

### Board Members

<b>Board Chair:</b> Paul Saguil	Vanshika Dhawan	Min Oh (regrets)
<b>Vice Chair:</b> Tom Spence	Aaron Hewitt	Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
<b>Secretary:</b> Erika Voaklander	Brett House	Jaris Swidrovich
<b>Treasurer:</b> Zoe Robinson	Natalie Miller	
<b>Ex-Officio:</b> Councillor, Chris Moise		

### The 519

<b>Executive Director</b>	Maura Lawless
<b>Director, Community Programs and Services</b>	Lisa Duplessis
<b>Manager, Strategic &amp; Executive Planning</b>	Laura Gibbon
<b>Specialist, Corporate and Institutional Giving (minutes)</b>	Mark Manalo

### Candidates

1	Aaron Hewitt*
2	Victor Huynh*
3	Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo*
4	Erika Voaklander
5	Dennis Yu

\* Denotes catchment

Items	Minutes
1	<p><b>Chair Welcome – Paul Saguil (Board Chair)</b></p> <p>Paul Saguil opened the 2024 Annual General Meeting at 6:01pm, welcomed everyone, and delivered a land acknowledgement.</p> <p><b>Housekeeping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are gathered today to discuss the work of The 519 during the last year and to elect the nominated individuals to be recommended to Community Council for appointment to our Board of Management.</li> <li>As outlined in The 519's Board By-laws, Relationship Framework and Public Appointment's policy, eligible voting members must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>live in the area bounded by Bay, Bloor, the Don Valley and the railway lands south of The Esplanade and</li> <li>have either become members or renewed their lapsed membership at least 30 days before today's meeting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p><b>Voting at the AGM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All members, whether catchment or non-catchment, are eligible to:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Move and second motions (other than the election of Directors to the Board of Management)</li> <li>○ Vote for motions (other than the election of Directors to the Board of Management)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Only members living in the catchment area are eligible to:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Vote in the election of Directors to the Board of Management</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All eligible voting Members were given voting cards at registration and are requested to raise their voting card in order to move or second motions.</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>Quorum – Paul Saguil (Board Chair)</b></p> <p>The Chair declared that quorum had been achieved.</p>
3	<p><b>Approval of Agenda – Paul Saguil (Board Chair)</b></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 25, 2024.</p> <p><b>MOTION 3.1:</b> To approve the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of September 25, 2024.</p> <p><b>Moved by:</b> Erika Voaklander  <b>Seconded by:</b> Brett House</p> <p><b>That</b> the Membership approve the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of September 25, 2024.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> Carried</p>

4	<p><b>Approval of Minutes – Paul Saguil (Board Chair)</b></p> <p>The Chair requested that the Membership review the minutes and requested a motion for the Membership to approve the 2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes of September 27, 2023.</p> <p><b>MOTION 4.1:</b> To approve the minutes for the Annual General Meeting of September 27, 2023.</p> <p><b>Moved by:</b> Erika Voaklander  <b>Seconded by:</b> Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo</p> <p><b>That</b> the Membership approve the Minutes for the Annual General Meeting of September 27, 2023.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> Carried</p>
5	<p><b>Declaration of Conflict of Interest(s) – Paul Saguil (Board Chair)</b></p> <p>No conflicts of interest were declared.</p>
6	<p><b>Board Chair Report – Paul Saguil (Board Chair)</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Highlights of 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul Saguil gave recognition to the staff and Board for their contributions throughout the year, highlighting the response to the ongoing refugee and housing crises.</li> <li>• Acknowledgement was also given to the success of 2024 events including Green Space Festival, Back to School Bash, AIDS Vigil, and tons more.</li> <li>• In 2024, The 519's by-laws were successfully updated and approved by City Council. The new By-laws help to preserve the uniqueness of The 519's mission and dedication to 2SLGBTQ+ communities.</li> <li>• The By-law changes also included a proposed expansion of The 519's catchment area, which is now in effect.</li> </ul> <p><b>6.2 Recognition of Retiring Board Members – Tom Spence (Vice-Chair)</b></p> <p>Tom Spence acknowledged the community members who served on our standing Board Committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brent Artemchuk, Mary Stefanidis and Daniel Retzlaff on the Fundraising and Philanthropy Committee</li> <li>• Holly Sterling on the Finance Committee</li> </ul>

	<p>Tom Spence acknowledged the Board of Management 2023-2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vanshika Dhawan</li> <li>• Aaron Hewitt</li> <li>• Brett House</li> <li>• Natalie Miller</li> <li>• Min Oh</li> <li>• Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo</li> <li>• Zoe Robinson</li> <li>• Paul Saguil</li> <li>• Tom Spence</li> <li>• Jaris Swidrovich</li> <li>• Erika Voaklander</li> <li>• Councillor Chris Moise</li> </ul> <p>Tom Spence specifically acknowledged and thanked retiring Board members Paul Saguil and Min Oh for their time and dedication to the Board over the past several years and presented them with a small gift.</p>
7	<p><b>Review of Financial Statements / Auditor's Report – Zoe Robinson (Board Treasurer)</b></p> <p>Zoe Robinson started by thanking staff, volunteers, donors, funders including the City of Toronto and other stakeholders for another great year at The 519.</p> <p>Zoe then presented the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2023, highlighting the following key points:</p> <p><b>Independent Auditor's Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant Thornton LLP was appointed as this year's auditors for The 519 by Toronto City Council.</li> <li>• The auditors conducted their audit in accordance with Canadian Generally Accepted Auditing Standards for Public Agencies. They are independent of The 519, adhering to the ethical requirements relevant to auditing in Canada, and they have fulfilled their ethical responsibilities accordingly.</li> <li>• Auditors are independent of The 519 and have fulfilled their ethical requirements.</li> <li>• Grant Thornton have expressed their opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of their report, that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The 519 as of December 31, 2023. The auditors believe that the results of our operations and cash flows for the year are consistent with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards for Government Not-for-Profit Organizations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Statement of Financial Position</b></p>

- The total assets of The 519 have increased from \$4.7M to \$5M, a \$300k increase over 2022.
- The liabilities have increased from \$2.7M to \$2.9M, a 200k increase over 2022.
- Given we ended the year with an operating surplus of \$133k, these funds have been added to the unrestricted net assets.
- At the end of the 2023, The 519's net assets totaled \$2.1M, broken down into \$925k of restricted net assets and \$1.2M of unrestricted net assets. The unrestricted net assets are also referred to as the operating reserve. As part of our fiduciary responsibilities the Board may use the program and unrestricted net assets in the future to address community, operating and capital needs as they may arise.

#### **Statement of Operations**

- In 2023, The 519's revenues increased from \$8.7M to \$10.3M, reflecting a positive variance of \$1.6M. This growth was driven by increased municipal, provincial, and federal funding, as well as higher revenue from foundations and philanthropy efforts including a successful 5-day Green Space Festival.
- For every \$1 of City funding, The 519 raised \$4.81 from donors and funders to support our wide range of programs and services in the local neighbourhood.
- Overall expenses increased by \$1.5M, in line with the revenue growth and program expansion which included additional staff to support LGBTQ+ refugees settling in Canada, maintain 24/7 security related to The 519's building, increase programming in Barbara Hall Park and expand our community well-being team.

#### **Looking Forward**

- Although we won't have the final financial results for 2024 until early spring 2025 after the audit is complete, we expect to end the year in a positive position.
- This success is entirely due to our dedicated management and staff, who have worked tirelessly to support our community, as well as our generous donors and grantors who continue to see the value of our services and the impact we have.

**MOTION 7.1:** To receive the Financial Statements and the Auditor's Report for the year ending December 31, 2023.

**Moved by:** Zoe Robinson

**Seconded by:** Brett House

**That** the Membership receive the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year ending December 31, 2023.

**Decision:** Carried

8	<p><b>Executive Director’s Report – Maura Lawless (Executive Director)</b></p> <p>The Executive Director’s report highlighted the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maura Lawless thanked everyone for attending tonight’s AGM.</li> <li>• Maura Lawless spoke to the importance of The 519’s strategic theme: <i>Defining our Future, Responding to our Context</i>, and the ways that queer and trans people have been doing for generations, and our community’s inherent ability to respond and mobilize in the face of threats and hate.</li> <li>• Maura Lawless referenced a range of long-standing and brand new programs and initiatives that took place at The 519 this year, highlighting Love in Action: Unity for Refugees, The 519’s swift response to the increased demand in queer and trans refugee participants; the work of the Education and Training team launching the new Pride Speaker Series in June; and older adults programs engaging in emergency preparedness planning and kit-making.</li> <li>• Maura Lawless recognized the success of this year’s Green Space Festival and all who made the event a success.</li> <li>• Maura Lawless also highlighted the implementation of The 519’s Community Wellbeing Plan in 2024 and referenced the results of Community Resiliency Research Report: two major initiatives that will continue to shape the work of the organization for years to come.</li> <li>• Maura Lawless thanked all the staff and Board members for their tireless work, and everyone present this evening for their ongoing support of The 519.</li> </ul>
9	<p><b>Programmatic Highlight: LGBTQ+ Refugee Services – Lisa Duplessis (Director, Community Programs and Services)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lisa Duplessis explained the increased demand in LGBTQ+ refugee services and The 519’s response over 2023-2024.</li> <li>• Lisa Duplessis highlighted the work of The 519’s LGBTQ+ Refugee Services team including “Love in Action: Unity for Refugees Day” in February 2024 as well as “Justice for All Refugees: March for Refugee Claimant Rights” in May 2024, on top of fielding the requests for support from 10,000+ new refugees in one year alone.</li> <li>• Lisa Duplessis emphasized the importance in engaging in conversation about the influx of refugees in Canada, sharing stories of resilience and positive contributions, and standing in solidarity with queer and trans refugees seeking safety and community here.</li> </ul>

10	<p><b>New Procedural By-Law – Paul Saguil (Board Chair)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul Saguil summarized the strategy and process followed by The 519 to review and update the by-laws, which had not been updated since 2007.</li> <li>The by-laws now reflect the uniqueness of The 519’s mission and dedication to 2SLGBTQ+ communities, have clearer and more consistent language, and are more closely aligned with other City procedural by-laws.</li> <li>Paul Saguil also summarized the details of the expansion of The 519’s catchment area and its effects on potential community engagement opportunities moving forward.</li> </ul>
11	<p><b>The Board of Management Candidates / Nominations Committee Report – Vanshika Dhawan (Nominations Committee Chair)</b></p> <p>Vanshika Dhawan provided the Nominations Report and highlighted the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vanshika Dhawan explained The 519’s Nominations Committee’s responsibility for managing the recruitment process for the Board of Management of The 519.</li> <li>The Board makes recommendations to membership.</li> <li>The Board ensures the recommendations comply with The 519’s Constitution and the City of Toronto Public Appointment Policy.</li> <li>We received nine eligible applications for five vacancies, at least three of which must be filled by catchment area residents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>The recommended candidates support the mission and mandate and will help advance the strategic priorities of The 519.</li> <li>The five recommended candidates gave speeches, and their bios are below.</li> <li>Vanshika Dhawan closed by thanking all the applicants.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>-----</p> <p>Candidate Bios: <i>*denotes catchment</i></p> <p>Aaron Hewitt (he/him)* Passionate, qualified leader with extensive community engagement, strategic planning and service delivery experience in the non-profit and healthcare delivery sectors.</p> <p>Victor Huynh (he/him)*</p>



Victor Huynh is a registered social worker and passionate mental health professional with a focus on supporting marginalized communities, especially 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and refugees. With experience at Access Alliance and Sherbourne Health Center, Victor has helped newcomers, refugees, and immigrants navigate the challenges of resettlement and integration through case management and mental health therapy. As Co-Executive Director of Regent Park OUTLOUD, Victor drives initiatives to foster social inclusion and cohesion within 2SLGBTQIA+ communities in Regent Park. His dedication to mental health led to the creation of a community therapy practice clinic for 2SLGBTQIA+ refugees, offering trauma-informed care through the Interim Federal Health Program. This clinic has grown to include eight practitioners serving diverse communities across Ontario. Through all his roles, Victor is committed to advocating for equitable access to services, empowering communities, and promoting social justice. Outside of work, Victor loves spending time with his dog, Pah, who is the ultimate nap enthusiast and a champion at stealing the coziest spots on the couch.

Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo (he/him)\*

Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo is Manager, Social Impact, North America at Intact Financial Corporation. In his role, he leads the development and implementation of the company's social impact strategy. Prior to Intact, Juan Camilo was an engagement officer and analyst for the Government of Canada where he supported enterprise-wide transformational initiatives with the Canada School of Public Service and the Department of Public Services and Procurement Canada. Juan Camilo is an advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion. He is actively involved in raising awareness and promoting efforts of inclusion at the workplace and in the community. He was selected to join Civic Action's DiverseCity Fellows Program (2019). He holds a Masters of Arts in sociology and a Bachelor's Degree (Joint Honours) in communications and sociology from the University of Ottawa.

Erika Voaklander (she/her)

Erika Voaklander is a lawyer at an Aboriginal law firm in Toronto, where she represents Indigenous governments, focusing on the negotiation and implementation of modern treaties and governance agreements. Erika is Métis and her family hails from Red River. She grew up in Edmonton, Alberta and is a citizen of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. Erika received her JD and a Certificate in Aboriginal Legal Studies from the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law. At law school, Erika was Co-President of the Indigenous Law Students' Association and Out in Law. She received the Dean's Leadership Award and the Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Award for her contributions to student life at the faculty. Prior to law school, Erika earned a BSc in Mathematics with an embedded Certificate in Indigenous Governance from the University of Alberta. During and after law school, she worked at a leading national law firm in Toronto where she completed her articles. In her free time, Erika enjoys reading graphic novels, working on her novice beadwork skills, and visiting Toronto parks with her dog Gus.



	<p>Dennis Yu (he/him)</p> <p>Dennis Yu is a consultant with the global leadership advisory firm Egon Zehnder. Prior to joining Egon Zehnder, Dennis held multiple leadership and executive advisory roles, where he worked with leaders on strategy and planning processes, cross-functional alignment, and culture and team-building. At Chime Financial, Dennis was the VP of Program Management and Country Manager, where he helped scale the company's team and culture through 20x growth. Prior to Chime, Dennis was the Chief of Staff at Betterment, worked for the President &amp; CEO of Bloomberg LP, and was a management consultant at McKinsey &amp; Company. Originally from Houston, Dennis earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Outside of work, Dennis is passionate about 2SLGBTQI+ causes and testing new cooking techniques. He lives in Toronto with his husband and corgi.</p>
12	<p><b>Election – Paul Saguil (Board Chair)</b></p> <p>Paul Saguil explained the voting process for the election:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible voters were instructed to fill out their ballots and place them in the closed ballot boxes.</li> <li>• Voters can vote "yes" or "no" to the slate of candidates presented by the Nominations Committee on behalf of the Board of Management.</li> </ul> <p>Paul Saguil announced the election results, confirming that the slate received support from the Membership and requested the Membership formally approve the appointment of the five recommended candidates.</p> <p><b>MOTION 12.1:</b> to recommend the appointment of Aaron Hewitt, Victor Huynh, Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo, Erika Voaklander and Dennis Yu to the Board of Management of The 519 in accordance with the City of Toronto's Public Appointments Policy.</p> <p><b>Moved by:</b> Vanshika Dhawan <b>Seconded by:</b> Brett House</p> <p><b>That</b> the Membership recommend the appointment of Aaron Hewitt, Victor Huynh, Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo, Erika Voaklander and Dennis Yu to the Board of Management of The 519 in accordance with the City of Toronto's Public Appointments Policy.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> Carried</p> <p>Paul Saguil declared the motion passed and announced the Board of Management for 2024-2025.</p> <p><b>The Board of Management of The 519 for 2024-2025 is:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aaron Hewitt</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victor Huynh</li> <li>• Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo</li> <li>• Erika Voaklander</li> <li>• Dennis Yu</li> </ul> <p><i>Plus current remaining Board members... .</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vanshika Dhawan</li> <li>• Brett House</li> <li>• Natalie Miller</li> <li>• Zoe Robinson</li> <li>• Tom Spence</li> <li>• Jaris Swidrovich</li> <li>• Councillor Chris Moise</li> </ul> <p><b>MOTION 12.2:</b> To destroy the used and unused ballots.</p> <p><b>Moved by:</b> Vanshika Dhawan <b>Seconded by:</b> Tom Spence</p> <p><b>That</b> the Membership approve the destruction of the used and unused ballots.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> Carried</p>
13	<p><b>Adjournment</b></p> <p>Paul Saguil thanked everyone for participating and adjourned the meeting at 7:25pm.</p>

Item	Attached Documents
3	Wednesday, September 25, 2024 Agenda
4	Wednesday, September 27, 2023 Minutes
7	2023 Audited Financial Statements
8	2024 Annual Report
11	AGM Nominations Report – September 2024