

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver Art Gallery Announces Five New Trustees to the Association Board



February 29, 2024, VANCOUVER, BC // Traditional Coast Salish Lands including the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

The Vancouver Art Gallery Association is pleased to welcome five new members to its Board: Xyolholemo:t Brenda Crabtree, Arya Eshghi, Janie Hungerford, Priscilla Lam and Jon Stovell. The new members were elected on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at the Gallery's Annual General Meeting.

Former Director of the Aboriginal Gathering Place and Special Advisor to the President on Indigenous Initiatives at Emily Carr University, Xyolholemo:t **Brenda Crabtree** is an enduring champion for Indigenous artists and a key figure in developing leading-edge programs. As an accomplished artist, curator, mentor, community facilitator and consultant, Crabtree brings a wealth of cultural knowledge, community understanding and expertise.

The Board also welcomes philanthropist, principal of fine jewelry collection Gioia Designs, and Crystal Ball Committee Co-Chair, **Arya Eshghi**. A member of the Crystal Ball Committee for more than 18 years and co-chair of this esteemed gala, she continues to raise millions of dollars for BC Children's Hospital. Along with her partner Hamid, president of the Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation, Eshghi was recently featured in Vancouver Magazine's 2024 Power 50 List for their work to expand the Foundation's footprint to well over \$65 million invested in support of the arts, education and children's health.

A graduate of the Parsons School of Design, New York, **Janie Hungerford** is an award-winning interior designer and Principal at Hungerford Interior Designs. She is known for her extensive philanthropic work for organizations such as the BC Learning Centres for Children with Dyslexia, Kids Help Phone, BC Cancer Foundation and Dr. Peter Centre.

The Board also welcomes **Priscilla Lam**, a Chartered Professional Accountant (CA) who embarked on a successful career in philanthropy in 2013. She has assisted the Vancouver General Hospital Foundation and the Vancouver Art Gallery with their signature fundraising galas and held or currently holds board positions at the Vancouver Public Library Foundation, and the Arts Umbrella Association and Foundation.

Also new to the Board is CEO & President of Reliance Properties Ltd., **Jon Stovell**, who carries over 30 years of experience in the real estate investment and development industry. Stovell works in all areas including acquisitions, finance, civic approvals, construction, policy development, industry advocacy and marketing. For over 20 years, he has served as General Manager and now President and CEO for Reliance Properties Ltd., which has contributed to Vancouver's architectural heritage for more than 60 years. Stovell is the immediate past Chair and longest ever serving Chair of the Board of the Urban Development Institute, having served 15 years.

"We are extremely fortunate to be adding five highly influential and deeply humanitarian individuals to our Board," says **Anthony Kiendl**, Vancouver Art Gallery CEO & Executive Director. "It is a privilege to welcome a group with such a breadth of unique life experiences and depth of knowledge. I look forward to working closely with Brenda, Arya, Janie, Priscilla and Jon to achieve incredible new heights for our current and future Gallery."

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Photo: Vancouver Art Gallery

Pictured left to right: Jon Stovell, Priscilla Lam, Janie Hungerford, Xyolholemo:t Brenda Crabtree & Arya Eshghi

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ABOUT VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's celebrated exhibitions, extensive public programs and emphasis on advancing scholarship focus on historical and contemporary art from British Columbia and around the world. Special attention is given to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists, as well as to those of the Asia Pacific region—through the Institute of Asian Art founded in 2014. The Gallery's exhibitions also explore the impact of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design and architecture.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a charitable not-for-profit organization supported by its members, individual donors, corporate funders, foundations, the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is situated on the ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and is respectful of the Indigenous stewards of the land it occupies, whose rich cultures are fundamental to artistic life in Vancouver and to the work of the Gallery.

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