



2021 Annual General Meeting of Story Studio Writing Society

Thursday, November 18

7:00 - 7.30 pm

Via Zoom

(Please RSVP to sean.rodman@storystudio.ca to receive a Zoom link and supporting documents)

Proposed Agenda

1. Call to order
 - a. Establish a quorum
 - b. Approval of agenda (Motion required, vote)
 - c. Approval of previous AGM minutes (Motion required, vote)
2. Chair's Report
3. Executive Director's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Approval of Financial Statements as Presented (Motion required, vote)
5. Election of 2021-2022 Board of Directors
 - a. Call for nominations from the floor
 - b. Presentation of slate
 - c. Vote on slate (Motion required, vote)
6. New Business
7. Wrap up (Motion to adjourn)

Paisley Aiken

Paisley is an English teacher, mom of three and the founder of Story Studio. She has a passion for reading, ideas and hearing stories from the people she is fortunate enough to meet.

Anirban Mandal

Anirban currently works as a Business System Analyst with the BC Public Service in Victoria BC. He loves the outdoors and mostly unwinds by hiking, running and playing soccer. Most of the space in his house is occupied by books, as he is a bookworm, and loves reading whenever he can.

esme mills

As a lifelong reader and writer with a background in both professional and creative writing, esme believes in the power of story to create change. She has a Master of Letters in Creative Writing from the University of Glasgow, complementing a Bachelor of Arts in Professional Communication from Royal Roads University and currently writes for the Government of British Columbia.

Shelley Motz

Shelley has more than 20 years experience providing marketing, communications, and management services to public, private, and non-profit organizations. In 2019, she earned a Master of Public Administration from UVic. She has a keen interest in supporting organizations like Story Studio that use the arts to empower individuals and communities.

www.shelleymariemotz.com

Jordan Stratford

Jordan is the author of the bestselling Wollstonecraft Detective Agency series for Middle Grade, from Knopf/Penguin Random House. A game designer and screenwriter, he's also the author of the Sword Girl series from Outland Entertainment - YA historical fantasies featuring real teenage swordswomen from different eras, from the Viking Sagas to 17th century France and the 2nd century Roman Empire. He teaches, workshops and speaks to thousands of school-age writers, and lives in the crumbling colonial capital of a windswept Pacific island, populated by octogenarians and carnivorous gulls.

Sarah Tarnopolsky

Sarah has over ten years of experience working in non-profit communications and fundraising. She is currently a Communications Officer specializing in donor relations at the University of Victoria. Her own passion for storytelling, books and literacy led her to join Story Studio's board of directors in 2017. Sarah has served as Chair since 2019.

Stephen S. Tax, PhD

Dr. Tax is professor of Marketing and Service Management and Winspear Scholar at the

Gustavson School of Business, University of Victoria. His teaching and research focus is on designing and delivering memorable customer experiences. He is a supporter of the local theatre community.

Lynn Works

Lynn has over 20 years of professional experience working for businesses in diverse industries. With a focus on helping companies improve their operational performance and stakeholder engagement, she has worked in financial services, corporate retail procurement, manufacturing, and post-secondary education. She has volunteered in many school districts to bring creative content to schools and has a passion for the increased role of sustainability in businesses.

Story Studio 2020 AGM Minutes

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Victoria, British Columbia

Attendance: Sean Rodman, Rebecca Ruiter, Sarah Tarnopolsky, Alyssa Polinsky, Paisley Aiken, Alex Bertram, Alex Van Tol, Anirban Mandal, Jordan Stratford, Ingrid Playfair-Owsiacki, Moira Gardener, Lynn Works

Sarah Tarnopolsky called the meeting called to order at 7.05pm.

Sarah Tarnopolsky raised a motion to approve the agenda. All board members seconded the motion. Approved.

Alex Bertram raised a motion to approve the previous minutes from the 2019 AGM. All board members seconded the motion. Approved.

Chair's report

The success and resilience of Story Studio this year illustrates two important points. One, the organization's strong foundation of donors and partnerships—steadily built and maintained over the last decade—proved vital to its ability to continue our important work despite facing many challenges. Second, we cannot underestimate the value of what Story Studio does. In a time of uncertainty, upheaval and change, children and young people need storytelling and enhanced narrative capacity more than ever. And parents and educators appreciated our workshops and online resources during school closures and summer holidays. I'm so proud of how Story Studio revised, and upped, its efforts to unleash and cultivate the creativity within every child and youth.

My sincere thanks and vigorous applause go to our executive director, Sean Rodman, and to our Program Coordinator and Facilitator Rebecca Ruiter, for their hard work, adaptability and vision. My fellow board members and I are so grateful that Story Studio has such high caliber staff and leadership. I also want to thank our incredible team of program volunteers: from the editors who helped create our amazing anthologies out of participants' work, to authors from across Canada who have donated their time to mentor young participants.

Lastly, I want to thank my fellow board members for their dedication. As a board we tried to help Story Studio navigate new waters with wisdom and optimism. We were sorry to say goodbye to three valued board members this year: Kristina Stanley, Alyssa Polinsky and Christina Novak. Thanks to each of you for sharing your skills, expertise and time with Story Studio over the years. I'm also delighted to welcome three new volunteers to our board: Anirban Mandal, Lynn Works and Jordan Stratford.

It's been a privilege and honor to serve as Chair of the board of directors during this unusual year. I look forward to more success, innovation and storytelling as we move into our tenth year.

Executive Director's Report

This year presented our organisation with both great challenges and opportunities. The fall of 2019 saw us working with new partners on exciting projects that pushed the boundaries of our programming. For example, we collaborated with the Faculty of Education at the University of Victoria to deliver a series of innovative workshops to public schools, helping classes create 'choose your own adventure'-style stories. We also continued our long-standing partnership with Child Care Resource and Referral to create professional development workshops for early years educators. We also actively raised our profile in the local community, for example, by leading several workshops for the Victoria Festival of Authors.

We started 2020 with a series of in-school workshops at public schools, as planned. The onset of COVID-19, however, caused us to pivot our organisation away from the in-person delivery of programming. Instead, we rapidly created and released a series of freely available resources modeled on our workshop process: these resources have now been downloaded over 1500 times by

teachers, parents and kids across Canada.

In addition, we learned how to conduct online workshops for both educators and students. We worked one-on-one with educators in public schools to support their classes, helping over 100 students create stories which we put into anthologies. We partnered with the Greater Victoria Public Library to deliver a very successful online 'Summer Writing Studio' for teens, which has continued on into the fall.

Overall, the result of our pivot has actually been an expansion of our reach, as well as a diversification of our partnerships and programming – a change that will stand our organisation in good stead as we move into the next year. Premiers award

My thanks to our tremendous board, who have been an invaluable source of guidance and support throughout the year. I also want to thank Rebecca Ruiter, our instructor and program coordinator, who has risen to all the challenges presented by this year.

Finally, thank you to our donors and supporters without whom Story Studio would not exist. You help create and shape our story.

Treasurer's Report

(For Fiscal Period July 2019- June 2020)

Summary of 2019/20

Story Studio is in a good financial position at the end of the 2019/2020 fiscal year.

Over the last year, we have continued to diversify our revenue sources, as well as search for ways to minimize expenses through partnerships and efficiencies. Program contributions or earned revenue now make up a significant portion of our revenue.

The decrease in overall revenue (\$23,779) from the previous year can be explained as follows:

- Delay in receiving Gaming grant (\$9,000)
- An extra-ordinary gift in the previous year of (\$10,000) to pay for strategic planning expenses.

The Executive Director did a very good job of streamlining operations and reducing expenses by transforming our staffing model and introducing new ways of delivering programs.

We end the year in a satisfactory financial position with net assets of \$22,298.

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa Polinsky

Treasurer

November 1, 2020

Sarah Tarnopolsky raised a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. Seconded by all board members.

Election of 2020-2021 Board of Directors

The slate for the 2020-2021 Board of Directors was presented as follows:

Paisley Aiken

Alex Bertram

Anirban Mandal

Jordan Stratford

Sarah Tarnopolsky

Lynn Works

The chair called for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor.

Paisley Aiken made a motion to accept the slate as presented for the board of directors. All board members seconded the motion.

Approved.

Motion to adjourn at 7.25pm.