

Dances of Universal Peace International

Board of Directors

**Minutes of the Board meeting
on
Tuesday, September 12, 2023
at 20:00 UTC**

Board Members present:

Darvesha MacDonald (Chair), Arjun Calero, Khabir Mayer-Glauning, Rukmini Miller, Munira Reed, Douglas Stevenson, NurAna Wilansky.
Apologies: Yelena Swarana Dudarjoka.

Staff present:

Vakil Carlos Rojas (Executive Director), Edmund Aziz Dixon (Executive Co-Director), Martha Bracken (Office Manager)

*Toward the One,
the Perfection of Love, Harmony and Beauty, the Only Being;
United with all the Illuminated Souls who form the Embodiment of the Master,
the Spirit of Guidance.*

1. Minutes of the Board Meeting and Annual Meeting held April 4, 2023

2. Minutes of the Board Meeting held May 10, 2023

The Board met and agreed parameters for a search committee for the selection of a new Executive Director, following the resignation in December this year of Aziz Dixon; also, to meet on June 20 to progress a vision for the next phase of the organization.

3. Minutes of the Board meeting held on June 20, 2023

The Board met and agreed the nomination of Arjun as President of the Board. Arjun asked for further clarification about the relationship between the Beyond initiative and the Board before accepting the role. The Board also discussed training for new members, and committee structures for developing organizational strategy and the active involvement of Board members.

Subsequently on June 26, Arjun declined to take on the role as President, and Darvesha agreed to continue as President.

Rukmini moved acceptance of the minutes for these meetings, seconded by NurAna, approved unanimously.

4. Executive Director appointment

The Board approved unanimously by email on July 30 the Search Committee's recommendation to appoint Carlos Rojas as Executive Director, starting on September 1; also a budget adjustment to cover a period of handover as Aziz is available up to Dec 31 as Co-Director to facilitate the best possible induction for Carlos.

5. 2021 Financial Reports: to the end of August 2023

Comments on the financial results:

Core activity is broadly as budgeted. The main change since the last report is a very generous donation of shares, some of which are allocated to the Beyond program, some not allocated to a specific project. The intention is to keep these as shares until a favorable market price prevails and until the Board decides we need to cash them in.

		<u>Aug 31, 23</u>		
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
Key Bank Checking Account		17,696.19		
Key Bank Grants Check Account		4,505.40		
Key Bank Money Market @1.51%				
Beyond Initiative Funds		13,620.78		
Key Bank Money Market @1.51% - Other		23,842.98		
Total Key Bank Money Market @1.51%		<u>37,463.76</u>		
Total Checking/Savings		59,665.35		
Accounts Receivable				
Accounts Receivable		10,242.00	---> UK	3018
Total Accounts Receivable		<u>10,242.00</u>	Germany	4908
Other Current Assets				
Beyond Initiative Stocks-250shrs		59,180.00	New Zealand	984
Key Invest Grants - US T-bills		544,993.00	Australia	1332
Key Invest Grants-Cash Acct-intrst		13,939.79		
Sound CU - Grants-MoneyMkt@1.6%		17,638.10		
Unallocated Stocks - 250 shrs		59,180.00		
Total Other Current Assets		<u>694,930.89</u>		
Total Current Assets		<u>764,838.24</u>		
TOTAL ASSETS		<u><u>764,838.24</u></u>		
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
Payroll Liabilities		227.75		
Total Other Current Liabilities		<u>227.75</u>		
Total Current Liabilities		<u>227.75</u>		
Total Liabilities		227.75		
Equity				
Unrestricted Net Assets		643,861.59		
Net Income		120,748.90		
Total Equity		<u>764,610.49</u>		
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		<u><u>764,838.24</u></u>		
<u>Assets by activity</u>				
Grants		581,076.29		
Beyond		72,800.78		
Core business		110,961.17		
Total		<u>764,838.24</u>		

Dances of Universal Peace International
January to August 2023
Profit & Loss

Ordinary Income/Expense	Jan - August 2023	Budget 2023	% budget ytd
Income			
Investments			
Grants Interest Account	11497.47	0.00	
Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	641.86	2200.00	
Total Investments	<u>12,139.33</u>	<u>2200.00</u>	552%
Revenue - Current Year			
Donations - cash	757.17	3,000.00	25.24%
Donations - unallocated stocks	59,180.00		
Beyond Initiative Donations - cash	5,856.73	5000.00	117.13%
Beyond Initiative Donations - stocks	59,180.00		
Legacy Bequests	0.00	0.00	
LG Fees - Regions	23,364.05	29,000.00	80.57%
LG Fees - World Wide Region	6,315.10	8,000.00	78.94%
Royalty	0.00	0.00	
Sales	0.00	50.00	
Total Revenue - Current Year	<u>154,653.05</u>	<u>45,050.00</u>	343.29%
Revenue Prior Yr			
Fee support	0.00	-	
Guidance Council			
Beyond Initiatives project	0.00	15,000.00	
Grants program	0.00	25,700.00	
Total Revenue Prior Year	<u>0.00</u>	<u>40,700.00</u>	
Total Income	<u>166,792.38</u>	<u>87,950.00</u>	189.64%

		Profit and Loss		
		Jan - Aug 2023	Budget 2023	% budget ytd
Expenses				
Accounting				
	Financial advisor		0	
	QuickBooks payroll service	551.25	600.00	
	Total Accounting	551.25	600.00	91.88%
Contract Labor				
	Community Coordinator			
	Executive Director	9,224.00	13,836.00	
	Guidance Council Chair	3,250.00	6,500.00	
	Outside Contract Services	0.00	250.00	
	Total Contract Labor	12,474.00	20,586.00	60.59%
Employee wages				
	Office Manager	5,496.00	8,244.00	
	Total Employee wages	5,496.00	8,244.00	66.67%
IN Website Construction				
	Technical Designer	697.50	2,000.00	34.88%
	Total IN Website Construction	697.50	2,000.00	
Office Expenses				
	Equipment	0.00	1000.00	
	Internet Services	1,111.12	2,100.00	
	Office Supplies and fees	1,545.33	1600.00	
	Payroll Expenses	507.06	750.00	
	Postage	194.00	300.00	
	Telephone incl zoom	1,556.91	2,400.00	
	Total Office Expenses	4,914.42	8,150.00	60.30%
Project Budgets				
	Guidance Council	0.00	600.00	0.00%
	Beyond Initiative Expenses	4,692.90	20,000.00	
	Copyright expenses	0.00	0.00	
	Grants Expenses			
	...Disbursements	15,220.71	20,000.00	
	...Grants Manager	1,662.50	3,250.00	
	...Miscellaneous expenses	0.00	1,000.00	
	...Technical designer	0.00	100.00	
	... Tax preparer	0.00	600.00	
	...Transfer fees	113.10	750.00	
	Total Grants Expenses	16,996.31	25,700.00	
	Translation Projects	120.00	200.00	
	z-Contingency Fund	0.00	0.00	
	Total Project Budgets	21,809.21	46,500.00	46.90%
	Royalty Expenses	101.00	101.00	
	Total Expenses	46,043.38	86,181.00	53.43%
	Net Income	120,749.00	1,769.00	

6. Executive Director's report

As well as facilitating the recruitment of the new Executive Director, Aziz has worked in committee with Darvesha and Munira **to clarify that the caravans associated with the Beyond Initiative are legally entirely separate from the Beyond Initiative: The Beyond initiative is a project for which DUP International is responsible. Arjun Calero is the project co-ordinator. The caravans are the financial responsibility of the organizer, either Arjun Calero or another named individual.** The documentation on our website has been updated to convey this with clarity. We aim to demonstrate best practice of the [US National Network of Fiscal Sponsors](#).

Videos from the caravans have been included in a new playlist on our [youtube channel](#),



Dance Events

Thanks as ever to Shivadam, our Webmaster for all his work and for innovations such as this. Thanks also to Wayne Rollack, who continues to contribute to the preparation of dance write-ups: we have a long-term aim to include tempo markings in dance write-ups.

A newsletter announcing Vakil as our new Executive Director, and giving details of the next dance deepening interview in October was sent [in English](#) in August and will follow shortly in other languages.

Update from Vakil

Vakil shared feedback on his first ten days in the role, and some ideas about future opportunities.

7. Small Grants Program: update – August 2023

To note: Rukmini will contact Oneness Project about whether money was intended for Beyond as well as for the Small Grants program.

Current grant cycle

The third cycle of the Small Grants Program opened on January 1, 2023. The first six months of the year were very busy. The submission of applications has slowed significantly during the past

few months. So far this year, we have received a total of 34 applications. All but two of those have been approved, and those two are pending as we await further details and budget information from the applicants.

A wide variety of projects and countries are represented in the Cycle 3 applications: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, The Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Iran, Maldives, Morocco, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Wales and three from the United States. The majority of projects/applicants received \$500 USD. Two awards were for approximately half that amount to cover annual Zoom subscriptions.

Oneness Project awards

In early July, the Oneness Project announcement a cycle of grant awards of up to \$5,000. Since then, our program has seen a marked decline in applications. In fact, we have received only three applications since the OP's announcement. It is unclear whether the two are related but it seems possible. Shortly after the OP's announcement, we received several inquiries from previous grant recipients requesting clarification about "DUPIN's \$5,000 grants." Although the OP's announcement was clear to me, it appears to have created some confusion for others. Now that the OP's submission deadline has passed (August 15th), perhaps we will experience a return to a steadier rate of submissions. I will keep you posted.

Plans for a video

As some of you may recall, we previously discussed hiring a videographer to produce a short, promotional video for the Small Grants Program. The recent, significant drop in applications and the possible confusion caused by the Oneness Project's grant announcement leads me to believe that now is a good time to begin work on this project. We don't want the DUP family to forget about us and the contribution our grants have been making! The estimate to produce a short, promotional video is in the range of \$600-800. The small Grants Program has this amount available in our operating budget. It will not interfere with funds available for grant awards. I have spoken with Arjun about his success with promotional videos, and have invited Douglas to share any professional guidance he would like to offer. If any other board members are experienced in this area, please feel free to contact me.

I know that most of you have been/are traveling to Dances of Universal Peace events around the world. I pray for safe, smooth travels and an abundance of joy, connection, and inspiration in the various circles you encounter.

Peace & Blessings,

Rukmini Miller

8. Beyond Initiative

The Initiative continues to take root in North Africa, with some seeds in Central Africa, and blessings from the meeting in Türkiye, including participants from several new-to-us countries.

In discussion Arjun reflected on the dynamics of change in our organization and our social environment, and invited us to see the dance leader as a community weaver.

Here is a [recent report](#) on the Initiative in Asia, including a timetable of events between September 11 and December 3 across ten countries.

9. Guidance Council

The Guidance Council is meeting more frequently and has a full agenda. It is considering expanding the numbers on the Council.

10. Dates of future BoD meetings (2023):

Dates for Board meetings are as follows.

- Nov 14, **at the usual time** (11 am in Seattle)

Meetings are usually at **19.00 UTC** November 5 to March 12, and **18.00 UTC** March to November ie at 11.00 am Seattle time throughout, unless arranged otherwise.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20.45 UTC.