



## Minutes: Annual General Meeting (2017-2018)

Thursday September 28, 2017 5:30 PM

The 519, Ballroom

### Board

<b>Chair</b>	David Morris	Paul Jonathan Saguil (regrets)	
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Gwen Benaway	Linda Booker	Paul Noble
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tom Lewis (regrets)	Nichola Ward	Justin Khan
<b>Secretary</b>	Alwin Kong	Patrick Gervais	Biko Beuttah
<b>Ex-Officio</b>	Councillor, Kristyn Wong-Tam (regrets)		

### Employees

<b>Executive Director</b>	Maura Lawless
<b>Programs and Community Services, A/Senior Director</b>	Becky McFarlane
<b>Director of Philanthropy</b>	Stacy Kelly
<b>Manager, Communications and Fund Development (minutes)</b>	Soofia Mahmood

### Candidates

1	David Morris
2	Nichola (Nicki) Ward
3	Tom Warner
4	Paul Noble
5	Biko Beuttah
6	Pam Hrick

Items	Minutes
1	<p><b>Chair Welcome</b></p> <p>David, Board Chair made introductions, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting acknowledging the start of 2016 Annual General Meeting of The 519 at 6:37 PM.</p> <p>David acknowledged that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation.</p> <p>David thanked the Fabarnak team for the wonderful dinner.</p>

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	<p>David informed audience about the items in the package and requested them to review the agenda of AGM of Thursday September 28, 2017, and minutes of AGM of Saturday September 24, 2016.</p> <p>David 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"> <li>• live in the area bounded by Bay, Bloor, Gerrard and Parliament</li> <li>• became members for the first time at least 30 days before today's meeting (on or before August 28, 2017)</li> <li>• Lapsed catchment members are eligible to vote if they have renewed their membership prior to the start of today's meeting</li> <li>• All people who are eligible to vote were given a registration card when they came in. Please raise your hand so that we may register you to vote.</li> <li>• People moving motions and seconding motions should show their registration card when they raise their hand, so that non-voting members do not inadvertently move motions and second them.</li> <li>• Movers and seconders state their full name for the minutes.</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>Quorum</b></p> <p>David noted there is a majority of board members therefore quorum is met.</p>
3	<p><b>Approval of Agenda</b></p> <p>David reviewed the agenda with the Membership and motioned for the Membership to receive the Agenda of Thursday September 28, 2017.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Motion</b></p> <p><b>Moved by Nicki Ward</b> <b>Seconded by Ronald Dieleman</b></p> <p><b>That</b> the Membership review and receive the Agenda for Thursday September 28, 2017 <b>Decision</b> carried</p>
4	<p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p> <p>David motioned for the Membership to review and receive the 2015-2016 Annual</p>

	<p>General Meeting Minutes of Saturday September 24, 2016.</p> <p><b>Motion</b></p> <p><b>Moved by Gwen Benaway</b>  <b>Seconded by Nicki Ward</b>  <b>That</b> the Membership review and receive the Minutes of the Saturday September 24, 2016 Annual General Meeting  <b>Decision</b> carried</p>
5	<p><b>Declaration of Conflict of Interest(s)</b></p> <p>David confirmed that no conflicts were declared.</p>
6	<p><b>Chair Report / Executive Committee</b></p> <p>David thanked and appreciated the Board colleagues, membership, the leadership team and all the staff and volunteers of The 519 for their amazing contributions over the past year and for their role as Board chair.</p> <p>David's presented the chair report highlighting the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The disturbing global trends are threatening our progress. Whether it is the discriminatory policies in the US, the horrific concentration camps in Chechnya or the ongoing violence against trans people around the world – we must acknowledge that such happenings affect each one of us, and shape our future, directly or not.</li> <li>• In times like these, it is even more important to stand together with each other, and with the world, and become leaders that inspire change.</li> <li>• David felt proud to be part of The 519, to be a part of a space for change, that has always worked with activists and advocates around the world, shared our knowledge with them, and stood by them in solidarity.</li> <li>• In Canada, Senate recently passed Bill C-16 – an act to amend the Canadian Human Rights and Criminal Code to protect gender identity and expression. It was also announced recently that our government-issued documents will now have the choice to display 'X' as gender designation. The 519's Education and Training team played a crucial role through extensive community consultations to inform and contribute to this policy change.</li> <li>• David mentioned that this is not our final destination, and there is so</li> </ul>

much more to be done, but it is progress in the right direction. He hoped that Canada takes many more important steps towards advancing equity, equality and inclusion for all Canadians regardless of gender identity or expression.

- David highlighted some impact numbers reflecting how The 519 serves this neighbourhood and the communities:
  - The Family Resource Centre that offered learning activities and creative events to over 7000 children and 7000 parents this year.
  - Education and Training team that provided inclusion training to more than 10,000 individuals.
  - Programs that provided trauma-informed counselling, housing support, referrals, and sports inclusion activities to hundreds of young LGBTQ folks.
  - The Sunday drop-in or Meal Trans programs that offered more than 16,000 free meals and provided direct services to community members experiencing poverty, homelessness or social isolation.
  - Among Friends Refugee Support program which had more than 5000 visits by refugee claimants over the year.
  - Or the more than 35000 people from all over the world who came to our Green Space Festival 2017 to party for a cause.

David expressed pride in being part of a community that always comes together in support and celebration of The 519.

David thanked the following for their work:

- the hundreds of donors for their generous gifts in support of The 519
- our many corporate partners who support our work through sponsorship and philanthropy
- the 1,200+ volunteers who gave their time, talents and expertise to The 519 this year, including my Board colleagues.
- the leadership team and staff at The 519 for their passion, and unwavering commitment to the health, happiness and full participation of LGBTQ communities.
- the committed funders, like the City of Toronto, United Way, and the provincial and federal governments.
- our community partners that help expand our reach and increase our capacity to provide service
- and each and every person who walked through the doors of this

	building to participate in programs or to support them in some way.
7	<p><b>Review of Financial Statements: Auditor’s Report</b></p> <p>Alwin Kong, Board Secretary, introduced themselves and announced that Tom Lewis (Treasurer of the board) was unable to attend and present. Alwin proceeded to present the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2016 with the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall, 2016 can be celebrated as another record-breaking financial year for The 519 with revenues of over \$6.9 million, 18% increase over last year.</li> <li>• The audit was completed by Welch LLP who are appointed by City Council and completed the audit on all the AOCC organizations. (AOCC being the Association of Community Centres, comprised of the 10 community centres like The 519 that depend on hybrid funding from both the City and the community.)</li> <li>• Other than the standard qualification regarding donations - common to most Not for Profit Organizations, (The 519 derives revenue from donations and fundraising, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification), The 519 received a clean audit – there were no irregularities identified.</li> <li>• The 519 ended the year with a \$424,841 surplus after amortization. This was due in large part to the exceptional individual donors and the results from our Annual Green Space festival in 2016.</li> <li>• In 2016 The 519 Board approved a new Program Reserve fund that set aside a portion of the 2016 surplus to respond to future program and or emergency needs of The 519. The fund can only be accessed with Board approval.</li> <li>• Alwin presented some more highlights of note:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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. We have successfully negotiated with the City for inflationary yearly increases to our core budget to offset increases in salaries and benefits so that we can continue to manage no reductions in front-line programs and services. In 2016 we were given an increase of \$63,382 in core funding.</li> <li>○ In 2016, Core City funding represented 19.0% of the overall operating budget, down slightly from 22.5% in 2015 and down significantly from five years ago when it represented 56% of the budget.</li> <li>○ In 2016, The 519 raised approximately \$4.44 in additional funds for every \$1 provided in City of Toronto core funding. This is up from the \$3.57 in 2015.</li> <li>○ Alwin thanked our Honorary Patron Salah Bachir and sponsors including BMO, the Slight Family Foundation and Cineplex Media, our 2016</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<p>Annual Gala featuring Jason Alexander raised a record \$273,610 for The 519.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Alwin acknowledged the significance of our fundraising success, due to the generous philanthropic support of so many individuals, corporations and foundations. Alwin noted that in 2016, we exceeded budget expectations in all these areas thanks to the generosity of our communities.</li> <li>○ 2016 Green Space Festival was our biggest success to date, well exceeding expectations. 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 \$304,929 in April 2016 to ensure a conservative approach to our estimates. However, through a combination of the extremely favourable factors and strategic expenditure savings, the 2016 Festival more than doubled budgeted goals, netting a remarkable \$563,778. Special thank you to all our festival sponsors including TD, Brown Forman, Delta, and others who help fund the costs of the festival.</li> <li>○ 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 2018.</li> <li>○ As part of The 519's Finance Committee due diligence the Committee reviews detailed financial information prepared by staff including quarterly reports, year end projections and annual budgets.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alwin concluded by thanking the Finance Committee members Paul Saguil, Nichola Ward, Paul Noble and Biko Beuttah for all their hard work during this past year as well as the 519 Finance staff.</li> <li>• Alwin invited questions if any. None were asked.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Motion</b></p> <p><b>Moved by David Morris</b>  <b>Seconded by Linda Booker</b>  <b>That</b> the Membership receive the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2016  <b>Decision</b> carried</p>
8	<p><b>Executive Director's Report</b></p> <p>Maura Lawless greeted and thanked everyone present.</p> <p>Maura talked about the theme of this year's annual report - The World in Our Centre and explained that 'the world' in our theme depicts the amazing</p>

diversity of the world represented within the LGBTQ communities we serve – the diversity of life, people, opinions, cultures, and dreams. It also means diversity of needs.

Maura explained the various roles The 519 plays – which are more than that of a registered charity and a City agency. We are a community leader; a community builder; a safe space that extends beyond the boundaries of our building; an advocate and activist; a productive and social enterprise; an educator; and a provider of direct services.

Maura mentioned that in the many roles we play and the many programs we run, we are mindful of the diversity of the needs of the communities we serve.

Maura asked the audience to go through our annual report, and read about the impact we have been able to have on individual and collective lives.

Maura highlighted the following points:

- In the last one year, more than 520,000 people visited The 519. More than 90,000 documented visits were to programs led by The 519.
- The 519 inculcated many diverse community partnerships, within our own programming, and as independently run programs that serve the diverse needs of the communities. This approach has expanded our capacity to serve the neighbourhood and communities with a greater variety of programs, events and services.
- For direct services, our focus was to expand our anti-poverty and homelessness programs, and trauma-informed services. Last year, we were able to serve more than 16,000 free and healthy meals – and provide counselling, housing support, skill development, art and recreation, and volunteer opportunities – to hundreds of drop-in participants experiencing poverty, homelessness, or social isolation.
- Among our many trauma-informed services, is our LGBTQ Refugee Support program – which experienced a considerable increase in demand. The group session visits by LGBTQ refugee claimants to our Among Friends program increased by more than 87% in one year. This increase in demand is representative of the persecution, and tragedies being faced by LGBTQ communities all around the world.

Maura then talked about the unspeakable atrocities being committed against the LGBTQ folks in Chechnya and elaborated that some of those persecuted

have recently arrived in Canada with the help of Rainbow Railroad, the Russian LGBTQ network, and the Government of Canada.

Maura announced that The 519 is entering into a formal partnership with Rainbow Railroad to provide a wide range of settlement support services to the government assisted Chechen refugees in Canada.

The services include:

- broad-scale language assistance
- housing services
- trauma-informed counselling services
- engagement in art and cultural activities
- volunteering opportunities at The 519, and
- sports and recreation initiatives

Maura announced that The 519 is also expanding the program further in preparation for future arrivals and requested for support by members and donors.

Further points highlighted by Maura include:

- Our youth focused housing program is also trauma-informed and is working to reduce LGBTQ youth homelessness. It is estimated that as much as 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ2S. There is an urgent need to help our youth find safe, inclusive, and affordable housing, and a lot of work needs to be done not only to find those safe spaces but also to build them.
- We are also working to improve trans-youth's access to sports and recreational facilities. Lack of access to safe spaces, and social isolation put trans youth at a significantly higher risk for suicide and depression. Through our Spark Trans Youth Sports program, 80% of program participants reported a decrease in social isolation and increase in confidence as a direct result of the program.
- In addition to providing direct services, we are also community leaders – a role we take very seriously. Our Education and Training team has worked tirelessly throughout the year to develop knowledge tools and share them broadly.
- As a productive enterprise, the department conducted 314 training workshops during the year. The sector that received the most number of inclusion trainings was healthcare, and healthcare specific to older LGBTQ communities. Others included educational institutions, community housing and shelters, social service providers, government, private and various corporate organizations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bringing about systemic change and creating a safer, inclusive world for LGBTQ communities all over Canada and abroad is an important part of our mission. That is why we also hosted a series of human rights panel discussions inviting prominent activities from Canada and abroad and shared knowledge and resources.</li> <li>• We stood by and with our communities on the first anniversary of Orlando massacre. A beautiful community-informed art piece was commissioned and installed on our walls, as a reminder for all of us to strive for justice and safety for our communities. We also hosted a vigil attended by hundreds of people who overwhelmingly expressed the continued need for such events showing solidarity with LGBTQ2S communities all over the world.</li> </ul> <p>Maura acknowledged that all the work we have done has been possible by the generous gifts of our donors, sponsors, and supporters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The communities responded to our donation appeal in June this year to support our refugee program in anticipation of the unfortunate rise in injustice, discrimination, and persecution of LGBTQ communities all over the world. We shared a story about a refugee claimant from Ukraine availing services at The 519 – and the communities opened their hearts to us.</li> <li>• There was also a remarkable interest in 3rd party fundraising activities and events in support of our work– especially during the month of pride. We raised more than \$65,000 through creative campaigns launched by community groups, individuals, small businesses and large organizations.</li> <li>• All in all, we were able to raise \$4.44 for every \$1 of City funding received.</li> <li>• We had over 1200 volunteers who committed more than 23,000 hours of their time to The 519 – supporting our fundraising efforts, and our programs.</li> </ul> <p>Maura concluded with expressing gratitude and calling for everyone to work together to build a life that offers health, happiness, safety and full participation for everyone – here and everywhere.</p>
9	<p><b>Business of the Board of Management</b></p> <p>Gwen Benaway introduced the Board of Management of 2016-2017:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. David Morris</li> <li>2. Gwen Benaway</li> </ol>

3. Tom Lewis
4. Alwin Kong
5. Nichola Ward
6. Patrick Gervais
7. Paul Noble
8. Linda Booker
9. Justin Khan
10. Paul Saguil
11. Biko Beuttah
12. Jacob Porpossian
13. Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

Gwen 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. Gwen presented Alwin a gift of illustrated photo print of The 519 made by artist Cheniqua Carr, a placement student who spent time at The 519. Gwen acknowledged Tom Lewis' efforts by requesting everyone to give a round of applause in Tom's absence.

#### **THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT CANDIDATES -NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (GWEN BENAWAY)**

As the Chair of The 519's Human Resources Governance Committee Gwen provided an update on this year's Nominations Committee activities:

- This year's Nominations Committee consisted of: Gwen Benaway, Tom Lewis and Justin Khan.
- The Nominations Committee is a standing committee of the Board of Management of The 519. The Committee is responsible to manage the recruitment process and recommend 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.

In June the Board of The 519 approved the recruitment priorities for the 2017/2018 term of the Board. Those included continuing to advance the representation of:

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

**Skill and Experience Priorities include:**

Deep understanding and demonstrated competencies in:

- Financial expertise, professional designation is an asset
- Senior working level experience in leading Philanthropy
- Strategic communications
- Community and neighbourhood development / planning

Candidates must also satisfy **eligibility criteria** established by the City of Toronto Public Appointments Policy and The 519's By-laws/Constitution.

Candidates must:

- Be over the age of 18
- Be a resident of the City of Toronto (residency including living in the City of Toronto, owning or tenating land there, or being the spouse of an owner

or tenant)

- Be a current member of The 519. At least 6 of the 11 elected members must reside in The 519's catchment area. The catchment area is bounded by Bay, Bloor, Parliament and Gerrard Streets.
- Not be in a restricted category as defined in the Public Appointments Policy

In 2017/ 2018 there are 6 vacancies for the Board:

- 3 catchment
- 3 non-catchment

#### **Status of Board Recruitment and Recommended Board Candidates**

The Nominations Committee received 13 applications this year from eligible candidates

2 of whom are current Board members seeking to extend their term for another two years.

2 of whom are current Board members who were appointed mid-term in 2016-2017 and are seeking to extend their term on the Board.

6 of the 13 are residents of the catchment area.

The Committee interviewed all candidates using a standard template of questions focused on how the nominees see themselves contributing in supporting our work at The 519; and how their skills, expertise and lived experience advances our commitment to diversity

Gwen thanked all the nominees who participated in the process and acknowledged that we had a tremendous group of individuals who were interested in supporting The 519.

The committee made its recommendations considering The 519's

commitment to equity and diversity and the required skills set the Board identified as priorities in the recruitment process.

The Nomination Committee recommended to the Membership the following nominees for appointment to the Board of Management, fulfilling both the required minimum 3 catchment positions and 3 non-catchment positions:

**Members from the catchment area are:**

- David Morris
- Nichola (Nicki) Ward
- Tom Warner

**Members from the non-catchment area are:**

- Paul Noble
- Biko Beuttah
- Pam Hrick

Gwen invited each recommended appointees to the podium to briefly introduce themselves and speak to the Membership about why they want to be on the Board of the 519.

- **David Morris:** David presented their qualifications (see attached bio) and mentioned that they have been serving on The 519 Board of Management since April 2017 when Jacob stepped down. Prior to that David was Vice-Chair. David expressed their love for The 519 and respect for the staff, and community partners they got to work with. They also appreciated how The 519 responds to the needs of diverse communities. David mentioned that they identify as a gay man and HIV positive person to reflect their personal interest and engagement in the work that The 519 does.
- **Nichola (Nicki) Ward:** Nicki highlighted that they have lived in the neighbourhood for a long time. Nicki mentioned that they identify as an elder, trans-women, and a person with disability and that their identity is deeply rooted in the neighbourhood. They emphasized that they are dedicated to The 519 as a concept and do not hesitate to speak their mind.

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	<p>They said as a Board member they would advocate for more neighbourhood focused services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tom Warner:</b> Tom presented their qualifications (see attached bio) and mentioned that they have been an activist in the LGBTQ community for over 45 years, starting in Saskatchewan when they founded first queer and student organization in 1971. They mentioned that they have been active with advocacy organizations over the years. They acknowledged that The 519 is an important resource for our community as a safe haven, where we can organize, and avail services The 519 offers to marginalized communities. They stated that it is an iconic institution and they are a staunch supporter.</li> <li>• <b>Paul Noble:</b> Paul mentioned that they have been a Board Member of The 519 since March 2017. They mentioned that they are an openly gay executive working in a financial institution and a proud member of the LGBTQ community working to further diversity and inclusion in the corporate sector. They acknowledged the great work 519 does for community and expressed their passionate about this organization.</li> <li>• <b>Biko Beuttah:</b> Biko mentioned that as a refugee claimant they were referred to The 519 for direct services. They marveled at their journey – from being a refugee program participant to a current Board Member. Biko expressed that they feel there is a vacuum when it comes to Trans People of Colour and that motivated them to join The 519. They appreciated that the culture at The 519 is very inclusive and has inspired them to work for change.</li> <li>• <b>Pam Hrick:</b> Pam expressed that they would be honoured to serve alongside some amazing people for an amazing organization like The 519. Pam mentioned that they identify as a gay woman. As a lawyer, they provide pro bono services to marginalized communities and would be delighted to bring that law experience to The 519. They further discussed their professional qualifications (see bio attached).</li> </ul> <p>Gwen invited questions of the committee. No questions were asked.</p>
	<p><b>Motion</b></p>

	<p><b>Moved by Alwin Kong</b> <b>Seconded by Ronald Dieleman</b></p> <p><b>*All in favour.</b> That the Board to approve to recommend the appointment of David Morris, Nichola (Nicki) Ward, Tom Warner, Paul Noble, Biko Beuttah and Pam Hrick to the Board of Management of The 519 in accordance with the City of Toronto`s Public Appointments Policy <b>Decision</b> carried</p>
	<p>With the motion passed, Gwen announced the Board of Management for 2017-2018:</p> <p>The Board of Management of The 519 for 2017-2018 is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Morris</li> <li>• Nichola (Nicki) Ward</li> <li>• Tom Warner</li> <li>• Biko Beuttah</li> <li>• Pam Hrick</li> <li>• Paul Noble</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Plus current Board members....</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gwen Benaway</li> <li>• Linda Booker</li> <li>• Patrick Gervais</li> <li>• Paul Saguil</li> <li>• Justin Khan</li> <li>• Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam (ex-officio)</li> </ul>
<p>10.</p>	<p><b>Adjournment</b></p> <p>David thanked everyone for participating and motioned to the Membership to adjourn the meeting. David invited anyone with questions or comments to come and discuss.</p>



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	<p><b>Motion</b></p> <p><b>Moved by Alwin Kong</b>  <b>Seconded by Gwen Benaway</b>  <b>That</b> the Board adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM.  <b>Decision</b> carried</p>
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<b>Item</b>	<b>Attached Document</b>
1.	• Thursday September 28, 2017 Agenda
2.	• Saturday September 24, 2016 Minutes
3.	• Audited Financial Statements, 2016
4.	• 2017 Board of Management Candidate Information Sheets (bio)

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