

Board Members

Board Chair: Tom Spence	Bobby Hrehoruk (regrets)	Jaris Swidrovich
Vice Chair: Zoe Robinson	Victor Huynh	Dennis Yu
Secretary: Erika Voaklander	Natalie Miller	
Treasurer: Vanshika Dhawan	Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo	
Ex-Officio: Councillor, Chris Moise		

The 519

Executive Director	Maura Lawless
Director, Legal Initiatives	Johanna MacDonald
Manager, Strategic & Executive Planning	Laura Gibbon
Specialist, Corporate and Institutional Giving (minutes)	Mark Manalo

Candidates

1	Mohamed Omar*
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* Denotes catchment

Items	Minutes
1	Chair Welcome – Tom Spence (Board Chair) Tom Spence opened the 2025 Annual General Meeting at 6:05pm, welcomed everyone, and delivered a land acknowledgement. Housekeeping - 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. - As outlined in The 519's Board By-laws, Relationship Framework and Public Appointment's policy, eligible voting members must: - live in the area bounded by Bay, Bloor/Danforth, the Don Valley Parkway and the railway lands south of The Esplanade and - have either become members or renewed their lapsed membership at least 30 days before today's meeting. Voting at the AGM - All members, whether catchment or non-catchment, are eligible to: - Move motions (other than the election of Directors to the Board of Management) - Vote for motions (other than the election of Directors to the Board of Management)

	- Only members living in the catchment area are eligible to: - Vote in the election of Directors to the Board of Management - All eligible voting Members were given voting cards at registration and are requested to raise their voting card in order to move motions.
2	Quorum – Tom Spence (Board Chair) The Chair declared that quorum had been achieved.
3	Approval of Agenda – Tom Spence (Board Chair) 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, 2025. MOTION 3.1: To approve the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of September 25, 2025. Moved by: Zoe Robinson That the Membership approve the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of September 25, 2025. Decision: Carried
4	Approval of Minutes – Tom Spence (Board Chair) The Chair requested that the Membership review the minutes and requested a motion for the Membership to approve the minutes for the Annual General Meeting of September 25, 2024. MOTION 4.1: To approve the minutes for the Annual General Meeting of September 25, 2024. Moved by: Vanshika Dhawan That the Membership approve the minutes for the Annual General Meeting of September 25, 2024. Decision: Carried

5	Declaration of Conflict of Interest(s) – Tom Spence (Board Chair) No conflicts of interest were declared.
6	Board Chair Report – Tom Spence (Board Chair) 6.1 2025 Highlights • Tom Spence thanked everyone for being there and for being engaged with The 519. Tom shared admiration and excitement for the generations of people and communities who have built The 519, who have gathered at The 519, and who will continue to shape the future of the organization, as we mark the 50th anniversary in 2026. • The 519 has always been at the heart of the city's 2SLGBTQ+ movement. A place where people's lives are changed, rights are fought for, and community is formed. • In preparation for the 50th anniversary, the organization has been strengthening its internal foundations, ensuring strong governance, fiscal sustainability, and strategic direction, building the organizational resilience necessary to meet this historic moment and to ensure The 519 remains at the centre of our communities for the decades to come. • The 50th anniversary is a chance to reflect deeply on what it means to sustain the work of community building and advocacy across generations. We stand on the shoulders of activists, volunteers, staff, and community members who believed in the importance of this place, and who imagined a world in which queer and trans people could live openly, safely, and proudly. Their commitment to building a better world reminds us that we are part of a lineage of resistance and resilience. • This anniversary is also about charting the way forward. Carrying our mission into the next fifty years means recognizing that the struggles are not over. Queer and trans rights remain under attack, while affordability, housing precarity, safety, and political polarization continue to shape our daily lives. The 519 must continue to meet these challenges with clarity and conviction. We have a responsibility to keep building. To remain a force for connection and care. • Tom closed by thanking fellow Board members, staff, donors, partners, and community members, without whom, The 519 could not be what it is today.
7	Review of Financial Statements / Auditor's Report – Vanshika Dhawan (Board Treasurer) Vanshika Dhawan started by thanking staff, volunteers, donors, funders including the City of Toronto and other stakeholders for another great year at The 519.

Vanshika then presented the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2024, highlighting the following key points:

Independent Auditor's Report

- Doane Grant Thornton LLP was appointed as this year's auditors for The 519 by Toronto City Council.
- 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.
- Auditors are independent of The 519 and have fulfilled their ethical requirements.
- 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, 2024. 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.

Statement of Financial Position

- The total assets of The 519 have decreased from \$5M to \$4.4M, which is a \$0.6M decrease over 2023, mostly due to the reduction in cash and cash equivalents related to the use of deferred revenue.
- The liabilities have also decreased from \$2.9M to \$2.3M, representing a \$0.6M decrease from 2023, due to the utilization of deferred revenue.
- Given that we ended the year with an operating surplus of \$26K, 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 \$133K of externally restricted net assets, \$970K of internally restricted net assets, and \$1M 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 unrestricted net assets in the future to address community, operating and capital needs as they may arise.

Statement of Operations

- In 2024, The 519's revenues increased from \$10.2M to \$11.4M, reflecting a positive variance of \$1.2M. This growth was driven by increased funding from municipal government and one-time funding from the province, as well as higher revenue from foundations and philanthropy efforts.
- For every \$1 of City funding, The 519 raised \$4.57 from donors and funders to support our wide range of programs and services in the local neighbourhood.
- Overall expenses increased by \$1.2M, in line with the revenue growth and program expansion, which included additional staff to support LGBTQ+

	refugees settle in Canada, maintain 24/7 security related to The 519's building, and expand our community well-being team. Looking Forward - Although we won't have the final financial results for 2025 until early spring 2026 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 funders who continue to see the value of our services and the impact we have. One member asked a question about the impact of one-year provincial funding for refugee services that isn't renewed. Staff explained that it was always intended to be time-limited funding, and that they have been working with partners and via advocacy efforts to find alternative sources of revenue to maintain refugee services. MOTION 7.1: To receive the Financial Statements and the Auditor's Report for the year ending December 31, 2024. Moved by: Erika Voaklander That the Membership receive the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year ending December 31, 2024. Decision: Carried
8	Executive Director's Report – Maura Lawless (Executive Director) The Executive Director's report highlighted the following key points: - Maura Lawless reflected on a year of significant challenges for 2SLGBTQ+ communities while celebrating the resilience, solidarity, and impact of The 519's work. - She highlighted growing pressures, including attacks on queer and trans rights, barriers facing LGBTQ+ refugees and the housing crisis, emphasizing that meaningful change comes through collective action. Over the past year, The 519 welcomed tens of thousands of people seeking support and connection, demonstrating how everyday services can foster belonging, safety, and a greater sense of community connection. - The 519 also strengthened its long-term capacity by investing in technology, staff training, anti-racism and reconciliation efforts, and strategic partnerships to better serve ever-evolving community needs. Alongside these improvements, The 519 continued to create spaces for joy through the Green Space Festival

	and other social events, reinforcing that queer and trans communities are defined not only by adversity but also by resilience and celebration. - Looking ahead, The 519 will focus on strengthening advocacy, adapting programs to emerging needs, and investing in organizational sustainability to ensure it remains a welcoming and responsive community hub. - Maura expressed heartfelt thanks to The 519's supporters, the Board of Management, and staff, acknowledging their dedication to complex work and reaffirming The 519's enduring mission: to build a future where every queer and trans person can live safely, proudly, and fully.
9	Programmatic Highlight: The 519—2025 and Beyond: Advocacy Update – Johanna MacDonald (Director, Legal Initiatives) - Johanna MacDonald gave a presentation outlining The 519's advocacy strategy for 2025–2028, building on the organization's long history of advocacy, and highlighting how staff are currently building a more coordinated, proactive, and values-driven approach to advancing equity and justice for 2SLGBTQ+ communities. The strategy emphasizes community mobilization, public education, policy influence, and collaboration while recognizing The 519's role as a City of Toronto agency and a community hub. - The advocacy plan was developed through an extensive consultation process that included staff, community members, and advocacy partners. - Key values for the strategy include breaking down silos, challenging polarization, promoting equity and justice, and strengthening community engagement and organizational capacity. - The plan identifies five major advocacy priorities: - SOGIESC refugees - Gender-affirming care - Housing and homelessness - Drug poisoning prevention and harm reduction - Anti-hate and anti-violence - Each advocacy priority has working groups that have helped to shape clear objectives, implementation plans, and evaluation plans. - Johanna called on the entire membership to engage in The 519's advocacy initiatives and collaborate on affecting systemic change to improve the lives of 2SLGBTQ+ communities.
10	The Board of Management Candidates / Nominations Committee Report – Victor Huynh (Nominations Committee Chair) Victor Huynh provided the Nominations Report and highlighted the following key points: Victor Huynh 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 By-law and the City of Toronto Public Appointment Policy. • We received six eligible applications for one vacancy, which must be filled by a catchment area resident. • Using a Board-approved Terms of Reference (TOR), the Nominations Committee is recommending a candidate to fill the vacancy on the Board. • The recommended candidate supports the mission and mandate and will help advance the strategic priorities of The 519. • The recommended candidate gave a speech, and his bio is below. • Victor Huynh closed by thanking all the applicants. ----- Candidate Bios: <i>*denotes catchment</i> Mohamed Omar (he/him)* Mohamed Omar is a professor of mathematics at York University whose teaching, research, and leadership have been recognized internationally for excellence and impact. Both within and beyond his academic career, he has held significant governance positions on boards and high-level committees, contributing to strategic planning, policy development, and executive recruitment. A visible and active member of the 2SLGBTQ+ STEM community, Mohamed delivers invited talks, mentors emerging leaders, and embeds inclusive practices into education and outreach. He also maintains a substantial STEM-focused presence on social media platforms, extending his reach to diverse audiences. As a Black, second-generation Canadian, he brings to any leadership role a demonstrated ability to engage diverse stakeholders, cultivate collaboration, and advance equity and meaningful community impact.
11	Election – Tom Spence (Board Chair) Tom Spence explained the voting process for the election: • Eligible voters were instructed to fill out their ballots and place them in the closed ballot boxes. • Voters can vote "yes" or "no" to the recommended candidate presented by the Nominations Committee on behalf of the Board of Management. Tom Spence announced the election results, confirming that the candidate received support from the Membership and requested the Membership formally approve the appointment of the recommended candidate.

	MOTION 11.1: to recommend the appointment of Mohamed Omar to the Board of Management of The 519 in accordance with the City of Toronto’s Public Appointments Policy. Moved by: Zoe Robinson That the Membership recommend the appointment of Mohamed Omar to the Board of Management of The 519 in accordance with the City of Toronto’s Public Appointments Policy. Decision: Carried Tom Spence declared the motion passed and announced the Board of Management for 2025-2026. The Board of Management of The 519 for 2025-2026 is: • Vanshika Dhawan • Bobby Hrehoruk • Victor Huynh • Natalie Miller • Mohamed Omar • Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo • Zoe Robinson • Tom Spence • Jaris Swidrovich • Erika Voaklander • Dennis Yu • Councillor Chris Moise MOTION 11.2: To destroy the used and unused ballots. Moved by: Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo That the Membership approve the destruction of the used and unused ballots. Decision: Carried
12	Adjournment Tom Spence thanked everyone for participating and adjourned the meeting at 7:08pm.

MINUTES: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2025)

Thursday, September 25, 2025, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

The 519 Ballroom

Item	Attached Documents
3	Wednesday, September 25, 2025 Agenda
4	Wednesday, September 25, 2024 Minutes
7	2024 Audited Financial Statements
8	2024 Annual Report
10	AGM Nominations Report – September 2025

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