

OAKVILLE  
GALLERIES

# APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Abbas Akhavan, Untitled from exhibition Les Fleurs du Mal, Oakville Galleries at Centennial Square, 2026. Photo: Jimmy Limit.

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Ilya & Emilia Kabakov: The Ship of Tolerance in Gairloch Gardens, 2026. Photo: Jimmy Limit.

# INTRODUCTION

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in the Executive Director role at Oakville Galleries. The position offers the successful candidate the opportunity to take the Galleries to the next level in its development. Our goal is to become one of the leading contemporary art museums in the world over the next ten years. Realizing this ambition will present the successful candidate with significant challenges but also tremendous opportunities and rewards. As the successful candidate, you will be challenged to mobilize the requisite human and financial resources to shape the trajectory of the organization and achieve its global ambitions. Working with the board and a small team of arts professionals, who are equally committed to the goals of the organization, you will be tasked with overcoming several obstacles to organizational development and growth. These include, but are not limited to, the relatively small size of the local art market and competition from larger institutions for finite patron support.

This position is a career-defining opportunity for the successful candidate. At Oakville Galleries we are about to embark on a major capital project to expand our footprint in Gairloch Gardens—our primary location along the shores of Lake Ontario. We also intend to pursue a new second location in downtown Oakville. This will allow us to continue serving our growing and increasingly diverse local communities and expand the reach and scale of our exhibitions and education programs. The successful candidate will, therefore, bring to the position a track record of successful fundraising and an ability to effectively manage relationships with major patrons and private sector donors. The position is ideally suited to someone who also has experience in government relations and an ability to cultivate productive relationships with politicians at the municipal, provincial and federal levels of government. Strong credentials in contemporary art are certainly an advantage in this leadership position as is the ability to leverage established contacts in the global contemporary art world. The successful candidate will become the public face of Oakville Galleries and, therefore, excellent communication skills are expected. Please read through this appointment brochure as you contemplate your next major career move. Our search committee looks forward to reviewing your application. Good luck!!!

Sincerely,



Dr. Carlyle Farrell  
Board Chair, Oakville Galleries



Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens, 2025.

## ABOUT OAKVILLE GALLERIES

Oakville Galleries is a contemporary art museum located 30 km west of Toronto. The museum is located in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) with a population of more than eight million people. The Galleries curates groundbreaking, moving and beautiful exhibitions of the highest quality. We position the work of Canadian artists alongside high-caliber and renowned international artists. Our exhibitions focus on themes that reflect upon current societal issues and ideas of the future, and we showcase all genres including interactive and multimedia installations. Working with leading national and international partners, writers, guest curators, and collaborators we aim to produce innovative education programming which exudes a culture of diversity, inclusion and innovation.

As one of Canada's leading contemporary art museums, Oakville Galleries is driven by a belief in the singular power of art and artists to deepen our understanding of ourselves and our communities and move us toward a better world. Oakville Galleries engages communities throughout Oakville, and wider audiences across the GTHA. Our award-winning exhibition and educational programs are rooted in commitments to the visionary, the forward-thinking, and the responsive.

## HISTORY

The Galleries is currently located on two sites – **Gairloch Gardens** (1306 Lakeshore Rd E) and **Centennial Square** (120 Navy Street). Gairloch Gardens and the adjoining grounds were formerly a private estate that was bequeathed to the Town of Oakville in 1971 by James Gairdner. In his will, Gairdner, a Toronto investment dealer, requested that the residence be used "as an art gallery for the display of works of art by contemporary artists, and the remaining land become a public park." In January 1972, the Town of Oakville took over the eleven-acre estate and, through the efforts of a group of dedicated volunteers, the residence began to function as an art gallery, known initially as Gairloch Gallery. Today, Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens is situated in what used to be the main house. Lt. Col. W.G. MacKendrick built this Tudor-style residence in 1922. Upon his death in 1960, Gairdner purchased the house and the grounds. Of Scottish parentage, Gairdner named the estate "Gairloch" after a small village in Scotland whose name, when literally translated from the Gaelic, means "short lake." In recognition of its historical and architectural significance, Gairloch Gardens was designated a historic property under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1986. This designation ensures the preservation and protection of Gairloch's future sense of place and historical continuity.

The former residence's first floor now comprises four exhibition galleries, as well as an education centre, which is used primarily for art classes, workshops, lectures, and receptions. The second floor houses administrative office space for staff and another education room, which hosts art classes and workshops. The third floor is used for archives and also contains a small apartment for visiting artists and curators. The white clapboard building north of the gallery was built to Gairdner's personal specifications and was used as a studio in his later life. The Studio, as it is now called, is an elegant event venue available for short-term rentals, such as meetings, workshops and small functions, as well as ongoing curated projects and screenings.



Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens, 2023.

## VISION

Placing artists at the center of its vision, Oakville Galleries strives to be a nationally and internationally leading museum for the presentation of contemporary art, delivering excellent, innovative exhibitions and generating new, invigorating ideas. Our dynamic, diverse and forward-thinking program produces significant positive social impact.

## VALUES

Oakville Galleries holds true to the following values:

- To be bold in the collection and exhibition of contemporary art.
- To stand up for contemporary artists and amplify their voices in order to foster knowledge creation and new ways of understanding.
- To be committed to providing an exceptional, engaging and inclusive visitor experience.
- To value the opportunity to serve, engage and strengthen bonds with our community.
- To be committed to operating with financial integrity and transparency.

## MISSION

Oakville Galleries is driven by a belief in the singular power of art and artists to deepen our understanding of ourselves and our communities and move us toward a better world.



Opening reception of Tarik Kiswanson: *Perlude* in Gairloch Gardens, 2024. Photo: Jonathan Grimes.

# EXHIBITIONS

## CURRENT

### Ali Cherri : To Fall, Patiently

Gairloch Gardens & Centennial Square

June 13 – October 3, 2026

### Ilya and Emilia Kabakov: The Ship of Tolerance

Gairloch Gardens

On view until September 2026

## UPCOMING

Fall 2026 | Aiden Barry (IE)

Winter 2027 | Etienne Zack (CA)

Spring 2027 | Nina Canell (SE)

Summer 2027 | Nibar Güreş (TR)

Fall 2027 | Marianna Simnett (EN)

## PREVIOUS

Sonny Assu: Possession (2013), Tau Lewis: Sparkle's Map Home (2020), Tarik Kiswanson: Prelude (2024), Sung Tieu: Civic Floor (2024), Charles Stankieveh: The Desert Turned to Glass (2024), Ilya and Emilia Kabakov: Between Heaven and Earth (2025)

For more details on Oakville Galleries' current and upcoming exhibitions, [visit our website](#).

A full [archive of previous exhibits](#) is also available.



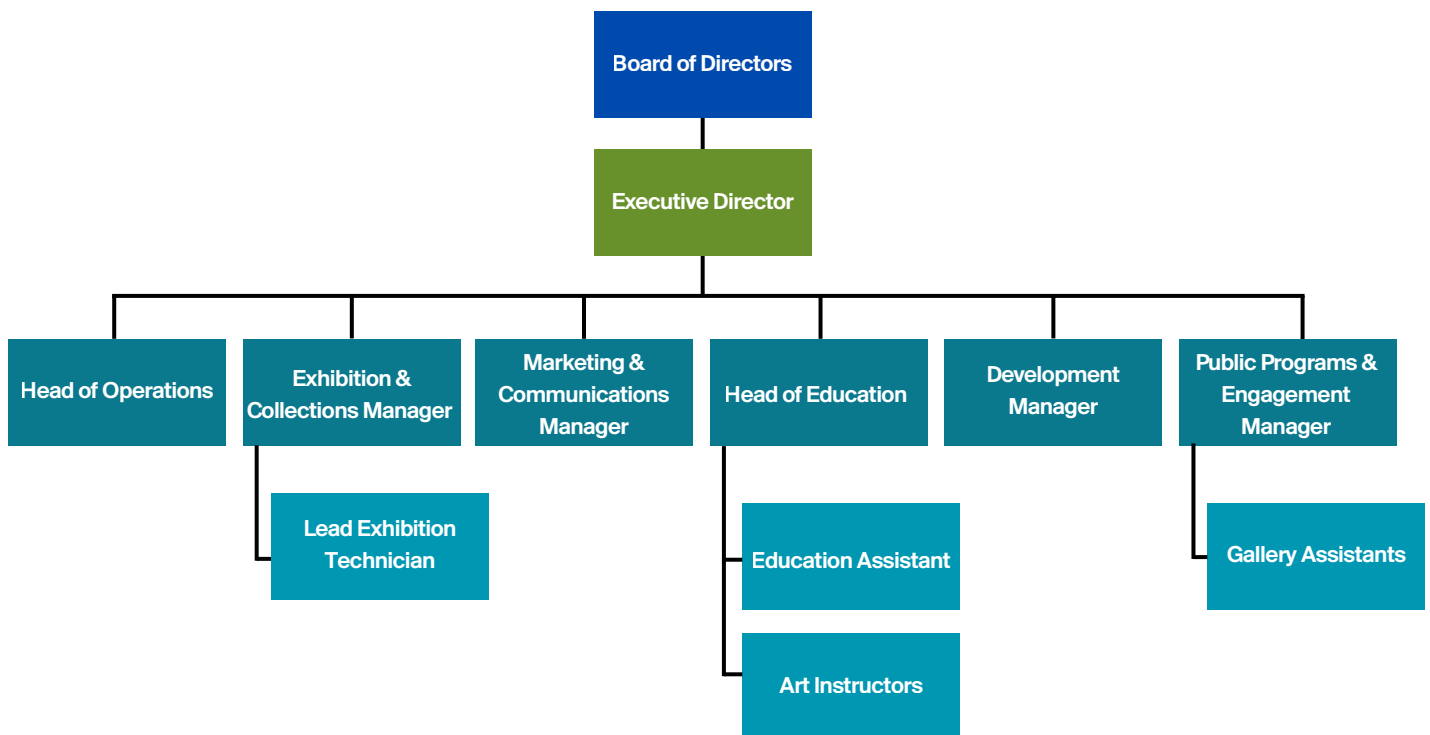
Ali Cherri: To Fall, Patiently, Oakville Galleries at Centennial Square, 2026. Photo: Jonathan Grimes.

# STRUCTURE AND FINANCE

The board members of Oakville Galleries contribute a wide range of expertise and personal lived experiences that bring a diverse view and valued perspective to the board. The board is a non-profit, volunteer group of individuals committed to building a world class contemporary art institution that will engage and inspire individuals from all over the world in pursuit of a more inclusive and just world for all – engaging, educating, and inspiring critical and creative thinking through contemporary art experiences.

Oakville Galleries' latest financial statements and annual reports are available for review and download on our website.

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





ARTbus Tour of Hugo Canoilas: Hold Your Breath, Oakville Galleries at Centennial Square, 2025. Photo: Jonathan Grimes.

## JOB DESCRIPTION

Oakville Galleries is inviting applications for the position of Executive Director to lead the institution into an ambitious new era as a dynamic, interactive, inclusive, and artist-centred contemporary art museum. Working across its civic, community, and artistic contexts, the Executive Director will advance bold and leading-edge contemporary art while deepening the Galleries' relevance to diverse audiences in Oakville and beyond.

The Executive Director will be responsible for the strategic and financial direction, operational leadership, and overall management of the organization. They will bring a compelling vision for artistic excellence, community engagement, fundraising, accessibility, and inclusion, with a commitment to amplifying the voices of contemporary artists and championing new forms of knowledge, dialogue, and public understanding.

# RESPONSIBILITIES

## STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

- Accountable for Oakville Galleries' strategic direction, working closely with staff and the Board to ensure the institution's vision, values, and policies are ambitious, coherent, and meaningfully reflected in its work.
- Strengthen the Galleries' institutional and artistic identity through oversight of curatorial direction, public engagement, communications, audience development, and advancement activities.
- Define the Galleries' audiences clearly and expansively, and develop strategies to engage, grow, and diversify participation across local, regional, national, and international communities.
- Realize the Galleries' strategic goals through comprehensive business planning, disciplined implementation, and clear measures of success.
- Work collaboratively with the Town of Oakville and other civic partners on plans for a refreshed cultural hub and the Galleries' future role within it.

## CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

- Oversee the development of the Galleries' capital plans in close partnership with the Board, including feasibility work, operational planning, stakeholder engagement, and a capital fundraising strategy aligned with the organization's renewal goals.
- Lead Oakville Galleries', serving as a persuasive and effective champion for the organization's artistic, civic, operational, and capital ambitions with current and prospective stakeholders.

## FUNDRAISING

- Develop and execute a multifaceted fundraising and income-generation strategy that builds community confidence, civic support, donor engagement, and long-term financial sustainability.
- Lead annual fundraising campaigns and play an active role in donor cultivation, external relations, sponsorship, membership, and strategic stakeholder engagement.
- Nurture and cultivate relationships with funding agencies, donors, sponsors, members, foundations, and corporate and community partners.

## FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- Develop and recommend to the Board an annual operating budget that balances public sector support, earned revenue, private contributions, and the organization's strategic priorities.
- Manage income and expenditures, implement appropriate financial controls, and provide effective monitoring, forecasting, and reporting throughout the year.
- Oversee audits, reporting requirements for granting bodies, and preparation for the Annual Meeting.

## TALENT MANAGEMENT

- Recruit, manage, support, mentor, and retain a committed team of arts professionals, engaging staff in the organization's long-term goals and delegating responsibility and authority effectively.
- Recommend to the Board an appropriate organizational structure, HR policies, and salary framework to support the Galleries' operations, ambitions, and available resources.
- Foster an inclusive, respectful, collaborative, and accountable workplace culture that builds trust, encourages creativity, supports professional growth, and maximizes employee potential.

## ADVOCACY

- Assert and advance Oakville Galleries' role in the cultural landscape, building visibility and relevance for the organization locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.
- Develop collaborative relationships within the Oakville community and among institutional peers, artists, funders, cultural organizations, and national and international arts networks.
- Serve as the Galleries' primary representative to civic leaders, government agencies, arts communities, donors, partners, members, volunteers, and local audiences.



Charles Stankiech: The Desert Turned to Glass, Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens, 2024. Photo: Jimmy Limit.

# CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

The following priority selection criteria have been identified as key elements in an ideal candidate. The Search Committee recognizes that no single candidate for the position is likely to meet all the following criteria in equal measure; nevertheless, the following outlines a broad set of highly desirable criteria.

The ideal candidate will bring a compelling combination of artistic credibility, civic fluency, entrepreneurial leadership, and operational discipline. They will understand the distinctive role Oakville Galleries can play as a contemporary art museum with deep local roots, a strong public mandate, and the ambition to engage artists, audiences, partners, donors, and communities well beyond Oakville.

- A minimum of five years' senior leadership experience in a contemporary art gallery, museum, cultural institution, or closely related arts organization.
- A sophisticated understanding of contemporary art and visual culture, with familiarity with artists working across a range of disciplines, media, geographies, and cultural contexts.
- A visionary and practical approach to reimagining the role of a public art gallery in civic life, with the ability to strengthen Oakville Galleries' relevance to its community while sustaining its national and international artistic profile.
- A record of developing ambitious, artist-centred programming, exhibitions, public engagement, education, or research initiatives that connect contemporary artistic practice with wider social, cultural, and community conversations.
- Strong networks in the contemporary art world, combined with the ability to develop and maintain trusted relationships with artists, curators, cultural partners, collectors, donors, funders, civic leaders, and community stakeholders.
- Demonstrated success in fundraising, donor cultivation, and stewardship, including experience engaging major donors, high-net-worth individuals, foundations, sponsors, and public funders. Prior experience with a capital campaign or major institutional renewal project would be an asset.
- The ability to work effectively within a municipal and civic context, including experience building productive relationships with public-sector partners, elected or appointed officials, community organizations, and other local cultural institutions.
- Experience setting clear strategic priorities and translating them into realistic business plans, operational goals, financial models, and measurable outcomes.
- Strong financial acumen, including experience developing and managing budgets, diversifying revenue, assessing risk, allocating resources, and making difficult choices where necessary.
- Experience working effectively with a Board of Directors, including supporting good governance, transparent reporting, strategic decision-making, and constructive Board/staff relationships.

- A proven ability to lead, motivate, and develop a committed team of staff, fostering a culture of trust, accountability, collaboration, creativity, and care.
- A history of dynamic strategic thinking and entrepreneurial approaches to organizational development, including the ability to identify new opportunities, partnerships, audiences, and sources of support.
- A demonstrated commitment to equity, Indigeneity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion, with the ability to embed these commitments meaningfully in programming, operations, staffing, governance, audience engagement, and institutional culture.
- Exceptional communication and interpersonal skills, with the capacity to engage, persuade, and inspire a broad variety of audiences, including artists, staff, Board members, donors, municipal partners, funders, volunteers, members, educators, families, and the wider public.
- An understanding of the opportunities facing contemporary art institutions in the digital environment, including digital engagement, collections access, communications, audience development, operational systems, and new forms of artistic and public participation.
- Experience stewarding complex physical spaces, public-facing facilities, heritage or site-responsive environments, or multi-site cultural operations would be considered an asset.
- A master's degree in art history, curatorial studies or arts administration would be considered an asset; however, the committee welcomes candidates who bring equivalent senior experience and demonstrated expertise.



Opening reception of Ali Cherri: To Fall, Patiently, Oakville Galleries in Gairloch Gardens, 2026. Photo: Jonathan Grimes.

# HOW TO APPLY



To apply, please submit a CV and cover letter detailing how you fulfil the role description and personal specification to [Perrett Laver's Vacancies page](#) quoting reference **8502**. **The deadline for applications is Sunday, August 2, 2026, at 9:00am ET.**

This is a full-time, in-office role based in Oakville, Ontario.

Oakville Galleries offers a salary for this position ranging from \$180,000 to \$200,000 CAD, commensurate with experience. The compensation package also includes a comprehensive benefits package, including a defined benefit pension plan.

Oakville Galleries is committed to building and maintaining an inclusive work environment that reflects the diversity of the audiences we serve. We encourage applications from all qualified candidates, including from racialized persons/persons of colour, Indigenous persons, and persons with disabilities.

Oakville Galleries acknowledges that the land on which it operates is the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Protecting your personal data is of the utmost importance to Perrett Laver and we take this responsibility very seriously. Any information obtained by our trading divisions is held and processed in accordance with the relevant data protection legislation. The data you provide us with is securely stored on our computerized database and transferred to our clients for the purposes of presenting you as a candidate and/or considering your suitability for a role you have registered interest in.

Perrett Laver is a Data Controller and a Data Processor, and our legal basis for processing your personal data is 'Legitimate Interests'. You have the right to object to us processing your data in this way. For more information about this, your rights, and our approach to Data Protection and Privacy, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).



Sunset Kino Film Festival in Gairloch Gardens, 2025. Photo: Jonathan Grimes.

# LIVING IN OAKVILLE

Located on the shores of Lake Ontario between Toronto and Hamilton, Oakville offers an exceptional quality of life within one of the Greater Toronto Area's most attractive and well-connected communities. The town combines access to Toronto's arts, cultural, academic, and business networks with the scale and character of a lakeside community known for its neighbourhoods, waterfront, parks, schools, and active civic life.

The town's neighbourhoods provide a variety of options for different lifestyles. Downtown Oakville offers a historic main-street environment with independent shops, restaurants, cafés, galleries, services, and cultural programming. Bronte Village has a harbourside atmosphere shaped by its marine heritage, waterfront trails, owner-operated shops, galleries, and dining. Kerr Village offers a more eclectic village setting close to downtown and the lake, with restaurants, local businesses, community amenities, and a growing independent character. Other residential areas, including Glen Abbey, River Oaks, West Oak Trails, Joshua Creek, College Park, and Iroquois Ridge, offer a range of housing, parks, schools, and commuting options.

Oakville is particularly attractive for families and candidates relocating with school-age children. Public education is provided through the Halton District School Board, while Catholic education is provided through the Halton Catholic District School Board. Both boards serve communities across Halton, including Oakville, and provide school directories and school-finder tools for families considering specific neighbourhoods. Oakville is also home to a number of independent and private school options, as well as libraries, community centres, recreation programs, sports facilities, camps, and youth arts programming.

The town also has a lively and increasingly diverse restaurant and café scene. Dining is clustered around Downtown Oakville, Bronte Village, Kerr Village, and other neighbourhood centres, with options ranging from casual cafés and bakeries to independent restaurants, waterfront dining, family-friendly spots, and more elevated destination restaurants. Annual initiatives such as Taste of Oakville showcase restaurants from Downtown, Bronte, Kerr Village, and across the town, reflecting the breadth of Oakville's food culture and its strong local business community. For more information, candidates may wish to explore:

- [Visit Oakville](#)
- [Town of Oakville](#)
- [Oakville Recreation and Culture](#)
- [Oakville Parks, Gardens and Trails](#)
- [Taste of Oakville](#)



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# OAKVILLE GALLERIES

Gairloch Gardens | 1306 Lakeshore Road East, Oakville ON L6J 1L6  
Centennial Square | 120 Navy Street, Oakville ON L6J 2Z4

## GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday – Saturday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Closed Sundays and statutory holidays

Admission is always free  
905.844.4402 | [info@oakvillegalleries.com](mailto:info@oakvillegalleries.com)  
[oakvillegalleries.com](http://oakvillegalleries.com) | [@oakvillegalleries](https://www.instagram.com/oakvillegalleries)