



REGROUPEMENT NATIONAL DES ARTS DU CIRQUE
NATIONAL CIRCUS ARTS ALLIANCE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

April 3, 2023, 9:25 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The 7 Fingers

2111 Saint-Laurent Boulevard, Montréal

2023 MINUTES

PRESENT

Board of Directors

Tim Roberts, Chair
Rosalie Beauchamp, Vice Chair
Marie-Hélène Côté, Treasurer
Andrée-Anne Simard, Board Member
Sabine Jean, Board Member

Anahareo Doelle, Board Member
Éric Langlois, Board Member
Martin Frenette, Board Member
Ruth Wikler, Board Member

Individual Members

Aimée Hancock
Alex Hupé
Alex Royer
Alexandre Lane
Alexis Boyer-Lafontaine
Alice Kop
Amélie Gadbois
Andrée-Jo Milot
Anouk Vallée-Charest
Becky Priebe
Caroline Couillard
Carolyn Auclair
Chan Ka
Christophe Meunier
Daniela Arendasova
David Ayotte
Éliane Bonin
Elise Leblanc
Guillaume Doin
Irena Purschke
James Tanabe
Jean Saucier
Jérémy Ledru

Jérémy Vitupier
JP Cuerrier
Juliette Sirieix
Lacey Williams
Lise-Andrée Champagne
Lysandre Murphy-Gauthier
Marie-Claude Bouillon
Marie-Josée Gauthier
Melissa Holland
Naël Jammal
Nathalie Nicolas
Olivia Gomez
Pascal Duguay Gosselin
Pierre-Luc Houde
Raphael Frechette
Richard LePage
Roger Hobden
Roxanne de Bruyn
Sandy Bessette
Sarah Louis-Jean
Serge Labelle
Soizick Hébert
Solei Carlson

Sonia Lessard
Stacy Clark
Sylvain Bouillere
Tanya Burka
Tim Tyler

Valerie Buddle
Vincent Messenger
Yuko Nakamma
Zed Cézard

Corporate Members

Anne-Marie Hivert, Bareham Theatre
Annie-Kim Déry, Le Monastère
Carole Demers, Wonderbolt Productions
Christophe Meunier, Le Moulin à vent
Émilie Vachon, L’Aubergine
Emmanuel Bochud, CRITAC
Isabelle Chassé, The 7 Fingers
James Tanabe, National Circus School

Karine Lavoie, Cirque Hors Piste
Nicolette Hazewinkel, Éclats de rire
Pascal Contamine, Cirque Hors Piste
Patrice Aubertin, CRITAC
Samuel Tétreault, The 7 Fingers
Stéphane Lavoie, TOHU
Sylvain Dubois, Les Parfaits Inconnus
Vincent Dubé, Machine de Cirque

Educational Organization Members

Anna-Karyna Barlati, National Circus School Library
Melanie-Beby Robert, École de cirque de Verdun
Paloma Leyton, École de cirque de Verdun
Rafaël de la Durantaye, École de cirque des Îles
Sarah Poole, École de cirque de Québec

Observers

Bernard Lagacé, Diagramme
Françoise Boudreault, Cliquez Cirque
Mylene Bergeron, Maison des arts de Drummondville

Team Members

Nadia Drouin, Interim Executive Director
Matthieu Gagnon, Digital Development Officer
Mathilde Perahia, Continuing Education & Development Coordinator
Francine Arsenault, Corporate Communications Officer

Guests

Sylvie Gamache, Chair
Roland Naccache, Auditor, Robert Naccache et Ass. -

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The Chair of the Board, Tim Roberts, moved to call the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m. The motion was seconded by Nadia Drouin.

2. Appointment of a Chair

Tim Roberts moved to nominate Sylvie Gamache as Chair. The motion was seconded by Vincent Dubé. Sylvie Gamache was named Chair of the meeting.

3. Appointment of a Secretary

Tim Roberts moved to nominate Martin Frenette as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Sabine Jean. Martin Frenette was named Secretary of the meeting.

4. Declaration of Quorum by the Chair

Sylvie Gamache asked if quorum had been reached. Nadia Drouin confirmed to the Chair that the quorum needed to hold the meeting had been reached.

5. Acceptance of Visitors

The Chair mentioned that a number of non-members and non-voting members were attending the AGM. En Piste has always welcomed visitors. Vincent Messenger moved to allow non-voting members and other visitors to attend the Annual General Meeting. The motion was seconded by Raphaël Fréchette and unanimously approved.

6. Reading and Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair asked AGM attendees for any amendments or additions to the agenda. None were proposed.

Eric Langlois moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Vincent Messenger and unanimously approved.

7. Adoption of the Minutes from the Annual General Meeting Held on April 11, 2022

Marie-Hélène Côté moved to adopt the minutes from the 2022 Annual General Meeting. The motion was seconded by Nathalie Nicolas and unanimously approved.

8. Presentation of the Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 2022 and the Outlook for 2023

The Chair and the Executive Director presented the highlights to the assembly. Here is a summary of the presentations.

8.1. Chair's Report

Tim Roberts took the floor and addressed the assembly. Here is a summary of his speech:

“In 2022, circus finally returned to the stage, the streets, public performances and festivals throughout Quebec. International touring resumed.

We are delighted that companies are succeeding, artists are resuming their professional activities and a sense of normalcy is returning. We commend the extraordinary creativity and resilience of our sector, despite the fatigue and exhaustion of the teams who worked so hard to stay the course during the pandemic.

However, despite the appearance of good health, inflation is driving up companies’ costs; the training pathway is slow to take shape due to a lack of resources; and multiple infrastructure projects are currently on standby.

Although tangible progress has been made, circulating the various circus arts remains a challenge. Many artists and freelancers are grappling with precarious living conditions, not to mention difficulty accessing training facilities, as demonstrated by a petition signed by over 700 people last fall.

We wish everyone in the circus arts sector a healthy and creative future. As such, En Piste remains firmly committed to researching and developing forward-looking and sustainable solutions for our community.

Chair Marie-Claude Bouillon announced her departure at the 2022 AGM, as did our Executive Director Christine Bouchard in early 2023. We are grateful for all the work they accomplished during their respective terms. They skillfully oversaw the development of forward-thinking projects for our community. They also boosted our alliance’s profile and forged close ties with cultural organizations and government partners. Our sincere thanks go out to these inspiring women.

The Board of Directors hopes to continue the work accomplished under their leadership. The team and the projects that have been implemented in recent years will allow us to stay on track. We are therefore proud to present the 2022 Annual Report, which demonstrates the impressive results we have achieved despite the challenges and situation we face.”

8.2. Interim Executive Director’s Report

Nadia Drouin took the floor and began by thanking the En Piste team and the community before giving an account of 2022. She told participants that they should have received a copy of the annual report prior to the meeting.

Highlights:

- On March 18, 2022, after six years of advocacy and work, Minister of Culture and Communications Nathalie Roy and Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity Jean Boulet announced that an agreement had been signed with the CNESST to protect circus artists in the event of an occupational injury during training sessions. En Piste was tasked with overseeing this agreement going forward.
- In late 2022, we began working to update the macro-sectoral study on training needs, for which we applied to the Workforce Fund for funding. As in 2017, the firm Daigle-Saire will be responsible for conducting the study in 2023. The findings will be released in 2023.

- We submitted an economic brief to the Ministère des Finances reiterating the importance of continuing to invest in the circus arts sector's recovery.
- Continuing education continues to be at the forefront of our community's professional development. We continued to offer group workshops and our individualized training programs (Individualized Training Support and Individualized Career Support). Despite a slight decline in enrolment, a total of 291 participants took part in training throughout the year.
- For the circulation network Destination cirque, 2022 was its first full year of operation. The results demonstrate its relevance and importance to our community and to presenters. Over \$210,000 in fee support was granted to 35 presenters. Presenters contributed \$1,120,000 to Destination cirque. Thanks to this wonderful program, nearly 85,000 spectators were able to discover the circus, despite periods during which performance venues were closed.
- In collaboration with the firm Artensio, the alliance developed its first tools to support circus arts mediation as part of Destination cirque thanks to support from the CALQ. This work was endorsed by a scientific committee.
- The Reimbursement Assistance Program for Artists' Training Expenses proved very successful with artists. Clearly, the fact that access to training facilities is no longer free can explain this increase in activity.
- En Piste was a partner at various Canadian networking events and activities, including its first official appearance at RIDEAU with Destination cirque with a group of emerging companies. It also sits on a number of issue tables in the cultural community.
- En Piste's communications budget is very tight. Not only does this limit its scope of action, it makes it impossible to hire the human resources required to effectively manage tasks and promote the circus arts sector. Due to the emergence of various platforms and to evolving digital practices, a request for funding was submitted to the Canada Council for the Arts to conduct a digital assessment of the alliance.
- Despite our limited administrative and communications resources, our financial management is sound and we are proud to report balanced financial statements this year.

For 2023, here are some projects already underway:

- Implementing En Piste's Strategic Plan in line with the priorities of the Sector Development Plan and the quadrennial submission.
- Releasing the findings from two studies, the first on continuing education needs in the circus arts sector by Daigle-Saire and the second on the impact of the digital transition on the sector, which we will be launching immediately after the Digital Event.
- In the fall, the first "Grand rendez-vous de l'enseignement en cirque" will be held with support from the MCCQ. It will include two identical training days, the first in Montréal and the second in Québec City, during which the new framework plans for recreational and preparatory training will be presented. This project is in keeping with the training pathway development plan that En Piste contributed to and that was presented at the last Forum. The next step will be to secure funding to implement this framework plan. An application has been submitted to the MCCQ and we are awaiting a response.

- With Christine's departure, the alliance's team has undergone a complete overhaul. Hiring new staff during a labour shortage is a tremendous challenge. This will not come as news to you. Despite this situation, En Piste has been able to continue offering services to its members, and we are very proud of this. We are also pleased to welcome Matthieu Gagnon to the team as our new Digital Development Officer to support En Piste through its digital transition and represent our sector on disciplinary tables while having access to the DDO network.
- We will also roll out new programs and improve our activities and services.

En Piste would like to thank its public partners and government contacts. We would also like to acknowledge Christine Bouchard's departure and commend her for the quality of her work over the last seven years.

9. Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year 2022

Roland Naccache from Robert Naccache et Ass. presented the audited financial statements for 2022 to the assembly. The alliance ended the year with a small surplus similar to the previous year.

As an auditor, he expressed an unqualified opinion on the organization's financial health on December 31, 2022, and no material misstatements were found. The financial statements painted an accurate picture of the organization's situation.

Chair Sylvie Gamache thanked the auditor for his presentation.

10. Appointment of an Accounting Firm for the Fiscal Year 2023

A motion to appoint the firm Robert Naccache et Ass. for the fiscal year 2023 was moved by Marie-Hélène Côté, seconded by Émilie Vachon and unanimously approved.

11. Presentation of the 2023 Board of Directors Following the Election Results

College of individual members

Currently represented by:

Maude Arseneault
 Nicolas Boivin-Gravel
 Marie-Hélène Côté
 Sabine Jean
 Irena Purschke

College of corporate members

Currently represented by:

Rosalie Beauchamp	Le Monastère
Anahareo Doelle	Wonderbolt Productions
Raphaël Dubé	Machine de cirque
Alice Kop	La compagnie des autres
Stéphane Lavoie	TOHU
Karine Lavoie	Cirque Hors Piste

College of educational organization members

Currently represented by:

Danièle Fournier	École Horizon-Soleil
Éric Langlois	National Circus School
Tim Roberts	École de cirque de Québec
Andrée-Anne Simard	École de cirque de Verdun

Nadia Drouin invited the new Board of Directors to a closed session after the Annual General Meeting. The Chair of the Board took the opportunity to thank outgoing Board members Natasha Drouin Beauregard, Martin Frenette and Ruth Wikler for their involvement during their terms.

12. Other Business

No items were added.

13. Adjournment

As all items on the agenda had been addressed, Andrée-Anne Simard moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Martin Frenette and unanimously approved at 10:30 a.m.

Subject to the amendments noted by the assembly, these minutes were adopted at the Annual General Meeting held on April 9, 2024.