

MINUTES: Board of Management, Meeting 1 (2025-2026) Monday, November 3, 2025 @ 6:30 - 8:30 PM, Hybrid via Zoom & Room #304

Board Members

Chair: Tom Spence	Bobby Hrehoruk (regrets)	Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Vice-Chair: Zoe Robinson	Victor Huynh	Jaris Swidrovich (regrets)
Secretary: Erika Voaklander	Natalie Miller	Dennis Yu
Treasurer: Vanshika Dhawan (regrets)	Mohamed Omar	
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, Legal Initiatives	Johanna Macdonald
Project Director, Community Resiliency Project	Harper Jean Tobin
Manager, Strategic and Executive Planning (minutes)	Laura Gibbon

Guests: Stanley Jonathan (Councillor Moise's Office)

Item	Minutes	
BD-	Welcome and Introductions – Tom Spence (Chair)	
1.1	Tom Spence opened the meeting at 6:32 PM.	
BD-	Land Acknowledgement – Tom Spence (Chair)	
1.2	Tom Spence delivered a land acknowledgement.	
BD-	Approve Agenda – Tom Spence (Chair)	
1.3	Tom Spence requested the Board to review the agenda for the Board Meeting of November 3, 2025.	
	Proposed change: • Item 1.10 will be presented by Zoe Robinson.	
	MOTION 1.3: To approve the agenda for the Board Meeting of November 3, 2025, as amended.	
	Moved by: Dennis Yu	
	That the Board of Management approve the agenda for the Board Meeting of November 3, 2025, as amended.	
	Recorded vote: Unanimous Victor Huynh Natalie Miller	
	Mohamed Omar	



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Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo

Tom Spence

Erika Voaklander

Dennis Yu

Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

BD- Declaration of Conflict of Interest(s) – Tom Spence (Chair)

1.4 Tom Spence confirmed no conflicts of interest were declared.

BD- Approval Meeting Minutes – Tom Spence (Chair)

1.5

1.5.1 September 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Tom Spence requested the Board to review the minutes for the Board Meeting of September 15, 2025.

Tom Spence proposed a wording edit to Item 7.9.2, which was amended prior to the meeting.

MOTION 1.5.1: To approve the minutes for the Board Meeting of September 15, 2025, as amended.

Moved by: Victor Huynh

That the Board of Management approve the minutes for the Board Meeting of September 15, 2025, as amended.

Recorded vote: Unanimous

Victor Huynh Natalie Miller

Mohamed Omar

Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo

Zoe Robinson

Tom Spence

Erika Voaklander

Dennis Yu

Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

1.5.2 September 15, 2025 In-Camera Meeting Minutes

Tom Spence requested the Board to review the in-camera minutes for the Board Meeting of September 15, 2025.



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MOTION 1.5.2: To approve the in-camera minutes for the Board Meeting of September 15, 2025.

Moved by: Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo

That the Board of Management approve the in-camera minutes for the Board Meeting of September 15, 2025.

Recorded vote: Unanimous

Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar

Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo

Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

BD- Ch

Chair Report/Executive Committee – Tom Spence (Chair)

1.6

1.6.1 TEYCC Confirmation of Appointment of Mohamed Omar

• Tom Spence confirmed Mohamed Omar's official appointment to The 519 Board, per the Toronto & East York Community Council decision.

1.6.2 Executive Elections

- Tom Spence led the elections process for the new Executive Committee of the Board for the 2025-2026 term
- The following expressed interest in standing for the election.
 - Tom Spence expressed interest in standing for Chair.
 - o Zoe Robinson expressed interest in standing for Vice-Chair.
 - Erika Voaklander expressed interest in standing for Secretary.
 - o Vanshika Dhawan expressed interest in standing for Treasurer.

MOTION 1.6.2: To appoint Tom Spence as Board Chair, Zoe Robinson as Vice-Chair, Erika Voaklander as Secretary, and Vanshika Dhawan as Treasurer, for the 2025-26 term.

Moved by: Natalie Miller

That the Board of Management appoint Tom Spence as Board Chair, Zoe Robinson as Vice-Chair, Erika Voaklander as Secretary, and Vanshika Dhawan as Treasurer, for the 2025-26 term.

Recorded vote: Unanimous



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Victor Huynh
Natalie Miller
Mohamed Omar
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Zoe Robinson
Tom Spence
Erika Voaklander
Dennis Yu
Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

1.6.3 Committee Appointments

The Board reviewed the proposed committee appointments for the 2025-26 term.

MOTION 1.6.3: To approve the proposed committee appointments for the 2025-26 term.

Moved by: Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo

That the Board of Management approve the proposed committee appointments for the 2025-26 term.

Recorded vote: Unanimous

Victor Huynh
Natalie Miller
Mohamed Omar
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Zoe Robinson
Tom Spence
Erika Voaklander
Dennis Yu
Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

1.6.4 2025-2026 Agenda Forecast

- Maura Lawless provided an overview of the draft Agenda Forecast and confirmed that the Board would have a chance to discuss the ED Succession Plan at the January retreat.
- Dennis Yu requested a change to Governance Committee agenda items: to move the Board evaluation and skills matrix report to meeting #2, and move Board training and development plan to meeting #3.



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- Board members agreed on the proposed training and development priorities, and noted that it could look at climate justice initiatives/sustainable governance, emerging and strategic issues training-policy issues, and unconscious bias in recruitment in the future.
- The Board chose January 25, 2026, for their retreat.

MOTION 1.6.4: To approve the 2025-2026 Board Agenda Forecast, as amended.

Moved by: Erika Voaklander

That the Board of Management approve the 2025-2026 Board Agenda Forecast, as amended.

Recorded vote: Unanimous

Victor Huynh
Natalie Miller
Mohamed Omar
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Zoe Robinson
Tom Spence
Erika Voaklander
Dennis Yu

Decision carried

Councillor Chris Moise

- Tom Spence also noted that The 519 Volunteer Appreciation event and Trans Day of Remembrance are coming up soon and encouraged Board members to connect with staff to attend and/or volunteer.
- Tom also noted the upcoming AOCC training on November 13, and 50th Anniversary dinner on November 26.

BD- Executive Director Report – Maura Lawless (Executive Director) **1.7**

1.7 Lobby Refresh Renovation Project Update

- Maura shared an update about the renovation in the lobby is starting soon (exact date and schedule TBD). Permits, tender documents, have been submitted, waiting on bids from contractors.
- Will open up lobby space, enhance lighting, improve accessibility, provide new meeting rooms, enhanced safety features, new furniture.
- We expect disruptions and will do our best to communicate internally and with the public.
- Any questions can be directed to Maura or Karlene (not present at the meeting).
- Thank you to the United Way for the funds.



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Strategy & Community Development Committee Update – Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo (Chair, SCD), Curran Stikuts (Director, Advocacy & Strategic Communications), & Jaymie Sampa (Director, Community Wellbeing & Strategic Partnerships)

1.8.1 Chair & Vice-Chair Appointments

MOTION 1.8.1: To appoint Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo and Jaris Swidrovich as Chair and Vice-Chair of the SCD Committee, respectively, for the 2025-2026 term.

Moved by: Natalie Miller

That the Board of Management appoint Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo and Jaris Swidrovich as Chair and Vice-Chair of the SCD Committee, respectively, for the 2025-2026 term.

Recorded vote: Unanimous

Victor Huynh
Natalie Miller
Mohamed Omar
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Zoe Robinson
Tom Spence
Erika Voaklander
Dennis Yu
Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

1.8.2 Advocacy Update

 The Advocacy and Government Relations (GR) work with Crestview has commenced, staff are meeting with them regularly. Crestview is consulting on GR strategies at the federal and provincial levels and facilitating connections to key stakeholders.

1.8.3 Program Funding Update Report

- Staff were successful in a request for funding from Prosper Canada where in which The 519 will receive \$750k over 3 years. This funding will allow The 519 to a) augment existing tax clinic, b) offer financial skills and coaching services, C) offer workshops and education on similar topics.
- Staff flagged upcoming budget pressures on (1) older adults programming and (2) refugee support services as a result of funding agreements ending and not being renewed and/or being reduced.



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MOTION 1.8.3: To affirm The 519's continued support for and provision of Older Adults and New to Canada programming, and that The 519 staff should continue to explore all options, including new funding opportunities, cost containment, and the use of unrestricted funds, to continue to provide an appropriate level of supports and programming to Older Adults and New to Canada participants as part of the 2026 Operating Budget.

Moved by: Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo

That the Board of Management affirm The 519's continued support for and provision of Older Adults and New to Canada programming, and that The 519 staff should continue to explore all options, including new funding opportunities, cost containment, and the use of unrestricted funds, to continue to provide an appropriate level of supports and programming to Older Adults and New to Canada participants as part of the 2026 Operating Budget.

Recorded vote: Unanimous

Victor Huynh
Natalie Miller
Mohamed Omar
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Zoe Robinson
Tom Spence
Erika Voaklander
Dennis Yu
Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

1.8.4 Community Wellbeing Report

- Jaymie Sampa and Curran Stikuts provided a presentation that outlined the current neighbourhood context, progress of the Community Wellbeing Plan, which was approved in 2023, and presented recommendations for enhancements that would allow The 519 continue to respond to the changing context and community needs. The plan positions The 519 as a key community organization and partner in addressing complex, intersecting challenges related to housing, substance use, mental health, and neighbourhood safety, while simultaneously calling for a Citywide response to systemic issues that cannot be addressed by the organization alone.
- Juan Camilo shared that the Committee emphasized the importance of Board member presence at community and neighbourhood events.
- The Councillor expressed support for the proposed plan, and noted that the
 recommendations align with a motion coming to City Council in December. The
 Councillor expressed concerns about the impact of provincial decisions on municipal
 services and emphasized the importance of working collaboratively with partner
 organizations.



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- Board members expressed support for the plan, and flagged the importance of managing reputational risk, strong, pro-active communications with the local stakeholders like the BIA and local residents.
- Staff reinforced the position that meaningful community engagement and development are the way forward. The 519 is uniquely positioned to engage in the work of building connection and meaning and belonging in the neighbourhood, especially when working in partnership with other Downtown East community service organizations.
- The Board discussed its readiness to navigate this issue as it will inevitably continue to unfold. The Board requested key messages about the work of The 519 and the Community Wellbeing team, beyond harm reduction initiatives and supplies distribution, to help shape a more fulsome view of the breadth of programs and services offered.
- Staff confirmed they are contemplating the impacts of the lobby renovation and are committed to maintaining service in some way during planned disruptions.

MOTION 1.8.4: To (a) approve in principal the renewed Community Wellbeing Plan for 2026, subject to the annual budget approval process and to identify funding sources to offset the net impact to the operating budget. The 519 staff will engage throughout the City budget process, The Downtown East Action Plan, and other funding sources to seek funds required to successfully implement the strategy;

(b) call on the City of Toronto to establish a comprehensive, neighbourhood-wide community improvement plan for the Church-Wellesley Village that coordinates, supports long-term investments including funding, leadership and accountability mechanisms to support the intended outcomes of enhanced community well-being for all; and (c) direct staff to continue and strengthen The 519's advocacy with all levels of government to advance equitable, evidence-based social policy and sustainable funding for community wellbeing, and that staff continue to prioritize advocacy related to increased investment in housing, mental health, and harm reduction services.

Moved by: Councillor Chris Moise

That the Board of Management (a) approve in principal the renewed Community Wellbeing Plan for 2026, subject to the annual budget approval process and to identify funding sources to offset the net impact to the operating budget. The 519 staff will engage throughout the City budget process, The Downtown East Action Plan, and other funding sources to seek funds required to successfully implement the strategy; (b) call on the City of Toronto to establish a comprehensive, neighbourhood-wide community improvement plan for the Church-Wellesley Village that coordinates, supports long-term investments including funding, leadership and accountability mechanisms to support the intended outcomes of enhanced community well-being for all; and (c) direct staff to continue and strengthen The 519's advocacy with all levels of government to advance equitable, evidence-based social policy and sustainable funding for community wellbeing, and that staff continue to prioritize advocacy related to increased investment in housing, mental health, and harm reduction services.



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Recorded vote: Unanimous

Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar

Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo

Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu

Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

BD- Governance Committee Update – Natalie Miller (Chair, GOV) & Maura Lawless

1.9 (Executive Director)

1.9.1 Chair and Vice-Chair Appointments

MOTION 1.9.1: To appoint Natalie Miller and Victor Huynh as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governance Committee, respectively, for the 2025-2026 term.

Moved by: Dennis Yu

That the Board of Management appoint Natalie Miller and Victor Huynh as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governance Committee, respectively, for the 2025-2026 term.

Recorded vote: Unanimous

Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson

Tom Spence

Erika Voaklander

Dennis Yu

Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

1.9.2 The 519 Board & Committee Governance Framework: Structure, Roles, Appointments, and Committee Terms of Reference

- Natalie Miller shared that the Committee is prepared to recommend the policy document to the Board.
- Expectations of Board members will be tied into Board Skills matrix as guidelines, to be developed in 2026. Staff added two appendices to respond to Committee



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requests: (1) delineation of Board authority in relation to the City, and (2) onboarding and offboarding guiding procedures.

MOTION 1.9.2: To approve Board & Committee Governance Framework: Structure, Roles and Appointments, and Committee Terms of Reference.

Moved by: Natalie Miller

That the Board of Management approve Board & Committee Governance Framework: Structure, Roles and Appointments, and Committee Terms of Reference.

Recorded vote: Unanimous

Victor Huynh
Natalie Miller
Mohamed Omar
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Zoe Robinson
Tom Spence
Erika Voaklander
Dennis Yu
Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

1.9.3 The 519 Governance Membership Policy

- The Committee is also prepared to recommend the Governance Membership Policy.
- This new policy reaffirms the commitment to free membership, no term limits, and the Board's authority to cancel memberships where necessary and appropriate.

MOTION 1.9.3: To approve the Governance Membership Policy.

Moved by: Natalie Miller

That the Board of Management approve the Governance Membership Policy.

Recorded vote: Unanimous

Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Erika Voaklander

Dennis Yu

Councillor Chris Moise



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Decision carried

BD-1.10

Finance Committee Update – Zoe Robinson (Vice-Chair) & Maria Martinez (Director, Finance)

1.10.1 **Vice-Chair Appointment**

MOTION 1.10.1a: To appoint Dennis Yu as Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee for the 2025-2026 term.

Moved by: Zoe Robinson

That the Board of Management appoint Dennis Yu as Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee for the 2025-2026 term.

Recorded vote: Unanimous

Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar

Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo

Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu

Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

MOTION 1.10.1b: To receive the Finance Committee Agenda Forecast for the 2025 -2026 term and authorize the staff to make the necessary changes.

Moved by: Zoe Robinson

That the Board of Management receive the Finance Committee Agenda Forecast for the 2025 - 2026 term and authorize the staff to make the necessary changes.

Recorded vote: Unanimous

Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar

Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo

Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu



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Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

1.10.2 Community Resiliency – Capital Report Update

- Harper Jean Tobin delivered a presentation on climate resilience as an integral component to The 519's mandate of building connected, equitable communities. Resilience and readiness become increasingly important as Toronto's climate intensifies, disproportionately impacting Downtown East and 2SLGBTQ+ communities, and increasing operational and outage risk for The 519.
- Staff are exploring a potential Community Resilience Hub model, whereby The 519
 would remain open during extreme events (where possible) to provide basic
 supports to community.
- Staff have worked with external consultants to conduct a facility audit at The 519 and identified 50+ actions to increase the organization's readiness to withstand major weather emergencies. Execution of the proposed actions will require partnership with the City (CREM/ECF), and new funding.

MOTION 1.10.2: To authorize the Executive Director to pursue a multi-pronged strategy for climate resilience for building assets and systems, including (with additional Board consultation and/or approval, where appropriate):

- Work with relevant City of Toronto departments, the Ward 13 Councillor's Office and
 other funding partners to continue to advance capital improvements that align with
 City Council approved priorities as outlined in this report including ensuring that the
 City CREM unit completes an updated long-term capital replacement and repair plan
 that supports the capacity of The 519 to better meet the needs of the local
 community in the event of climate related emergencies;
- Work with the City of Toronto and other partners to support strategies that advance
 The 519's commitment to better prepare to become a Community Resilience Hub in
 order to effectively support both the local and broader 2SLGBTQ+ communities
 through climate related emergencies;
- Where feasible financially, The 519 will endorse relevant City strategies outlined in this report as part of any and all facility upgrades, replacements etc. occur;
- Continue to pursue grant and other funding strategies for capital projects, studies and related costs to achieve the objectives outlined in this report; Commission appropriate studies, as funding permits; and
- Preparing appropriate budget requests for The 519 and CREM budgets for 2026 and beyond.

Moved by: Zoe Robinson

That the Board of Management authorize the Executive Director to pursue a multi-pronged strategy for climate resilience for building assets and systems, including (with additional Board consultation and/or approval, where appropriate):



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- Work with relevant City of Toronto departments, the Ward 13 Councillor's Office and
 other funding partners to continue to advance capital improvements that align with
 City Council approved priorities as outlined in this report including ensuring that the
 City CREM unit completes an updated long-term capital replacement and repair plan
 that supports the capacity of The 519 to better meet the needs of the local
 community in the event of climate related emergencies;
- Work with the City of Toronto and other partners to support strategies that advance
 The 519's commitment to better prepare to become a Community Resilience Hub in
 order to effectively support both the local and broader 2SLGBTQ+ communities
 through climate related emergencies;
- Where feasible financially, The 519 will endorse relevant City strategies outlined in this report as part of any and all facility upgrades, replacements etc. occur;
- Continue to pursue grant and other funding strategies for capital projects, studies and related costs to achieve the objectives outlined in this report; Commission appropriate studies, as funding permits; and
- Preparing appropriate budget requests for The 519 and CREM budgets for 2026 and beyond.

Recorded vote: Unanimous

Victor Huynh
Natalie Miller
Mohamed Omar
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Zoe Robinson
Tom Spence
Erika Voaklander
Dennis Yu
Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

1.10.3 2025 Q3 Variance Report and Year End Forecast

- The Q3 results reflect a strong financial position, with a \$0.30M surplus.
- The year-end forecast projects a \$0.22M surplus, representing a \$0.56M positive variance, with total revenues forecasted at \$11.74M (0.63% above budget) and expenses at \$11.52M (2.73% below budget). Cost containment measures, particularly in salaries and benefits, and new funding, contributed to the positive outcome, supported by strategic recruitment delays and position consolidations.
- Revenue performance was bolstered by strong Green Space Festival on-site sales (\$0.14M above target), while corporate contributions and individual donations are expected to meet or modestly exceed targets, despite lower Pride Appeal and ticket sales. Additional expenditures in services and rents relate to enhanced event security, advocacy consulting, and approved 50th Anniversary creative work.

MOTION 1.10.3: To receive and approve the 2025 Q3 Variance and Year End Forecast Report for information.



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Moved by: Erika Voaklander

That the Board of Management receive and approve the 2025 Q3 Variance and Year End Forecast Report for information.

Recorded vote: Unanimous

Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo

Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu

Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

1.10.4 Risk Management – Mid-Year Report

MOTION 1.10.4a: To go in camera.

Moved by: Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo

That the Board of Management go in camera.

Recorded vote: Unanimous

Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar

Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo

Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu

Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

Staff presented the Risk Management – Mid-Year Report.

MOTION 1.10.4b: To come out of in camera.

Moved by: Victor Huynh



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That the Board of Management come out of in camera.

Recorded vote: Unanimous

Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar

Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo

Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Erika Voaklander

Dennis Yu

Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

MOTION 1.10.4: To receive the 2025 Summary Risk Management Report for information.

Moved by: Dennis Yu

That the Board of Management receive the 2025 Summary Risk Management Report for information.

Recorded vote: Unanimous

Victor Huvnh Natalie Miller **Mohamed Omar**

Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo

Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu

Councillor Chris Moise

Decision carried

Adjournment – Tom Spence (Chair) BD-

• The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Approved by The 519 Board of Management on December 8, 2025.

Signed by: Tow Syon

1.11

12/11/2025

Tom Spence **Board Chair**