



**2022 Annual General Meeting
of the Story Studio Writing Society
Wednesday, November 16**

(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 2022-2023 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)

Election Slate: Board 2022-2023

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.

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

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.



Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting of Story Studio Writing Society

Held on Thursday, November 18 7:00 - 7.30 pm Via Zoom

Attending:

Sarah Tarnopolsky (President, Chair, Minutes)
Lynn Works (Treasurer)
Paisley Aiken (Director)
Jordan Stratford (Director)
Shelley Motz
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Stephen Tax
Sean Rodman (Executive Director)
Rebecca Ruitter (Program Coordinator)

Regrets:

Anirban Mandal (Director)

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM

- a. Quorum was established
- b. A motion to approve the agenda was raised by ST, seconded by JS and passed.
- c. A motion to approve the minutes of the 2020 AGM was raised by ST, seconded by JS and passed.

2. Report from the President

“Thank you for providing me with a community of kids my own age who care as much as I do about words, along with resources and guidance from adults who truly want to help me get where I want to be.” - program participant

This is an example of how our continued thoughtful expansion of programs is helping us serve more children and youth with different needs. We're delighted to have a book launch coming up for some of the young authors who have been involved in programs this year.

While Sean, the Executive Director, will give a review of the year in terms of programs, I do want to add that each new project and partnership has given us opportunities to listen, learn and reflect on our mandate. We have been creative and unafraid to try new ways to fulfil our mission. We may choose to scale up, if appropriate, only after that analysis and reflection.

Reflection was also the focus of our board retreat, held in June, when we took some time to discover our core values and think about future directions.

In May, we officially changed our constitution to encompass more of what we do and allow us to access a wider range of grants and funding sources.

On the heels of winning the Premier's Award in 2020, the organization received another prestigious award in June 2021: the BC Principals and Vice Principals Award recognized our work supporting students and teachers during the pandemic and for our long-standing partnerships with Victoria schools.

Connecting with community is part of our DNA, so the delightful Story Path initiative was a way to reach out and offer some support for downtown businesses, while showcasing our young writers' work and telling the story of what Story Studio does in an engaging way. We look forward to growing this initiative in future years.

The Executive Director has continued to steer the Story Studio rocket ship in a smooth orbit, gradually gaining momentum and increasing the organization's revenue by over 20%. This has given us confidence and optimism. Rather than dodging meteors, our conversations have been about where to launch next. It has also allowed us to create a salaried position for the Executive Director (rather than contract), which will provide further stability for the future.

I want to express my deepest thanks to Sean for all his hard work and unceasing optimism and passion. The same goes to Rebecca Ruitter.

This year the board has benefitted from the strong attention to detail of Lynn Works, our treasurer, so I must thank her for all her time. You will hear the Treasurer's report later in the meeting.

We were sorry to say goodbye to two valued board members this year – Alexandra Van Tol and Alex Bertram. We are very excited to welcome three new volunteers to our board at this meeting.

This is an exciting time for Story Studio and it is my continued honour to serve as the President and work with such a passionate and community-minded group of volunteers to continue to propel Story Studio forward in its second decade.

3. Executive Director's Report

Story Studio continued to face challenges imposed by the pandemic throughout this year, but rose to meet these challenges and continued to reach the youth and families who needed our help.

We sustained our in-school programming for public and independent schools throughout the year. Within School District 61 (Victoria), we ran virtual workshops for 15 classes at George Jay, Quadra, and Torquay. These programs provided professional development training for teachers, resource kits and included virtual classroom visits from Story Studio staff.

Thanks to a grant from ArtStarts, we were also able to deliver an enhanced program to two classes at George Jay, with one-on-one virtual coaching for students from a local author. Publications were then created from the students' work, and these were celebrated with an outdoor 'book launch'.

For the first time, we also ran workshops at Artemis Secondary, a school operated by non-profit society that provides an integrated service delivery model to support young women, all trans youth, and/or young

women who are pregnant or parenting. Working with the teen youth and supported by local authors and illustrators, we helped participants to create short fiction and poetry, resulting in a publication from their writings.

We also continued to build on and expand our community partnerships, such as with the Artemis Society. We collaborated on programs with Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society on workshops for their afterschool youth club, and helped create an intergenerational pen-pal program with the Victoria Literacy Connection. GVPL, SD61 and Child Care Resource and Referral all continue to be core partners in our work, sharing advice and guidance while also providing critical financial and in-kind support.

As we deepened our reach in our local community, we also broadened our geographic focus: shifting to online programming meant that we were able to run a program for ESL families in Vancouver, and tutor youth as far away as Trinidad. Our teen programming benefited enormously from 'going digital', and we watched as our online group of teen writers--the Guild of Young Writers--evolve from an 8 week summer writing program, into a thriving, ongoing community.

Going forward, we look forward to continuing to evolve and grow. Our experience with the pandemic has taught us many things over the past year: that we are a resilient organisation; that we are part of a vibrant and caring network of community organisations that support each-other through difficult times; and that, most importantly, there is a need for our work now more than ever.

As always, my thanks to our tremendous board, who continue to provide invaluable guidance and support throughout the year. I also want to thank Rebecca Ruiter, our instructor and program coordinator, who has risen to every challenge this year.

Finally, thank you to our volunteers, donors and supporters without whom Story Studio would not exist. Together, we are helping to inspire, educate and empower youth through the power of storytelling.

4. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer took attendees through a detailed walkthrough of the financial statements.

a. Motion to approve the Financial Statements as presented was raised by ST, seconded by LW, passed.

5. Election of 2021-2022 Board of Directors

a. Call for nominations from the floor - none

b. Presentation of slate (distributed with the notice of meeting)

Sarah Tarnopolsky (President)

Lynn Works (Treasurer)

Paisley Aiken

Jordan Stratford

Anirban Mandal

Shelley Motz

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Stephen Tax

c. Motion to accept all those on the slate as presented as directors for the year raised by ST, seconded by PA and passed.

6. New Business - none

7. A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36pm was raised by ST, seconded by STax and passed.