



MEDIA RELEASE

York Region Arts Council (YRAC) Says Goodbye to Executive Director

March 7, 2019, Newmarket ON - It is with a heavy heart and much gratitude that we announce Samantha Wainberg has left the position of Executive Director for the York Region Arts Council to pursue a new opportunity as of March 4, 2019.

We are grateful for her vision, determination and leadership. Samantha has spent eight years with the organization with four years in the capacity of Executive Director. She led the Arts Council to unprecedented growth by almost doubling the organization's annual operating budget and expanding the number of staff positions. During her tenure, Samantha developed strategic plans that addressed priorities and action items for furthering the development of York Region as a thriving arts and culture community. The relationships Samantha created and nurtured during this time with municipal and regional governments, specifically with economic development and culture departments, through collaborative projects and service agreements related to arts, culture and tourism development generated outstanding results. Samantha always saw the benefits of bringing diverse people and groups together to accomplish shared goals resulting in positive community impact.

The YRAC Board of Directors thank Samantha for her eight years of dedicated service.

"As much as we celebrate Samantha's accomplishments, we know that we will miss her too. The solid foundation she gave to YRAC will continue to support our future growth and success. We wish her every good fortune in her future endeavours." – **April Hoeller**, Chair YRAC Board of Directors

"The York Region Arts Council has and always will be near and dear to me personally and professionally. It's an outstanding organization that has made an impact on the lives of many artists, arts organizations and the public. I feel extremely privileged to have spent eight years with the most amazing team and have worked with countless people in the community, who all shared a passion and goal for growing the arts in York Region.

It was a very difficult choice for me to leave the Executive Director role at YRAC. However, I am excited to continue supporting communities nationally in my new role as Corporate Social Responsibility and Foundation Manager at Allstate Insurance Company of Canada. I know that YRAC will continue to flourish and touch the lives of many more people under the strong leadership of the Board of Directors and dedicated staff.

Thank you to everyone for your support and partnership over the last eight years. I look forward to continuing to participate in and support the local arts and culture community in new ways."

- **Samantha Wainberg**



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Over the next few months, we will be conducting a search to find the new York Region Arts Council Executive Director. It is our priority to find the best individual to lead, while still maintaining a stable and effective organization. We will share the job announcement soon and ask for your help in identifying candidates who can help the York Region Arts Council continue along this successful trajectory. During this transition period, Divya Sinharoy will act as Interim Executive Director until the position is filled.

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