015-2016)

Saturday September 24, 2016 4:30 PM

The 519, Ballroom

Board

Board Chair	Jacob Porpossian	Nadia Bello (regrets)	Wesley Watson (regrets)
Vice Chair	Nicki Monahan	Alwin Kong	Michelle Walker
Treasurer	Tom Lewis	Luc Levasseur	Nichola Ward
Secretary	Tasnim Rehemtula (regrets)	David Morris	
Ex-Officio	Councillor, Kristyn Wong-Tam (absent)		

Employees

Executive Director	Maura Lawless
Programs and Community Services, A/Senior Director	Becky McFarlane
Director of Philanthropy	John Farrell
Director of Organizational Services	Stacia Kean
Programs and Community Services A/Director	Lisa Gore Duplessis
Social Enterprise, Education and Advocacy A/Director	Steven Little
Senior Consultant, Knowledge Management	Monica Notaro

Candidates

1	Alex Abramovich
2	Gwen Benaway
3	Linda Booker
4	Patrick Gervais
5	Paul Saguil

Items	Minutes
1	<p>Chair Welcome</p> <p>Jacob Porpossian, Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting acknowledging the start of 2016 Annual General Meeting of The 519 at 4:45 PM.</p> <p>Jacob acknowledged that we are on the traditional indigenous territory of the Mississauga's of the New Credit First Nation.</p> <p>Jacob reviewed voting eligibility of the Membership citing The 519's Constitution, Relationship Framework and Public Appointment's Policies and specifically noting that Members must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> live in the area bounded by Bay, Bloor, Gerrard and Parliament be a member at least 30 days before today's meeting or a renewed members as of today in both cases Members receive a registration card to use when voting state their full name when passing a motion

2	<p>Quorum</p> <p>Jacob noted there is a majority of board members therefore quorum is met.</p>
3	<p>Approval of Agenda</p> <p>Jacob reviewed the agenda with the Membership and motioned for the Membership to receive the Agenda of Saturday September 24, 2016.</p> <hr/> <p>Motion</p> <p>Moved by Nichola Ward Seconded by Alwin Kong That the Membership review and receive the Agenda for Saturday September 24, 2016. Decision carried</p>
3	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Jacob noted that the DRAFT AGM minutes for the first time have been published as part of the regular cycle of Board minute publications. This practice will continue again this coming year and so Membership can expect to see the DRAFT minutes of this year's AGM in October on the 519 website: The519.org.</p> <p>Jacob motioned for the Membership to review and receive the 2014-2015 Annual General Meeting Minutes of Thursday September 24, 2015.</p> <hr/> <p>Motion</p> <p>Moved by Nicki Monahan Seconded by David Morris That the Membership review and receive the Minutes of the Thursday September 24, 2015 Annual General Meeting Decision carried</p>
4	<p>Declaration of Conflict of Interest(s)</p> <p>Jacob confirmed that no conflicts were declared.</p>
5	<p>Chair Report / Executive Committee</p> <p>Jacob expressed gratitude to the Board and the staff of The 519 for their amazing contributions over the past year. Noting their commitment to the communities we serve, their passion for the causes we fight for every day, and your creativity in addressing the challenges we face, have been a constant source of inspiration to me.</p>

	<p>Jacob expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Chair, and for being a part of The 519.</p> <p>Jacob noted in the past year the important progress made together, including the introduction of new human rights protections at the federal level and the important changes to provincial policies supporting gender identity and expression. Noting that these are long sought gains that move us closer to true equality and inclusion for all our communities, and The 519 is proud to have worked with so many partners to help advance these important causes.</p> <p>Jacob spoke to the tragedy of the Orlando Pulse Night Club that took the lives of 49 LGBTQ people and how our communities – and our allies – came together. Jacob reflected on the Orlando Vigil hosted on June 13, 2016 and the memorial set-up on The 519 steps through the month of June, reaffirming that love conquers hate.</p> <p>Jacob spoke to the pride of how many ways that The 519 brings people together such as the workshops hosted by our Education & Training team, to the amazing connections made through our Trans Youth Mentorship, to the weekly Among Friends program for LGBTQ refugees and newcomers, to the 40,000 community members who attended this year’s 2016 Green Space Festival, The 519 knows that the greatest impacts come from our communities working together.</p> <p>Jacob thanked the following supporters of The 519:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hundreds of donors who heeded The 519 community appeal last fall when the rained out 2015 Green Space Festival caused an urgent financial pressure • The many corporations who support our work through sponsorship and philanthropy • The 1,200 volunteers who gave their time, talents and expertise to this year • The committed funders, like the City of Toronto and the United Way • The community partners that help expand our reach and increase The 519 capacity to provide service • The 510,720 people that intersected with The 519 over the past year
6	<p>Review of Financial Statements: Auditor’s Report</p> <p>Tom Lewis, Board Treasurer, introduced himself to the Membership and proceeded to present the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2015 with the following key points:</p> <p>Overall, 2015 is another record-breaking financial year for The 519 with revenues of over \$5.8 million. Thanks to the astonishing response to our community appeal this is a 10.5% increase over the previous year’s revenues.</p> <p>The audit was completed by Welch LLP who was appointed by City Council and completed the audit on all the AOCC organizations. (AOCC being the Association of</p>

Community Centres comprised of the 10 community centres like The 519 that depend on hybrid funding from both the City and the community).

The 519 once again received a clean audit with no irregularities identified.

The 519 ended the year with a \$27, 690 program surplus after amortization. This was due in large part to the exceptional individual donors contributing to programs at The 519 in 2015.

Tom continued with the following are highlights of note:

The 519 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 basic administration.

The 519 has successfully negotiated with the City for yearly increases to the core budget to offset increases in salaries and benefits so that The 519 can continue to manage no reductions in front-line programs and services. In 2015 The 519 was given an increase of \$59,500 in core funding.

In 2015, Core City funding represented 22.5% of the overall operating budget, down slightly from 23% in 2014 and down significantly from five years ago when it represented 56% of the budget.

The average Core funding ratio to Program funding across the AOCCs was 45.4%, if you remove The 519 from the average, the number increases to 57%. The 519 is exceeding the average by 242%.

In 2015, The 519 raised approximately \$3.57 in additional funds for every \$1 provided in City of Toronto core funding. This number has continued to grow- showing an increase of 174% since 2007.

Thanks to The 519 Honorary Patron Salah Bachir and sponsors including Bank of Montreal (BMO), the Slight Family Foundation and Cineplex Media, our 2015 Annual Gala featuring the return of the Canadian musician k.d. lang raised a record \$240, 000 for The 519.

Also of significance in our fundraising success, has been the generous philanthropic support of so many individuals, corporations and foundations. This year, we exceeded budget expectations in all these areas thanks to the generosity of our communities.

The 2016 Green Space Festival was the most successful Festival, to date. The Board approved the 2016 Green Space Festival at its December 2015 meeting with a net goal of \$383, 710, which was forecast down to \$296, 334 in April 2016 to ensure a conservative approach to our estimates. However, through a combination of the

	<p>extremely favourable factors and strategic expenditure savings, this year's Festival more than doubled budgeted goals, netting a remarkable \$618, 808.</p> <p>The City has moved to a multi-year budget approval process and once again we have submitted a request to cover the salary/benefit increases and economic factors going forward. This request has received an initial positive recommendation from the budget staff at the City – it is slated to go to Council for approval in early 2017.</p> <p>Tom concluded the report with a thank you to the Finance Committee members Alwin Kong, David Morris, Nichola Ward and Jacob Porpossian for all their hard work during this past year. In the coming term the Finance Committee looks forward to continuing its work creating a solid financial foundation which supports The 519 in its strategic plans and ambitious projects.</p> <p>Tom invited the membership to ask questions and with no further questions, Tom motioned to the Membership to approve & receive the financial statements and auditors report for the year 2015.</p>
	<p>Motion</p> <p>Moved by Nichola Ward Seconded by Luc Levasseur That the Membership receive the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2015 Decision carried</p>
7	<p>Executive Director's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maura greeted the room presented the theme of this year's annual report as Impact Through Community. • Maura took a moment to talk about what impact means noting that while perhaps "impact" is one of those words that gets used a lot when talking about the work of organizations, reflecting that it is a very fitting word when it comes to the work that we do here at The 519. • Maura expressed what Impact means to The 519, "To have a strong effect on someone or something. To affect, influence, make an impression on; touch, change, alter, modify, transform, shape". • Maura invited everyone to read through our Annual Report as it presents amazing stories and information about the work of The 519 and the work of many other people and groups who are making a difference here at The 519. • There were over 12,800 room bookings last year (that's over 35 a day) – that is an

incredible number. The 519 is host to support groups, reading circles, activist organizations, choirs, children's art programs, community kitchens, legal and tax clinics, yoga, and bridge clubs, just to name a few.

- There are well over 200 community-led groups who use our space on a regular basis to deliver programming for thousands of people who come through our doors every week. It is through their hard work and the countless hours that they dedicate to these programs that we are able to measure our impact.
- The 519 has over 2000 volunteers who commit tens of thousands of labour – volunteers who support our fundraising efforts, serve food in our drop-ins, provide peer leadership and mentorship to those who use our programs and services, deliver free counselling, and greet the community as they come through our front doors – our volunteers contribute to our impact in immeasurable ways.
- Through programs, we have delivered tens of thousands of hours, of one on one counseling and support; served almost ten thousand meals; delivered hundreds of LGBTQ inclusion workshops; and, participated in dozens of partnership tables.
- The work The 519 does supporting marginalized and vulnerable members of our community is the most important work accomplished – and it is what motivates so many people get up every morning and come through these doors.
- Impact is measured by the affect we have on people – the positive ways that we affect change in the world. The measurable ways that things get better for those who experience marginalization and discrimination and violence on a daily basis and the ways in which we change the systemic and institutional barriers that prevent us all from being truly free.
- It is from that place and in the spirit of achieving real and deep and meaningful impact that I want to specifically speak to our organization's commitment to engaging in honest and critical conversations about race and racism in the LGBTQ community and about race and racism in our city. The 519 will continue to listen, learn and engage in concrete actions that demonstrate our commitment to racial justice.
- I want to thank everyone here tonight – the leadership of our Board, our membership, our amazing staff and leadership team, our many volunteers, and each and every one of you who contribute in all of the big and small ways to – the ways in which you affect, influence, make an impression on; touch, change, alter, modify, transform, shape our organization. It is all of you that make The 519 such an incredible and special place and I feel very grateful for being part of that work – please join me in giving a big applause to everyone.

8

Business of the Board of Management

Jacob invited everyone to join in applauding Maura Lawless in her efforts and leadership of The 519 work. Jacob then introduced the Board of Management of 2015-2016:

1. Jacob Porpossian
2. Nicki Monahan
3. Tom Lewis
4. Tasnim Rehemtula
5. Michelle Walker
6. Wesley Watson
7. Luc Levasseur
8. Nadia Bello
9. Alwin Kong
10. David Morris
11. Nichola Ward
12. Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

Jacob thanked the retiring Board Members for their contributions and leadership in supporting The 519 mentioning that their dedication, passion and actions have advanced the vision and mandate of The 519 as it strives to meet the needs of our community.

Jacob invited John Farrell, Director of Philanthropy, to assist in presenting a gift of a flower bouquet in recognition for each retiring member. Jacob presented:

Luc Levasseur, the Chair of the Fundraising, Philanthropy and Communications Committee and member of the Human Resources and Governance Committee and who is retiring after serving 4 years since October 2012.

Michelle Walker, who has served since October 2013, is a member of the Strategic Program and Planning Committee and is the Vice Chair of the 2016 Nominations Committee. Michelle is retiring after serving 3 years.

Nadia Bello, who has served on the Board since April 2015 and Chairs the Human Resources and Governance Committee.

Nicki Monahan, who is currently the Vice Chair, a member of the Strategic Program and Planning Committee and the Human Resources and Governance Committee and is retiring after serving since January, 2015.

Wesley Watson, who is a member of Fundraising, Philanthropy and Communications Committee and who is retiring after serving since January 2015.

Jacob presented the Nominations Committee Recruitment Process noting:

Every year the Nomination Committee works to enhance the Board recruitment strategy.

This year's Nominations Committee consists of: Jacob Porpoisian, Michelle Walker, Tom Lewis with Nadia Bello as advisor

The Nominations Committee is a standing committee of the Board of Management of The 519. The Committee is responsible for the management of the recruitment process and recommended candidates to the membership to fill vacancies on the Board. The Committee is also responsible to ensure that the process complies with The 519's by-laws and other governing documents including the City of Toronto's Public Appointments Policy.

Over the years, the Committee has evolved from a foundation of planning, promotion and targeted outreach to include increased capacity in using online information, social media and collaboration with the City of Toronto to expand promotion of Board recruitment.

This year, the Committee extended outreach activities to include:

1. Early engagement with Board to establish Terms of Reference, Board priorities
2. Ongoing Board support to engage their networks in promotion of Board recruitment
3. Targeted outreach by the Committee since June 2016
4. Leveraged online and membership resources of The 519
5. Coordinated promotion with the City of Toronto Public Appointments Office
6. Comprehensive and dedicated space on The 519 website and social media platforms

Currently, 5 positions with two year terms are open on the Board with 1 position, at minimum, must be catchment while 4 positions could be filled by non-catchment members. Recruitment for these positions are guided by constitutional/public appointment policy as follows:

- Up to 11 elected members
- Ex-official position held by the City Councillor of the catchment area
- at least 6 positions are reserved for catchment members (catchment is defined as: bounded by Bay, Bloor, Parliament and Gerrard Streets)
- no more than 5 position can be filled by non-catchment associate members
- be at least 18 years of age;
- be a resident of Toronto
- be a member or associate member of The 519

Board recruitment is enhanced with Board approved priorities in the areas of diversity, skills, knowledge and experience. Specifically, the diversity priorities are:

- Individuals from a cross-section of age groups
- Members of diverse racial and ethno-cultural communities
- Women and trans people

Specifically, the skills, knowledge and experience priorities are Board members with deep understanding and competencies in the following areas:

- Philanthropy and Fundraising
 - sharing knowledge; leveraging extended networks; innovation; use of technology in fund development
- Board governance
- Community and neighbourhood development and engagement
- Recreation and health promotion planning

The Committee also supported the advancement of ongoing Board priorities such as:

- Policy expertise with Refugee and Newcomer and Homeless/ Housing Services
- Diverse and demonstrated expertise and connections in government relations
- Experience and understanding of marginalized communities

The Members of the catchment are:

1. Gwen Benaway, a member of the catchment area
2. Linda Booker, also a member of the catchment area

The non catchment Members are:

3. Alex Abramovich
4. Patrick Gervais
5. Paul Saguil

During interviews, candidates answered questions to give demonstrate their knowledge and experiences with diversity, their professional skills and knowledge, and their potential contributions to The 519's priorities and future development. Each question had a pre-established answer key and rating system.

Jacob invited the recommended appointees to briefly introduce themselves to the Membership:

- Patrick Gervais introduced himself as a resident of Regent Park, a corporate lawyer at Morneau Sheppel and that he sits on many boards including the Regent Park Legacy Fund and is involved in community development. As a Board member he will look at engaging various groups, act with an impartial and objective manner

with a high level of scrutiny, committed to be fairness and representing all Members.

- Alex Abramovich introduced himself as a research scientist. Alex is focused on LGBTQ and youth homeless, access to shelters working with key decision workers to provide evidence based research that lead to concrete policy and action such as Canada's first LGBTQ shelter program. Alex noted they want to bring youth voice, needs and experience to the forefront of all contributions.
- Paul Saguil introduced themselves as a community activist and as a corporate lawyer who sits on a number of boards and committees (Start Proud formerly Out of Bay Street and Community One foundation formerly known as Lesbian and Gay Community Appeal). Paul is interested in work regarding inclusion and racialized LGBTQ communities and is looking to work on intersections of issues.
- Linda Booker introduced herself as a youth counsellor focused on working with children, youth and families in particular juveniles in the court system. Linda offers years of experience working in an education system with at risk youth in elementary and secondary schools to help develop tools to navigate the educational system and to achieve success at their pace. Linda notes the additional challenge when a person experiences trauma and Linda offers lived, personal and professional experience to contribute in a meaningful way
- Gwen Benaway introduced themselves in their native language Anshiwabe and metis as a transwomen in the village who was a community based educator focused on indigenous communities and two spirited communities. Gwen noted they have worked with the provincial government as a consultant to help transform the provincial government approach to represent indigenous people, inter sectionalised, marginalised and racialised communities.

With the motion passed, Jacob announced the Board of Management for 2016-2017:

1. Alex Abramovich
2. Gwen Benaway
3. Paul Saguil
4. Linda Booker
5. Patrick Gervais
6. Jacob Porpossian
7. Nichola Ward
8. Tom Lewis
9. Tasnim Rehemtula
10. David Morris
11. Alwin Kong
12. Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam (ex-officio)

	<p>Motion</p> <p>Moved by Nichola Ward Seconded by Alwin Kong That the Board to approve the recommended candidates to the Board of Management of The 519 as: Alex Abramovich, Gwen Benaway, Linda Booker, Patrick Gervais and Paul Saguil Decision carried</p>
9	<p>Programs and Services Presentation</p> <p>Jacob invited employees of The 519 to introduce themselves and to highlight some of their memorable work over the past year as part of a highlight of the Annual Report:</p> <p>Steven Little as Director of Social Enterprise, Education and Advocacy spoke to the Education and Training noting the work on advocating change in government travel documentation respecting gender identity and gender expression; infographics and partnership with Alex Abramovich on youth homelessness and the shelter system in Toronto; trans youth sport and recreation programming; Buddies in Bad Times with Youth and Elders project and the ongoing success of programs.</p> <p>Robyn Letson as Coordinator for Trauma Informed Counselling Services spoke to the trauma informed counselling services, supporting service delivery that includes training for staff and that includes a trauma informed framework. Robyn noted the volunteer driven counselling program and the constant advancement of responding to community needs, building competencies and bringing in more counselling services.</p> <p>Sharn Peters as the Coordinator of the Family Resource Centre noted the pride in working with students from Ryerson and York Universities highlighting that Ryerson acknowledged The 519 for introducing a truly inclusive space. Sharn is looking forward to work with the 50 plus, child and youth mentorship programs.</p> <p>Ben Bongolan as the Newcomer Settlement, Family Services Coordinator spoke to how the program provides tangible change for the individual such as a 2 year partnership with the Labour Department helping over 200 caregivers. Ben noted the Youth Space Advisory Committee helped design and enhance a framework for space use across the City and work will continue to progress, to respond and serve community needs.</p> <p>Osmel Maynes as Specialist of Volunteer Coordination and Community Engagement spoke to the valuable contribution of volunteers with their diverse skills, knowledge and contributions. Osmel expressed gratitude for their generosity because they make things possible. Osmel noted continued priorities to engage with communities of colour and to ensure the diverse voices of the LGBTQ community is heard.</p> <p>John Farrell as Director of Philanthropy, acknowledged the incredible impact donors</p>



Minutes: Annual General Meeting (2015-2016)

Saturday September 24, 2016 4:30 PM

The 519, Ballroom

	<p>have specifically last year when The 519 made a first time appeal for additional support and it was donors who truly made the difference and this response inspires future work to keep advancing The 519 as a charity of choice.</p> <p>Julie Hamara as a program assistant coordinator and Front House employee, spoke to the Trans Youth Mentorship program and the social enterprise, Fabranak, especially noting the re launch of the Trans Youth Mentorship program. Julie noted that it is significant for youth to have place to go to and Julie expressed hope for participants to become community leaders when so many youth face challenges that can lead to substance abuse and homelessness.</p> <p>Karlene Williams Clark as Manager of Direct Services recalled the significance of The 519 hosting Pride discussion panels, Trans Rights and Beyond Queer Politics. Karlene expressed commitment for inclusion of diverse voices; advancing and facilitating conversations on human rights and reducing divisions of race, politics and trans rights.</p> <p>Jaymie Sampa spoke to being a Community Organizer supporting the Moss Park Project. Jaymie noted the significance of engaging with people who are often excluded from conversations about change and its impact especially in their lives and where they live. Jaymie noted looking forward to ongoing engagement and relationships.</p> <p>Maura spoke on behalf of Leslie Gaynor, the Manager of Fabranak as a significant social enterprise that extends beyond its location at The 519 to catering, the Food Share program and ongoing advocacy for food for all.</p>
	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Jacob thanked everyone for participating and motioned to the Membership to adjourn the meeting. Jacob invited anyone with questions or comments to come and discuss.</p>
	<p>Motion</p> <p>Moved by David Morris Seconded by Nichola Ward That the Board adjourn the meeting at 6:00 PM. Decision carried</p>

Item	Attached Document
2	• Saturday September 24, 2016 Agenda
3	• Thursday September 24, 2015 Minutes
6	• Audited Financial Statements, 2015
8	• 2016 Board of Management Candidate Information Sheets