

MANITOBA CULTURAL SOCIETY OF THE DEAF

Annual General Meeting
242 Stradford St, Winnipeg, MB R2Y 2C9
April 30th, 2023

Present at AGM

Board Attendees: Evan Husack, Alice Crawford, Jenel Shaw, Judyta Szacilowski,
Astrea Romero

Member Attendees: Crystal Miles, Nicole Revoy, Ameila Elaine Newhook, Joan, Coupland,
Rita Aubry-Ruiz, Misty Greyeyes, Andrew Lund, Shawna Joynt, tricia Amaro, Brenda
Compte, Rita Bomak, Kayle Miller,

Interpreters: Mandy MacDonald, Phyllis Ginakes

1. Call to Order

Evan Husack called the meeting to order at 12:49 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda – April 30, 2023

MOTION: To accept the agenda as distributed.

Moved by: Andrew Lund **Seconded by:** Brenda Compte
Carried

3. [Approval of AGM Minutes – April 22, 2022](#)

MOTION: To accept the minutes as distributed.

Moved by: Alice Crawford **Seconded by:** Kayle Miller
Carried

4. Board Reports

4.1. Board's Reports

4.1.1. President's Report

Hello everyone!

First, I want to thank everyone, our members, supporters, donors and partner organizations for their continued support over the last year, it is what kept us going and persisted through this ever-changing world. Thanks to everyone, MCSD-DAM went through some new changes for the better. It would not be possible without our board members and their hard work, patience and staying positive through these challenging times.

This year has been challenging for me as President. One of the biggest challenges I had to face was finding a treasurer to replace our previous treasurer: Dianne Mondor. The board appointed Jenel Shaw as temporary treasurer as we search for the replacement. Last summer, I was busy as Vice President of Deaf Youth Canada with the Canadian Deaf Youth Leadership Camp (CDYLC) event in Nova Scotia, which took up much of my time alongside my search for the new treasurer. It was a successful event which I hope will plant many leadership seeds for our future. However, I was unable to find anyone who is willing to step up to be treasurer for MCSD.

In Fall, our Project Director Alice Crawford offered to donate to hire the treasurer to help out the MCSD. I was finally able to find a new treasurer: Michael J Stewart (MJ). I want to give big thanks to Alice Crawford for her big heart and MJ for stepping up to help out MCSD. However due to complications, we were unable to hand over bank signing authority until winter. We got MJ up to date only a few months before the AGM. Therefore the time spent on these activities cut into my time as President of MCSD and I was unable to complete the things I wanted to do for the organization.

And as the AGM approached, I was busy preparing for the AGM along with other things in my life. Now I have some upcoming opportunities and I can no longer lead MCSD as I used to. We are looking for somebody who is interested in stepping up as President. At this point, there isn't anyone interested. If nobody is interested here at this AGM, I will remain as President. However my role will be much quieter and limited to running the meetings, search for the new board members and such.

Evan Husack

4.1.2. Project Directors Report

- Arts Management Course for non-profits:

I am stepping down in a couple of years and for the past several years I have been doing additional duties similar to what an Executive Director would do. In order to find qualified Deaf individuals, MCSD-DAM needs to have trained people to be able to fulfill the tasks needed to run this organization. Therefore the idea of having an Arts Management course tailored for the Deaf community came about.

For existing Arts Management courses, I researched Creative Manitoba (CM), the University of Winnipeg (UW), University of Manitoba (UM), and Red River College Polytech (RRCP) College websites. Then I got in touch with Creative Manitoba to discuss having an Arts Management Course that will be a credit for any future courses or programs at either UW or RRCP.

Thomas Sparling, the executive director of CM, found RRCP was interested. This arts management course is for non-profits, and will be a credit course. It can be applied to any non-profit organization. The word arts is there because we are an arts organization and to apply for grants, that needs to be in the name.

Results from two focus groups, both local and out west, showed what they would like to see happen with this program. We are in the process of developing this course and it will be open to any Deaf individual who wants to learn more or is interested in being part of a Deaf non-profit organization. The goal is to have Deaf individuals who will be confident in their abilities to run an organization, and be able to hire Deaf people who take this course to run projects. This has been ongoing for about a year. We had consultations with various Deaf individuals and Anita Small in Toronto for course content.

CM and RRCP have been in discussions with us this past year as to the best way of developing this course. We hope to apply for a grant sometime this year.

- New Rhythm Dance Teacher Certificate Program:

A letter for dance studios in MB was created and sent out to 70 studios in Manitoba. This program is for non-deaf dance teachers to learn best practices for teaching Deaf and HH students. The eight dance films were filmed using grants from CCA and MAC and Breaking the Sound Barrier workshop (WAC) is the last step to Certification after watching films and reading downloadable documents. Joanna Hawkins and Shannon Guile are the facilitators of this workshop and there have been consultations with them on the content of their webpage on MCSD-Dam's website.

This program was written up in the Winnipeg Free Press Arts Section in Oct of 2022. The first graduates received their certificates earlier this month and their names will be on the MCSD-DAM website for parents of Deaf and HH children, or any Deaf individual to find a teacher that will give the best inclusive experience for dance and/or movement.

- Other Arts Organizations:

We are starting to see more and more theatre companies and individual artists providing ASL performances on certain nights and this is advertised on our FB and IG pages. The theatre companies send an email with the information which is edited to make it usable for social media. We have some of them trained to give us shorter text for the postings. Some are even supplying their own vlogs for social media. Progress!

Prairie Theatre Exchange has offered discounted theatre seats for current MCSD-DAM members plus one companion. Members get a membership card to use for any discounts offered to our members. We also have a \$5.00 discount for the Magic of ASL shows.

- Grant Applications:

Website Vlogs project: which will give short 1-5 minute ASL videos of the contents of the site to make it accessible to the Deaf communities across Canada and hopefully will inspire non-deaf individuals to learn ASL.

There were several things to take into consideration: how many words per minute can one sign in ASL and finding an editor to edit the longer web content to reduce the words for the vlogs for that content. Working with a videographer to determine what it will cost to film these individuals to sign the web content. Also the need to make the website accessible for those who are blind, how much would it cost to hire someone to write alt text, cost to bring the website to accessibility standards, etc.

Unfortunately, we did not get any funding for this year, we applied to 3 programs to various organizations and all were turned down for various reasons. So there was no income from grants in 2022 and it makes it tricky not to have income to run our organization. We need members to help us function. We hope we will be more fortunate in our grant applications in 2023.

- Final Reports:

Mid-year a final report was sent to WAC for the grant "Restart" where the board met in 2021 to review and create new Visions, Mission, Goals, Values statements for the future. Worked on final reports (Budgets and results) for WAC for Building Big Bridges with a Little ASL-LSQ and to Canada Council for the Arts (CCA) and Manitoba Arts Council (MAC) for A New Rhythm: Teaching Beyond Sound. These were submitted at the end of the year.

MAC used our A New Rhythm: Teaching Beyond Sound project in their 2021-2022 Annual report under Artists in Communities section.

Alice Crawford

4.1.3. Communication Director's Report

Hello!

What a journey, post covid was much more difficult than I thought it would be but here I am! It has been a quiet year for me personally and am sad to announce that I am resigning as I have other priorities I am focusing on for 2023-2024. Here is a recap of what I have worked on...

- Assisted with MCSD vlogs
- Webpage Redesign - assisted and provided feedback
- Magic of ASL and LSQ: Covid-19 Edition - was a fun experience hosting virtually with Evan! Lots of positive feedback from both performers and audiences across Canada. Assisted with preparation, development of MC plan, promotional vlogs.
- A New Rhythm: Teaching Dance Beyond Sound - involved in the project as a communications director, conveyed contracts to deaf dancers in ASL, ensured deaf culture was appropriately used and included in the project.
- Building Bridges with a Little ASL/LSQ - was to do ASL portion, gave opportunity to Cindy as time constraints did not allow me to participate fully. Still consulted for deaf culture and assisted finding signers for the project.

Judyta Szacilowski

4.2. Treasurer

4.2.1. Reviewed Financial Report

- See attached report. [MCSD Financial report-Sept 13, 2021](#)
- Michael Stewart joined MCSD in October 2022 in the paid position of Treasurer.

4.2.2. Approval of 2023 Budget

- Budget incomplete waiting on upcoming audit.

MOTION: Treasurer, Michael Stewart will complete the budget/financial statements.

Once approved by the board, it will be distributed to membership.

Moved by: Ameila Newhook

Seconded by: Andrew Lund

Carried

5. Projects in 2021

5.1. Webpage Redesign

Website received some updates with the assistance of the web designer Amphibian Design.

5.2. Magic of ASL and LSQ: Covid-19 Edition

We have applied for a grant for the Magic of ASL for 2024 with WAC at the end of 2022 and will find out if we are successful at the end of April. We also will apply for additional funding with MAC in September to top it up. We are inviting a Deaf performer to perform and give workshops to school age kids and adults. This event will be in person and I'm excited to see it happen.

5.3. A New Rhythm: Teaching Dance Beyond Sound

In June, we found a company in Vancouver to translate the Interview panel in French. We were much happier with them than the company in Montreal. The final report with the final budget and results was submitted at the end of the year and accepted by CCA in January 2023.

5.4. Building Bridges with a Little ASL/LSQ

Early 2022, Cindy Koskie was hired to narrate the Dance Terms films in ASL. These films are part of the Dance Teacher Certificate program. Anna Salgado did the voice over for the ASL Narrator. In April 2022, we had to reshoot a couple dance terms that were not clear. There was much consultation over the editing of the three films. We are

still working towards completing the LSQ dance terms films. Filming of the LSQ Teacher and the French teacher happened in June. Finally, after much difficulty, we found a Deaf Quebec artist who will be the LSQ narrator for the LSQ dance terms films. Marie-Peirre Petit is the narrator and is being filmed this month. Once we find a French voice over for the narrator role, we will be finished with this project.

6. Old Business

6.1. Vision, Mission, Goals and Values statement

- All statements were passed last year 2022. They are currently on the MCSD website to be viewed. These statements will be used going forward.

6.2. Change to the bylaws

- MCSD had \$10,000 to cover the costs for changes to to the ByLaws, this was passed by membership and in the bylaws

6.3. Magic of ASL

- Was postponed from last year. Recently applied for a grant for 2024, waiting on these results.

6.4. Ideas for MCSD-DAM

- Currently open to ideas on how to grow membership numbers with the goal of expanding MCSD.

7. Elections

Linda Strowbridge acted as Nominations Chair.

7.1. President

MOTION: That Andrew Lund takes on the position of President.

Moved by: Evan Husack **Seconded by:** Brenda Compte

Carried

7.2. Vice President

MOTION: Alexandra Martin is voted in by acclamation to continue as Vice President.

Moved by: Evan Husack **Seconded by:** Rita Bomack

Carried

7.3. Secretary

MOTION: Astrea Romero is voted in by acclamation to continue as Secretary

Moved by: Brenda Compte **Seconded by:** Shawna Joynt

Carried

7.4. Treasurer

- Michael Stewart will continue in this position as paid MCSD staff for the duration of his one year contract.

7.5. Project Director

MOTION: Alice Crawford is voted in by acclamation to continue as Project Director.

Moved by: Shawna Joynt **Seconded by:** Kayle Miller

Carried

7.6. Liaison Director

MOTION: Jenel Shaw is voted in by acclamation to continue as Liaison Director

Moved by: Andrew Lund **Seconded by:** Nicole Revoy

Carried

7.7. Membership Director

MOTION: That Tricia Amaro takes on the position of Membership Director

Moved by: Brenda Compte **Seconded by:** Nicole Revoy

Carried

7.8. Communication Director

- Position remains vacant

8. New Business

8.1. 3 in 1 membership

- MCSD would like to partner with MDA and MDSA to work in unison.
- With these revisions being made, it's time to host a town hall meeting.

MOTION: To have a town hall meeting with MDA and MDSA to discuss the 3 in 1 membership.

Moved by: Tricia Amaro **Seconded by:** Nicole Revoy

Carried

MOTION: To close New Business.

Moved by: Andrew Lund **Seconded by:** Kayle Miller

Carried

9. Adjournment

Andrew Lund adjourned the meeting at 1:50PM

New Board of Directors 2023-2024

(April 2023-April 2024)

President

Andrew Lund

Vice President

Alexandria Calbay-Martin

Secretary	Astrea Romero
Treasurer (staff)	Michael J Stewart
Project Director	Alice Crawford
Liaison Director	Jenel Shaw
Membership Director	Tricia Amaro
Communications Director	Vacant
Past President	Evan Husack