

**CAFKA - CONTEMPORARY ART FORUM KITCHENER + AREA
April 2022 board meeting and Annual General Meeting - MINUTES**

Date: Wednesday, April 21, 7:00pm
Location: Online conference call

Board Members in Attendance: Tara Cooper (Programming Chair), Maria Najera (Treasurer), Rita Palacios, Sharl Smith (Chair), Conan Stark (Vice-Chair), Lauren Weinberg (Secretary), Ginger Whitney. [Absent: Brubey Hu, Žana Kozomora.]

Advisory Board: Michelle Purchase

Staff in Attendance: Sue Nally, Caitlin Sutherland

Guests: Senta Ross

Auditor: Michael Weller and Victoria Toczek of Calibre LLP

I. Call to order: 7:06pm

II. Land acknowledgment

III. The board approved the 2022 AGM agenda.

Motion: Sharl Smith, Seconded: Rita Palacios

IV. The board confirmed that no one had pecuniary conflicts of interest.

V. The board approved the 2021 AGM minutes.

Motion: Tara Cooper, Seconded: Rita Palacios

VI. REPORTS

A. Chair's Report

Sharl introduced CAFKA's new staff members: director Caitlin Sutherland and operations manager Sue Nally. Sharl is the only board member starting a new term. She also thanked Michelle Purchase for spending *so much* time helping CAFKA during the past year—after her term on the board had expired!

B. Director's Report

1. Caitlin expressed thanks for the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant that enabled her to join CAFKA full-time.
2. Caitlin showed slides of the 2021 biennial, mentioning that it was CAFKA's 20th anniversary. (It's the longest-running public art forum in Ontario.) She acknowledged the

modifications made for COVID lockdowns, particularly the inclusion of screenings, talks, the *White Elephant* reading series, virtual tours, and documentation videos. CAFKA produced 34 videos, and people across Canada and beyond participated in the online events. The biennial featured more than 58 community partnerships. We can estimate 1.2 million encounters with the 17 artist projects and 45 artist installations. Approximately 60 percent of the biennial artists were BIR, which exceeded the goal in CAFKA's anti-racism plan. CAFKA made sure to pay the international artists who had to cancel their projects due to the pandemic.

3. Caitlin also gave updates on a few 2021 biennial projects: In September 2021, CAFKA participated in Waterloo's Lumen Festival with a screening of Khadija Baker's performance. Our commission from Shary Boyle, *White Elephant*, is on the cover of Boyle's new monograph and is touring Canada in Boyle's solo exhibition. After Raven Davis had to cancel their biennial performance, they worked with CAFKA to present a solo exhibition at UWAG in February–March 2022.

4. Aaron Francis has agreed to do CAFKA's next Conestoga Mall installation, which will debut May 13, 2022, and remain on view through the summer.

5. CAFKA is working on a new membership program, a website redesign, a strategic plan, and community consultations (which will include our anti-racism plan).

6. CAFKA's former General Manager Glodeane Brown is now Halton Hills' first public art coordinator. "Glodeane was a rock who helped the organization weather many uncertainties during the pandemic," said Caitlin, who added that CAFKA hopes to add more staff in the coming months.

7. For the 2023 biennial, curatorial partnerships are already in place; artists are confirmed, and CAFKA is creating new programs for regional artists in response to some biennial applications, such as film series, a theater and performance program, and a community hub.

C. Programming Chair's Report

1. Tara noted that this year's biennial jury included artist Seemab Zahra, herself, Sharl, Žana, Caitlin, UW art professor Logan MacDonald, and three community guests.

2. The biennial will take place June 3–July 22, 2023, and its title is *Stay With Me*.

3. Tara shared photos of works by the twelve artists and two collectives: Stéphane Alexis, Shirin Fahimi, Shannon Finnegan, Kandis Friesen, Kablusiak, Abedar Kamgari, Tee Kundu, Isabel M. Martinez, Sara Mozafari, Jessica Thompson [from UW], Tract Collective, Lan Florence Yee, ZEST Collective, and Shellie Zhang.

VII. CAFKA's 2021 AUDIT

Michael Weller from Calibre shared the financial statements and said, "It's a clean report" with "nothing unusual." Most of the large amount of "contributed goods and services" was the ad space donated by the Region of Waterloo for Catherine Chun Hua Dong's project.

The board approved the audit.

Motion: Lauren Weinberg, Seconded: Tara Cooper

**The board appointed Calibre LLP as CAFKA's auditor for 2022.
Motion: Sharl Smith, Seconded: Conan Stark**

VIII. Information Sharing

IX. A. Sharl has a solo exhibition at Homer Watson Gallery from April 29 to August 7, 2022.

B. Tara audited an architecture class at UW, and they will have a small exhibition at the Clay & Glass Gallery in May 2022.

IX. Motion to adjourn (8:01pm): Lauren Weinberg, Seconded: Conan Stark