



TORONTO
SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTS

Minutes

2020 Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Arts & Letters Club, 14 Elm Street, Toronto, ON

Present:

TSA Executive:

Maria Denegri – Chair

Megan Torza – Vice Chair

Alana Young – Treasurer

Ana-Francisca de la Mora – Executive Member

Barbora Vokac-Taylor - Executive Member

Charles Lau – Executive Member

Heather Dubbledam – Executive Member

Kevin McIntosh – Executive Member

Anthony Lombardo – Financial Officer

Joël León – Programming Director

Sarah Garland – Administrator

Total Attendance: 63, Total Members: 41, Total Student Members: 3.

Quorum was achieved.

Materials:

Today's Meeting Agenda

2019 Annual Report

2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes



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1. Welcome Remarks by TSA Chair

- 1.1. Maria called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM.
- 1.2. Maria introduced the TSA's executive members present at today's meeting.
- 1.3. Maria also introduced the TSA's new initiative co-leads present: Anna Kao (Film Initiative), Kurtis Chen (Pride), Pamela Bruneau (Walking Tours), Varsha Kumar (Doors Open, Building Tours).

2. Approval of the 2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes

- 2.1. Kevin McIntosh moved to approve the minutes of the 2019 Annual General meeting, Jocelyn Squires seconded; motion carried unanimously.

3. Year in Review

- 3.1. Maria began by expressing her thankfulness for her time as Chair of the TSA.
- 3.2. She noted that since becoming Chair, her mandate has been to make the TSA a more transparent organization and to increase accessibility to the society's activities, which guided the society's activities during the past year.
- 3.3. Highlights of 2019
 - 3.3.1. Maria presented the highlights of the society's activity in 2019.
 - 3.3.2. In 2019, the TSA's programming and attendance grew significantly. There was increased participation in Doors Open as the number of participating studios for our Open Studio program doubled. The TSA also introduced new programming



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this year including an edition of TSA CONNECT for foreign trained professionals, a design charrette, participation in the Pride Parade, a film festival.

- 3.3.3. The TSA also increased the number of structured learning hours offered to our members and continued to work to make the majority of our programming free.
- 3.3.4. She noted that the TSA has seen significant growth in membership since 2016. Student memberships have increased significantly as a result of our outreach efforts - with about 400 new students members having joined since September.

3.4. Thank you to our volunteers

- 3.4.1. Maria thanked the TSA's 200+ volunteers who make our initiatives possible including speakers, event volunteers, committee members, and featured guests.

3.5. Thank you to our sponsors

- 3.5.1. Maria also thanked the TSA's programming partners and programming sponsors whose support made our programming possible.

4. Financial Report 2019

4.1. 2019 Financial Report

- 4.1.1. Alana explained the financial state summary from 2019 including the following points:

- The 2019 BASH set a record high for fundraising having raised \$40,000.
- This year the TSA shifted to free membership for students as an investment in the future of architecture.
- The largest revenue stream this year was membership.
- Revenue total in 2019 was \$200,001.
- The largest expense was staffing.
- Expense total in 2019 was \$183,880.

- 4.1.2. Alana also explained the TSA's contingency fund



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- This is the fund in which any surplus is directed.
- It is broken into three parts; funds committed to a particular initiative, an operating resource in the case of a circumstance in which the TSA needs extra funds to support our members and continue to offer programming, and a fund for unplanned and unforeseen expenses and new large projects.
- The contingency fund was \$270,374 at the end of 2019.

4.2. Approval of 2019 Financial Statement

- 4.2.1. Heather Dubbledam motioned to approve the 2019 financial statements, Maria Denegri seconded; motion approved unanimously.

4.3. Questions from the floor

- 4.3.1. There were no questions.

5. Elections

- 5.1. Alana thanked Maria for her commitment and leadership during her three year term as Chair. She also thanked Megan for serving as Vice-Chair for three years.

- 5.2. Calls for nominations for the next Chair and Vice-Chair were put out through e-bulletins. Megan Torza was the only nomination received for Chair, and Ana-Francisca de la Mora the only nomination received for Vice-Chair

5.3. Vice-Chair

- 5.3.1. Since the nomination for Vice-Chair was unopposed, a voice vote was conducted. Ana-Francisca was elected Vice-Chair of the TSA.

5.4. Election of Chair

- 5.4.1. Since the nomination for Chair was unopposed, a voice vote was conducted. Megan Torza was elected Chair of the TSA.



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6. 2020 Priorities and Initiatives Proposals

6.1. Introduction of Priorities and Goals for 2020

6.1.1. Megan introduced the priorities and goals for the TSA in 2020.

- There will be an emphasis on expanding inclusivity and outreach to a variety of groups including technologists and students, as well as supporting professionals in all stages of their career, from established architects to recent graduates.
- There will also be increased efforts to disseminate the TSA's programming across our entire catchment area which expands from Toronto all the way to Barrie.
- The TSA will also work to diversify our funding sources by engaging with sponsors all year long.
- Lastly, the TSA will continue to build on partnerships with our continued and new programming partners.

6.2. Presentations of 2020 initiatives and proposals

6.2.1. Megan discussed the TSA's proposed advocacy efforts.

- There will be a particular focus on the climate crisis this year.
- The TSA will host both technically focused and engagement focused events.
- A survey will be sent to members in mid-March to find out what the profession is currently doing in regards to addressing the climate crisis. This survey will inform a members' town hall.
- The TSA will be partnering with Ted Kesik of UofT and the Daniels student chapter of the Ontario Building Envelope Council on a lecture on steps to address the climate crisis.

6.2.2. Megan also discussed the proposed Urban Affairs and IDEAS Forums.

- There is currently discussion with a group advocating for national architectural policy on holding an Urban Affairs Forum in the fall.



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- There will be a lecture on what to do with abandoned school buildings. This was pitched to the TSA by Alex Bovikovic.
- An IDEAS Forum will be held which will engage with emerging practices, specially targeting small firms.

6.2.3. Ana-Francisca discussed proposed Technical Lectures.

- This year, the TSA will be expanding the Technical Lecture Series to make it more inclusive.
- There are 15 hours of Continuing Education planned which will include lectures on both technical and soft skills.
- Ana-Francisca invited all levels of professionals to bring their ideas for Technical Lectures forward.

6.2.4. Barbora discussed plans for Doors Open 2020

- The topic of this year's architects' talk is architecture and music. The event will include talks and a panel by architects and other industry leaders who work in this field.
- She noted that Doors Open is one of the TSA's most well attended events and unique as it provides an opportunity for architects to directly reach the public.

6.2.5. Barbora also discussed this summer's Building Tours

- Last year, every Building Tour was sold out.
- She invited members to propose buildings they are curious about or have worked on that they think would make a good tour.

6.2.6. Joel and Pamela discussed proposals for the 2020 Walking Tour season

- Joel introduced Pamela as the new initiative co-lead for Walking Tours.
- This year, new tours will be launched, some of which will be looking at areas outside of the downtown. A winter tour is also being developed.
- This season, tours will be free for all TSA members.



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- 6.2.7. Joel and Pamela introduced the new TSA Field Trips initiative
- These tours will take attendees out of the downtown to other areas of the TSA's catchment, as well as visiting neighbouring societies.
 - This year, there will be field trips to Scarborough and the Niagara region. Both will include tours and free time to sketch and explore. The Niagara trip will also include a wine tasting.
- 6.2.8. Heather discussed the 2020 plans for the Guide Map.
- The committee is now in the works of producing an update to the original Guide Map published in 2003. The new Guide will highlight projects from 1950-2020.
 - The Guide Map will be launched at the launch party on May 27.
- 6.2.9. Charles and Anna discussed proposed film initiatives for 2020.
- Charles introduced Anna and the new co-lead of the TSA's film initiatives.
 - The TSA will once again be continuing the relationship with the Architecture and Design Film Festival to host another festival this fall for which the TSA will again be organizing panels and talks.
 - They invited short film submissions as there is another initiative in the works which would like to capitalize on these opportunities.
- 6.2.10. Kurtis discussed the TSA's plans for Pride in 2020
- The TSA will once again be participating in Toronto's Pride parade this June.
 - Additionally, there will be a Technical Lecture on LGBT identities held in June.
- 6.2.11. Ana-Francisca discussed outreach initiatives planned for foreign trained professionals
- The TSA will host events for attendees to build connections, as well as to learn more about the licensing process.
 - A workshop will be hosting featuring a professional who is dedicated to helping foreign trained professionals



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- 6.2.12. Ana-Francisca and Kevin introduced plans for the 2020 networking series
- This January, a students edition of TSA CONNECT was held which was attended by over 150 students.
 - TSA CONNECT will also be held in May, and another in the Fall.

- 6.2.13. Joel discussed K-12 Outreach initiatives
- The TSA will once again be attending the Annual TDSB Skilled Trades Workshop, where we teach 400 students over 6 hours how to draw sections and plans using bell peppers and croissants.
 - We will also be offering free tours for K-12 students.
 - The TSA has continued to be a resource for Ontario and International schools visiting Toronto.
 - Joel invited those interested in volunteer and expanding programming in this area to connect with the TSA.

6.3. Questions from the floor

- 6.3.1. There were no questions from the floor.

7. 2020 Budget

7.1. Review and Approval of 2020 Budget

7.1.1. Alana explained the guiding principles as follows;

- Maintain the quality and level accessibility of our current initiatives
- Continue to maintain the resources to support our programming
- Expand scholarship opportunities
- Strengthen and increase sponsorship opportunities.

7.1.2. 2020 Expenses

- Expenses related to scholarships will increase as the scholarship program expands, while programming expenses will stay in the same range as 2019.



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- Expenses related to administrative tasks will increase as a result of increased programming and desire to grow the TSA's online presence.

7.1.3. 2020 Revenue

- An increase in sponsorships is projected as the TSA's will create more sponsorship opportunities.

7.2. Questions from the floor

7.2.1. Rana Mahran asked if there was an opportunity for sponsorship from other organizations in the industry such as ARCHITECT@WORK. Alana explained the TSA's existing programming partnership and sponsorship from ARCHITECT@WORK, and the existing agreements for in-kind sponsorship with other industry partners.

7.2.2. Ho Sung asked why the scholarships will increase in 2020. Alana described the TSA's plan to expand the scholarships offered from the two Accredited Architecture programs at the University of Toronto and Ryerson, to now include the 4 technologists schools as well.

7.2.3. Ho Sung also asked for elaboration on the increased costs associated with meetings. Joel answered by describing the plans to make events like the Annual General Meeting more social by having a reception with food, and the desire to continue hosting a volunteer appreciation party which would fall under this category as well.

7.2.4. Stephen Pollock asked what the criteria is to receive a TSA scholarship. Alana explained that currently, the criteria is defined by the institution which the scholarship is given through. The TSA is looking at the steps needed to be able to define our own criteria, which would be a more involved process than allowing the schools to grant the scholarships themselves. Maria added that the TSA Executive acknowledges the politics involved with scholarship decisions within



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the schools and noted that we are now in conversation with each school to determine the best way to award the scholarships.

- 7.2.5. Kevin McIntosh moved to approve the 2020 budget; Jocelyn Squires seconded; motion approved unanimously.

8. Adjournment

- 8.1. Joel Leon motioned to adjourn the meeting; Megan Torza seconded; motion carried unanimously.
- 8.2. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.