



Members and Supporters of our Theatre Community,

First, we would like to apologize for our lack of communication in the past months. Lack of information often leads to speculation and we want to be clear that our silence is not because we do not care but because we knew we needed to stop and take a breath. Rather than being reactive, we wanted to process your concerns and reevaluate our practices. We are still in the process of doing that.

We would like to thank those who have taken the time to reach out to us via email and on social media and for offering your thoughts and suggestions. We understand some of you have been harmed by past practices or associations with our company and we want to sincerely apologize for that. It is our priority to work fairly and collaboratively. Above all else, we want you to know we are listening. We want to do better and we know in order to move forward in a healthy and healing way, Sarasvati needs to re imagine itself and examine how it engages with the theatre community.

The volunteer board of Sarasvati Productions has had many challenges in transitioning from the leadership of founding Artistic Director, Hope McIntyre. Hope worked tirelessly for 22 years to build Sarasvati and did the jobs of many, often with little or no compensation. Upon learning of Hope's departure we knew that the overall operation of the company needed to evolve and change. We just didn't realize how difficult that would be. We now realize the succession plans laid out are not in line with meeting the demands of our theatre community as it exists today.

We find ourselves at a critical juncture. Do we dissolve Sarasvati and with it all of the hard work that has gone into building of this company, not to mention the abundance of beautiful and important artistry that has been produced and enjoyed, or do we address the issues head on and move forward in a meaningful and healing way? It is our goal to continue to evolve to reflect the values we espouse, the needs of our theatre community, and affirm the highest standards of equity, inclusion, and diversity. Our commitment is to conduct a review of policies, by-laws, and governance structures. Our plan is to undertake a strategic planning process where everything is on the table.

Re-imagining Sarasvati goes beyond the boardroom. It involves community vision, participation, and passion and that cannot happen without you. We ask for your patience and welcome your input and guidance in this process. Please do not hesitate to contact us. We will make every effort to respond in a timely manner.

Most sincerely,

The Board of Directors

204.306.5303 [board@sarasvati.ca](mailto:board@sarasvati.ca)

Note we'll respond to emails and phone messages but we're unable to respond to social media at this time.