

SLATE OF NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Emelie Chhangur - Interim Director/Curator of the Art Gallery of York University

Emelie Chhangur (1977) is an artist and award-winning curator and writer based in Toronto, where she works as the Interim Director/Curator of the Art Gallery of York University (AGYU). Over the past decade, she has developed an experimental curatorial practice in collaboration with artists. She is known for her process-based, participatory curatorial practice and the creation of long-term collaborative projects performatively staged within and outside the gallery context. Since 2004, Chhangur has won over 20 of the Ontario Association of Art Gallery Awards in all major categories: best exhibition, installation and design, art writing, publishing, public programming, and education. In recognition for her innovative and inclusive programming, in 2014, the AGYU was a finalist for the Premiere's Award for Excellence in the Arts and, in 2016, the gallery was a finalist for the TD Bank/City of Toronto's Diversity Award. Chhangur's research has been awarded SSHRC Funding, Canada Council for the Arts Grants, and Ontario Arts Council Grants.

Chhangur believes that the contemporary art gallery must serve a social as well as aesthetic function. She is known across the country for her innovative, participatory, and socially engaged programming as well as for developing radical new methodologies for working across cultural, aesthetic, and social differences through a practice she calls gallery "in-reach."

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Mohib Habib - Chartered Professional Accountant

Mohib Habib is a designated Chartered Professional Accountant in Canada with over 10 years' direct experience in Not for Profit organizations, spanning diverse sectors such as education, arts and culture and regulation.

Mohib began his career with the Aga Khan Education Service in Nairobi, Kenya and relocating to Toronto in 2011. He currently serves as the Manager, Accounting at the Law Society of Upper Canada and is an active participant in community programs. He earned a Masters degree in Finance from the University of Wales.



Ryan Rice - Independent Curator & Delaney Chair in Indigenous Visual Culture, OCAD U

Ryan Rice, Kanien'kehá:ka, is an independent curator and the Delaney Chair in Indigenous Visual Culture at the Ontario College of Art and Design University (Toronto, ON). His curatorial career spans 20 years in museums and galleries. Rice served as the Chief Curator at the IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts in Santa Fe, NM and also held curatorial positions at the Aboriginal Art Centre (Ottawa, ON), named curatorial fellowships with the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (Victoria, BC) and the Walter Phillips Gallery (Banff, AB), and Aboriginal Curator-In-Residence at the Carleton University Art Gallery. He received a Master of Arts degree in Curatorial Studies from the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, New York; graduated from Concordia University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and received an Associate of Fine Arts from the Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Rice's writing on contemporary Onkwehonwe art has been published in numerous periodicals and exhibition catalogues, and he has lectured widely. Some of his exhibitions include ANTHEM: Perspectives on Home and Native Land, FLYING STILL: CARL BEAM 1943-2005, Oh So Iroquois, Scout's Honour, Hochelaga Revisited, Soul Sister: Re-imagining Kateri Tekakwitha, Counting Coup, and Stands With A Fist: Contemporary Native Women Artists. In the Fall 2017, he opened the inaugural exhibition "raise a flag: work from the Indigenous Art Collection 2000-2015" at the Onsite Gallery in Toronto. Rice was also a co-founder and former director of the Aboriginal Curatorial Collective and currently sits on the Art Gallery of Ontario's Education Council.

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York Lethbridge - Executive Director, Mercer Union

York Lethbridge is Executive Director of Mercer Union, a centre for contemporary art. He joined the organization as Director of Operations at the end of February 2010 after a year serving as a Director on the Board. He holds an MA in Art History from York University and a BFA from Queen’s University. York has administrative experience from positions held at the OnSite at OCAD University, Art Gallery of Ontario, the Power Plant, Agnes Etherington Art Centre, and Modern Fuel Artist-Run Centre. In his time at Mercer Union, York has focused on diversifying resources including introduction and management of major fundraising events including a biannual auction series, Spiked Tea, and Mercer Multiplier; and has collaborated with the Director of Exhibitions to develop annual commissioned projects including Aleksandra Mir (2011), Geoffrey Farmer (2013), Abbas Akhavan (2015), Liz Magic Laser (2015), Duane Linklater (2016), and Deanna Bowen (2017). He has bolstered support from the private sector that helps further Mercer Union’s independence as an artist-run centre, including ongoing relationships with Partners in Art and Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts. York is committed to professional development in service to Mercer Union, participating in Business for the Arts’ artsVest program, and as part of ArtsBuild Ontario’s Arts Facilities Mentoring Network.

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