

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SASKCULTURE INC.
Friday, June 20, 2025
Conexus Arts Centre, 200 Lakeshore Drive
Regina, Saskatchewan

1. Call to order – Chair Yvonne Hotzak

Chair Yvonne Hotzak called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

The Chair welcomed everyone and acknowledged that everyone gathered is on the traditional territories of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dene, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota First Nations and the homeland of the Métis. SaskCulture affirms that we are all Treaty people with a responsibility to uphold and honour the Treaties, our relationships to each other and the land, and to do our best – individually and collectively - to move forward in the spirit of truth and reconciliation.

The Chair recognized the current Board of Directors:

Board members in attendance:

Jenni Lessard
Joanne McDonald
Christine Ruys
Jan Seibel (virtual)

Unable to attend:

Sekwun Ahenakew
Kayla Ironstar
Les Oystryk

The following attendees were also recognized: Past President Ann Kipling Brown.

Members were reminded that voting members, as represented by their designated representatives, constitute a quorum for regular business of the Annual General meeting, while Amendments to the Bylaws/Constitution require a two-thirds majority of the voting members in attendance. At the time the meeting was called to order, 33 voting members had picked up their voting cards or signed in online; therefore, a simple majority is 18, and a two-thirds majority is 22.

Members voting online are assumed to be in favour unless otherwise stated in the chat.

2. Approval of the Agenda

**MOTION: UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS – SPC/SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF
INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES
AGM 25:001**

To approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Cease Nominations

Chair Hotzak explained that the call for nominations from the floor was moved to the earlier sessions of the day, leading up to the AGM, with the final call taking place just prior to the start of the AGM.

**MOTION: MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL OF SASKATCHEWAN/ORGANIZATION OF SASKATCHEWAN
ARTS COUNCILS
AGM 25:002**

To move nominations cease for all board positions.

CARRIED

4. Approval of the Minutes

**MOTION: SASKATCHEWAN WRITERS' GUILD/SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL
LANGUAGES
AGM 25:003**

To approve the Annual General Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED

Business Arising

None

5. Election

No elections were held. Unfortunately, the Nominations Committee could not present a full slate. Lamarr Oksasikewiyin, resigned mid-term from the multiculturalism category in late May. This did not allow the Nominations Committee enough time to solicit a candidate to fill the one-year term. The SaskCulture Board will work to fill the vacancy.

Nominees were given the opportunity to address the membership on their nomination.

Board of Director Acclamations:

Cultural Industries – Tyson Liske, two-year term
Heritage – Erin Folk, two-year term
Métis – Jenni Lessard, two-year term
Member at Large – Christine Ruys, two-year term

All candidates were thanked for letting their name stand, and a special thanks to the Nominations Committee: Board members Sekwun Ahenakew, Kayla Ironstar and Joanne McDonald, and Ingrid Cazakoff, CEO, Heritage Saskatchewan.

6. Chair's Report – Yvonne Hotzak

The Chair's formal report is included in the SaskCulture 2024-25 Annual Report, Year in Review.

On behalf of the Board, Yvonne thanked SaskCulture's members, volunteers, partners, and community leaders across the province. This continued commitment is what drives a culturally vibrant Saskatchewan. She also thanked the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport and Sask Lotteries for ongoing support and the SaskCulture staff for their dedication and hard work.

There has been real progress this past year, from increased arts and cultural participation to launching community consultations for SaskCulture's Funding Program Renewal Project. Thank you to all who've shared feedback so far. The Funding Program Renewal Project will continue for several years, and at the end of our journey, it is hoped we will have arrived at a place where lottery dollars are being spent in the best possible way to sustain the cultural ecosystem.

Culture Days marked its 15th anniversary in 2024, and this year, Creative Kids is celebrating 15 years of supporting creative opportunities for children and youth across Saskatchewan. There are so many people, organizations and communities to thank for sustaining these programs through the years.

Most importantly, this past year reminded us how important it is to listen. Listening continues to guide how we respond, how we grow, and how we stay rooted in our values. There's still more to do, but with your continued support and commitment, the SaskCulture Board is confident we will keep moving forward, together.

Yvonne thanked everyone once again for attending and for everything done to help build a culturally vibrant province.

7. CEO's Report – Dean Kush

The CEO's formal report is included in the SaskCulture 2024-25 Annual Report, Year in Review.

Dean began by thanking everyone in the room, especially the members, for the dedicated work they put in to ensure we do our best to sustain a culturally vibrant province. A special thanks was conveyed to all of the volunteers in the province, as they are the cornerstone of our lottery system

To the Eligible Organizations, your impact is felt on a daily basis. On behalf of SaskCulture, thank you to your volunteers. To the representatives from the Districts for Sport, Culture and Recreation, your work on the ground helps keep cultural activity at the top of mind for many of our community members. Thank you, and we look forward to a closer working relationship with you.

More thanks were given to the Government of Saskatchewan and the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport for supporting the current lottery license agreement. The vision of the provincial government and the Ministry allows the work, as supporters of cultural activity, to operate in a very stable environment. Sask Lotteries Trust for Sport, Culture and Recreation is a reliable funder that creates a cultural sector that is the envy of the nation. The cooperation and support of our lottery partners, Sask Sport and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association, are also greatly appreciated.

Dean recognized the partnership with SK Arts for their continued work as a partner in distributing lottery funds to the arts community. Appreciation was also given to Heritage Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance.

To our volunteer board of directors, thank you for giving your valuable time to help SaskCulture thrive and prosper. As directors, you have a major impact on the future of Saskatchewan's cultural sector.

Finally, Dean thanked the staff. The staff complement was brought up to 20 people in 2024-25. Along with doing regular business with granting, Creative Kids, Culture Days, and more, the staff are also conducting a funding program renewal project. This effort, without added capacity, could not take place. The staff members have had to shift priorities and even duties, and all of us have to become proficient at project management like never before.

8. Amendment to the SaskCulture Constitution and Bylaws

Nominations from the floor of an annual meeting were written into the constitution at a time when nominations were submitted on paper by mail, and elections were done in person by paper ballot. Other reasons nominations from the floor are considered ineffective were included in the document included in the AGM package.

Times have changed and there are now more efficient and effective ways to nominate and elect board candidates. Removing clause #27 d) will provide time for an orderly, transparent election process, ideally online and prior to the annual meeting.

The Saskatchewan Non-profit Corporations Act, 2022, does not explicitly address nomination from the floor at an AGM. The Act grants organizations autonomy to define the nomination and election processes in their bylaws.

**MOTION: PARKLAND VALLEY SPORT, CULTURE AND RECREATION DISTRICT/HERITAGE
 SASKATCHEWAN
 AGM 25:004**

To remove clause #27 d) in SaskCulture's Constitution and Bylaws, which states: "Notwithstanding anything contained herein, nominations will also be accepted from the floor at any Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

9. Auditor's Report and Financial Statements

The Audited Financial Statements and a written analysis of the financial statements were emailed to the membership on June 3, 2025, in advance of the annual meeting. The information was also posted on the website along with the Annual Report. The Annual Report contains a summarized version of the Financial Statements.

In 2024/25, lottery ticket sales dropped from \$259 million to \$239 million but thanks to the lottery license agreement, this fundraiser provided \$20 million to the Culture Section of the Trust. Approximately \$4 million was allocated to the Community Development Fund and Community Grant Program leaving \$17 million for the SaskCulture Board to allocate in the budget.

The board was able to allocate a portion of reserve funds to provide an increase to overall revenue of \$1,024,000. This allowed SaskCulture to maintain funding of \$9.2 million to ECOs, continue member services including a 25% contribution in support of the Administration Centres for Sport,

Culture and Recreation, \$10,000 for an Employee Family Assistance Program for cultural groups, delivery of a tri-global pension and benefits plan, negotiating reduced rates for insurance, car rental and hotels and covering \$80,000 in director and officer bonding and liability premiums for Eligible Cultural Organizations.

The budget also provided an increased commitment of \$729,000 to grant programs, plus \$30,000 more for Culture Days hubs – an increase of 25%.

SaskCulture also undertook an extensive one-time consultation process involving nearly 300 individuals from the disability, 2SLGBTQ+, Indigenous, ethno-cultural and mainstream arts, heritage and multicultural communities to better understand how to serve these groups more effectively in the years ahead.

From 2019 to 2023, SaskCulture was understaffed, funding programs were oversubscribed, and it was a challenge to meet the demands of the cultural community. In 2024, SaskCulture was able to restructure its staff roles and hire some incredible people with years of experience in the cultural community, bringing the staff team to a total of 20. This has greatly improved the capacity to respond to the needs of the cultural community, establish new partnerships, build the capacity necessary for the funding program review, and research new initiatives such as participatory grant making, a new accessibility fund, and the age of AI.

SaskCulture staff also fundraised over \$556,000 for Creative Kids and granted over \$953,000 to Saskatchewan cultural workers that is not reflected in SaskCulture's financials.

A further financial analysis report was included in the AGM package along with the audited financial statements.

**MOTION: SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES/UKRAINIAN
CANADIAN CONGRESS – SPC
AGM 25:006**

To accept SaskCulture Inc.'s Auditor's Report for year ended March 31, 2025.

CARRIED

10. Appointment of the Auditor for 2025/2026

**MOTION: MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL OF SASKATCHEWAN/SASKATCHEWAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
AGM 25:007**

To appoint MNP as auditor for SaskCulture Inc. for the fiscal year April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026.

CARRIED

11. New Business

Yvonne thanked the outgoing board members for their contribution and for all that they have done on behalf of the cultural community in Saskatchewan.

- Joanne McDonald – filled a vacancy in 2023 and continued to serve one term. Joanne previously served as Chair and Past Chair from 2016-2020.

Yvonne also recognized Lorelie DeRoose for 10 years of service on the SaskCulture staff.

A special thank-you was given to Elder Judy Pelly.

12. Adjournment

Chair Hotzak adjourned the meeting at 4:39 p.m.

Yvonne Hotzak, Chair

Name:	Organization:
Rena Farajova	Azerbaijani Cultural Association of Regina
Samira Omarova	Azerbaijani Cultural Association of Regina
Anita Baerg*	Canadian Heritage
Jera MacPherson*	CARFAC SASK
Wendy Nelson	CARFAC SASK
Lisa Washington	City of Yorkton
Danny Rousseau	Conseil culturel fransaskois
Senyo Akakpo	Dance Saskatchewan Inc.
Cheryl Dakiniewich	Dance Saskatchewan Inc.
Ann Kipling Brown	Dance Saskatchewan Inc.
Elaine McNeil	Daughters of Africa Resources Center
Ingrid Cazakoff	Heritage Saskatchewan
David Siebert	Heritage Saskatchewan
Katherine Gilks	Heritage Saskatchewan
Ian Worme	Heritage Saskatchewan
Jennifer Fitzpatrick	Heritage Saskatchewan
Karen Henders	Karen Henders Consulting
Helen Meekins	Lakeland District for Sport Culture and Recreation
Crystal Clarke*	Lakeland District for Sport Culture and Recreation
Traci Lynne Foster	Listen To Dis' Community Arts Organization
Shaylee Rosnes	Listen To Dis' Community Arts Organization
Deb Nyczai*	Listen To Dis' Community Arts Organization
Janelle Coleman	Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport
Rhonda Rosenberg	Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan
Emma Morris	Museums Association of Saskatchewan
Amber Hanover	Museums Association of Saskatchewan
Cat Woloschuk*	Museums Association of Saskatchewan
Helanna Gessner	Museums Association of Saskatchewan
Caitlin Coflin	New Dance Horizons
Tyson Liske	Nominee
Erin Folk	Nominee
Kevin Korchinski	Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils
Natasha Hiu	Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils
Chelsey Exner	Parkland Valley SCR District
Darla Batke	Parkland Valley SCR District
Abanti Banerjee	Parkland Valley SCR District
Aileen Martin	Prairie Central District for Sport Culture and Recreation
Kathryn King*	Prairie Central District for Sport Culture and Recreation
Stephanie Cuddington*	Prairie Central District for Sport Culture and Recreation
Maxine Proctor*	Remai Modern
Bonnie Mills Midgley	Rivers West District for Sport Culture and Recreation
Bobbi Hebron	Rivers West District for Sport Culture and Recreation

Antje Rongve	Rivers West District for Sport Culture and Recreation
Karin Steuber	Saskatchewan Archaeological Society
Wendy Fitch	Saskatchewan Archaeological Society
Em Ironstar	Saskatchewan Arts Alliance
Ariana Malthaner	Saskatchewan Arts Alliance
Gord Zakreski	Saskatchewan Association of International Languages
Tania Jahan	Saskatchewan Association of International Languages
Zaheed Iftexhar	Saskatchewan Association of International Languages
Jim Leskun	Saskatchewan Association of International Languages
Suzanne Gorman*	Saskatchewan Band Association
Donna Woloshyn	Saskatchewan Book Awards Inc.
Sheryl Neher	Saskatchewan Choral Federation
Gloria Bearss*	Saskatchewan Council for Archives & Archivists
John Kennedy	Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange Society
Julia Hart*	Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange Society
Scott Robertson	Saskatchewan Drama Association
Tanya Johnson	Saskatchewan Drama Association
Darlene Briere	Saskatchewan Drama Association
Jennifer Peak	Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Association
Celeste Rider*	Saskatchewan Genealogical Society
Gabriele Waidelich-Harrison	Saskatchewan German Council
Kristin Marie Enns-Kavanagh	Saskatchewan History and Folklore
Phaedra Hitchings	Saskatchewan Literacy Network
Jennifer Jungwirth*	Saskatchewan Music Educators Association
Carol Donhauser	Saskatchewan Music Festival Association
Tracy Hamon	Saskatchewan Writers' Guild
Chinedu Ezeala	Saskatchewan Writers' Guild
Yvonne Hotzak	SaskCulture Inc.
Christine Ruys	SaskCulture Inc.
Jenni Lessard	SaskCulture Inc.
Joanne McDonald	SaskCulture Inc.
Jan Seibel*	SaskCulture Inc.
Gloria Walsh	SaskCulture Inc.
Shawn Bauche	SaskCulture Inc.
Lorelie DeRoose	SaskCulture Inc.
Dean Kush	SaskCulture Inc.
Damon Badger Heit	SaskCulture Inc.
Paul Gingras	SaskCulture Inc.
Catherine Folstad	SaskCulture Inc.
Nichole Williams	SaskCulture Inc.
Elizabeth Akinyemi	SaskCulture Inc.
Tomasin Playford	SaskCulture Inc.
Shelley Fayant	SaskCulture Inc.

Busayo Osobade	SaskCulture Inc.
Alex Rogalski	SaskCulture Inc.
Abiodun Oyelami	SaskCulture Inc.
Ana Cristina Camacho	SaskCulture Inc.
Leo Keiser	SaskCulture Inc.
Hannah Williams	SaskCulture Inc.
Elaine Kaloustian*	SaskOrchestra
Jennifer Bobowski	SaskOrchestras
Joni Hagen*	South East District for Sport Culture and Recreation
Christie Saas*	South West District for Sport Culture and Recreation
Nena Hawkes	Theatre Saskatchewan Inc
Danylo Puderak	Ukrainian Canadian Congress – SPC
Iryna Soloduk	Ukrainian Canadian Congress – SPC
Elena Krueger*	Ukrainian Canadian Congress – SPC
Charlene Tebbutt*	Ukrainian Canadian Congress – SPC

**Virtual Attendance*