

January 2021

REPORT: TASK FORCE: ORGANIZING STRATEGIC PLANNING Board Session

This committee includes:

Mary Ots-Donaldson, President and Chair

Astrid Richardsen, Vice President

Olinda Casimiro, Executive Director

Email discussions and meeting via Zoom on January 15, 2021.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation resiliency grant has afforded us the opportunity to fund a strategic plan in the amount of \$7,100 (if required additional funds are available in the 2021 draft budget). As part of their agreement these funds must be spent within the next 6 months.

We hope that the exercise of creating a strategic plan will foster Board collegiality and strengthen our understanding of the function of a not-for-profit board, and the duties that come with that position.

We discussed what we would like the strategic plan to look like and we decided that we should have a two-year plan, with the emphasis on when the gallery is once again fully open to the public. The consensus was that we are dealing quite well with the reality of living with the pandemic but we need to plan for the future and we need to position the gallery to accommodate the changes affecting the industry.

We discussed whether we should have a call for proposals or whether we should approach Laridae. Laridae specializes in working with not-for-profit corporations and they have expertise in the arts and culture sector. They have a strong understanding of Cobourg and Northumberland County and the context in which we operate. They prepared a Community Engagement Report for us in July 2017 and a Strategic Themes and Priorities Document in November 2017. These documents have served us well. In January 2019 we asked Laridae to prepare a strategic plan exercise for us but subsequently the Board at that time chose to not act on that proposal and instead had a one-day planning meeting led by Member of the Board, Maneesh Mehta.

At a special Board meeting on March 6, 2020, we decided the Olinda should contact Laridae and explore what we can accomplish for a budgeted \$10,000, with a Member of the Board present at the discussions. The pandemic interrupted these plans. This committee recommends that we continue as we planned and hire Laridae to help us with our Strategic Plan.