REP HERE IN CANADA

Annual General Meeting

2025-2026
Thursday, September 10, 2026
5:30pm | Black & Here Community Centre






"Keep looking beyond
yourself, find meaning
around you and in
your actions."












COMMUNITY CENTRE
BLACK & HERE







Agenda

Thursday, September 10 at 5:30 PM | Black & Here Community Centre

Opening	Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement	Chair, Nikki Sieben
Call to Order	• Opening Remarks • Quorum	Chair, Nikki Sieben
Approval of Agenda	MOTION: to approve the Agenda for the 2025/26 Annual General Meeting	Chair, Nikki Sieben
Approval of Minutes*	MOTION: to approve the Minutes of the 2024/25 AGM as presented	Chair, Nikki Sieben
Chair's Report*	Reading of the Chair's Report MOTION: to accept the Chair's Report as presented to the AGM	Chair, Nikki Sieben
Financial Statements*	Presentation of Financial Statements MOTION: to accept the financial summary of REP Here in Canada Inc. for the year ending March 31, 2026, as presented	Treasurer, Kevin Loo & Auditor, Jon Dyck
Appointment of Auditor	MOTION: to approve Jon Dyck of LTD CPAs & Advisors as auditor for the fiscal year 2026/27	Chair, Nikki Sieben
Election of Directors*	MOTION: to accept the nomination of Asiyah Igbokoyi to the Board of Directors MOTION: to elect Asiyah Igbokoyi to the Board of Directors MOTION: to elect D'Arcy Stewart as Chair of the Board MOTION: to approve the slate of Directors as presented.	Chair, Nikki Sieben
Chief Executive Officer's Report*	Statement by the Chief Executive Officer	CEO, Fiona Bramble
Presentations	• REP Creative • REP Here Impact Report	Here Team
Close of Meeting	MOTION: to call the 2025/26 Annual General Meeting to a close	Chair, Nikki Sieben

* Denotes attachment

The REP Here in Canada team respectfully acknowledges that our work takes place on the unceded traditional lands of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples of the Songhees, Xwsepsum, and WSÁNEĆ Nations. We express gratitude for their ongoing stewardship of these lands, air, and waterways and hold deep respect for the language, traditions, and cultural practices of all Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island.

In our continued effort to Indigenize our work and to meaningfully contribute to decolonization, we are committed to helping amplify Indigenous experiences and stories as we continue our own journey of learning and unlearning.









PACIFIC NORTHWEST
CREATIVES SUMMIT













Chair's Report

I'd like to begin by acknowledging that we gather on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən (Lkwungen) Peoples, represented today by the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations.

When we met last year, we talked about moving from ambition to action. Looking back, I'm proud to say we've done exactly that.

The most significant milestone this year has been the opening of the Black and Here Community Centre. After years of planning, partnership, and hard work, we officially opened the doors on August 1, creating a permanent home for creativity, culture, and community.

The Centre is much more than a physical space. It is a place where artists, creators, and community members can gather to learn, collaborate, celebrate, and build relationships. It also creates new opportunities to strengthen connections between newcomer and Indigenous communities while expanding the ways we engage with the broader community.

While we're only at the beginning of this new chapter, the Centre already represents what can be achieved when a community comes together around a shared vision. It is a milestone that belongs to everyone who has supported REP Here in Canada along the way.

At the same time, we have strengthened our digital presence, reaching broader audiences, sharing more stories, and elevating voices that are too often unheard.

In an increasingly uncertain and divided world, this work is vital. Creating spaces where people feel seen, heard, and connected is not just valuable, it is essential.

We are also taking a more intentional approach to sustainability. As funding becomes less predictable, we must diversify

how we support this work. We are exploring new partnerships, sponsorships, and earned revenue opportunities, with the Community Centre playing a central role in building a more resilient future for the organization.

Partnerships remain central to our impact. They extend our reach, deepen our work, and enable us to achieve far more together than we could alone.

None of this is possible without people. To Fiona, our staff and contractors, volunteers, partners, funders, and fellow Board members, thank you. Your commitment, generosity, and belief in this work make our progress possible.

Looking ahead, our focus is on activating the Community Centre as a vibrant gathering place while continuing to grow our digital and in-person programming, strengthen partnerships, and build a sustainable organization for the years ahead.

Thank you for being here today, and thank you for being part of this community.

Respectfully,

Nikki Sieben
Chair of the Board
REP Here in Canada

CEO's Report

There are years when organizations grow incrementally, and then there are years when something fundamentally shifts.

For REP Here in Canada, 2025–2026 was one of those years.

Looking back, this year wasn't defined by any single project, publication, event, or funding announcement. It was defined by something much bigger: investing in the relationships, opportunities, and shared infrastructure that allow people to create, connect, contribute, and shape the communities they want to see.

At REP Here, we've come to believe that meaningful change begins with infrastructure—not only the physical spaces where people gather, but also the relationships, opportunities, shared resources, and creative pathways that enable communities to thrive. Over the past year, that belief came to life in ways both visible and unexpected.

Convening the Creative Community

We welcomed hundreds of writers, designers, photographers, publishers, and storytellers from across Canada to the inaugural Pacific Northwest Creatives Summit at the Victoria Conference Centre. Over two days of workshops, panels, exhibitions, and conversations, the Summit elevated the profile of independent book and magazine publishing while creating new opportunities for collaboration, professional development, and knowledge exchange.

Bringing the Summit to life took months of planning, relationship-building, and creative production. The result was far more than a two-day event. It established new partnerships, created a lasting library of creative assets, showcased the strength of Canada's independent publishing sector, and demonstrated what is possible when community-led organizations are trusted to convene conversations at a national scale.

Reimagining Public Space

Through the #WeAreHere Window Project, we transformed a vacant downtown storefront into a celebration of newcomer and equity-deserving communities, bringing stories from Here Magazine into the public realm and inviting thousands of passersby to imagine what was taking shape behind the windows.

Building a Permanent Home

Together with **BC Black History Awareness Society**, we continued transforming a long-vacant heritage building into the Black & Here Community Centre—a permanent home for creativity, learning, dialogue, and community that reflects what can happen when organizations choose to build together rather than apart.

As the physical space took shape, so too did the relationships that will sustain it. Through a series of community mural workshops, participants helped co-create a permanent interior mural that reflects the stories, identities, and aspirations of the communities the Centre was built to serve. The process was as important as the finished artwork, fostering dialogue, connection, and a shared sense of ownership long before the doors officially opened.

Creating Connection

Throughout the year, we also continued creating opportunities for communities to gather, celebrate, and connect. From co-hosting the Welcome Day Celebration with our municipal and francophone partners to producing the fifth edition of the Better Together Gala, these moments reinforced our belief that social connection is not a by-product of community development—it is the foundation of it.

Investing in People

One of our most meaningful investments this year wasn't in a project—it was in people.

Through support from Canadian Heritage, we created paid opportunities for emerging racialized women pursuing careers in design, communications, marketing, publishing, and digital media. These weren't simply internships. They were opportunities to contribute to meaningful work while helping build the future of REP Here.

Samantha Wood-Gaines left an indelible mark on the Black & Here Community Centre, creating its visual identity, designing its exterior mural, and developing the first collections for Centre Market + Merch.

Galit Wohlmuth, supported by Editorial Consultant Elena Fletcher, strengthened Here Magazine through thoughtful editorial contributions while bringing new perspectives to our storytelling platform.

Samira Shojaei elevated our visual storytelling through animation and motion design while helping define and communicate the vision of REP Creative, creating digital content that attracted new creatives and introduced potential clients to the network.

D'Jannah Shaneece expanded our marketing and communications capacity, helping amplify our initiatives, strengthen community engagement, and build systems that will continue supporting the organization into the future.

Together, these emerging professionals did far more than gain experience—they helped build organizational capacity. Their work now lives on in our publications, public art, digital platforms, communications, and community spaces. These investments strengthened individual careers while creating lasting assets for REP Here and the communities we serve.

Whether through creative practice, storytelling, public art, shared spaces, or celebration, we continued investing in the social infrastructure that helps communities build trust, relationships, and a sense of shared belonging.

Looking across everything we accomplished this year—from national creative convenings and public art to community celebrations, mentorship, storytelling, and the creation of a permanent community space—I am reminded that infrastructure is ultimately about people. Buildings matter. Programs matter. But it is relationships, trust, creativity, and shared purpose that transform spaces into communities and ideas into lasting change.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to building not only places where people feel they belong, but opportunities where they can contribute, create, and thrive. The foundations we laid this year will continue creating possibilities long after this reporting period has ended.

None of this would have been possible without the extraordinary community that surrounds REP Here. To our Board of Directors, staff, interns, volunteers, contractors, funders, partners, contributors, collaborators, and the many community members who placed their trust in us this year—thank you. Every story shared, every gathering created, every idea brought to life, and every relationship built reflects your generosity, creativity, and belief in what we can build together.

And to the people who showed up, pitched in, dreamed big, solved problems, shared their talents, and helped carry this work forward—my deepest gratitude.

What a year. And what a community to build it with.

Humbly,

Fiona Bramble
CEO
REP Here in Canada

Tracy Guinchard ❤ Asiyah Igbokoyi ❤ Elena Fletcher ❤ Alberto Cortes ❤ Megan Stuart ❤ Kemi Craig ❤ Jamila Douhaibi ❤ Paul Schachter ❤ Eric Bramble ❤ Catherine Larsen ❤ Victoria Odd Fellows ❤ Nikki Sieben ❤ Diego Narvaez ❤ Samantha Wood-Gaines ❤ Samira Shojaei ❤ Galit Wohlmuth ❤ Avigail Olarte ❤ Mohit Verma ❤ D'Arcy Stewart ❤ Kevin Loo ❤ Jon Dyck ❤ Beth Dick ❤ Anita Voorsluys ❤ D'Jannah Shaneece ❤ Griselda Martin ❤ Nicole Mandryk ❤ Angela Campuzano ❤ Ximena Londono ❤ Rodrigo Costa ❤ Gerard Keledjian ❤






Montréal






#WeAreHere









Thank you, Nikki

In the depths of the pandemic, Nikki Sieben agreed to help our humble organization get our governance ducks in a tidier row—and, in doing so, helped build the foundation for the remarkable growth that followed.

As Board Chair, Nikki has brought thoughtfulness, wisdom, humour, friendship, and an unwavering belief in what REP Here could become. A strong organization needs a strong board, and Nikki's leadership has helped create the stability, trust, and good governance that have given our operational team the grace and space to focus on the work, take some big swings, and grow in ways we could scarcely have imagined a few years ago.

As Nikki steps aside as Chair to make space for another Director to gain leadership experience, we're incredibly grateful that she isn't going anywhere—and even more grateful for everything she has done to help get us here. Thank you, Nikki ❤

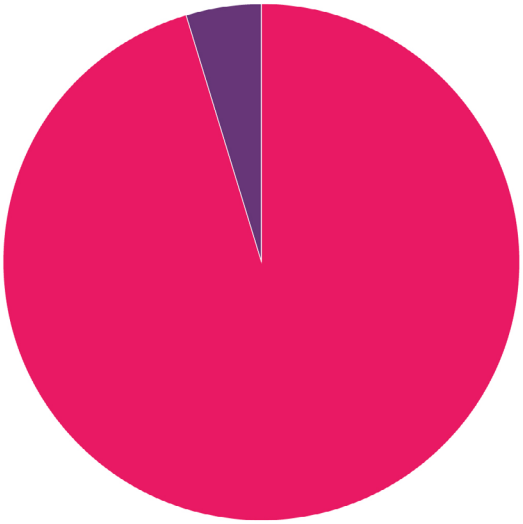


Financial Highlights

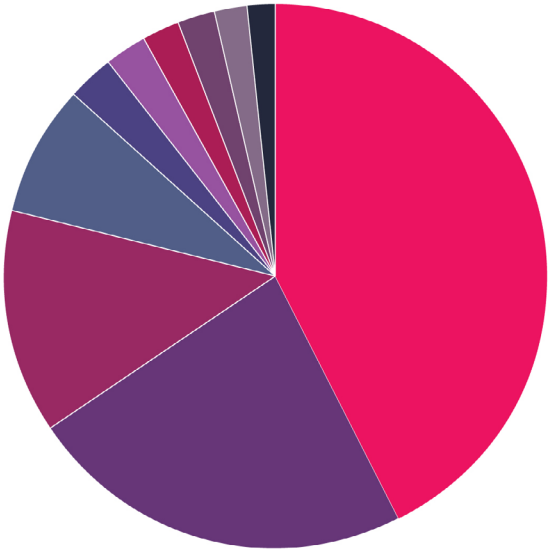
Primary Revenue Categories

- Grants $317,532
- Fees for Services $15,580

Revenues $333,113



Expenses $298,674



Primary Expense Categories

- Staff and Wages $127,229
- Subcontractors $69,261
- Performer Fees $39,173
- Rent and Utilities $24,000
- Events $8,162
- Marketing and Promotion $7,524
- Print and Production $6,636
- Administration and Office $6,556
- Accounting $5,800
- Insurance $4,330

Election of Directors

NOMINEES TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nomination of Board Member(s) for a 2-year term ending June 2028

Asiyah Igbokoyi

Re-election of Board Member(s) for a 2-year term ending June 2026

Anita Voorslys
Elena Fletcher
Kevin Loo

Nomination to Chair of the Board

D'Arcy Stewart

Continuing Board Member(s) for a 2-year term ending June 2027*

Nikki Sieben

*No Motion required for the continuation of directors who are in mid-term of their appointment

2024-2025 AGM

AGENDA

Date: Thursday, June 19, 2025
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Online

Opening	Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement	Chair, Nikki Sieben
Call to Order	• Opening Remarks • Quorum	Chair, Nikki Sieben
Approval of Agenda	MOTION: to approve the Agenda for the 2024/25 Annual General Meeting	Chair, Nikki Sieben
Approval of Minutes*	MOTION: to approve the Minutes of the 2023/24 AGM as presented	Chair, Nikki Sieben
Chair's Report*	Reading of the Chair's Report MOTION: to accept the Chair's Report as presented to the AGM	Chair, Nikki Sieben
Chief Executive Officer's Report*	Statement by the Chief Executive Officer	CEO, Fiona Bramble
Financial Statements*	Presentation of Financial Statements MOTION: to accept the financial summary of REP Here in Canada Inc. for the year ending March 31, 2025, as presented	Treasurer, Kevin Loo & Auditor, Jon Dyck
Appointment of Auditor	MOTION: to approve Jon Dyck of Green Horwood as auditor for the fiscal year 2025/26	Chair, Nikki Sieben
Election of Directors*	MOTION: to approve the slate of Directors as presented	Chair, Nikki Sieben
Presentations	• Organizational logo • Black and Here Community Centre	Alberto Cortes and Fiona Bramble
Close of Meeting	MOTION: to call the 2024/25 Annual General Meeting to a close	Chair, Nikki Sieben

2024-2025 MINUTES

ITEM	ACTION
Opening	Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement
Call to Order	AGM called to order at 6:05 pm • Opening Remarks and Introductions of Board members and auditor • Quorum established Nikki expressed their gratitude to all REP Here In Canada members present at the AGM
Approval of Agenda	**MOTION:** to approve the agenda for the REP Here Annual General Meeting 2025 **Anita Voorsluys motioned, D'arcy Stewart seconded, approved by all present**
Approval of the 2022-2023 AGM Minutes*	**MOTION:** to approve the Minutes of the 2023-2024 AGM as presented (and distributed) **Anita Voorsluys motioned, Elena Fletcher seconded, approved by all present**
Chair's Report: Nikki Sieben	**Statement by the Chair to accompany the report distributed** • Strategic Growth: The organization is making strong progress on its 2024–2027 goals to expand digital reach, unify its brand, amplify content, and boost revenue. • Community Partnership: A key achievement is the co-development of a downtown community centre with the BC Black History Awareness Society, which has increased cultural impact and earned income. • Physical Expansion: The next phase includes launching a creative hub to support in-person programs, reduce costs, and create new revenue streams while deepening communit connection
CEO's Report: Fiona Bramble	**Statement by the Chief Executive Officer to accompany report distributed.** 1. **Strategic Growth and Impact:** The CEO noted that the organization has entered a transformative phase, with an emphasis on expanding access, visibility, and economic opportunities for newcomers and equity-deserving communities. This shift is being driven by intentional, relationship-based approaches. Recent momentum includes new federal funding from Creative Export Canada and the formation of a partnership with the BC Black History Awareness Society.

	2. **Collaborative Partnerships:** The CEO highlighted the continued importance of partnerships with cultural organizations, municipalities, and community groups. These relationships have enabled co-hosted events and shared initiatives that support inclusion, creative exchange, and broader representation. Specific acknowledgements were made to Tracy for multi-role support, Beto for artistic contributions, and Eden, an intern from the Magazines Association of BC. 3. **Future-Focused Initiatives:** • The launch of the Black and Here Community Center in Fall 2025 at 1327 Douglas and Johnson Streets. The center is intended to revitalize an underused downtown space and serve as an inclusive, community-oriented hub. • The We Are Here window project will feature portraits of local community members as part of ongoing place-making efforts. • Planning is also underway for the inaugural Pacific Northwest Creative Summit in early Spring 2026. • The CEO reaffirmed the organization's commitment to supporting underrepresented creatives and building collaborative infrastructure through strategic funding and partnerships.
Financial Statements: Jon Dyck, Auditor; Kevin Loo, Treasurer	**Financial Statements presented by Auditor, Jon Dyck.** 1. **Clarification on Reported Expenses:** A difference between labeled expenses ($272,643) and the total reported amount ($196,734) was explained. The discrepancy is due to prepaid expenses that will be applied to future costs in the upcoming fiscal year. 2. **Year-over-Year Expense Reduction:** A decrease in total expenses compared to the previous fiscal year was noted. This reduction reflects the organization's ongoing diligence in tracking and managing operational costs efficiently. 3. **Growth in Net Assets:** Net assets increased by $74,000, contributing to a stronger financial foundation. This growth enhances the organization's ability to pursue new programming and expand strategic partnerships. 4. **Support for Community Initiatives:** The improved financial position will help advance the organization's formal partnership with the BC Black History Awareness Society, including the development of a shared community space in downtown Victoria. 5. **Acknowledgement of Team Contributions:** The year was described as a strong one financially, with recognition given to the collective effort of the team in achieving these results. **MOTION:** To accept the amended financial summary of REP Here in Canada for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025, as presented and revised during the meeting, with reference to the adjustments outlined by John. **Anita Voorsluys motioned, D'arcy Stewart seconded, approved by all present.**

Appointment of Auditor	**MOTION:** to approve Jon Dyck of Green Horwood as auditor for the fiscal year 2025/2026. **Elena Fletcher motioned, Kareece Whittle-Brown seconded, approved by all present.**
Election of Directors*	Re-election of Board Member(s) for another 2-year term: Nikki Siben Continuing Board members: Kevin Loo, Anita Voorsluys, and D'Arcy Steward, Elena Fletcher **MOTION:** to approve the slate of Directors as presented. **Kareece Whittle-Brown motioned, Anita Voorsluys seconded, approved by all present.**
Creative Presentation	**Alberto Cortes and Fiona Bramble presented** 1. **REP Here Logo Update** The organization undertook a modernization of its logo to maintain brand recognition while clarifying its Canadian focus by adding "in Canada." The update involved refining lines, spacing, typography, and introducing a new color palette and adaptable icon versions. Board members responded positively to the subtle yet effective redesign. 2. **We Are Here Window Project** Located at the Odd Fellows building on Johnson and Douglas streets, this project features diverse community member photos and quotes displayed across multiple windows during a 2.5 to 3-month renovation period. Developed in collaboration with the BC Black History Awareness Society, it aims to create an engaging visual presence, including a possible "selfie wall" on Douglas Street. The organization aims to have the display ready to coincide with Emancipation Day on August 1, 2025. 3. **Broader Initiative** Both the logo update and window project are components of a larger effort to establish a shared community space celebrating diversity and local heritage. Fiona took the opportunity to introduce Jamila Douhaibi, executive director of the BC Black History Awareness Society.
Meeting Adjournment	**MOTION:** to call the REP Here 2025 Annual General Meeting to a close. **Kareece Whittle-Brown motioned, Anita Voorsluys seconded** **Adjourned: 6:48 pm**

Thank you!

with funding support from

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CITY OF VICTORIA

VICTORIA FOUNDATION

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