



DRAFT MINUTES
2026 Annual General Meeting
Flamenco de la Isla Society
Saturday, May 23, 2026
Via Zoom Video Meeting

Chair: Jan Bate

In Attendance: Iminah Amal-Hill, Jan Bate, Sandi Berry, Tania Betiku, Joe Dort, Rem Kirby, Estelle Kurier, Veronica Maguire, Emily Murphy, Suzanne Nievaart, Robby Parker, Upma Rai, Jayne Weatherbe, Jamie Winton, and Denise Yeo.

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement: Jan is calling in from the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh territories. She attended an event last night in which these nations and others attended, offering ceremony and gifting traditions throughout the evening. There was a feeling of balance, inclusion, and honour between all the musicians, speakers, cultures and traditions.

Call to Order: 11:10 AM

1. Review Minutes from April 26, 2025 AGM

Motion: Tania Betiku put forth a motion to accept the 2025 AGM minutes. Seconded by Upma Rai. All in favour. Motion passed.

2. Report From the Board (*previously distributed – view [here](#)*)

3. Review of 2025 Events

- a) The FDLI Society is extremely pleased with the success of the Victoria Flamenco Music Intensive held July 16 - 27, 2025.
 - Support included funds from the City of Victoria Music Strategy Grant (\$5,500) and the CRD Project Grant (\$7,000); plus, show ticket sales and workshop fees.
 - The cante, guitar, and percussion workshops were well attended and appreciated.
- b) The FDLI Society helped raise over \$8,000 to support Gareth Owen by hosting a flamenco show in November at The Coda.
 - Thank you to Veronica Maguire for donating her costume sales.
 - Thank you to Nicholas Economou for donating a guitar.
 - Individual donations also helped support Gareth.
- c) Substantial improvements have been made to the FDLI Society membership registration process including an Annual Auto Renewal option.
 - Thank you to Tania Betiku for facilitating this new process.

4. Looking Ahead in 2026

- a) Annual Flamenco Scholarship to be awarded in mid-June.
 - The scholarship amount has been raised from \$500 to \$800.
 - The Society is looking into other types of scholarships and other ways to share fundraising opportunities with other artists
 - Denise Yeo is currently in Spain with support from the Kat McCann Memorial Flamenco Scholarship
- b) The Society is planning to host the FDLI Society Annual Fundraiser celebrating International Flamenco Day in mid-November.
- c) Guitar Night planned for Wednesday, July 22 @ the Coda – to include 4 local guitarists and singers.
- d) Will look at future ideas arising from the UBC Flamenco Community Survey.
- e) Applied for a grant for financial support to pay fair wages to professionals assisting in student performance opportunities, but we were not successful. Will continue to explore ways to pay professional musicians to support emerging artists and student dancers.

5. UBC Flamenco on Vancouver Island Community Survey Report - by Dr. Emily Murphy and Upma Rai

Highlights of Survey Finders

- highest proportion of respondents 55+ years old and lowest 25-35 age group
- almost all respondents engage in other art forms, especially other types of music and dance
- rated 7/10 for inclusivity
- lower ratings for accessibility and diversity, indicating room for growth
- responses suggested aesthetic variety in flamenco itself may be path to greater inclusion
- strong interest in cross-disciplinary collaboration
- interest in experimentation, contemporary versions, and outside influences alongside traditional forms
- more performance opportunities at all skill levels
- need for more affordable space
- the Flamenco Festival mentioned persistently across all survey categories – community misses the Festival format

[View Survey Report](#)

Comments/Questions re Survey Results from AGM attendees:

- interesting gems and surprises including the interest in overlap with other artforms
- need to strategize with local funders and formalize partnerships for co-organization of events and resource sharing
- results show that the FDLI Society has a pulse on the community and backs up what the Society is mulling over – Society is heading in the right direction
- have more opportunities for those that don't normally perform

- What is the meaning of different 'aesthetics'? Although there is a lot of respect for traditional flamenco, there was great interest in seeing experimentation or contemporary influences and bringing in performers from outside of Victoria.
- How big is the flamenco community on Vancouver Island? Evidence from survey results suggests 300 to 500.
- Victoria is the hub of flamenco on the island, with connections to a broader non-FDLI Society member community
- Phase 2 of the Survey could include more on the geographical distribution
- lack of performance venues is an issue – other groups also struggling – the City is aware of the venue problem
- cost of available venues causing higher ticket prices also an issue
- some venues not open to flamenco due to 'destructive' nature of flamenco dance shoes
- generational consideration - need for more interest/participation from younger age groups with show/event production
- need to develop partnerships with other arts community groups to facilitate goals, example a group in Westshore is advocating for a complex to accommodate performance/lessons
- private charitable donations for the arts are very difficult to acquire in Canada – non-profits mostly rely on government funding
- request for Dr. Emily Murphy to provide a breakdown of the 'aesthetic' groupings when providing survey report summary of recommendations to the Board of Directors

6. Annual Financial Report

- a) Treasurer reviewed the 2025 financial statements (*previously distributed – [view here](#)*)
 - In 2025, most of the money going in and out was related to the Flamenco Music Intensive which includes the City of Victoria grant, the CRD grant, ticket sales, and workshop fees
 - event was super successful from a financial perspective leaving us with a balance which was used towards subsidizing the ticket prices to The Coda Flamenco Show in Nov. - we were still left with a \$500 surplus which was acceptable
 - the FDLI Society was the 'holder' for the funds raised for Gareth Owen which has since been paid to him
 - funds dedicated to the FDLI Society totalled \$1,200 and included donations, fundraising, and membership fees
 - ended the year with a deficit of \$1,000 – this indicates a need to increase fundraising in 2026 so we do not deplete our capital and can hold larger events in the future

Motion: Tania Betiku put forth a motion to accept the 2025 Financial Statements. Seconded by Jan Bate. All in favour. Motion passed.

7. Waive the Appointment of an Auditor for 2026

Motion: Jan Bate put forth a motion to waive the appointment of an auditor for the 2026 fiscal year. Seconded by Sandi Berry. All in favour. Motion passed.

8. Election of Directors

- Nominations from the floor – asked three times – none received
- Nominations from the Nomination Committee:

Jan Bate (*incumbent*)
Rem Kirby (*incumbent*)
Veronica Maguire (*incumbent*)
Jayne Weatherbe (*incumbent*)
Sandi Berry (*incumbent*)
Upma Rai (*incumbent*)
Iminah Amal-Hill (*incumbent*)
Jamie Winton (*incumbent*)
Tania Betiku (*incumbent*)
Joseph Dort (*incumbent*)

Motion: Estelle Kurier put forth a motion to nominate this slate of directors for the 2026-2027 year. Seconded by Denise Yeo. All in favour. Motion passed.

9. Members and Guests Input / Questions

- Dr. Emily Murphy, along with Upma Rai, to attend next FDLI Society meeting in June to present more specialized recommendations from the Survey to the Board of Directors.

10. Meeting Adjourned

Motion: Upma Rai put forth a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Emily Murphy. All in favour. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:22 PM.