SGPS Referendum Package
Submitted by Union Gallery, January 14, 2020
Part A

1. Name of Group: Union Gallery
2. Campaign Managers: Abby Berry and deneige nadeau
   Gallery contact: Jocelyn Purdie, Director: jp14@queensu.ca

Abby Berry

[Redacted]
Email: 13abb4@queensu.ca
Department: Department of Art History and Art Conservation
Degree Program: MA

Deneige Nadeau

[Redacted]
Email: deneige.nadeau@queensu.ca
Department: Cultural Studies
Degree Program: PhD

Part B – Group Description

WHO WE ARE

The Union Gallery is a contemporary art gallery that enriches the academic and cultural life of the university through the presentation of visual and interdisciplinary art. It is committed to furthering the role of contemporary art as a platform for critical engagement, creative interpretation, activation, and development by functioning as a responsive resource for enhanced experiential learning, professional skills development, and research opportunities for university students. As a creative space it supports new pedagogical approaches to learning through its artistic programs that value and promote the connectivity of artistic culture between campus, curriculum and the broader community.

The Union Gallery:

- Is centrally located in the Stauffer Library at Queen’s University and has been in operation since 1994,
- Has two beautiful gallery spaces that can accommodate visual, sound and media artworks,
- Is one of the first student driven organizations of its kind in Canada,
- It is open to the public for free,
- Is the only venue on campus to showcase the work of student artists undergraduate and graduate as well as professionals artists,
- Board of Directors includes a majority of positions for students (positions available for graduate and undergraduate students) and,
- Offers a RAship (curatorial assistant) and employs summer students but also provides many volunteers opportunities on committees and at events.
UG Strategic Goals for 2019-2022

1. Strengthen gallery’s capacity for resilience, learning and diversity in the artistic programs by enhancing the connection to Queen’s broader teaching and learning environment and experiential learning opportunities.

2. Explore avenues to ensure financial and human resource sustainability for gallery programs and operations.

3. Build relevancy within the Queen’s and Kingston communities.

4. Enhance marketing, promotion, fundraising, and outreach activities to raise public awareness and to facilitate more engagement with gallery programs.

5. Ensure the gallery’s facilities meet with Queen’s environmental health and safety regulations and standards and accessibility requirements, and are inclusive and welcoming.

WHY WE NEED SGPS FEE SUPPORT

In order to maintain and manage the facility and its programs and provide access to all students, the gallery has ongoing operating costs that are substantial. Because of this the Union Gallery must diversify its funding base and the SGPS fee is a critical part of that mosaic.

WHAT WE DO

- Present high quality engaging visual art shows in two exhibition spaces, the main gallery and the project room, as well as student artist talks and performance events,
- Provide experiential learning opportunities through a RAship, mentoring programs and internships. These include professional development for students interested in a career in the arts including gallery management, art presentation and curating and arts administration,
- Provide volunteer opportunities for students from all disciplines in the gallery,
- Provide space for groups to hold book launches, lectures, symposiums, recitals, and receptions,
- Collaborate with other groups on and off campus to hold events at the gallery; performances, screenings, artist discussions and workshops,
- Provide job opportunities for students: RAship, Work Study, SWEP and short-term project positions;
- Maintain a campus, local and national profile through diverse marketing platforms and,
- As well as showcasing high quality work by university student artists, the gallery presents the work by professional artists with regional, national and international profiles.

Part C: Budgetary Breakdown

The Union Gallery receives financial support from a number of sources including the SGPS. It has professional staff to guide and mentor students who are volunteers and employees. This ensures that students obtain a valuable learning experience and allows the gallery to maintain continuity in gallery programming and operations since volunteers change from year to year. In order to maintain and manage the facility and its programs and provide access to all students the gallery has ongoing operating costs.
The SGPS Fee will be used to support operating and program costs related to increasing student engagement with the arts, providing experiential learning opportunities and to increasing awareness of our programming through communications and marketing as follows:

Staff costs in order to support an annual RAship,

Costs related to an increase in gallery hours that allows the gallery to remain open and develop new programming one evening each week and make the space available to students for co- and extracurricular events,

Increased advertising both on campus and off campus to raise the profile for the gallery and,

Costs for a portion of exhibition presentation.

Part D- Student Fee Questionnaire

1. Why is your group seeking a fee?

   The Union Gallery is a contemporary art gallery that enriches the academic and cultural life of the university through the presentation of visual and interdisciplinary art. It is committed to furthering the role of contemporary art as a platform for critical engagement, creative interpretation, and development by functioning as a responsive resource for enhanced experiential learning, professional skills development, and research opportunities for university students.

   In order to maintain the facility and manage its programs it has ongoing operating costs that are substantial. The gallery has a small professional staff to guide and mentor graduate and undergraduate students, who are volunteers and employees. This ensures students obtain a valuable learning experience and allows the gallery to maintain continuity in gallery programming and operations since volunteers change from year to year. The SGPS fee is critical in contributing to the success of the Union Gallery programs.

2. What direct benefit will SGPS members derive from granting your group a Fee?

   With support from SGPS members we will continue to extend gallery hours to provide more access to the gallery one evening a week and to make the space available to student groups free of charge to hold events. In accordance with the gallery’s strategic plan, we will continue to provide experiential and employment opportunities for SGPS members in curating, exhibiting and arts management and we can provide career and transferable skills development for graduate students through board positions, volunteering, committee work, RA-ships, internships, and directed research.

3. How is the dollar value of the Fee related to the benefit you are proposing to provide?

   In accordance with our strategic plan the gallery has expanded the opportunities for graduate students to participate in gallery programming and operations. And it provides free access to all graduate students as well as undergraduates. The dollar value of the SGPS is comparable
(although a little less) that the fee we receive from the undergraduate students, both of which go towards supporting the gallery programs.

4. **When was your group established?**

   The gallery opened its doors in November 1994. We just celebrated our 25th anniversary!

5. **If you have collected a fee in the past, what initiatives and/or opportunities have you provided the Queen’s community with the collected funds?**

   Opportunities for the presentation of artwork by student artists both undergraduate and graduate,

   Opportunities to engage with the work of professional artists through exhibitions and programs,

   Encourages broad student and community engagement through inter and cross-disciplinary contemporary art events, workshops and demonstrations,

   Produces publications to disseminate information on contemporary art and provide access to resource materials on contemporary art and professional practices,

   Provides access to professional staff to maintain, develop and guide curricular and co-curricular programs such as mentorships, internships, RAships,

   Provides professional skills and career development mentorships for student artists and curators in gallery operations and programming including: research, exhibition planning, exhibiting, governance, fundraising, building networks with professionals in the field, and through employment opportunities and,

   Fosters partnerships at the university to facilitate innovative programming across disciplines and to increase participation from students in other programs at the university.