



## MINUTES: Board of Management, Meeting 5 (2024-2025)

Monday, May 5, 2025 @ 6:30 - 8:30 PM, Hybrid via Zoom & Room #304

### Board Members

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

### The 519

<b>Executive Director</b>	Maura Lawless
<b>Director, Finance</b>	Maria Martinez
<b>Director, Philanthropy</b>	Aniska Ali
<b>Director, Housing Advocacy &amp; Support Services</b>	Martha Singh Jennings
<b>Manager, Strategic and Executive Planning (minutes)</b>	Laura Gibbon

**Guests:** Stanley Jonathan (Councillor Moise's office)

Item	Minutes
<b>BD-5.1</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> Tom Spence opened the meeting at 6:30 PM and welcomed everyone.
<b>BD-5.2</b>	<b>Land Acknowledgement</b> Aaron Hewitt delivered a land acknowledgement.
<b>BD-5.3</b>	<b>Approve Agenda</b> Tom Spence requested the Board to review the agenda for the Board Meeting of May 5, 2025.  <b>MOTION 5.3:</b> To approve the agenda for the Board Meeting of May 5, 2025.  <b>Moved by:</b> Victor Huynh  <b>That</b> the Board of Management approve the agenda for the Board Meeting of May 5, 2025.  <b>Recorded vote:</b> Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Aaron Hewitt Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jarvis Swidrovich Erika Voaklander



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	<p>Councillor Chris Moise</p> <p><b>Decision</b> carried</p>
<b>BD-5.4</b>	<p><b>Declaration of Conflict of Interest(s)</b>          Tom Spence confirmed no conflicts of interest were declared.</p> <p>Jaris Swidrovich noted that today is Red Dress Day, the National Day of Awareness and Remembrance for Missing &amp; Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people.</p>
<b>BD-5.5</b>	<p><b>Approve Meeting Minutes</b>          Tom Spence requested the Board to review the minutes for the Board Meeting of February 24, 2025.</p> <p><b>MOTION 5.5:</b> To approve the minutes for the Board Meeting of February 24, 2025.</p> <p><b>Moved by:</b> Jaris Swidrovich</p> <p><b>That</b> the Board of Management approve the minutes for the Board Meeting of February 24, 2025.</p> <p><b>Recorded vote:</b> Unanimous          Vanshika Dhawan          Aaron Hewitt          Bobby Hrehoruk          Victor Huynh          Natalie Miller          Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo          Zoe Robinson          Tom Spence          Jaris Swidrovich          Erika Voaklander          Councillor Chris Moise</p> <p><b>Decision</b> carried</p>
<b>BD-5.6</b>	<p><b>In-Camera Items</b>  <b>MOTION 5.6a:</b> To go in camera.</p> <p><b>Moved by:</b> Erika Voaklander</p> <p><b>That</b> the Board of Management go in camera.</p> <p><b>Recorded vote:</b> Unanimous          Vanshika Dhawan          Aaron Hewitt</p>



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Bobby Hrehoruk  
Victor Huynh  
Natalie Miller  
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo  
Zoe Robinson  
Tom Spence  
Jarvis Swidrovich  
Erika Voaklander  
Councillor Chris Moise

**Decision** carried

**5.6.1 Approval In-Camera Meeting Minutes**

**5.6.2 Executive Director Compensation Report – 2025**

**MOTION 5.6b:** To come out of in camera.

**Moved by:** Vanshika Dhawan

**That** the Board of Management come out of in camera.

**Recorded vote:** Unanimous

Vanshika Dhawan  
Aaron Hewitt  
Bobby Hrehoruk  
Victor Huynh  
Natalie Miller  
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo  
Zoe Robinson  
Tom Spence  
Jarvis Swidrovich  
Erika Voaklander  
Councillor Chris Moise

**Decision** carried

**MOTION 5.6.1:** To approve the in-camera minutes for the Board Meeting of February 24, 2025.

**Moved by:** Erika Voaklander

**That** the Board of Management approve the in-camera minutes for the Board Meeting of February 24, 2025.



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**Recorded vote:** Unanimous

Vanshika Dhawan  
Aaron Hewitt  
Bobby Hrehoruk  
Victor Huynh  
Natalie Miller  
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo  
Zoe Robinson  
Tom Spence  
Jaris Swidrovich  
Erika Voaklander  
Councillor Chris Moise

**Decision** carried

**MOTION 5.6.2:** To approve the Executive Compensation recommendation as outlined in the 5.6.2 in-camera report.

**Moved by:** Zoe Robinson

**That** the Board of Management approve the Executive Compensation recommendation as outlined in the 5.6.2 in-camera report.

**Recorded vote:** Unanimous

Vanshika Dhawan  
Aaron Hewitt  
Bobby Hrehoruk  
Victor Huynh  
Natalie Miller  
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo  
Zoe Robinson  
Tom Spence  
Jaris Swidrovich  
Erika Voaklander  
Councillor Chris Moise

**Decision** carried



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<p><b>BD-5.7</b></p>	<p><b>Chair Report/Executive Committee</b> – Tom Spence (Chair of the Board)</p> <p><b>5.7.1 Chair’s Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tom shared that the Pride Speaker Series has launched and encouraged Board members to promote and share information with their networks.</li> <li>• Tom thanked everyone for attending the Board Retreat in March, with a particular thanks to Erika and Jaris for starting the retreat off with a thoughtful discussion about incorporating less colonial ways of governing and to staff for all the work in preparing for the retreat.</li> <li>• Tom congratulated staff on the re-launch of catering event and thanked Bobby and Aaron for attending on behalf of the Board.</li> <li>• Tom thanked Vanshika for attending and representing the Board at Mayor Chow’s recent event announcing new funding for festivals in the City.</li> <li>• Tom reminded everyone to share the opportunity to join the Board at Rainbow Community Places within their networks.</li> <li>• Aaron Hewitt announced that he will be moving to Montreal over the summer, and is therefore resigning from the Board, effective July 31, 2025. Tom and the other Board members thanked Aaron for his many contributions to the Board over the past three years, including his dedicated attendance at community events.</li> </ul>
<p><b>BD-5.8</b></p>	<p><b>Executive Director Report</b> – Maura Lawless (Executive Director) &amp; Aniska Ali (Director, Philanthropy)</p> <p><b>5.8.1 ED Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital Improvements: staff received confirmation from United Way for one-time \$250k funding to commence some lobby renovation work, expand community space, and interlink with security strategies. The garbage relocation project has been completed.</li> <li>• 2024 Audit Direction: staff estimate that we have \$175k surplus at the end of 2024. Staff believe that all of it should be directed towards the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary initiatives, and are seeking board direction to do so.</li> <li>• Community Well-Being Funding: staff were successful in securing \$163k one-time funding from the City of Toronto to support existing unfunded community well-being team plans, in response to the closure of safer consumption sites. This is not an expansion of service rather funding to support harm reduction efforts and direct services for 2SLGBTQ+ people who use drugs.</li> <li>• Sector Stability Request: staff have finalized an agreement with Rainbow Community Places, as part of our efforts to support smaller queer organizations to succeed. The 519 has agreed to primarily provide consulting services and not direct programming at this time.</li> </ul> <p><b>MOTION 5.8.1:</b> To a) approve the capital improvements and lobby renovations as outlined in the ED Report (5.8.1), b) approve the establishment of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reserve Fund as outlined in the ED Report (5.8.1); and c) grant the Executive Director the</p>



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authority to enact and operationalize 5.8.1a and 5.8.1b with the condition that any major variances exceeding approved contingencies be brought back to the Board for further review and approval.

**Moved by:** Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo

**That** the Board of Management a) approve the capital improvements and lobby renovations as outlined in the ED Report (5.8.1), b) approve the establishment of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reserve Fund as outlined in the ED Report (5.8.1); and c) grant the Executive Director the authority to enact and operationalize 5.8.1a and 5.8.1b with the condition that any major variances exceeding approved contingencies be brought back to the Board for further review and approval.

**Recorded vote:** Unanimous

Vanshika Dhawan  
 Aaron Hewitt  
 Bobby Hrehoruk  
 Victor Huynh  
 Natalie Miller  
 Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo  
 Zoe Robinson  
 Tom Spence  
 Jaris Swidrovich  
 Erika Voaklander  
 Councillor Chris Moise

**Decision** carried

**5.8.2 Green Space Festival Update**

- Aniska Ali provided a brief overview of the festival, line-up, partnership and sponsorship updates. Aniska thanked Juan Camilo and Natalie for their help in activating fundraising efforts thus far.
- Staff have started the volunteer recruitment and are already past the 50% mark, feeling confident about meeting targets.
- Board members should connect with Aniska about volunteer opportunities if interested. Aniska will also share opportunities to act as ambassadors for The 519 over pride month. Board members are encouraged to bring key contacts to the Starry Night reception, including existing donors and people who have a high likelihood of becoming a donor.
- Staff are currently working on the Pride Appeal creative direction and assets. The appeal will launch in June, and Board members are requested to share and amplify the message where possible.



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<p><b>BD-5.9</b></p>	<p><b>Governance Update</b> – Natalie Miller (Chair, Governance) &amp; Maura Lawless (Executive Director)</p> <p><b>5.9.1 Committee Meeting Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natalie Miller gave an overview of the most recent Governance meeting.</li> <li>Dennis Yu has offered to lead the work related to Board development and its linkages to the Board evaluation. A small group of Board members and staff met in April to begin to identify priorities, and Dennis will meet individually with those Board members who were not able to attend to seek their input.</li> </ul> <p><b>5.9.2 Board and Committee Meeting Procedures Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natalie provided an overview of the Board and Committee Procedures Policy document and the process undertaken to arrive at the current draft.</li> </ul> <p><b>MOTION 5.9.2:</b> To approve the proposed draft of The 519 Board and Committee Meeting Procedures, dated April 7, 2025.</p> <p><b>Moved by:</b> Erika Voaklander</p> <p><b>That</b> the Board of Management approve the proposed draft of The 519 Board and Committee Meeting Procedures.</p> <p><b>Recorded vote:</b> Unanimous          Vanshika Dhawan          Aaron Hewitt          Bobby Hrehoruk          Victor Huynh          Natalie Miller          Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo          Zoe Robinson          Tom Spence          Jaris Swidrovich          Erika Voaklander          Councillor Chris Moise</p> <p><b>Decision</b> carried</p> <p><b>5.9.3 Board Recruitment Priorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natalie Miller gave an overview of the Recruitment Priorities discussion and prioritizing Black community members in this cycle.</li> <li>Staff confirmed that applicants are not required to be Canadian citizens to sit on the Board.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board discussed including lived experience as a refugee on the list of recruitment priorities.</li> </ul> <p><b>MOTION 5.9.3:</b> To approve the 2025 Recruitment Priorities, as outlined in report #5.9.3B.</p> <p><b>Moved by:</b> Natalie Miller</p> <p><b>That</b> the Board of Management approve the 2025 Recruitment Priorities, as outlined in report #5.9.3B.</p> <p><b>Recorded vote:</b> Unanimous              Vanshika Dhawan              Aaron Hewitt              Bobby Hrehoruk              Victor Huynh              Natalie Miller              Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo              Zoe Robinson              Tom Spence              Jaris Swidrovich              Erika Voaklander              Councillor Chris Moise</p> <p><b>Decision</b> carried</p> <p><b>5.9.4 Nominations Subcommittee Appointment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natalie explained the role of being on the Nominations sub-committee.</li> </ul> <p><b>MOTION 5.9.4:</b> To a) approve the appointment of Dennis Yu, Erika Voaklander, and Victor Huynh to the Nominations sub-committee for the 2025 election cycle, and b) approve the appointment of Bobby Hrehoruk to the Finance and Strategy and Community Development committees.</p> <p><b>Moved by:</b> Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo</p> <p><b>That</b> the Board of Management a) approve the appointment of Dennis Yu, Erika Voaklander, and Victor Huynh to the Nominations sub-committee for the 2025 election cycle, and b) approve the appointment of Bobby Hrehoruk to the Finance and Strategy and Community Development committees.</p> <p><b>Recorded vote:</b> Unanimous              Vanshika Dhawan              Aaron Hewitt              Bobby Hrehoruk              Victor Huynh</p>
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	<p>Natalie Miller                      Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo                      Zoe Robinson                      Tom Spence                      Jaris Swidrovich                      Erika Voaklander                      Councillor Chris Moise</p> <p><b>Decision</b> carried</p> <p><b>5.9.5 People Services Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maura Lawless presented the People Services Plan (2025-2028).</li> <li>• At this time, staff intend to use existing resources to cover costs associated with implementing the People Services Plan, maximizing use of City resources available to us, and will bring forward any specific costs through the reporting process.</li> <li>• The Board discussed the capacity required to implement and monitor such a comprehensive plan and making the most strategic investment to advance this important work. The Board expressed appreciation for the comprehensive plan and its alignment with the mandate and City responsibilities.</li> </ul> <p><b>MOTION 5.9.5:</b> To approve The 519 People Services Plan (2025-2028).</p> <p><b>Moved by:</b> Zoe Robinson</p> <p><b>That</b> the Board of Management approve The 519 People Services Plan (2025-2028).</p> <p><b>Recorded vote:</b> Unanimous                      Vanshika Dhawan                      Aaron Hewitt                      Bobby Hrehoruk                      Victor Huynh                      Natalie Miller                      Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo                      Zoe Robinson                      Tom Spence                      Jaris Swidrovich                      Erika Voaklander                      Councillor Chris Moise</p> <p><b>Decision</b> carried</p>
<b>BD-5.10</b>	<p><b>Adjournment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.</li> </ul>

Approved by The 519 Board of Management on June 9, 2025.



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Signed by:

6/10/2025

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Tom Spence  
Board Chair