



elan

english language
arts network

ELAN 2017 Annual General Meeting Minutes

August 29, 2017, 6:30 PM

Le Gesù • 1200 rue Bleury • Montreal

Board Members Present: Bettina Forget (President), Kristelle Holliday (Secretary), Karen Cho (Treasurer), Fortner Anderson, Khosro Berahmandi, Paul Bracegirdle, Louise Campbell, Chuck Childs (ex officio), Farah Fancy, Rob Lutes, Deanna Radford, Helen Simard, Kalina Skulska, Dan Webster

Board Member Regrets: Valerie Buddle (Vice President), Keith Henderson, Deborah Forde, Warona Setshwaelo

Staff Members Present: Guy Rodgers, Amy Macdonald, Rio Jestin, Sarah Lozinski, Monica Rekas

Project Managers: Emilia Alvarez, Anne Clark, Christie Huff, June Park

AGM staff: Corey Gulkin

Members, friends, partners and funders present: 61 members and guests

Bettina Forget called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

1. Welcome members and visitors; appoint minute-taker

Bettina welcomed members and guests, and appointed Rio Jestin as minute taker.

2. Approval of agenda

Motion to approve the meeting agenda by Anne Clark, seconded by Kristelle Holliday, carried.

3. Approval of minutes from 2016 AGM

Motion to approve minutes from the 2016 AGM by Elsa Bolam, seconded by Rob Lutes, carried.

4. Report on 2016-17 activities (April 1, 2016 –March 31, 2017)

Guy introduces ELAN staff and project managers.

Arts Alive! Québec (Canadian Heritage)

Anne Clark, Project Manager, reports. Arts Alive is a series of festivals to increase visibility and collaboration among English-speaking artists who work outside Montreal. Over summer 2016, Hudson, Wakefield, Knowlton, West Island, Quebec City, and Huntington produced festivals that

reflected each region. Events include theatre, music, film, children's activities, fine crafts, visual arts, workshops, studio tours and more.

- Hudson, coordinated by ELAN board member Kalina Skulska, spread Arts Alive activities from June to September showcasing 10 art groups in the area.
- The Morrin Centre hosted AAQ over the Canada Day weekend with musical performances and arts festival showcasing cultural and community groups.
- The Huntington event produced by Marc and Tina Bye on the banks of Chateauguay River, included a teddy bear picnic, music, and workshops for kids.
- The Knowlton event, in tandem with a book launch, raised \$3000 for the local food bank.
- Wakefield combined AAQ with Ta Da! Festival in early September, a 3 day celebration of dance, theatre and music.
- West Island was moved to a new location, starting from scratch. Spearheaded by Deirdre Potash, it was a successful event.

With Arts Alive! 2017, we are happy to see the exchange of ideas between regions. Several artists were engaged to tour to another region, and we saw increasing recognition from local councils.

Performing Arts Market Access (Canada Council)

Emilia Alvarez, Showcases Project Coordinator, reports. This project implements strategies identified through research conducted under a previous Canada Council grant. The project targets mid-career tour-ready artists who are poised to access new markets and deepen relationships. Emilia and **Assistant Mariam Assaf** followed up with 100 interviewees, and reached out to curators in Quebec to liaise between local, national, and international presenters. They distributed a survey whose results revealed that the project's target audience should be emerging artists.

Emilia and Mariam established one showcase in music, one showcase in theatre/dance, and one local (possibly CINARS or FTA). They are applying for more funding through travel grants. They are exploring a local tour with POP Montreal. There will be a UK showcase for theatre and dance at the Fierce Festival in October, and a showcase in Brazil in May.

June Park, Workshop Project Coordinator, reports that her Savvy Sessions workshops equip artists with skills like management, accounting, negotiation, marketing, and social media. Savvy Sessions respond to concerns regarding grant accessibility and professional development. In the spring we held workshops on sound recording, producing your own show, grant writing and social media. Sessions have received very positive feedback from participant surveys and comments. In the fall, we hope to do 12-15 Montreal sessions and 6-8 regional sessions. Workshops will continue until June

2018. June is also providing individual and small group consultations free of charge. Finally, June is researching art centres and hubs, looking at potential models that ELAN could apply in Quebec.

Visual Arts Market Access (Canada Council) – now named Visiting Curators Series

Amy Macdonald, Program Manager, reports on behalf of project managers **Hope Peterson** (2016) and **Stephen Lawson** and **Ximena Holuigue** (2017).

The project puts visual artists in contact with new networks to exhibit and sell their work. In April 2016, four curators from New York visited Montreal for two days and the Eastern Townships for a third day. They conducted studio visits with 16 artists, and had a lively panel discussion and Q+A at the PHI Centre. Canada Council funding covered travel costs for several regional artists to attend. The 2017 edition will focus on making the curator meeting more effective for individual artists.

ACE (Arts, Community, Education) Initiative (Canadian Heritage)

Guy introduces this initiative seeking to connect people with ideas and develop projects. He attended a CLC meeting and talked with Christie Huff, who was interested in exploring connections between arts and education. Together they got funding for a 3-year project.

Christie Huff, Project Manager says ACE was designed as a 3 part project: design, test, and scale. The design phase kicked off on June 2, 2016 with ACE Jam, which gathered a group of people to develop project ideas. Next a team worked on a call for proposals, and five diverse projects were funded. The projects were led by artists, school principals, and a teacher, as well as one team of community learning centre agents who help schools connect with communities. Projects will bring artists into schools, exposing the community to arts. Our next phase, scale, will involve asking leaders from arts and education organizations about long-term plans to make a difference.

Internal ELAN projects

Guy reports:

- ELAN revamped its website and newsletter, supervised by Amy
- Schmooser collaborations with QDF, NDG Arts Week, and the Fringe Festival
- December Schmooser with McGill Schulich School, a popular Schmooser
- Workshops, including CBC Getting Media Attention. One member who attended wrote a press release and got major exposure

This was the year of consultations as many funders and government bodies reassessed policies.

Quebec's cultural policy was revisited for the first time since 1992. ELAN made a strong intervention to respect English language arts while also recognizing French as the official language of Quebec. There is a small paragraph in the draft document recognizing the historical role of English language arts. We will ask the Minister to include action items in the implementation plan.

ELAN contributed to the national consultation on **Canadian Content in a Digital World** led by Canadian Heritage which revisited everything touching on the creation of digital content. ELAN consulted with our members, wrote a detailed brief, and presented it to the consultation.

The City of Montreal revised the **Montreal, Cultural Metropolis cultural policy**. Again ELAN consulted our members, drafted a brief, and presented it on April 6.

A lot of funding from the English speaking community comes from the **Official Languages Act**. It is revisited every 5 years. ELAN spends a lot of time preparing briefs and intervening. Arts and culture have a major role in expressing community vitality. The impact of ELAN's work seems to be quite positive. Although advocacy is often high level and indirect, we welcome comments and input.

Guy recognizes guests: Tarek Toni of Canadian Heritage; David O. Johnston of the Office of the Commission of Official Languages; Bernard Guérin, Executive Director of RAAV.

5. Motions: Mandate, Membership

The current mandate, written early in ELAN's development, states that ELAN was created for artists who use English as their first language. That wasn't quite true then, and certainly isn't true now. ELAN is intended to be inclusive and open. We also want to recognize organizations and cultural workers.

Motion 1 introduced by Guy.

Motion 1: That ELAN amend its mandate to read as follows:

The English Language Arts Network (ELAN) connects artists, cultural workers, and arts organizations from all disciplines and regions of Quebec, fostering a strong community for members.

A non-profit organization, ELAN promotes the vitality of Quebec's English-speaking artistic community, and supports its members with direct services and benefits, as well as through mobilization and representation.

ELAN makes common cause with the French-speaking cultural community to champion the multifaceted benefits of culture, and the interests of cultural workers. ELAN encourages an evolving Quebec identity that includes artistic, cultural, and social diversity.

Motion 1 by Chuck Childs, seconded by Farah Fancy. Carried.

Amy and ELAN board member **Helen Simard** introduce two motions to affirm ELAN's more inclusive approach to membership by incorporating cultural workers formally into definition of membership and welcoming part- and full-time students in all disciplines of study. Many artists make the sensible decision to study something other than art to bolster their financial security.

Motion 2 introduced by Amy.

Motion 2:¹ That ELAN amend its bylaws to officially incorporate cultural workers and full- and part-time students in all programs of study in its membership categories, as follows:

Bylaw 3.1, Rule 1 – Full membership is defined as follows:

Professional: Individual artist or cultural worker

Individual artist: as defined by the Status of the Artist R.S.Q. (Quebec) Chapter S-32.1 – known as Bill 90 and 78:

“artist” means any natural person who practices an art on his or her [or their] own account and who offers his or her [or their] services for remuneration, as a creator or performer in any field of artistic endeavour referred to in Section 1 (of the act).

Cultural worker: any person who works in the arts and culture sector.

Student artist: any person who is registered in the educational system pertaining to training for any program of study, either full- or part-time, and who practices an art on his or her [or their] own account.

Organization: an organization that represents the interests and rights of Individual Artists within the Province of Quebec or a presenter of artists and their work, within the Province of Quebec. Includes artist collectives.

Motion 2 moved by Chuck Childs, seconded by Anne Clark.

In response to a member question about adding “they”, Amy explains we want to be gender inclusive. Bettina says that we have an inclusion committee whose purpose is to be aware of these things.

¹ This motion text has been revised to incorporate amendments proposed during the meeting (see below).

A member asks about organizations that are not arts and culture organizations. Amy clarifies they can join as friend members. This motion only pertains to professionals, organizations and students.

Members propose three amendments to Motion 2. Bettina calls for votes:

Bettina calls a vote for the amendment to add a colon after the number 78. Vote passed.

Bettina calls a vote to add the gender neutral pronoun "they" in square brackets. Vote passed.

Bettina calls a vote for the third amendment to remove the "s" from performers. Vote passed.

Motion to accept Motion 2 as amended by Anna Fuerstenberg, seconded by Chuck Childs. Carried.

Amy and Helen introduce Motion 3.

Motion 3: That ELAN modify its membership fee structure to a pay-what-you-can (PWYC) model as follows:

Professional - Emerging artists are included in this category
PWYC with a suggested fee of \$30

Organization - Collectives are included in this category
PWYC with a suggested fee based on budget

- Annual budget under \$150 000: \$30
- Annual budget \$150 001 - \$300 000: \$60
- Annual budget \$300 001+: \$90

Student - Part-time students, and students not studying in the arts, are included in this category
PWYC with a suggested fee of \$15

Friend
PWYC with a suggested fee of \$20

This motion is intended to open up our membership. It has been discussed and researched, and a detailed proposal is included in the AGM package.

Helen says there is much discussion about making ELAN an open organization, recognizing artists' economic reality. Even a \$30 fee would prevent some artists from joining. ELAN should represent Quebec's artist community in all its complexity, include diverse perspectives, and improve our advocacy for all artists. Some of us can pay a little more to make space for those who can't afford to.

We've introduced a suggested donation for students, who previously had free membership. We hope that asking people to recognize value in the membership, while offering a PWYC option, encourages them to use the service. We also want to offer inclusive ways for self-taught artists to engage.

Albert applauds ELAN for evolving to truly represent the community that has English as part of their lives. Ultimately we want to represent the city, the province and all the people within it, to show great things can be done when working together. It's important to focus not so much on fees, but on having more people on board to educate ourselves, show we have a strong community.

Motion by Anne Clark, seconded by Kristelle Holiday. Carried.

6. Review of financial results (2016-17) and approval of audit

ELAN Board Member and Treasurer **Kristelle Holliday** refers the audience to the financial statements provided. (The full financial statements are available for download on our website on the event page.) She will pull out highlights. Pointing to revenues and expenses, we have a total revenue this year of \$348,793. Expenses are \$348,869, with a deficit of \$76, which means a balanced budget.

Our major revenues are grants, general program funding from Canadian Heritage and several project grants (ACE, Visiting Curators, Arts Alive). The second line is the membership fees. There has been a slight increase since 2016, showing the work of the Membership Committee.

Referring to expenses: the first line is salaries, with a \$15,000 difference between 2016-17. The salaries on the second line are contractors. There was a slight increase in rent. Publicity saw a \$6000 increase, mostly for Arts Alive. Website maintenance was reduced from last year, when we did our new website. Meetings and general includes project meetings, i.e. ACE Jam, Arts Alive. Because of the assets we had at the beginning of the year we have \$8000 in the bank at the moment. On page 4 (page 28 at the top) we see in liabilities, deferred contributions \$111,000, because we received a project grant from the Canada Council received late in 2016-17 that will be spent in this financial year.

7. Ratification of all acts and resolutions of the board from 2016-17

(Excluding motions to approve agenda and minutes, and adjourn meetings)

May 10, 2016

- Motion to approve the budget for 2016-17 - moved by Fortner Anderson, seconded by Kristelle Holliday. Carried. No abstentions.

May 11, 2016 (by e-mail)

- Motion: ELAN authorizes Guy Rodgers to be its official voting delegate at QCGN's 2016 AGM. Moved by Paul Bracegirdle, seconded by Khosro Berahmandi. Carried.

June 14, 2016

- Motion: From now on, we interpret our bylaws to allow a President, upon being elected, to be elected for two two-year terms, regardless of how many years they sat as a Director. Motion by Kristelle Holliday, seconded by Khosro Berahmandi. Carried unanimously.

July 22, 2016 (by e-mail)

- MOTION: Que Amy Macdonald (Coordonnatrice des programmes) soit mandatée pour les signatures avec Emploi Québec - That Amy Macdonald (Program Coordinator) be authorized to sign on behalf of ELAN when dealing with Emploi Québec. Motion by Valerie Buddle, seconded by Karen Cho. Carried.

October 20, 2016 (by e-mail)

- The board of ELAN resolves to submit an application to the Canada 150 Fund for its Arts Alive Québec project, to be represented by our Executive Director, Guy Rodgers, signing the General Application Form and Project Proposal. Motion by Kristelle Holliday, seconded by Kalina Skulska. Carried.

January 10, 2017

- Motion to have Guy write the first draft of the new Mandate – moved by Farah Fancy, seconded by Warona Setshwaelo. Carried.
- Motion that the board approve and adopt ELAN's CAM project application – moved by Deborah Forde, seconded by Dan Webster. Carried.

January 27, 2017 (by e-mail) re CALQ grant application

- Motion: Je soussigné, Guy Rodgers déclare :
 - être un représentant dûment autorisé à signer les documents transmis dans la présente demande au nom de English Language Arts Network - Quebec.
 - que l'organisme demandeur, de même qu'à sa connaissance toute partie apparentée à celui-ci ne sont impliqués
 - dans aucun cas d'insolvabilité les concernant,
 - dans le cadre de ses activités culturelles, dans aucun litige portant sur la Loi sur le statut professionnel et les conditions d'engagement des artistes de la scène, du disque et du cinéma (sauf dans le cas des Associations professionnelles d'artistes).

Moved by Valerie Buddle, seconded by Helen Simard. Carried.

February 17, 2017 (by e-mail)

- MOTION: Que Amy Macdonald (Coordonnatrice des programmes) soit mandatée pour les signatures avec Emploi Québec - That Amy Macdonald (Program Coordinator) be authorized

to sign on behalf of ELAN when dealing with Emploi Québec. Moved by Paul Bracegirdle, seconded by Louise Campbell. Carried.

March 18, 2017

- Motion to approve the 2017-18 budget – moved by Bettina Forget, seconded by Deborah Forde. Carried.

Motion by Chuck Childs to accept all acts and resolutions of the board from 2016-17. Fortner Anderson seconds. Carried.

8. Appointment of auditor for 2017-18

Guy recommends to re-engage the auditors we have had for the past several years.

Motion to hire Dagenais, Lapierre, Simard et associés by Anna Fuerstenberg, Farah Fancy seconds. Carried.

Motion by Chuck Childs to accept the audited statement for 2016-17. Anna Fuerstenberg seconds. Carried.

9. Budget 2017-18

ELAN Board Member and Treasurer Kristelle Holliday notes that this year was the first time ELAN was eligible for CALQ funding. We received \$75,000 a year for 4 years. On page 31, we see that core funding has stayed static. Extra \$75,000 on second line. Membership revenue increased by \$1000. We have applied for Canada Council program funding and will receive results by December.

Project revenue: we took Minority Report sales off the budget, will give away the few copies left. Workshops are back this year. Broadcasting presentation is back, doing more work with Videotron. The ACE Initiative is still a big project. Arts Alive received extra funding from Canada 150. Two sections at the end: a Canada Council project that will be applied for shortly, and a CAM project on Inclusion.

Total revenue stands at \$627,395, a testimony to all the work the team has done over the years. Under core admin expenses: we have moved offices so there is an increase in rent. The other elements are equipment, an increase of \$4000, representing computers for the new office and staff. Office supplies spending increased due to additional projects. There are still developments needed for the website. At the end of the project expenses, we see the last of Canada Council and CAM projects. This year there is a surplus of \$5000. Funders have asked us to start a pot of money in case of emergency.

Motion to approve the budget 2017-18 by Anna Fuerstenberg, seconded by Byron Toben. Carried.

9. Report on current and planned activities 2017-18

Guy reports that CALQ funding means we can hire two new full-time employees in Membership and Communications. This will make a tremendous difference; allows us to reduce time on turnover and training. ELAN is a service organization and extra staff will add to the value we seek to deliver.

For Canada 150 we received \$150,000 for AAQ which allowed us to create a budget for partners to hire ELAN members. We put out a call for those interested in doing workshops or performances. There are multiple spin offs to AAQ for different communities. Because of doing this for two years in a row, Grove Hall had enough money for a 60 foot round tent, so they can continue to do these productions. Now there is an exchange of artists and ideas between regions.

We are working on the final stage of the ACE Initiative, will have money to go back and develop those links. Will build on many educational contacts Christie has developed over two years.

10. Presentation of slate and board candidates

No election this year; we have exactly the right number of people applying for the Board.

The board members elected for two-year terms are

- Louise Campbell (Music)
- Kalina Skulska (Regions)
- Bettina Forget (Visual Arts)
- Paul Bracegirdle (Writing/Publishing)
- Lori Schubert (Writing/Publishing: QWF)
- Keith Henderson (Writing/Publishing: AELAQ)
- Farah Fancy (Corporate)

Continuing board members elected last year are:

- Valerie Buddle (Dance)
- Fortner Anderson (Film/Video)
- Karen Cho (Film/Video)
- Rob Lutes (Music)
- Dan Webster (Presenting Organisations)
- Kristelle Holliday (Regions)
- Warona Setshwaelo (Theatre)
- Deborah Forde (Theatre: QDF)
- Khosro Berahmandi (Visual Arts)

11. Presentation of new board

12. Adjournment

Motion by Anne Clark to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

DRAFT