MINUTES: Board of Management, Meeting 6 (2024-2025)
Monday, June 9, 2025 @ 6:30 - 8:30 PM, Hybrid via Zoom & Room #304

Board Members

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

The 519

Executive Director	Maura Lawless
Director, Finance	Maria Martinez
Director, Advocacy & Strategic Communications	Curran Stikuts
Director, Community Wellbeing and Partnerships	Jaymie Sampa
Director, Housing Advocacy & Support Services	Martha Singh Jennings
Director, Public Interest & Legal Initiatives	Johanna Macdonald
Manager, Strategic and Executive Planning (minutes)	Laura Gibbon

Guests: Stanley Jonathan (Councillor Moise's Office), David Fioretti and Kashif Khan (Doane Grant Thornton)

Item	Minutes
BD-6.1	**Welcome and Introductions** Tom Spence opened the meeting at 6:30 PM and led a round of introductions.
BD-6.2	**Land Acknowledgement** Bobby Hrehoruk delivered a land acknowledgement.
BD-6.3	**Approve Agenda** Tom Spence requested the Board to review the agenda for the Board Meeting of June 9, 2025. **MOTION 6.3:** To approve the agenda for the Board Meeting of June 9, 2025. **Moved by:** Aaron Hewitt **That** the Board of Management approve the agenda for the Board Meeting of June 9, 2025. **Recorded vote:** Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Aaron Hewitt Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson

	Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu Councillor Chris Moise **Decision** carried
BD-6.4	**Declaration of Conflict of Interest(s)** Tom Spence confirmed no conflicts of interest were declared.
BD-6.5	**Approve Meeting Minutes** Tom Spence requested the Board to review the minutes for the Board Meeting of May 5, 2025. **MOTION 6.5:** To approve the minutes for the Board Meeting of May 5, 2025. **Moved by:** Erika Voaklander **That** the Board of Management approve the minutes for the Board Meeting of May 5, 2025. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Aaron Hewitt Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu Councillor Chris Moise **Decision** carried
BD-6.7	**Chair Report/Executive Committee** – Tom Spence (Chair of the Board) **6.7 Chair's Report** • Tom thanked staff for all the work that has gone into programming Pride month and preparing for Green Space Festival. Staff have shared a range of opportunities for Board members to participate in events, represent the organization, and volunteer throughout June. He thanked those members who had already done so and encouraged others to get involved where possible.

	• Tom acknowledged that it is Aaron Hewitt's last Board meeting and thanked Aaron for his many contributions to the Board throughout his tenure.
BD-6.8	**Executive Director Report** – Maura Lawless (Executive Director) **6.8 ED Report** • N/A
BD-6.9	**Finance Update** – Vanshika Dhawan (Treasurer) & Maria Martinez (Director, Finance) **6.9.1 Audit/Financial Statements** • The 2024 Audited Financial Statements and audit results were presented by David Fioretti and Kashif Khan from Doane Grant Thornton, the City of Toronto's appointed external/independent auditors. • The financial statements were prepared in compliance with Canadian public sector accounting standards for government not-for-profit organizations. • It was a clean audit, with no matters of concern noted. The auditors expressed that it was a great year from their perspective, thanking the finance team for their work throughout the year and with preparing the audit. • A recommendation was made in relation to improving segregation of duties, a common issue in small teams where extensive delineation is challenging. • The next step is for the Board to approve the financial statements, the auditors will sign off on their report, and those will go to City Council. • The auditors also asked whether any Board members were aware of or suspected any fraud. The Board did not raise any concerns. Board members were invited to contact the auditors directly if needed. **MOTION 6.9.1:** To receive and approve the 2024 Audited Financial Statements. **Moved by:** Vanshika Dhawan **That** the Board of Management receive and approve 2024 Audited Financial Statements. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Aaron Hewitt Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

David Fioretti and Kashif Khan (Doane Grant Thornton) left the meeting at 6:51 pm.

6.9.2 2024 Year-End Results

- The 519 ended 2024 in a $26k surplus, despite the budgeted $178k deficit.
- This was achieved by balancing the dual goals of sustaining revenue growth and targeted mission-aligned investments in operations and service delivery.
- Staff were successful in securing multi-year and one-time grants, as well as securing a Core City of Toronto budget increase.
- Staff managed expenses reasonably and strategically across departments.
- Green Space Festival exceeded its base target.
- There was an in-kind art donation that was not recognized for the purpose of financial statements, however it was receipted and valuated independently.

MOTION 6.9.2: To receive and approve the 2024 Year End Preliminary Results Report.

Moved by: Vanshika Dhawan

That the Board of Management receive and approve the 2024 Year End Preliminary Results Report.

Recorded vote: Unanimous
Vanshika Dhawan
Aaron Hewitt
Bobby Hrehoruk
Victor Huynh
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Zoe Robinson
Tom Spence
Jaris Swidrovich
Erika Voaklander
Dennis Yu
Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

6.9.3 Q1 Results and 2025 Year-End Forecast

- We are ending Q1 2025 in a surplus position as a result of strong cost containment measures, implementing a partial hiring freeze, and some salary/benefits savings as a result of hiring delays.
- The surplus funds will be used over the remainder of the year.
- The Year-End forecast to budget remains on budget at this time.

- There were increased funds from City of Toronto (program enhancements), funding from Black Legal Action, Community Rainbow Places, United Way Capital Grant. Conversely, there were decreased adjustments in revenue related to the University of Alberta grant and no funding from Federal New Horizons grant program.
- The Capital funding from United Way will cover a portion of the proposed first floor redesign – lobby refresh and community meeting space expansion. Staff are working with the architects to determine which portions of the designs can be completed within this budget. Given the short time lines related to both the funding and the 50th it is expected that the work will commence in late fall 2025 and be completed early 2026.

MOTION 6.9.3: To receive and approve the Q1 Results and 2025 YE Forecast Report.

Moved by: Vanshika Dhawan

That the Board of Management receive and approve the Q1 Results and 2025 YE Forecast Report.

Recorded vote: Unanimous
Vanshika Dhawan
Aaron Hewitt
Bobby Hrehoruk
Victor Huynh
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Zoe Robinson
Tom Spence
Jaris Swidrovich
Erika Voaklander
Dennis Yu
Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

6.9.4 2026 Core Budget – Authority to Submit

- Staff will review the 2025 actuals and year-end projections, prepare relevant business cases, and draft the 2026 Core City of Toronto budget in line with the Board approved budget principles.
- It is standard practice for the Board to delegate authority to the Executive Director (or delegate) to submit the next year's core budget, as the City's deadline will pass prior to the next Finance Committee and Board meetings.

MOTION 6.9.4: To authorize the Executive Director (delegate) to submit to the City of Toronto 2026 Core Budget for consideration and approval as part of the annual City of Toronto budget in alignment with the report.

Moved by: Vanshika Dhawan

That the Board of Management authorize the Executive Director (delegate) to submit to the City of Toronto 2026 Core Budget for consideration and approval as part of the annual City of Toronto budget in alignment with the report.

Recorded vote: Unanimous
Vanshika Dhawan
Aaron Hewitt
Bobby Hrehoruk
Victor Huynh
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Zoe Robinson
Tom Spence
Jaris Swidrovich
Erika Voaklander
Dennis Yu
Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

6.9.5 Risk Management – in camera item (see below)

6.9.6 50th Anniversary Budget

- The 519 will celebrate its 50-year anniversary in 2026.
- The core themes are Legacy & History, Belonging & Joy, Liberation & Advocacy, and Future & Possibility.
- Staff are planning for a year-long celebration of The 519 and the 2SLGBTQ+ community in Toronto broadly.
- The goal is to invest in increasing the organization's public profile, integrate anniversary plans across all community programs and events, host new large-scale activations, expand the storytelling and archival projects, and develop a strong philanthropy strategy for the year that will ultimately to support the long-term sustainability of the organization.
- Staff are working in partnership with many organizations, including the City of Toronto Archives, the ArQuives, Heritage Toronto, City of Toronto Museums etc– and will continue to seek opportunities for collaboration, including with the Councillor's Office.
- Staff have drafted a budget for the project. Currently, the budgeted deficit can be fully addressed by the designated internal restricted fund for the 50th Anniversary. Staff will provide regular budget updates to the Board as the project plans progress.
- The Board expressed wanting to see linkages between the 50th anniversary activations and the membership engagement strategy.

MOTION 6.9.6: To receive the updated estimated budget for the 50th anniversary project for information.

Moved by: Vanshika Dhawan

That the Board of Management receive the updated estimated budget for the 50th anniversary project for information.

Recorded vote: Unanimous
Vanshika Dhawan
Aaron Hewitt
Bobby Hrehoruk
Victor Huynh
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Zoe Robinson
Tom Spence
Jaris Swidrovich
Erika Voaklander
Dennis Yu
Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

6.9.7 2026 Annual Budget Principles

- Staff have drafted budget principles for 2026, in alignment with the Board-approved organizational strategic workplan and the AOCC Relationship Framework with the City of Toronto.
- Core considerations in developing the 2026 budget principles are funding pressures from funders, the end of government grants, the enormity of systemic issues impacting 2SLGBTQ+ people, and the 50th anniversary plans for the organization.

MOTION 6.9.7: To receive and approve the 2026 Budget Principles.

Moved by: Vanshika Dhawan

That the Board of Management receive and approve the 2026 Budget Principles.

Recorded vote: Unanimous
Vanshika Dhawan
Aaron Hewitt
Bobby Hrehoruk
Victor Huynh
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Zoe Robinson
Tom Spence

Jaris Swidrovich
Erika Voaklander
Dennis Yu
Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

Johanna Macdonald joined the meeting at 7:28 pm.

6.9.8 Procurement Approval for TAG Amendment

- The 2017 TAG contract has been grand-parented under the Board approved Procurement Policy. The rates have remained unchanged since March 2022.
- Staff are recommending an amended contract extension which includes a 5% increase over the term and includes enhanced cybersecurity work and insurance requirements.
- The 519 has been consistently satisfied with TAG's performance. TAG delivers comprehensive services including on-site support, cybersecurity oversight, data backup and recovery, and coordination with the City of Toronto's Chief Information Security Office.
- As per the Board's direction in December 2024, The 519 will be undertaking an updated formal procurement in 2027 to be implemented in 2028/2029 subject to final negotiations.
- Staff explained that CISO remains a vital resource and staff will continue to access every support they can from the City where possible, but that TAG's support is also necessary to maintain operations.

MOTION 6.9.5: To (a) approve the Technical Action Group (TAG) Agreement to enhance and extend the agreement until December 31, 2028, with a one-year option of renewal. In the event of an additional one-year renewal, staff are required to prepare a Board report for authority prior to the approval of the one-year extension in 2029, and (b) authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract extension under satisfactory terms outlined in this agreement.

Moved by: Vanshika Dhawan

That the Board of Management (a) approve the Technical Action Group (TAG) Agreement to enhance and extend the agreement until December 31, 2028, with a one-year option of renewal. In the event of an additional one-year renewal, staff are required to prepare a Board report for authority prior to the approval of the one-year extension in 2029, and (b) authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract extension under satisfactory terms outlined in this agreement.

Recorded vote: Unanimous
Vanshika Dhawan
Aaron Hewitt

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>Bobby Hrehoruk
Victor Huynh
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Zoe Robinson
Tom Spence
Jaris Swidrovich
Erika Voaklander
Dennis Yu
Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried</td></tr>
<tr><td>BD-6.10</td><td>Strategy and Community Development Update – Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo (Chair, SCD) & Curran Stikuts (Director, Advocacy & Strategic Communications)

6.10.1 Community Resilience Project (CRP) Update
CRP work is evolving into planning and implementation phases. Staff are working to ensure every department integrates a resilience lens across their work and start to develop continuity plans in the event of major disruptions.
Staff highlighted having completed the building/asset resilience audit, yielding 50+ actionable recommendations to enhance The 519's capacity to operate in the event of emergencies, as well as the Resilientville table-top activity taking place during the summer (early fall).
6.10.2 Advocacy Update
Staff have selected Crestview as a service provider to work with The 519 in providing government relations (GR) services while also enhancing The 519's internal capacity to engage in GR work. The goal is for Crestview to help shape and grow The 519's GR work and strategy especially at the provincial and federal levels.
The 519 and Crestview have agreed on 6-month contract, to be assessed at its end for next steps.
6.10.3 Community Well-Being Plan (Engagement & Membership)
Staff gave an overview of new community engagement programming opportunities as part of an organization-wide response to ongoing concerns around safety, belonging, and cohesion among broad 2SLGBTQ+ communities. Since March 2025, there has been an increase of roughly 20 hours per week of low-barrier lobby activations, and a suite of new programming that hinges on common interests within 2SLGBTQ+ communities.
The Board thanked staff for their efforts and the phenomenal job in activating the space in new and exciting ways.
6.10.4 Pride Community Programs Report
A list of Pride activities and opportunities has been circulated to all Board members, who are encouraged to participate where possible.</td></tr>
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BD-6.11	**Governance Update** – Aaron Hewitt (Vice-Chair, Governance) & Maura Lawless (Executive Director) **6.11.1 AGM Timeline** • The AGM timeline has been drafted in accordance with old by-law to fill one vacancy at this year's meeting. • There is a recommendation to close membership registration at the 30-day deadline prior to the AGM to avoid any confusion among new members regarding their voting eligibility. This change will only impact the user experience, not the actual eligibility. **MOTION 6.11.1:** To (a) approve the 2025 AGM Timeline and (b) delegate the Board recruitment responsibilities to the Nominations Subcommittee. **Moved by:** Aaron Hewitt **That** the Board of Management approve the 2025 AGM Timeline. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Aaron Hewitt Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu Councillor Chris Moise **Decision** carried **6.11.2 2024 Annual Health and Safety Report** • The 2024 annual Health and Safety report is inclusive of progress towards annual health and safety objectives, training compliance rates, workplace incidents and risk analysis (year over year), and safety enhancement measures. • Enhanced data has enabled a multi-year analysis of trends and shifts in health and safety matters. *Jaymie Sampa, Curran Stikuts, Johanna Macdonald and Martha Singh Jennings left the meeting at 8pm.*

BD-12	**In-Camera Items** **MOTION 12a:** To go in camera. **Moved by:** Aaron Hewitt **That** the Board of Management go in camera. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Aaron Hewitt Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu Councillor Chris Moise **Decision** carried **6.11.2 2024 Annual Health and Safety Report (in camera portion)** **6.9.5 Risk Management Semi-Annual Update** **6.5.1 In-Camera Meeting Minutes for May 5, 2025** **MOTION 12b:** To come out of in camera. **Moved by:** Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo **That** the Board of Management come out of in camera. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Aaron Hewitt Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu

	Councillor Chris Moise **Decision** carried **MOTION 6.5.1b:** To approve the in-camera minutes for the Board Meeting of May 5, 2025. **Moved by:** Erika Voaklander **That** the Board of Management approve the in-camera minutes for the Board Meeting of May 5, 2025. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Aaron Hewitt Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu Councillor Chris Moise **Decision** carried **MOTION 6.9.5:** To receive the updated Risk Management Report for information. **Moved by:** Vanshika Dhawan **That** the Board of Management receive the updated Risk Management Report for information. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Aaron Hewitt Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander

	Dennis Yu Councillor Chris Moise **Decision** carried **MOTION 6.11.2:** To receive the 2024 Annual Health and Safety Report. **Moved by:** Aaron Hewitt **That** the Board of Management receive the 2024 Annual Health and Safety Report. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Aaron Hewitt Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu Councillor Chris Moise **Decision** carried
BD-6.13	**Adjournment** • The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Approved by The 519 Board of Management on September 15, 2025.

Signed by:
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9/18/2025

Tom Spence
Board Chair