

MINUTES: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2023-24)

Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

The 519 Ballroom

Board Members

Board Chair: Paul Saguil	Brett House	Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Vice Chair: Tom Spence	Pam Hrick	Aaron Hewitt
Secretary: Erika Voaklander	Natalie Miller	
Treasurer: Zoe Robinson	Min Oh (regrets)	
Ex-Officio: Councillor, Chris Moise		

The 519

Executive Director	Maura Lawless
Director, Community Access and Engagement	Lisa Duplessis
Director, Strategic Partnership Initiatives	Jaymie Sampa
Director, Public Interest & Community Relations	Curran Stikuts
Director, Housing Advocacy & Support Services	Martha Singh Jennings
Director, Finance	Maria Martinez
Director, Operations	Karlene Williams-Clarke
Director, Philanthropy	Aniska Ali
Director, Public Interest and Legal Initiatives	Johanna Macdonald
Manager, Strategic & Executive Planning	Laura Gibbon
Coordinator, Philanthropy and Donor Relations (minutes)	Mark Manalo

Candidates

1	Vanshika Dhawan*
2	Brett House
3	Natalie Miller
4	Zoe Robinson
5	Tom Spence*
6	Jaris Swidrovich (regrets)

* Denotes catchment

Items	Minutes
1	<p>Chair Welcome – Paul Saguil</p> <p>Paul Saguil opened the 2023-2024 Annual General Meeting at 6:06pm, welcomed everyone, and delivered a land acknowledgement.</p> <p>Housekeeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are gathered today to discuss the work of The 519 during the last year, and to consider proposed changes to The 519's bylaws, elect the nominated

	<p>individuals to be recommended to Community Council for appointment to our Board of Management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As outlined in The 519's Board By-laws/ Constitution, Relationship Framework and Public Appointment's policy, eligible voting members must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> live in the area bounded by Bay, Bloor, Gerrard and Parliament have become members for the first time at least 30 days before today's meeting, and Lapsed catchment members are eligible to vote if they have renewed their membership prior to the start of today's meeting. All people who are eligible to vote were given a voting card when they came in. People moving motions and seconding motions should raise their voting card and state their full name for the minutes. <p>Voting at the AGM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only members living in the catchment area are eligible to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move and second motions Vote for all motions Vote on the proposed changes to the By-Laws Vote in the election of Directors to the Board of Management Associate members living outside the catchment area are not eligible to vote in any of the motions. Members are requested to raise their voting card in order to move or second motions.
2	<p>Quorum – Paul Saguil</p> <p>The Chair declared that quorum had been achieved.</p>
3	<p>Approval of Agenda – Paul Saguil</p> <p>The Chair reviewed the agenda with the Membership and motioned for the Membership to approve the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of September 27, 2023.</p> <p>MOTION 3.1: To approve the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of September 27, 2023.</p> <p>Moved by: Aaron Hewitt Seconded by: Natalie Miller</p> <p>That the Membership approve the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of September 27, 2023.</p>

	<p>Decision: Carried</p>
4	<p>Approval of Minutes – Paul Saguil</p> <p>The Chair requested that the Membership review the minutes and requested a motion for the Membership to approve the 2022/23 Annual General Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2022.</p> <p>MOTION 4.1: To approve the minutes for the Annual General Meeting of September 28, 2022.</p> <p>Moved by: Kevin Hurren Seconded by: Tom Spence</p> <p>That the Membership approve the Minutes for the Annual General Meeting of September 28, 2022.</p> <p>Decision: Carried</p>
5	<p>Declaration of Conflict of Interest(s) – Paul Saguil</p> <p>No conflicts of interest were declared.</p>
6	<p>Board Chair Report – Paul Saguil (Board Chair)</p> <p>6.1 Highlights of 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In preparing for tonight, I was thinking about last Wednesday, when over 1,000 people joined together in Barbara Hall Park and marched over to join many more at Queen’s Park to make it loud and clear that hate has no place in our province. It’s moments like these that make me most proud to be connected to The 519. Moments where we work together to move quickly and do what feels impossible – in support of our communities. But in a time where extremists are trying to

	<p>repeal our hard-fought wins, it can be hard to focus on the incredible things, big and small, that happen here every day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's amazing to think about how much has happened since we met last year. Big things, like our partnership with Homes First Society, which resulted in the opening of Toronto's first 2SLGBTQ+ adult shelter. Located in west Toronto, this space provides much needed housing and stability to 2SLGBTQ+ people experiencing homelessness, with a focus on refugee and trans community members. • There are small things that add up, too. There were 17,000 visits to our EarlyON centre, where children and their caregivers got support and found community; 2,200 newcomers and refugees who accessed settlement support; and, thanks to our tireless tax clinic volunteers, we returned \$4 million in tax returns to the pockets of over 1,800 local residents and community members. • These things, big and small, take an organization that is strong, stable, and flexible enough to respond to the needs of our neighbours and community members. From staff trainings on anti-Black racism and Indigenous Reconciliation, to investments in our IT and database infrastructure, we have spent a lot of time this year building our capacity as an organization. • As you will hear tonight, I am proud of the amount of quiet work that has gone on behind the scenes to make sure that The 519 has the by-laws and policies in place for a stronger foundation on which we can build more opportunities for 2SLGBTQ+ people. • Most of all, I am proud of all of you in this room. My fellow board members, who have spent countless hours reviewing and proposing amendments to our by-laws. Our amazing staff, who go above and beyond each and every day to create spaces for our communities to grow, to celebrate, to find joy, and to find support in their darkest moments. • Our hundreds of volunteers, whose generosity of time and support are the lifeblood of our organization. And, of course, to all of you here today. Whether you're a member or a supporter, a volunteer or a program participant, or all of the above. The work we've done as an organization for almost fifty years is about you, for you, and always with you. On behalf of the entire board, thank you. <p>Paul Saguil acknowledged the Board of Management 2022-2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aaron Hewitt • Brett House • Pam Hrick • Natalie Miller • Min Oh • Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo • Zoe Robinson • Paul Saguil • Tom Spence • Mauriene Tolentino
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erika Voaklander • Councillor Chris Moise <p>Paul Saguil also acknowledged the community members who served on our standing Board Committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brent Artemchuk, Mary Stefanidis and Daniel Retzlaff on the Fundraising and Philanthropy Committee • Holly Sterling on the Finance Committee <p>Paul Saguil also acknowledged and thanked retiring and departed board members Pam Hrick and Mauriene Tolentino for their time and dedication to the Board over the past several years.</p>
7	<p>Review of Financial Statements / Auditor's Report – Zoe Robinson (Board Treasurer)</p> <p>Zoe Robinson presented the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2022, highlighting the following key points:</p> <p>Auditor's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The audit was completed by Welch LLP. Toronto City Council appointed Welch LLP. Welch LLP completes the audits of all City of Toronto Association of Community Centres (AOCCs). • The auditors have, in their opinion, determined that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The 519 as of December 31st 2022. • Auditors are independent of The 519 and have fulfilled their ethical requirements. <p>Statement of Financial Position</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total assets of The 519 have increased from \$4.45M to \$4.68M, a \$0.2M variance over 2021. • The liabilities have increased from \$2.50M to \$2.73M, a \$0.225M variance over 2021. • This variance can be explained mostly by an increase in Accounts Payable and accrued liabilities by \$0.158M as well as a increase in Deferred Contributions by \$0.081M. • Given we ended the year with a surplus, the Board decided to set aside funds to manage operating and capital pressures in the future to ensure the continued delivery of programs and services. <p>Statement of Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 519 was able to increase revenue from \$6.68M to \$8.70M in 2022, a positive increase of \$2.02M over 2021. This increase was driven mainly by City

	<p>of Toronto, Federal and Provincial Funding, but mostly by Donations and Fundraising.</p> <p>Looking Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 519 is expected to end the 2023 fiscal year in a positive position. • The continued impact of the pandemic, the slowdown of the economy and significant inflationary impacts in 2023 and 2024 remain uncertain at this time, but the management team at The 519 is mitigating risk and monitoring expenses closely. • The 519 remains committed to maintaining service delivery levels as much as possible in preparing the 2024 operating budget. <p>MOTION 7.1: To receive the Financial Statements and the Auditor's Report for the year ending December 31, 2022.</p> <p>Moved by: Aaron Hewitt Seconded by: Councillor Chris Moise</p> <p>That the Membership receive the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year ending December 31, 2022.</p> <p>Decision: Carried</p>
8	<p>Executive Director's Report – Maura Lawless (Executive Director)</p> <p>The Executive Director's report highlighted the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of us are here tonight because we care about the future of 2SLGBTQ+ communities, our neighbourhood, and because we believe that The 519 plays a central role in that future. • We find ourselves in very challenging times as the 2SLGBTQ+ community – again. We see legislation being passed in New Brunswick and Saskatchewan that intends to dismiss the existence of trans and queer students. We see similar policies being floated in Ontario. And we see a rising movement of anti-2SLGBTQ+ people focused on using us as a tool in their culture wars to widen divisions in society and enhance their power through spreading hate and fear. • What we also see are 2-Spirit, queer, trans and non-binary communities fighting back against that erasure and the erosion of our human rights through legal challenges and community mobilization, including over 2,500 people coming out last week and joining our counter-protest with less than 2 days-notice to defend the human rights of trans and queer communities.

- What our communities know is that no matter what we look like, where we come from, or how we express our genders, we all deserve to be treated with dignity and respect in our schools, our workplaces and our families. And that is why we do the work we do at The 519. We do it to create spaces where 2SLGBTQ+ people can be their complete selves, build community, find support and continue to contribute to making this world a better place for all.
- We're also in very challenging times for our neighbourhood and city. We see the real impacts of the lack of investment in affordable housing, safe affirming shelters, mental health and addictions supports coupled with reno/and demo-victions of established communities to make way for thousands of unaffordable condos.
- As a community centre, we know our role must be to support people where we can, and where they are at, including connecting folks to services when we can't, and most of all focusing our efforts on community well-being.
- These challenges make for some hard, difficult work. But working together with our communities, neighbours, local businesses and other community and City partners is central to what we do and is the only way forward to building a safe inclusive community for all. And through it all, we try to never lose sight of the joy and happiness that comes with being part of the 2SLGBTQ+ community.
- We get to see that joy every day with the return of so many community-led groups. We see it in the smile of a client at the Trans ID clinic when their identity is truly reflected on their ID for the first time. We see it in our expanded older adults program, when they share meals together, dance, learn a new skill and connect with each other in community. We feel it when over 11,000 allies and supporters from over 100 organizations attended our education & training programs eager to learn about what they can do to ensure inclusion for queer and trans folks. We feel the joy when we walk by the display when you come up the stairs that was put together by our Building our Power BIPOC Youth Advocacy team. And of course we feel that joy when roughly 45,000 people turn up at our annual party for a cause, Green Space Festival, in support of our work. I could go on and on.
- As I reflected on the fact that this is my 15th AGM at The 519 and thinking about the future, we know we will face many challenges in 2024 and beyond, including challenging the organized rise in hate; or responding to the needs of thousands of queer, trans non-binary refugees and newcomers seeking support and community at The 519 – I know for certain we will continue as a community centre to have a singular focus on strengthening and celebrating the resiliency of our 2SLGBTQ+ community.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As you may have heard at some point, we like to say that our community is an Army of Lovers. And it takes a small army to keep The 519 running, including putting on tonight's event. A great big thank all of the staff who made tonight possible and special, for our Members, and of course to the entire 519 team who on a daily basis make everything we do possible. • I want to thank our Board for your leadership, dedication and guidance through another extraordinary year. Thank you to our volunteers, donors and supporters like you who sustain the work we do. • As always I remain grateful, humbled and awed by the collective contributions and power of this community – please take a moment and give everyone a big fabulous round of applause.
9	<p>Constitutional Amendments – Paul Saguil (Board Chair)</p> <p>Paul Saguil provided an overview of the by-law review process and the proposed changes to The 519 Constitution.</p> <p>The Board, with significant staff support, has engaged in a fulsome review of the existing The 519 By-Law (Constitution). The Board engaged an external consultant who did an initial review, and then conducted 40+ hours of meetings to review the by-law, line by line, met with City of Toronto legal counsel, the City Clerk, the Ward 13 City Councillor. The changes that are being proposed to the membership are the result of this process.</p> <p>The types of changes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving more power to more members • Adding text or sections to protect core purpose and values • Clarifying the Board's governance role and responsibilities to follow City rules • Modernization/standardization of language • Being clearer and more precise <p>Paul Saguil opened the floor for questions or comments.</p> <p>MOTION 9.1: To approve the proposed changes to The 519 by-laws.</p> <p>Moved by: Aaron Hewitt Seconded by: Tom Spence</p> <p>That the Membership approve the proposed changes to The 519 by-laws.</p> <p>Decision: Carried</p>

10

The Board of Management Candidates / Nominations Committee Report – Aaron Hewitt (Nominations Committee Member)

Aaron Hewitt provided the Nominations Report and highlighted the following key points:

- Aaron Hewitt explained The 519's Nominations Committee's responsibility for managing the recruitment process for the Board of Management of The 519.
- The Board makes recommendations to membership.
- The Board ensures the recommendations comply with The 519's Constitution and the City of Toronto Public Appointment Policy.
- Received seven (20) applicants for five (6) vacancies (two (2) catchment, four (4) non-catchment).
 - Using a Board-approved Terms of Reference (ToR), the Nominations Committee is recommending a full slate of candidates to fill the vacancies on the Board.
 - The recommended candidates support the mission and mandate and will help advance the strategic priorities of The 519.
 - The six (6) recommended candidates gave speeches, and their bios are below.
 - Aaron Hewitt closed by thanking all the applicants.

Candidate Bios:

**denotes catchment*

Tom Spence (he/him)*

Tom has served on the Board of Management of The 519 since 2018 and is currently Vice-Chair of the Board. Tom holds a Master's Degree in History from McMaster University and currently works in the Division of People Strategy, Equity, and Culture at the University of Toronto in communications and engagement, supporting the University's Institutional Equity Offices. He was a Senior Advisor in the Office of the Premier of Ontario under Kathleen Wynne, and he has worked as a Senior Tour Lead on two provincial campaigns for the Ontario Liberal Party and as Director of Tour in the 2023 Toronto Mayoral Election. Tom has called Toronto home for 15 years and has consistently volunteered in leadership roles across 2SLGBTQ+ communities. He has served as a volunteer co-lead at Pride Toronto in multiple roles over many festivals and is currently the Secretary of the Board of Forte – Toronto Gay Men's Chorus. He has frequently participated in the annual Friends For Life Bike Rally and the Pride & Remembrance Run and plays dodgeball in the Dodgeball Society. A proud former member of the Canadian Forces-Army Reserve, Tom resides in the Church & Wellesley Village with his husband, Mith.

Vanshika Dhawan (she/her)*

Vanshika is a lawyer who represents survivors of sexual abuse and sexual assault, often against institutional defendants. She is passionate about helping people better understand and navigate the legal system. Vanshika earned her JD from the University of Toronto. While at law school, Vanshika volunteered with Advocates for Injured Workers and helped to provide legal support for clients in need. Vanshika also holds a Bachelor of Medical Sciences, in which she studied the neurobiology of trauma, and a Master's in Professional Communications, in which she researched sexual assault and survivor discourses in the Canadian criminal justice system. In her spare time, Vanshika enjoys writing, reading fiction novels, going to the theatre, and being by the ocean.

Brett House (he/him)

Brett is Professor of Professional Practice in economics at Columbia Business School and a Fellow with the Public Policy Forum, the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, and Massey College. He lives in Regent Park/Cabbagetown with his partner. Previously, Brett was Deputy Chief Economist at Scotiabank, Chief Economist at Alignvest, and Global Strategist at Woodbine Capital Advisors. He also served as an economist at the IMF, UN, and World Bank. Brett currently sits on the boards and board committees of The 519, the Canadian Association for Business Economics (CABE), Pearson College, Massey College, and the Canadian Rhodes Scholars Foundation. He received the 2014 Québec Notable Award in Finance, the 2015 Good Citizen Award from his hometown of Lincoln, Ontario, and the 2018 Professional Leader Award from Start Proud. Brett was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum (Davos) and one of 100 top global LGBT+ executives by INvolve & Yahoo Finance. Brett is also a Life Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) and holds the ICD.D designation from Canada's Institute of Corporate Directors. Brett's analysis appears regularly in the Globe & Mail and Financial Post, while his segment "Dollars & Sense" is featured weekly on Toronto's NewsTalk 1010 radio station.

Natalie Miller (she/her)

Natalie is an articling student at a law firm in Toronto, where she works on corporate transactions with a focus on fund formation and mergers and acquisitions. Natalie received her JD from the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law. At law school, Natalie was Co-President of Out in Law, a Pro Bono Students Canada Volunteer, and a researcher with the International Human Rights Program. Outside of school, Natalie worked as a caseworker at Downtown Legal Services and as an analyst in the community legal services division of Legal Aid Ontario. Prior to law school, Natalie earned an HBA from Ivey Business School.

Zoe Robinson (she/her)

Zoe has a CPA, CMA accreditation and is the Director of Corporate Services at the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario. She worked in amateur sport for most of her 30-year career as an executive with a national sports organization. Zoe has served on

	<p>multiple boards of directors over her career most recently with the Canadian Mental Health Organization – Vancouver/Fraser Branch, Parachute Canada, and The Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Services Agencies of BC (AMSSA). Zoe has spoken publicly in the amateur sport community about her transition after she came out at 54-years of age in November 2018. She lives in East York, runs, reads historical fiction and business strategy, enjoys Taylor Swift, and has two adult children.</p> <p>Dr. Jaris Swidrovich (he/him) Dr. Swidrovich is an Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, in the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto. He is a queer, Two Spirit, disabled, Saulteaux, and Ukrainian pharmacist from Yellow Quill First Nation. Dr. Swidrovich is the first and only Indigenous faculty member in pharmacy in North America. His mother was a 60s Scoop Survivor, and both his grandmother and great-grandmother were residential school survivors. He received a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Saskatchewan and a postbaccalaureate Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Toronto. His primary areas of research and practice include pain, HIV/AIDS, substance use disorders, 2SLGBTQ+ health, and Indigenous health. Dr. Swidrovich is also a PhD Candidate in Education at the University of Saskatchewan, where he is studying Indigenous Peoples' experiences with pharmacy education in Canada. Dr. Swidrovich recently founded and is the chair of the Indigenous Pharmacy Professionals of Canada, which is the first national organization for Indigenous pharmacy professionals in the world. He has been recognized with several awards and honours, including the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for service to the community and the National Patient Care Achievement Award from the Canadian Pharmacists Association.</p>
11	<p>Election – Paul Saguil (Board Chair)</p> <p>Paul Saguil explained the voting process for the election:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible voters were instructed to fill out their ballots and place them in the closed ballot boxes. • Voters can vote for up to six (6) candidates to fill the six (6) vacancies on the Board by placing an "X" next to their names on the ballot. • At least two (2) of the elected candidates must live within the catchment area. <p>Paul Saguil announced the election results, noting the six (6) recommended candidates had received support from the Membership and requested the Membership approve their recommended appointment.</p> <p>MOTION 11.1: to recommend the appointment of Vanshika Dhawan, Brett House, Natalie Miller, Zoe Robinson, Tom Spence and Jaris Swidrovich to the Board of Management of The 519 in accordance with the City of Toronto's Public Appointments Policy.</p> <p>Moved by: Mathias-Alexander Memmel Seconded by: Karlene Williams-Clarke</p>

	<p>That the Membership recommend the appointment of Vanshika Dhawan, Brett House, Natalie Miller, Zoe Robinson, Tom Spence and Jaris Swidrovich to the Board of Management of The 519 in accordance with the City of Toronto’s Public Appointments Policy.</p> <p>Decision: Carried</p> <p>Paul Saguil declared the motion passed and announced the Board of Management for 2023-2024.</p> <p>The Board of Management of The 519 for 2023-2024 is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanshika Dhawan • Brett House • Natalie Miller • Zoe Robinson • Tom Spence • Jaris Swidrovich <p><i>Plus current remaining Board members...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aaron Hewitt • Min Oh • Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo • Paul Saguil • Erika Voaklander • Councillor Chris Moise <p>MOTION 11.2: To destroy the used and unused ballots.</p> <p>Moved by: Councillor Chris Moise Seconded by: Sebastian Commock</p> <p>That the Membership approve the destruction of the used and unused ballots.</p> <p>Decision: Carried</p>
12	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Paul Saguil thanked everyone for participating and adjourned the meeting at 7:24pm.</p>

Item	Attached Documents
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MINUTES: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2023-24)

Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

The 519 Ballroom

3	Wednesday, September 27, 2023 Agenda
4	Wednesday, September 28, 2022 Minutes
7	2022 Audited Financial Statements
8	2022 Annual Report
9	Proposed New Bylaw Reports
11	AGM Nominations Report – September 2023

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