

# Annual Report



2017

Create. Connect. Change Lives.

Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts



*Front cover art by Desiree Stewart  
Desiree Stewart (centre), with Josh  
Classen and Sarah Chan, was winner  
of the Changed Life Award in 2015,*

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## our vision

*All people have the right to achieve their highest potential, which includes the right to creative expression. Creativity lies within everyone and can be powerfully expressed through the arts.*

*The Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts (the Nina) believes in the importance of creation and exhibition of art by those who face barriers to artistic expression.*





Standing Left to Right:  
Dennis Yowney  
Sue Seright  
Sarah Ryan  
James Boychuk-Hunter  
David Janzen  
Leslieanna Blackner-Au  
Paul Freeman  
Brenda Kim Christiansen  
Amanda Howell  
Seated:  
Janice Easton  
Rona Fraser and  
Cynthia Sentara  
Missing from photo:  
Leanne Olson



1



2

1/2 Sept 2016 road trip for Woooooodland Exhibition in Grande Prairie: Cynthia, Susan, Rona, Leona Clawson; Wendy Hollo, Leona

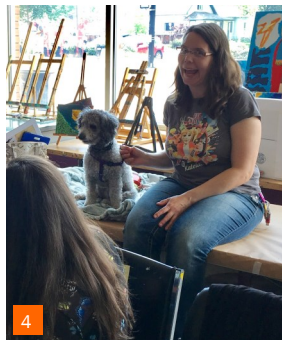
3 David Janzen, exhibition coordinator

4/5 Cynthia; Shelagh Kubish, Roy Skoreyko (board) 2016 AGM

6/7 Jodi Eyolfson (board) in the studios



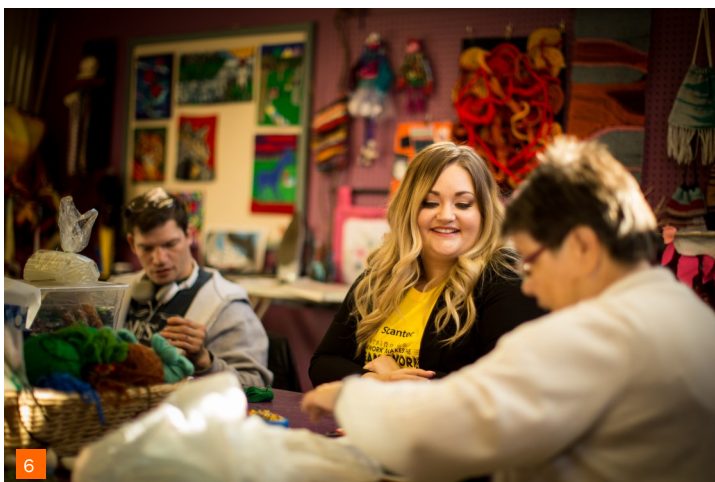
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4



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6



7



# Nina's board, staff and volunteers

## Board officers and directors during the year

Shelagh Kubish, chair  
Janice Kosak, vice-chair  
Jodi Eyolfson, secretary  
David MacGillivray, treasurer  
Sara Hart, director  
Bruce Kirkland, director  
Lisanne Lewis, director  
James Morrissey, director  
Roy Skoreyko, director  
Noel Xavier, director  
Heather Zwicker, director

### *Directors leaving the board:*

Noel Xavier  
Heather Zwicker

## Permanent and contract staff

Wendy Hollo, executive director  
Paul Freeman, artistic director  
Rona Fraser, director of development  
Brenda Kim Christiansen, studio manager  
Leslieanna Blackner-Au, community engagement  
David Janzen, exhibition coordinator  
Cynthia Sentara, office manager  
Janice Easton, administrative intern

## Professional artistic staff

Jocelyn Brown  
James Boychuk Hunter  
Caroline Gingrich  
Amanda Howell  
Leanne Olson  
Brittany Roy  
Sarah Ryan  
Susan Seright  
Jill Stanton  
Dennis Yowney

### *Staff leaving during the year:*

Caroline Gingrich, artistic staff  
Brittany Roy, artistic staff  
Jill Stanton, artistic staff  
Jocelyn Brown, writer in residence

## Volunteers

Christelle Agahozo  
Judith Alba  
Hector Anaya  
Alena Angelova  
Leslieanna Blackner-Au  
Celiena Bou-Saleh  
Melisa Brittain  
Carmen Colbourne  
Angela Comey  
Mitch Chalifoux  
Madison Dewar  
Cindy Decock  
Yvonne DuBourdieu  
Janice Easton  
John Easton  
Nancy Easton  
Maren Elliot  
Brooke Erin  
Jodi Eyolfson  
Jessica Fern Facette  
Frankie Fernandez-Rachubinski  
Isabella Freeman  
Asia Gagnon  
Rochelle Griffiths  
Derrick Guerin  
Kristi Gurski  
Alexandra Gusse  
James Hunter  
Ashley Huot  
Joan Jeffrey  
Fatemeh Jiriaee  
Ravinder Johal  
Gerry Johnston  
Liisa Jorgensen  
Eric Kother  
Jenny Lee  
Kelsi Leigh  
Stephanie Li  
Allison Lilly  
Jennifer Lewin  
Deandra Luong  
Zoe Luski  
Maud Madsen  
Nicole Martin  
Karen Matthews  
Lisa Matthias

Alexis Milinusic  
Holly de Moissace  
Michaela Morrow  
Christina Muran  
Keimi Nakashima  
Huong Nguyen  
Leanne Olson  
Jennifer Parker  
Namita Patel  
Rhiannon Perley-Waugh  
Morgan Pinnock  
Abyad Rahman  
Nancy Rose  
Art Rossier  
Cynthia Sentara  
Alex Schafer  
Ikram Shire  
Yvette Stack  
Jennifer Stewart  
Andrea Tack  
Ivana Trieu  
Sherri Turner  
Claire Theaker-Brown  
Colleen Ulliac  
Matt Wilwat  
Chantal Yoon  
Dennis Yowney  
Erika Zanello  
Ilana Zinyk



Artwork by Desiree Stewart

## message from the board chair



We had much to be proud of last year at the Nina as we maintained an ambitious range of programs and exhibitions, but we also faced significant challenges. For the first time in a decade, we struggled to meet operating costs and ended the year a deficit.

The board of directors focused on two areas for the year: financial sustainability and staff development and support. The first step in improving both of these connected areas was to address the decrease in proportional funding over the years from our core funding partner. When the Nina was established, Alberta Disability Services (PDD) provided 45% of Nina's operating revenue with the intention to retain this level of support. By March 2016, however, that percentage had slipped to represent only 26% of annual revenue.

The board and executive director held several informative meetings with members of the provincial government and senior government staff, each time asking the government to "meet us halfway." Our approach and well-informed message was successful and we were extremely relieved in April 2017 to learn that our request was approved. With a new three-year contract that provides a bit of breathing room, we look forward to a sustainable future as we restore programming, re-instate our community engagement position and reward our amazing staff.

The board is thankful for loan support from the Edmonton Social Enterprise Fund that enabled us to sustain most of our ongoing operations while working to address the longer term issue of sustainability.

The board and staff are also grateful to the sponsors who have stuck with us through the economic downturn and continue to support our community outreach programs, exhibitions and annual fundraising event. We know that many companies are faced with tough choices during lean economic times and we deeply appreciate the fact that we have been able to maintain these important relationships and even welcome a few new sponsors.

We have much to be excited about in the coming year as we work towards new goals that emerged from a very productive planning session facilitated by Catrin Owen of Calder Bateman. Under Catrin's expert guidance we revisited our vision and developed a clear sense of direction for focused growth and strengthened programming.

The board welcomed three new members this year: Lisanne Lewis, Sara Hart and David MacGillivray. They have already made significant contributions and we look forward to working with them. We must also say good-bye to departing board members, Heather Zwicker and Noel Xavier. We thank them for their work on the board and we know we will continue to count them as friends of Nina.



# board slate

THE NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS (THE NINA)  
IS PLEASED TO PRESENT THE FOLLOWING SLATE OF  
OFFICERS FOR RATIFICATION BY MEMBERS:

Shelagh Kubish: chair  
Janice Kosak: vice-chair  
David MacGillivray: treasurer  
Jodi Eyolfson: secretary

DIRECTORS RETURNING TO THE BOARD IN A FIRST OR  
SECOND TERM ARE:

Jodi Eyolfson  
Bruce Kirkland  
James Morrissey  
Roy Skoreyko

DIRECTORS TO BE RATIFIED TO A FIRST TERM ARE:

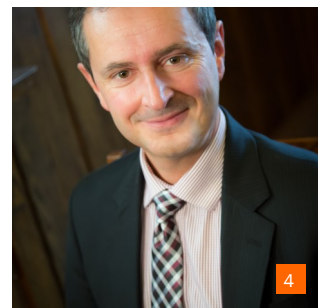
Lisanne Lewis (GM, Shaw Conference Centre)  
Sara Hart (partner & lawyer, Dentons)  
David MacGillivray (retired accountant)

## thank you Heather and Noel

The board and staff regretfully say good-bye to two directors at this year's annual general meeting.

Heather Zwicker has served one term as a director and leaves us to focus on her busy career at the University. We congratulate Heather on being named to the position of Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. Heather has brought positive energy and insight to the board and we thank her for her contribution. Heather remains a strong advocate and ambassador for the Nina.

Noel Xavier came to the Nina board with a strong background in community donor relations and non-profit management. He too served one term on the board and we thank him for assuming the role of treasurer during the past year. He too remains a 'friend of Nina' and patron and continues to be a valuable resource to our director of fund development.



- 1 Lisanne Lewis
- 2 Sara Hart
- 3 David MacGillivray
- 4 Noel Xavier
- 5 Heather Zwicker





## volunteers making a difference

Special event and  
gallery volunteers  
contributed almost  
700 hours last year...

...helping with art sales and  
receptions, the Royal Bison,  
Nina's birthday bash, Here's  
Nina, and the New Voices  
and digital story telling  
project launches.

We also welcomed groups  
from **Stantec, Telus &  
Junior Achievement.**  
Together, **47** volunteers  
spent **374** hours,  
cleaning, painting and  
helping in the studios.

We couldn't do it  
without you!

Volunteers create, connect and change lives every day at the Nina. This year, 75 volunteers contributed a total of 1,918 hours, helping in the studios, the gallery and with special events.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers, active at every level of the organization. They can be found in the studios with the artists, in the gift shop and at openings, receptions, special events and work bees. Volunteers also sit on the board, providing guidance and sharing their insights and expertise.

Running our gallery with its busy schedule of receptions and events requires a great deal of upkeep and maintenance. We deeply appreciated the Stantec volunteers who devoted a day this year to paint and refurbish our gallery and studio spaces.

This year, volunteers staffed a series of art shows and pop-up sales, including ICCEP Art Show and the Royal Bison Art & Craft Fair. Teams also spent evenings and Saturdays reproducing and packaging merchandise for the sales.

We want each volunteer to have a positive experience at Nina and offer flexible schedules and short term projects to match busy schedules. You can find out more about volunteering at the Nina by visiting our website or emailing [engage@thenina.ca](mailto:engage@thenina.ca) to connect with Leslieanna.

thank you  
to each and  
every one of  
our amazing  
volunteers!

1 Here's Nina 2016 volunteers

2 3 4 Stantec in the Community day at Nina!

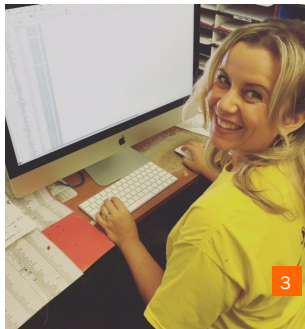
5 Leslieanna Blackner-Au was an active  
studio volunteer before being hired as  
Community Engagement Director

6 Jennie Lewin, studio and special event  
volunteer, is also a patron

7 Joan Jeffries and Lisa Matthias getting  
merchandise ready for Royal Bison  
and our Christmas show and sale

8 Dale Abbott-Smith is doing a practicum  
placement

9 Kaylyn Hardstaff, learning to cut matts







## the Nina artists' collective

When people first join the Nina artists' collective, their lives are typically defined by disability. Most often, their lives are fairly structured, with others responsible for making all the decisions that impact their lives. In the studios, they are encouraged to work as independently as possible and must make all their own decisions about their art making. The professional artistic staff work to encourage artists to experiment with different media, explore new techniques and look within to find and express their own unique voice.

**Great things happen when you give a person freedom of expression!**

We see an explosion of creativity every day in the studios and, while success does not happen overnight, many artists develop their artistic practice to the point that their work is exhibited and sold.

Half of the proceeds from art sales go to the artist and the other half goes back into the program to purchase more art supplies.

**Selling work and seeing art exhibited in public is life changing.**

Perhaps even more important than the money (which is huge) is the impact on confidence and self image. "I am an artist!" That's a game changer. This year, we supported more than 200 adults with disabilities, with approximately 170 artists active in the studios each week.

- 1 Karen Baum and Lena Bruni in fabric studio
- 2 John Wilson in the print studio
- 3 James Horucki and Aaron Harvey in fabric studio
- 4 Leona Clawson in fabric studio
- 5 Holly Sabourin in clay studio
- 6 Aba Garbrah in clay studio
- 7 Damanjit Grewal in painting and drawing studio





## In the studios



Print making, fabric, painting, drawing, clay ... more than 200 artists explored various media in Nina's busy studios this past year.

Artists are encouraged to experiment with a range of media to find their voice.



# the *Ninas*: recognizing artistic merit

## create

Colleen Honish made great strides in her art production during the past year. Initially inspired by Monet's bridge paintings, Colleen began working with larger formats and successful abstractions of the work. Ultimately, she was able to generate her own unique compositions.

Colleen works most often in fabric and was selected for group exhibitions in public galleries at the Alberta Craft Council and the Stony Plain Multicultural Heritage Centre.



*The Cameron Development Corporation create award is given to an artist who has demonstrated their commitment to becoming an artist through their enthusiasm for making art when in the Nina studios. They also often make art on their own time at home. They are developing a vision for their work or have broken through a creative barrier and innovated their own practice.*

## connect

James Horucki worked in the drawing studios for several years, generating labour intensive work in a contemporary street art style. More recently, James has been working in the fibre studio where he has recreated many of his intricate drawings into beautiful tapestries.

Viewers respond to James' dedication and they connect with his contemporary style that is unique within the Nina Collective. In the fibre studio James is often able to share ideas and offer insight or advice to other artists.



*The TELUS connect award is given to an artist who has been able to connect with a broader community through their artwork or artistic practice. Their work has been exhibited in public spaces or reproduced on merchandise, used for promotional material or been the subject of media attention. As a result, the broader community has been able to learn about them as a person and appreciate their contribution through art.*

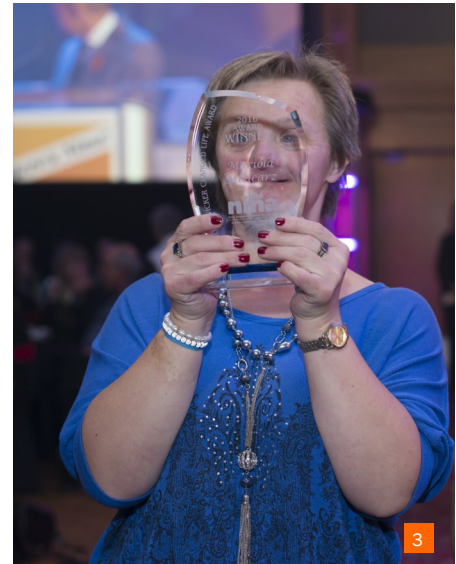


# the *Ninas*: Edmonton's newest arts awards

## changed lives

Mariola Meilcarz is a new immigrant to Canada and does not speak English, creating a barrier to communication and ability to connect with others. In the Nina studios Mariola has been able to find a group of people who quickly recognized her artistic ability and welcomed her as part of their community.

Making art at the Nina has been an important part of Mariola's successful transition to living in Canada. Since coming to the Nina, Mariola has been able to work towards obtaining a permanent residency permit.



*The Shannon Zwicker changed lives award is given to an artist who has helped us to see how art enriches lives. The artist's experiences have enabled them to change their view on life and add the word "artist" to the story they tell about themselves. The people they know have a new appreciation for their unique abilities and commitment to their art practice.*

## ATB emerging artist

Brittany Leitheiser is an artist with strong writing skills and a keen imagination. During the past two to three years, she has begun to also develop as a performing artist.

Brittany has written and performed a spoken word piece for *Words Unzipped* during the SkirtsAFire HerArts festival and has been part of the dance program at the Nina. This past year, Brittany had the opportunity to write and record an original song, *Phantom of the Sea*, an audience favourite at the ATB New Voices launch in March 2017.



**ATB** Financial®

*The ATB Financial Emerging Artist Award recognizes an artist who has joined the Nina Collective during the past three years and already demonstrates a drive to create artwork and has already achieved some success working in at least one medium. This artist is also recognized as having the potential to further develop their artistic practice.*



# the 2017 Stantec artist of the year



Linda Vincent has been creating art in the Nina studios for the past decade. Her work has been featured in several juried exhibitions, including a Refinery event at the Art Gallery of Alberta.

Pieces created by Linda Vincent are popular in Nina's gallery shop and she has sold many of her works to private collections.

Linda works primarily in acrylic ink on paper but has also created some stunning work on plexi-glass. She continually experiments with different styles and studies the work of other artists.

Linda was extremely proud to be named the Stantec Artist of the Year in February 2017 when her exhibition, *Impossible Birds*, opened to the public. She looks forward to seeing her work exhibited in other public venues in 2017. Already this year, her work has been exhibited in foyer of Stantec's head office in Edmonton and travels in June to Nina's high-profile, street-level exhibition space located on the Northeast corner of City Centre Mall in downtown Edmonton.

Later in 2017, *Impossible Birds* heads to the Rutherford Library at the University of Alberta.



- 1 Linda at work in the studio
- 2 Rooster by Linda Vincent (on loan from private collection)
- 3 Linda Vincent with Artistic Director, Paul Freeman



The Stantec artist of the year is selected for their demonstrated commitment over time to their art practice. They have developed a vision for their art making that can be seen through a consistent, identifiable style and their artwork is consistently chosen for exhibition and sale.



# Odvod Media sustained support award

Yvonne DuBourdieu was an obvious and deserving recipient for the inaugural Odvod Media Sustained Support Award.

Yvonne, an artist and filmmaker, first connected with the Nina in 2005, initially seeking an artistic outlet for her son. She quickly became an invaluable supporter, serving as a board director, chair and past chair. She was very involved during the planning and construction of Nina's new facility, attending meetings and providing guidance to the project.

Above and beyond her important contributions to the board, Yvonne has participated in and documented almost every important Nina event or project. Between 2006 and 2015 she produced a promotional video for Nina's annual fundraiser to highlight the year's successes and connect the audience to our artists and programs.

Yvonne has also documented significant projects. In 2004 and 2005, she followed 13 Nina artists and their allies as they explored the broad topics of citizenship and human rights through art. Her full-length documentary, *Through the Eyes of Artists*, was shown broadly and brought national recognition to the project. Most recently, Yvonne produced music videos and a short documentary for the ATB *New Voices* project that was broadcast by Shaw Media.

At times there were small budgets to offset some of the production costs, however, Yvonne has contributed an incalculable number of volunteer hours shooting and editing footage, spending time in the studios and attending events.

Yvonne has created a legacy that will live on. You can see some of Yvonne's short documentaries and music videos on Nina's YouTube channel.



Top right: 2017 award photo | centre right: 2009 groundbreaking event, 118 Avenue permanent home for the Nina | bottom right: 2004 in Ottawa at Rideau Hall

2017: Yvonne and Yvette planning music video



# RBC emerging artists apprenticeship at the Nina

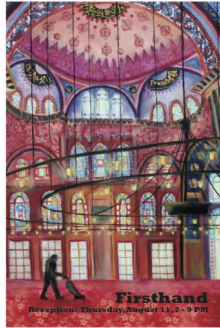
Now in it's fourth year, the RBC Emerging Artists Apprenticeship project at the Nina has provided an invaluable learning experience for 29 recent or current graduates as they transition from post secondary art education to professional arts careers.

Between May and August, these apprentices work alongside Nina's professional artistic staff and attend workshops presented by senior artists and successful arts administrators.

The 2016 RBC apprentices had plenty of experience curating and installing exhibitions in both the Stollery Gallery and downtown exhibition space and also worked with individual artists to update their bios and portfolios.

The project ends each year with an exhibition of their own work and this year's exhibit was stellar. Separate invitation cards for their exhibition, *Firsthand*, were created for reach artist. As you can see from the cards shown here, the work was diverse and showcased each artist's unique style.

RBC and the Nina look forward to following the careers of these emerging artists.



Madison Dewar



Maren Elliot



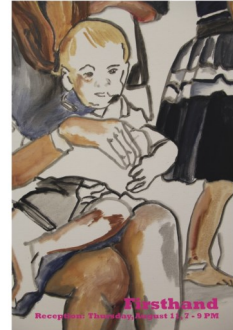
Mitchel Chalifoux



Christelle Agahozo



Maude Madsen



Alexandra Gusse



**RBC**  
**Emerging Artists**  
**Project**

2016 RBC Emerging Artists Apprentices: Left to Right, Madison Dewar, Maren Elliot, Mitchel Chalifoux, Christelle Agahozo, Artistic Director Paul Freeman, Maude Madsen, Executive Director Wendy Hollo and Alexandra Gusse.



# Nina artists lend their voice to the Canada 150 conversation in 2017



Left to right, Wei Li, Brandon Hearty, Artistic Director Paul Freeman, Noemi De Bruijn, Angela Marino, Kaida Kobylka and Fatemeh Jirlaee

big thanks to RBC and the Edmonton Community Foundation for their support of the Nina Canada 150 project.

This year's RBC emerging artists apprentices are tackling a special project. Working with Nina's artistic director, Paul Freeman, the apprentices and 16 artists from the Nina Collective are exploring the work of iconic and lesser known Canadian artists to see how they have portrayed our landscape and social history. The group has experimented with different styles of painting and are now going out to take photos and sketch or paint 'en plein air, seeking inspiration for their own work. Thanks to additional support provided by the Edmonton Community Foundation, the group will be able to enjoy field trips to the AGA, archives, Fort Edmonton and other local landmarks. Work created by the project team will be exhibited in the Stollery Gallery and downtown exhibition space and will be documented in a limited edition art book.



1 Painting in the style of Ted Harrison

2 Viewing our landscape and history through the lens of Canadian artists



# Crystal Kids rock!

What do your kids do after school on 'early out' days? Youngsters in our neighbourhood who access programs at Crystal Kids get to make cool art with professional artist, Lorraine Shulba.

Lorraine has seen the kids "make leaps and bounds in the confidence department," since taking on the classes this year.

Learning to concentrate and focus, to sit and be attentive was initially a challenge. Some struggled with this but over time they learned that you can create beauty with just your hands and that creating art can be a happy escape from day-to-day life.

"I loved seeing the kids connect and feel more confident with each new project," says Lorraine. It was also important for them to learn that art can be made from almost anything, that by being resourceful you can use things that you find around the home. "We did a few projects where we upcycled items and looked at ways to think outside the box."



- 1 Urban spirits rotary club members were on hand to celebrate with the young artists at the year end exhibition and sale
- 2 Aoife Colfer, Crystal Kids Youth Centre supervisor was on hand for the year end exhibition
- 3 Young artist with his art work



big thanks to Urban Spirits Rotary club for making this after school art partnership project with Crystal Kids possible





# Jubilee Auditoria community art nights

For the past decade, Sue Seright has been coming up with a creative range of art projects for the community art classes held every week from September to June. Some wonderful artwork has emerged over the years, and thanks to support from the Jubilee Auditoria Society, we are able to celebrate some of the successes with a year end exhibition in the Stollery Gallery.

Beyond the art, however, are the friendships that have formed and the sense of community that has developed, a community that is always welcoming to new members. For some, creating art has been a confidence-builder and for others a welcome escape from the challenges of day-to-day life.

Sue passed the torch in May 2016 to Sarah Ryan, a lead artist working in Nina's clay and painting studios. Sarah has been attending the classes and is excited about taking on this project. As for Sue, she had promised to drop in from time to time, just to make some art.

big thanks to the  
Jubilee Auditoria Society  
for making community  
arts possible and to  
Susan Seright for  
ten years of magic



- 1 Instructor, Susan (Sue) Seright
- 2 Year end reception; Marc Beaudin on guitar
- 3 Art project
- 4 Full house for final class with Sue Seright



# TELUS family art nights at the Nina

Lorraine Shulba can't believe that she has been teaching Nina's family art classes for ten years. It is no small feat to come up with a new art project every week, but it's seeing the smiles on the faces of the young artists that keep her going.

"It's a great way for families to bond," says Lorraine. "Parents and children feel rejuvenated by creating art. There's no age limit so youth and elders can mingle."

For many families, this is a god-send and a highlight of their week. The classes provide a low-stress activity that both adults and kids can enjoy together, without straining tight family budgets. First timers and regulars, everyone is welcome and there's no need to register. Classes are offered on a drop-in basis.

All art supplies are provided at no cost thanks to the generous support of our good friends at TELUS, and there are also healthy snacks to keep energy levels high.

This popular program was at risk three years ago due to a strained operating budget and it looked like these beloved classes would have to end.

Recognizing the importance of providing ways for families to remain strong, especially during tough economic times, TELUS came to the rescue.

The Nina, and the many families who participate in family art nights, are incredibly grateful to the TELUS Edmonton Community Board for their continued support of this program.

But its children like Mya and Adeli, regulars at the weekly classes, who say it best. Mya is excited about learning. "When my mom told me it was art, I really wanted to go. I love art and I like playing with stuff. I learned how to draw here, and it's fun."

Adeli loves attending the classes with her parents and brother and has recently celebrated her 11th birthday with an art party at the Nina.



*Thank you Rat Creek Press for doing an article about TELUS Family Art Nights at the Nina. The text above includes excerpts from the article, pictured at top of page.*



- 1 Instructor, Lorraine Shulba
- 2 3 Working with clay
- 4 Packed house for final class
- 5 Gil family







## CASA Nina partnership... realizing the power of art

*Excerpt from a CASA blogpost in spring 2016*

"It's a sunny Saturday in January and the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts is bustling with the enthusiastic energy of kids, teens, and young adults creating. The morning sees 9 year-old Ahmed at the media centre, paging through cartoon montages for inspiration. Within minutes, he produces a near-perfect replication of his favourite characters in pencil and paint. In the afternoon, 13 year-old Danny is experimenting with mixing colours for an abstract masterpiece. And later, as the winter sun slides toward the horizon, 18 year-old Ellen painstakingly carves minute details into a clay sculpture.

All three are exploring their creativity, using visual arts to communicate, and discovering the joy that comes with making art. And all three have Autism Spectrum Disorders. They are at the Nina this day, along with two dozen others, participating in the Centre for Autism Services Alberta's Visual Arts programs for children, teens, and young adults.

Among the young people diligently creating at the Nina Haggerty this particular Saturday are some who require near-constant support, some who can communicate verbally and some who cannot, and some whose symptoms are nearly invisible. But each child, teen, and young adult present is overcoming his or her own challenges one brush or pencil stroke, one cut or carve at a time – realizing the power of art."

Thanks to a seed grant from the Edmonton Community Foundation, this program has been going strong since 2013, growing each year. The Centre for Autism Services Alberta now has a waiting list for the next round of classes and have expanded to offer a summer camp during Nina's annual closure week.

The impact of the art program has been profound. Last year, classes wrapped up with a juried Art Show and Sale in the Stollery Gallery. At the reception, one boy allowed himself to be photographed beside his work - a first. A teenager talked clearly and carefully about his art to a television reporter. A mother marveled at what her son had created, amazed by the quality of his work.

This year, the program produced a deeper pool of art, surpassing themselves in the quality of work. The June 2017 exhibit, aptly named *Making Waves*, features work in various media and demonstrates that artists with autism are "on the wave up." Instructor Dennis Yowney finds it especially rewarding to see the artists progress in their work and he sees exciting possibilities for future creative endeavours. "They have a voice and are making themselves heard within the arts community."

Proud artists, some of them now 'veterans' of two previous art shows, also enjoyed the very tangible reward of selling their work. By the end of the evening, \$1,000 in art sales had been collected!

Plans are already underway for the Centre's 2017-18 visual arts program which will begin in mid-September following the Kaleido Family Arts Festival.







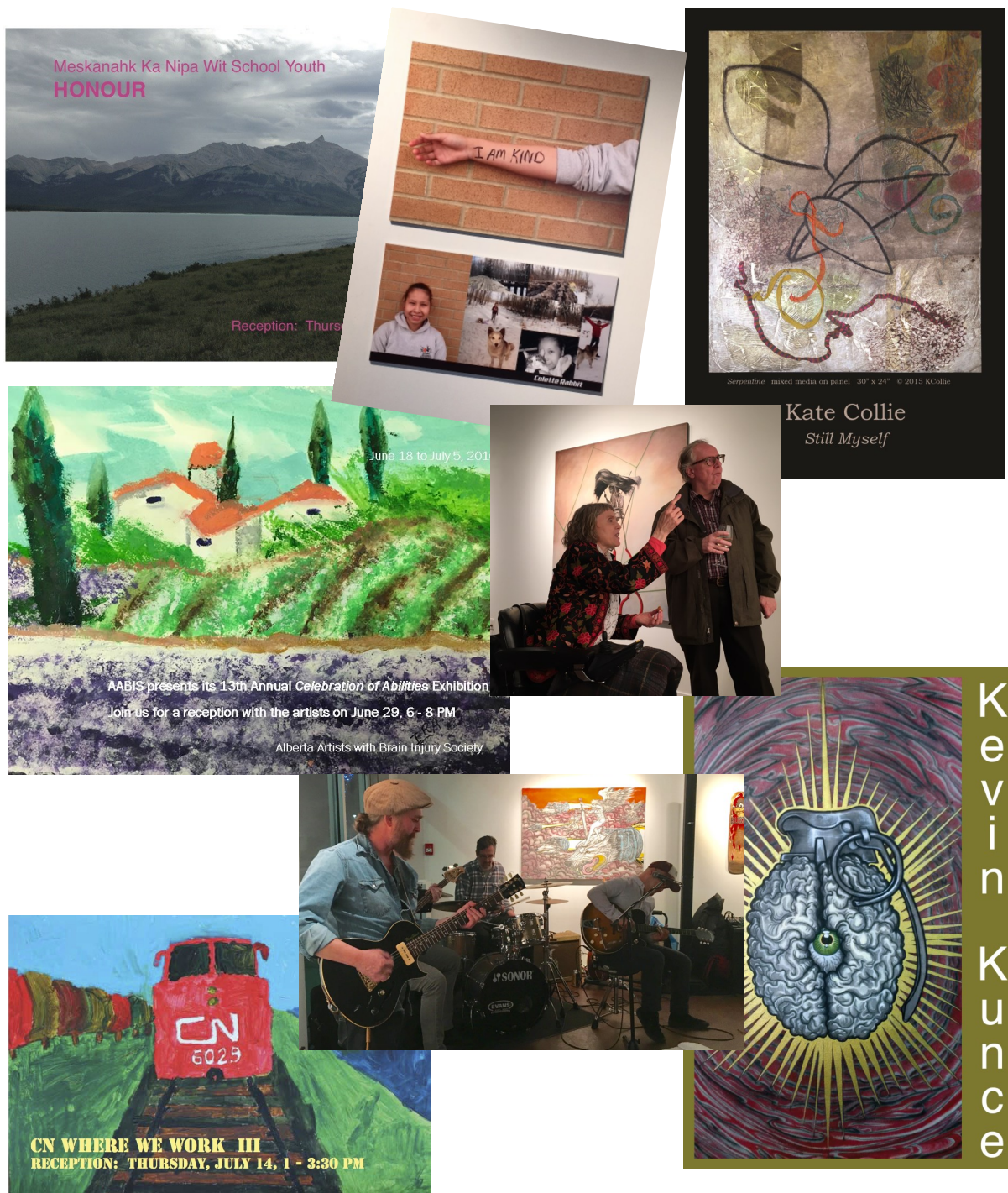
# exhibitions in the Stollery Gallery



(2016) CASA art show and sale; TELUS Family Art Night, *Working Together*; Jubilee community art night sponsored by Jubilee Auditoria Society; Crystal Kids art show, sponsored by the Urban Spirits Rotary; City Centre Education Program, *Art from the Heart*; Meskanahk Ka Nipa Wit school, *Honour*, sponsored by TD; Alberta Artists with Brain Injury, *Celebration of Abilities*; new work from the Nina Collective, *Where We Work*, sponsored by CN; RBC emerging artists apprentices, *Firsthand*, sponsored by RBC; Kaleido Family Art Festival, Kaleido Gallery; Yvonne DuBourdieu, *Other Otherness* ...



# April 2016 to March 2017



...(con't) inmates of Alberta correctional facilities, *The Artist Inside: Butterfly*, sponsored by Synergy Inmate Phone Solutions; Kate Collie, *Still Myself*; Nina's annual Christmas show and sale, *The After Party*, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Northeast Edmonton; (2017) Deep Freeze, a Byzantine Winter Festival, Deep Freeze Gallery; Kevin Kunce, *Black Hole Thought Grenade*; Linda Vincent, *Impossible Birds*, Stantec Artist of the Year and Nina's 14<sup>th</sup> birthday bash; SkirtsaFire HerArts festival, *Feel the Heat!*; Krista Hamilton, Tess Stieben, Crystal Dillon, *A Long Walk*.

# Nina artists take their art uptown thanks to Oxford Properties Group

This street-level display space creates an intimate but highly visible gallery, particularly during summer festivals.

This year's displays included masks created by ceramic artists in the Nina Collective, new work by Shannon Dosser and Kim Hung Ho, Leona Clawson's *Woooooodland* exhibit and a prayer rug from the Al Rashid Mosque.

Watch for bold new shows this summer including Linda Vincent's *Impossible Birds* travelling exhibit and our Canada 150 exhibit.

- 1 New work by Dean Bardal
- 2 Dean checking out Bardal/McCook exhibition
- 3 Desiree McCook







Thanks to Oxford Properties Group, Nina artists have the chance to exhibit their work in a high profile location on the NE corner of City Centre Mall in downtown Edmonton.



## a focus on external exhibition

The Nina is placing increased priority on supporting artists in the Nina Collective to access exhibition opportunities in public spaces and once again this year Nina artists showed work in a number of different venues beyond the Stollery Gallery.

John Wilson had work selected this year for the City's YEGCanvas project. He joins several artists who saw their work on billboards and LRT posters.

In addition to exhibitions in our downtown exhibition space, artists also showed work in Spruce Grove, in Kelowna at Cool Arts, in Calgary at the SPARK festival in Calgary, and in Edmonton at Citie Francophone, the Steadward Centre, Jubilee Auditorium and at the local U Gallery.



1 Holly Sabourin attended the opening in Spruce Grove and was excited to be interviewed for the Examiner.

2 Cheque presentation by Kinsmen and Apricity.



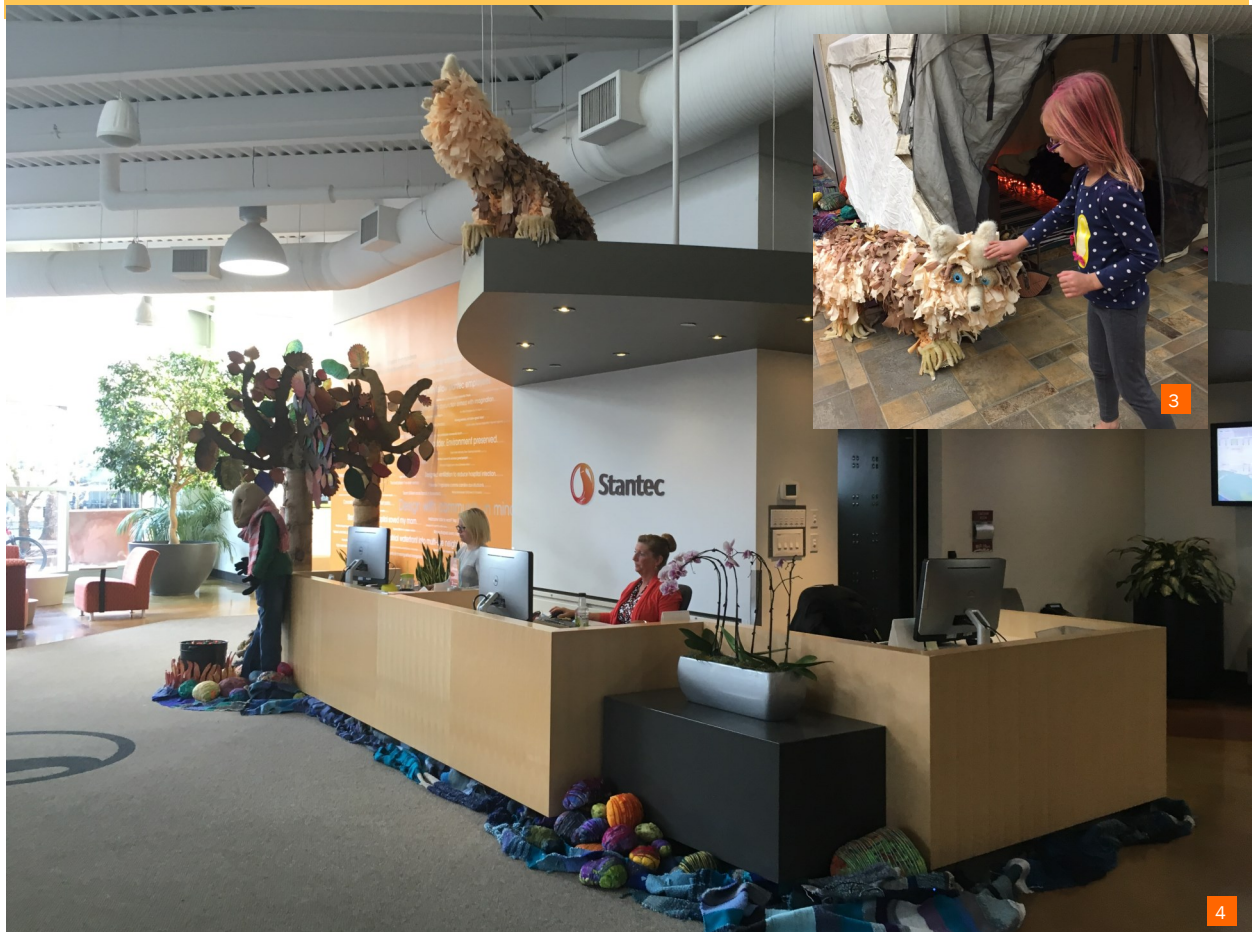
Left to right: Shawn Huculak, Laura Tailler, Amy Tsang (back), Rowena Cui, Amor Carandang, Jackie Witson, Sarah Chan and daughter Alice, and Jeff Harris. Wendy Hollo, Paul Freeman and Rona Fraser from the Nina are standing in back row centre.

Thanks to Apricity (see page 42) and the Kinsmen Club of Edmonton, Nina art will be travelling to more locations in the future. The club recently approved a grant that allows us to buy movable art walls that can easily be transported or shipped. This will significantly increase the number of external exhibition opportunities we can apply for.

The Kinsmen Club's generous support will also brighten our in-house Stollery Gallery with the addition of ten new light fixtures.



Leona's exhibit *Wooodland* travelled to 114 Place in Grande Prairie after being mounted in the foyer at the Stantec head office and in our downtown exhibition space. It also travelled to the Rutherford Library at the University of Alberta and to the Castledowns library.



# ATB new voices launch was ‘magical’



It has been one of the most ambitious projects we have ever taken on. What would happen if we put artists from the Collective together with a music producer and vocal coach to create original songs? The answer? Magic!

For more than a year, musician and producer Raphaël Fréynet worked with artists in the Collective with an interest in writing and story telling, turning their attention to song writing. When six strong songs emerged, Raphaël switched his focus to auditions to see who had the 'chops' to perform. One artist, Angela Trudel, had not composed any of the songs but shone as a singer. She and two of the song writers, Brittany Leitheiser and Yvette Prefontaine, worked with vocal coach Joëlle Prefontaine for voice training and to develop a feel for dramatic effect and how to bring a story to life.

It was a pretty heady couple of months, with artists working with Raphaël in the studio to lay down music tracks and going into the studios at CKUA to record vocals. Raphaël then produced the tracks in his studio while Yvonne DuBourdieu (see page 15) stepped in to work with four of the song writers to create story boards for music videos.

As the first cuts of the songs and videos and started to emerge, the re was quite a buzz in the Nina studios! The songs and performances were amazing and exceeded even our loftiest expectations. On March 3, 2017, we awoke to front page coverage in the Edmonton Journal.

'Stoking the power of music' throughout this project has been ATB Financial. Sandra Huculak and her team took a very personal interest in the project. They were there every step of the way, providing funds in support of the music videos, facilitating a partnership with CKUA and arranging for the use of ATB Arts Barns for the launch.

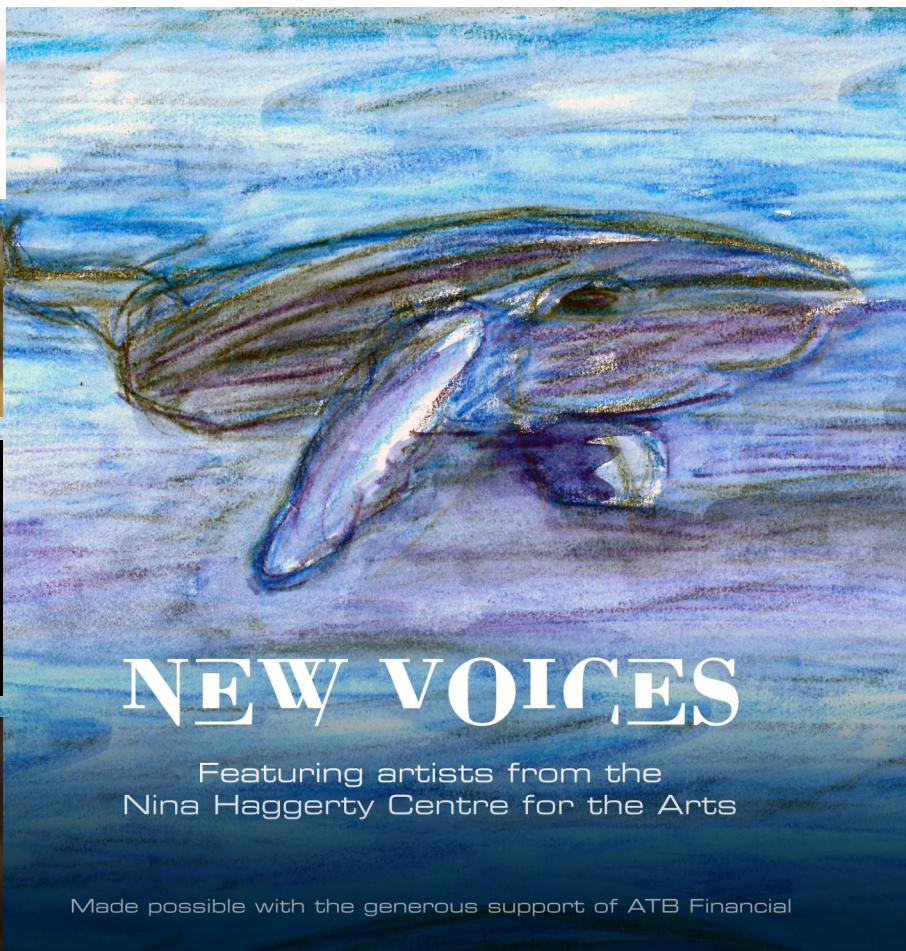
Artists received gold records after the songs premiered and rousing and genuine applause. There were even a few tears shed. If you have not heard the songs and seen the videos, please go straight to Nina's YouTube channel and check them out..

- 1 Mayor Don Iveson was on hand to congratulate Nina 'New Voices' artists
- 2 Angela Trudel sang 3 of the original songs and performed in 2 music videos
- 3 Yvette Prefontaine composed and performed 'Searching for Hope'
- 4 Brittany Leitheiser's 'Phantom of the Sea' was an audience favourite
- 5 Alana Gersky performed in the music video for her original song, 'Time for Change'



L to R, Yvette, Angela, Alana, Brittany (back), Amber, Yvonne and Mayor Iveson (back), Collin, Crystal , Thomeand and Raphaël





**ATB** Financial®

# brief & bracing: digital stories at the Nina

On March 30, 2017, a crowd packed the Nina for the much anticipated launch of 19 short films created during a year-long digital story telling project led by Nina writer in residence, Jocelyn Brown.

"I was working with individual artists on story telling, but for a few artists in the Nina Collective, telling a story in the traditional way just didn't work," says Jocelyn. Because most members of the Collective are visual artists, she sought a way for them to tell their stories in a way that did not rely on text.

Working with Karen Matthews from Weasel Tales, an organization that leads digital story telling workshops, a process was established that allowed the artists and community members to develop, create and present their story.

Cynthia Sentara, a lead artist and office manager at the Nina has a background in media arts and helped some of the artists edit their work. She also created her own powerful piece, "*For Life*," sharing the story of having a stroke ten years ago that left her unable to speak. It was a way for her to explain this reoccurring issue to everyone.

The experience of telling her own story and working with others in the project reminded her that everyone has a story if you take the time to listen. "You get to learn about someone's life, their experiences. They are all so interesting, she explains.

"You can be the most boring person in the world, but everyone has one awesome story to tell."

For some artists, literacy or language issues presented challenges, but participants were helped to distill their ideas until they were ready to script their videos. Jocelyn would read the stories back to them and the artist could decide if they wanted that included in their story or not.

Pedro Borges does not speak, so had his support worker, Jana Niven, interpret for him. His story as an artist begins in Portugal where he practiced for many years. When he came to Canada a few years ago, he discovered the Nina and found a community. It became a big part of his life.

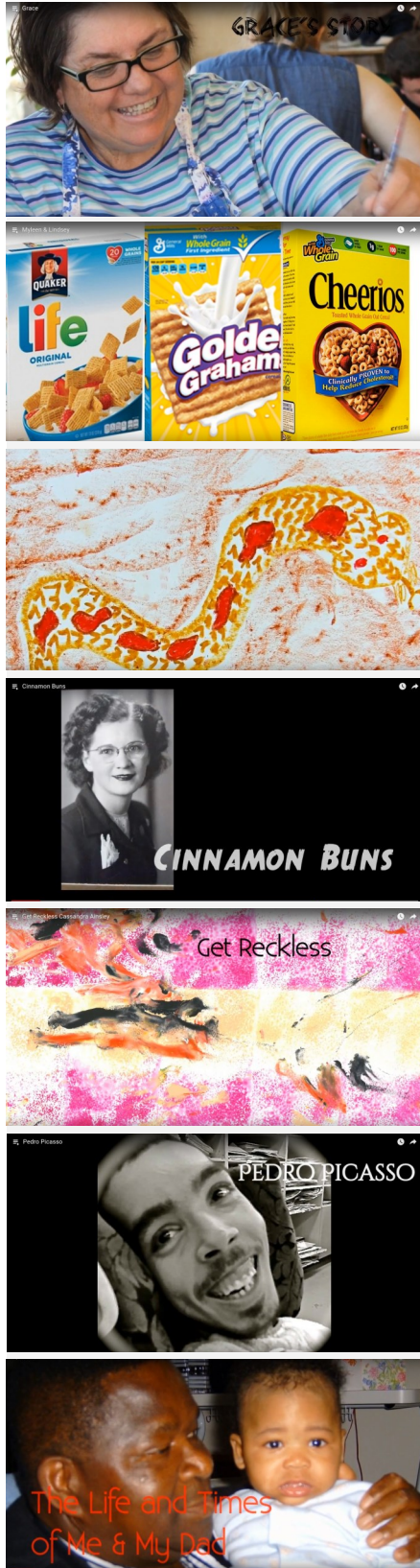
"We started with a much longer story," explains Jena. "Then, with help from Jocelyn, we were able to capture the most important story. With his digital story, he had something to share with family and friends. They all came out to see his film and celebrate his art.

Nineteen stories, most about three minutes long, were produced during the project and tell an amazing depths of experience, from snakes and cinnamon buns to a story of one grandmother's courageous trip from China after the second world war. Many of the stories are available on the Nina Haggerty YouTube channel and some have been featured in blog posts on the Nina website.

- 1 Nina's digital story tellers
- 2 Project coordinator, Jocelyn Brown







Grace Willard Lindsey Tiebe Carl Philip Cassie Chaba Cassandra Ainsley Pedro Borges Aba Garbrah



Yvette Prefontaine Cynthia Sentara Brenda LaPointe Crystal Sydor Marla Petecki John Polianec Linda Vincent



# financial report:

## a strong position moving forward

Even while celebrating successful projects, a record number of exhibitions and managing busier-than-ever studios, the Nina has struggled these past two years in the face of significant financial challenges.

This past year the Nina experienced ongoing cash flow issues, loss of an administrative position and our dance program and operating shortfalls. As a final resort, the Nina borrowed funds from the Social Enterprise Fund to help with operations and our annual facility loan payment.

As reported last year, Nina ended the period in a deficit position and faced the almost impossible task of generating up to half of annual operating costs through earned revenue, fundraising and donations. Despite posting record net profits at *Here's Nina*, holding our first raffle and receiving proceeds from a casino held during prior year, we are again ending the year with a modest deficit.

Recognizing that operations could not be sustained under the current funding model, Nina's board and executive director worked diligently to address a key funding issue.

Over the years, the level of support from Alberta Disability Services has remained static while operating costs have increased. Where disability funding once represented 45% of our operating revenue, this year and last that level dropped to between 26% and 29%.

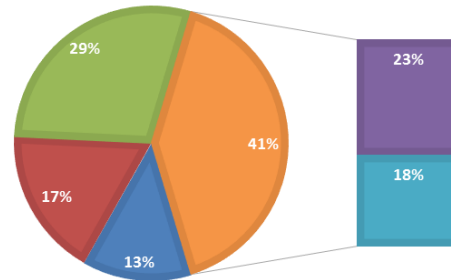
Working with provincial elected officials and senior program administrators, the Nina was able to articulate a compelling case for increased support, with the simple request that disability services meet Nina halfway and restore funding to its original level.

We were extremely relieved and grateful to receive word in late March 2017 that our message had been heard and a new 3-year contract had been approved at both the regional and provincial levels. Effective April 1, 2017, the Nina will once again receive annual funding in an amount equivalent to approximately 45% of our annual operating budget, ensuring our capacity to sustain operations.

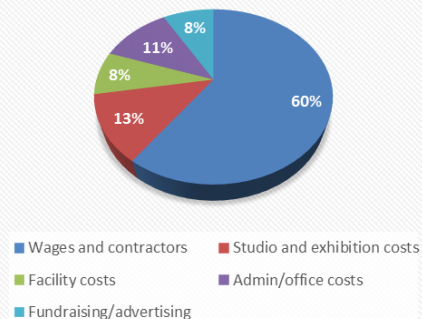
We have been able to restore the lost administrative position and our dance program and the wage scale has been adjusted to match increases in cost of living. By this time next year, we expect to have paid down our loan to the Social Enterprise Fund and anticipate a modest surplus through earned revenue that can be used to develop a "rainy day fund."

REVENUE BY SOURCE 2016-17

■ Casino ■ Arts Grants ■ Disability Funding ■ Fundraising/Donations ■ Earned Revenue



Expenses by category 2016-17



Artist Holly Sabourin created this piece in response to a post on Nina's Facebook page.



## our sustaining partners

Arts funding from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) and Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) accounted for 14% of Nina's operating revenue in 2016-17, with 26% provided by Alberta Human Services (Disability Services). We thank the EAC for providing a modest increase in operating grant support. We were also fortunate to receive the proceeds from our January 2016 casino during this fiscal period.

Government grants, along with grants from the Butler, Summit and Edmonton Community foundations, accounted for 45% of all operating funds by source. Earned revenue, inclusive of casino proceeds, provided 54% of operating revenue.

We are extremely grateful to the Social Enterprise Fund for timely loans that allowed us to sustain our programs while working to address longer term sustainability issues.

Lastly, but certainly not least, we thank our generous donors and corporate partners and sponsors for staying with us during tough economic times.



## AFA project grant creates internship

Even while having great success as an organization and seeing amazing individual accomplishments by Nina artists, the Nina struggled to build the capacity required to sustain this level of activity.

Late in the fiscal year, we received a significant boost with approval of a capacity building grant from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA). This grant has allowed the Nina to hire Janice Easton, already engaged as an incredible volunteer with the organization, for a ten-month internship.

Janice will be helping to develop internal capacity in key areas. She will be keeping our website up to date, managing and expanding our on-line store, developing and managing a new data base, building our social media presence and acting as a support to merchandise development and third party fundraising. Janice will be working closely with Leslianna Blackner-Au, community engagement director, and with the executive director and director of development.

Janice has already proven to be a tremendous asset, adding raffle sales to our on-line store and developing merchandise.



# meet patron saint Susan Moisan and our 2017 patrons

Nina welcomed a record number of patrons for the coming year. Sixty artists are proud to have patrons in 2017. This program has been very successful, growing from 13 patrons only four years ago.

Gahlib Ahmed  
Elaine Betchinski and Ellen Hughes  
Derek Roy Brenneis  
Trudy Callaghan  
Caroline and Steve Campbell  
Orville Chubb  
Delores Dilke  
Michelle and Hilton Dinner  
Michelle Eaton  
Jodi Eyolfson  
Iannick and Deanne Fallu  
Jodi Glenn  
Jackie Rae Greening  
Kate Gunn  
Sara Hart  
Bruce Kirkland  
Shelagh and Glenn Kubish  
Wendy Hollo and Janet Pavlic  
Sallie Johnson  
Janice Kosak  
Jonathan Kosak  
MacKenzie Kosak  
Jennie Lewin  
Lisanne Lewis  
Elizabeth Anne Macdonald  
Lindsay MacPhie (2 artists)  
Lynn Mandel  
Stephen Mandel  
Morgan Marley  
Massage Therapy Supply



*Last year's patron saint, Suromitra Sanatani, passed her halo along to this year's deserving 'saint', Susan Moisan. Susan is the mother of an artist in Nina's Collective.*

Kelly McClung  
Andrea Mondor  
Nicole Monaw and Patricia Pasemko  
James Morrissey  
Kimberly Nishikaze  
Dr. Ivano Ongaro  
Walter Pavlic  
Barbara Perkins  
Michelle Perret  
Mary Persson  
Fred Pheasey  
Preferred Client Services  
Kate Rich and Bruce Laverty  
Megan Rich  
Jackie Schafers

Rhonda Shewchuk  
Anne Shillington  
Keith Shillington  
Janis Simpkins and Jason Grant  
Robert Simpson  
Adam Skoreyko  
Megan Anise Starchuk  
Barbara Steckly  
Justine Ting Lee  
Janna Tominuk  
Derek Wicks  
Randall Weins  
Debra Wooding  
Noel Xavier





## patrons luncheon a highlight for Nina artists

The annual Patrons' luncheon gives Nina artist a chance to meet their patrons and give them a gift of their artwork. With 60 patrons, this year's event, held at the Alberta Avenue Community Hall across the street from the Nina, was a lively affair! While not everyone was able to attend, more than half of the artists enjoyed a moment in the spotlight. The artists did not go home empty handed - each received a Tim Horton's gift card.





# festival season begins with Deep Freeze



Deep Freeze Festival, January 2016



SkirtsAFire herArts Festival, March 2017



It begins the second weekend in January with the Deep Freeze Byzantine Winter Festival. The street in front of the Nina is closed to traffic and thousands of people head to Alberta Avenue for some good old fashioned winter fun. There's everything from traditional French Canadian and Ukranian food, ice carvings and sleigh rides to very non-traditional freezer races.

In March, the Nina welcomes SkirtsAFire HerArts festival, hosting the media launch, Words Unzipped and other performances during this celebration of women in the arts. This festival, opened in 2016 by honorary skirt, Rachel Notley, is now in its fourth year and is growing quickly.

Kaleido Family Arts Festival signals the end to summer and back to school, but not the end of outdoor fun! This festival, like Deep Freeze, is produced by our good friends at Arts on the Ave, a grass roots community initiative that set out more than a decade ago to transform this once beleaguered neighbourhood into Edmonton's newest arts district. Judging by the tremendous response, their hard work has definitely paid off.

Since moving to 118 Avenue (Alberta Avenue) in 2009, the Nina has been proud to be part of the action, hosting activities, performances and media events. We also support new and emerging festivals such as Yule Ave, held each December.

Lantern making, Kaleido Festival, September 2016



# the Nina is a busy hub in the 'hood

If it's happening on 118 Avenue (Alberta Avenue), chances are it's happening at the Nina. Located in the heart of the arts revitalization area, the Nina is proud to provide space to community groups, local festivals and individual artists for everything from Tai Chi to plays, book launches, poetry slams, workshops and meetings.

The Nina is fortunate to have its 7,500 square foot facility and "pays it forward" each year, often providing its space at very low or no cost to like-minded groups.

The Nina is especially proud to play a part in supporting new festivals like Skirts a Fire and Yule Ave a Merry Christmas, and to support plays and exhibits that play host to local school groups and neighbourhood families.

With its bank of windows facing the street, the Nina is a visible and vibrant space, doing its part to contribute to a strong community. Nina is aided in this pursuit by supporters like TELUS, the Jubilee Auditoria Society and Urban Spirits Rotary that allow the Nina to offer free art programs for adults, children and families.

Festivals, play readings and performance, tai chi, Rotary meetings, birthday parties, book launches, choir practices, rehearsals, Rotary meetings, Tai Chi, birthday parties, video shoots, social gatherings, workshops, art nights and community events...

...oh yes, and lots of art openings, exhibitions and live music...

...the Nina is a well-utilized resource in our community.

1 Private art party for 2016 raffle winner

2 Tai chi in the Stollery Gallery



# Here's Nina - a red carpet awards evening

Nina's annual fundraising event, *Here's Nina*, hit its stride this year with a red carpet evening of awards and great performances by local artists. In addition to an outstanding closing performance by Tommy Banks and PJ Perry, guests were entertained by Colleen Rae, Brian Finlay, Holle and Raphael Fréynet.

Returning to host the evening was the incomparable Sheri Somerville and CTV's Josh Classen, backed up by our stellar house band led by Josh Mellot.

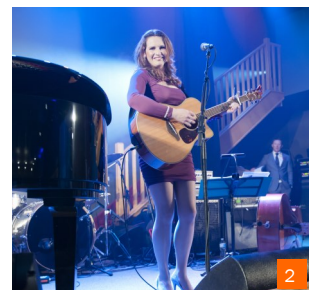
The highlights of the evening, however, are the awards given to deserving artists from the Nina Collective, along with the Odvod Media Award for Sustained Support (see pages 10 - 13). We thank Lindisfarne Productions for producing short video segments to highlight each artist as they received their awards, as well as a message from our honorary chair, Dave Mowat of ATB Financial.

## Thank you to our 'rock solid' title sponsor Gordon Oxley & World Stone Inc. family

Gordon Oxley first visited the Nina soon after the move to our new home on 118 Ave. Attending the ribbon-cutting event, in true Gordon style, he took charge of our sign campaign, selling enough 'letters' to put our (very long) name on the building. It took him about five minutes!

In similar style, Gordon and his family took on the challenge of helping to build an annual fundraiser for the Nina, putting their 'rock solid' World Stone Inc. name on the event. Initially called *Cake Walk*, World Stone Inc. stayed with us through thick and thin, including one huge blizzard, allowing us to tweak and reimagine the event as we sought to find just the right mix of fun while bringing it more closely in line with who we are and the work we do.

Thanks to Gordon's patience and generosity, we now have a rebranded event, *Here's Nina*, that keeps the fun and entertainment value of *Cake Walk*, but also connects the audience to the Nina and its artists. After nine great years, his work is finally done - the 2016 event was World Stone's last year as title sponsor. We remain forever grateful to Gordon, Lorraine and Scott Oxley and to second son and business partner, Craig Kerber.



1 to 6 Tommy Banks, Colleen Rae, Brian Finlay, Raphael Fréynet, Sheri Somerville and Josh Classen

7 PJ Perry and Tommy Banks, a backstage view

8 Gordon Oxley with host Sheri Somerville





## 2016 event and media sponsors



## ATB Financial presents Here's Nina 2017

Join us on November 2, 2017, for an incredible evening of awards and musical performances as ATB Financial and honorary chair Tommy Banks present *Here's Nina*. Yes, Tommy and PJ Perry will be performing! Other performances include award winning singer/songwriter Nuella Charles, Hailey Benedict and Jom Comyn. The dynamic team of Sheri Somerville and Josh Classen are back to host this not-to-be-missed evening. All of the proceeds from this event support our busy studio program.

early bird tickets  
on sale now at  
eventbrite



**A SPECTACULAR RED CARPET AWARDS GALA  
IN SUPPORT OF THE NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE  
FOR THE ARTS**

Incredible live entertainment sponsored by **大成 DENTONS**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

**EARLY BIRD TICKETS  
AVAILABLE UNTIL AUG. 31**

**Buy a table for 10 for \$1,000**  
HeresNina2017.eventbrite.ca

**\$100  
EACH**

## third party fundraising ... raise funds (and awareness) for Nina at your next event



Already have more art than walls? No time to volunteer? There are lots of other ways to support the Nina. In June 2016, our friends at Pique Dance Centre donated a portion of the proceeds from a performance at the Meyer Horowitz Theatre and this year Poppy Barley, Sweet Jolie and Nest in the City are donating a portion of proceeds from pop up sales to the Nina.

Maybe you have a birthday or anniversary coming up and want to do something a bit different to celebrate, or you are planning to finally declutter with a big yard sale. Or maybe your club or group would like to throw an unforgettable summer BBQ. Or maybe you want to connect your business to a social cause.

Whatever your motivation, consider using your next event, occasion or sale to change lives at the Nina. There are no limits to the possibilities. If you can imagine it, we can help promote and support it by providing digital images for social media, material to give to your guests or customers and signage for your event.

If you have an idea or connection to explore, contact Leslieanna or Rona (engage@thenina or rona@thenina).



- 1 Apricity's Shara Vigeant at Poppy Barley event
- 2 Pique Dancers staged amazing dance performances
- 3 Sweet Jolie will be donation a portion of July 2017 sales to the Nina
- 4 Laura Tailleir set up a booth at Nest in the City to sell art and raise funds for the Nina. She and Nest creative director, Jennifer Jones, visited the Nina to drop off the proceeds from donations at the door.
- 5





# a little help from our friends... in kind donations make a big difference at the Nina

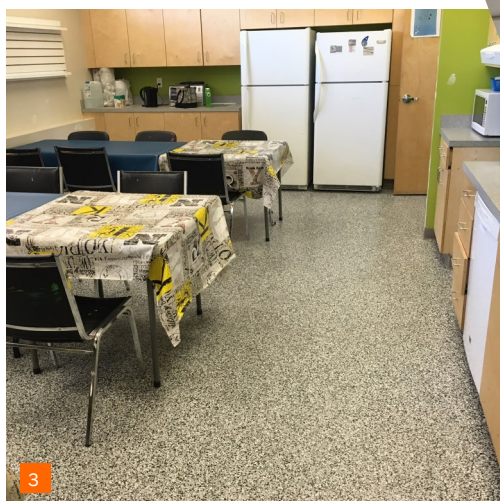
When Sarah Chan heard that we wanted a TV for our foyer to help promote Nina artists and events, she went straight to her basement

Our studios benefited this year from donations of yarn and fabric for embroidery, manikins from Eddie Bauer and a lifetime supply of pencil crayons. We even had a donation of manikins. Wait and see what we are going to do with those!

The Nina can always use good art books, non-toxic (acrylic) paint, matting material, fabric, brushes and that box of interesting things that has been sitting in your basement for years. Artists are well-known for their ability to create beauty from discarded items (found art) and for making a little go a long way. You can help stretch our art supply budget even further by donating materials or equipment.

Other notable donations received this year included an anonymous gift designated to refinish the floor in our well-used kitchen. Gifts of time were also welcomed. Staff from Stantec taking a marketing course created an adult colouring book that they marketed on-line as a class assignment. A crew from Lindisfarne Productions created videos for each of our 2016 award winners that were shown at Here's Nina.

- 1 Sarah Chan
- 2 Colouring book created by Stantec staff
- 3 Durable new kitchen floor
- 4 Lindisfarne crew filming in the studios



# Nina proud to be selected as Apricity charity for 2017

It was a hard secret to keep! Finally, it was official. Apricity named Nina as its 2017 charity partner at a special event held at Poppy Barley.

Apricity is a dynamic group of change-makers that formed three years ago, and already they have made a big impact. Last year they raised \$26,000 for a Boyle Street program for at-risk women.

Willing to share their drive, passion, connections and considerable talent, Apricity has been working closely with their chosen charity to identify the greatest need. And then they get to work!

Already this year they put together a successful proposal to their friends at the Kinsmen Club of Edmonton that will enable us to purchase lights for our gallery and movable walls for exhibition. They have also raised our social media presence and connected us to the Nest in the City lifestyle craft fair.

Not just satisfied to work their magic from afar, they are keen to be hands on and take turns coming in to tackle projects on site. We remain in awe at our good fortune to be working with these amazing women.

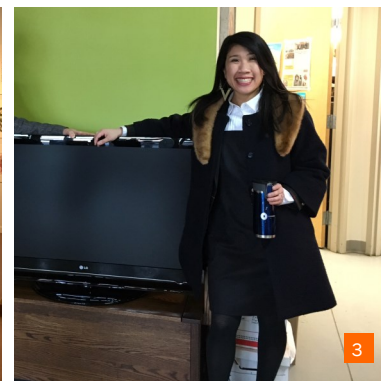
They have also brought in their good friends from Berlin Communications and together we are working to develop messaging to raise awareness and promote our 'brand.'



Left to right, Kari Skelton, Catherine Bengal, Shara Vigeant, Pamela DiPinto, Amy Provins, Sarah Chan, Laura Tailleir



Left to right, Jackie Witson, Amy Tsang, Laura Tailleir (front), Rona Fraser (back), Rowena Cui (front), Wendy Hollo (back), Shara Vigeant and Amor Carandang



Keri Skelton shares social media tips; Laura Tailleir and Rowena Cui wrap patron gifts; Sarah Chan drops off a TV

Apricity is a collective of Edmonton-based change makers passionate about amplifying local causes - refreshing the spirit of philanthropy



## consider a legacy gift and name our studios

The Nina is proud to have the Stollery name on its permanent home. Bob Stollery was an early visitor to the original Nina studios and he saw two things. First and foremost, he 'got' what we were trying to do and he loved it. Second, he could see that the dream was not funded and would not last without quick and credible support. The Stollery Foundation provided a 3-year start up grant, matched by the Edmonton Community Foundation and in doing so, created the cornerstone for the thriving and sustainable program we offer today.

Now, a few years into our second decade, we would love to add one more name to our building. The Nina is looking for a community partner interested in making a significant contribution. In exchange, we offer a legacy project:

**Your name would join the Stollery name,  
in perpetuity on our building.**

From inception, the Nina has boldly embraced every opportunity and, as a result, has experienced tremendous growth. An ever-expanding number of artists work in the studios, exploring a growing range of art options.

The sponsorship value for naming the five busy studios at the Nina is \$250,000 that can be paid in annual installments over the next five to ten years. Funds would be used to pay down the remaining loan on the facility, ensuring a sustainable future. Thanks to the province, generous donors and City of Edmonton we have managed to raise more than 1.5 million dollars and have reduced our facility debt by almost 80%. With your help we could own our home free and clear!

Anyone interested in more information or who has ideas on this topic are encouraged to contact Wendy Hollo or Rona Fraser.

Help sustain  
Nina's future by  
considering a  
legacy gift.



# 2016 raffle winners...and a chance to win an unforgettable week in Rome in 2018!



Congratulations to Amanda Ames, lucky winner of a luxurious stay at a five-star *Halekulani Oceanfront Property* in Honolulu! She and her plus one left behind the snow and cold to spend six nights and seven glorious days in paradise. The grand prize included air from Edmonton or Calgary.

The second prize winner, Shirley-Ann Hardie, shared her private art party for 15 with her daughter, using it to kick off a night out with the girls before her wedding. (See page 35 to see a photo of the group with their artwork)

3rd and 4th prizes, a \$5000 gift certificate for original art and a romantic pottery evening for two, were won by Jamie Klassen and Thomas Poulin.

Congratulations to our raffle winners and a huge thanks to our wonderful friends from Texas, Synergy Inmate Phone Solutions, for donating the main prize. And, of course, thank you to everyone who supported the Nina by buying a ticket.



Set your sights on Rome in summer or fall 2018! Charles Slaughter and the great folks at Synergy Inmate Phone Solutions have once again donated a fabulous prize...7 nights at the acclaimed Britannia Boutique Hotel in the heart of Rome and air fare for two from Edmonton or Calgary.

The lucky winner and their plus one will stay in luxury and enjoy a daily organic breakfast buffet before setting off to nearby sites like the Teatro dell'Opera House, National Roman Museum, Trevi Fountain or the Colosseum, all within walking distance of your hotel.

An early bird prize, a private dinner for 10 with wine pairing in a unique dining space Sabor Davino, will be drawn on November 2, 2017, at the *Here's Nina* awards gala (see page 37). You and your guests will wine and dine at a harvest table in a reclaimed freight elevator shaft enclosed on three sides by original brick.

The draw will be held on May 30, 2018 at the Nina. Tickets are \$25 and are on sale now at the Nina and on the online store on our website. They are also on sale at receptions and events in the Stollery Gallery. Only 1,000 tickets have been printed.

*Britannia Boutique Hotel*







Follow us on  
facebook, twitter  
or instagram to  
help promote  
these  
emerging artists



The Nina is proud to be part of the Alberta Avenue arts revitalization movement and is delighted to be a venue for a number of local festivals. It's a great way for the neighbourhood to put its best foot forward and to let all Edmontonians know that 118th avenue is a cool place to visit, explore and live.

In our seven years on the Ave we have seen festivals like Kaleido and Deep Freeze explode, attracting thousands of people, rain, shine or snow, to our community. We have also helped new festivals emerge by providing our space to SkirtsAfire and Yule Ave a Merry Christmas.

There is always a lot happening on the Ave - music at the local Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse, old fashioned pop-up drive in theatres, craft fairs and more. There are also a number of great local and ethnic eateries.

Whatever brings you to the Ave, be sure to visit the Nina. Check out our Stollery Gallery or if you are visiting during the week between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., be sure to drop in to see our busy studios in action. Visitors are always welcome.

1 Edith Bushie in the clay studio

2 Mark Traficante



meet a new  
artist by  
checking out their  
on-line profile...  
and while your are there,  
buy your raffle ticket!



...more pics from 2016 Here's Nina gala evening



Nina hit its stride with its 2016 fundraising event, *Here's Nina*.

Stellar entertainment and heartfelt awards prove to be a winning combination.

We extend a special thank you to Gordon Oxley and the World Stone Inc. family their unfailing support in growing this event, and to our 2016 Honourary Chair, ATB Financial President and CEO, Dave Mowat.





# building on a solid base

## *a shared understanding of vision and purpose*



Nina's board and staff spent a very productive evening with long-time friend and supporter, Catrin Owen in April 2017, revisiting our vision and charting our course for the next three years. With sustainable funding secured and several newer board and staff members, it was an ideal time to have this focused discussion.

One thing was immediately clear: there is a strong shared sense of purpose and clear understanding of mandate within the organization, whether board member, staff, long-term or newcomer. Remarkably consistent points of view emerged from the conversation and support for a common future direction.

In reviewing Nina's vision and mandate, we confirmed our commitment to focus on "people with developmental disabilities who face barriers in life and in artistic expression." While we offer expanded outreach programs to other populations and support artists who fall outside of that defining population in our studios, at our core, the Nina is: "A Collective of artists with developmental disabilities who want to focus on their artistic practice."

In setting goals for 2017-2020, we looked to our three key pillars: create, connect and change lives. After some lively discussions, five goals emerged, with a clear focus on providing increased mentorship/support to artists in the studio to help them achieve their highest potential.

To ensure that the board of directors is positioned to best support these goals, a sub-committee structure was proposed. Beyond the standard finance and board recruitment/development functions, two new committees will look at artistic development and community connection. These committees support the work of the Artistic Director and Director of Development.



Between 2017 and 2020 the Nina will:

- 1) Have the capacity to develop artists identified as having the potential to achieve a higher level of artistic practice.
- 2) Increase our capacity to connect more resources to artists so they can fully explore their potential.
- 3) Increase our connection to community through telling our stories.
- 4) Have the capacity (by 2020) to support 10% of artists in the Collective to work off site in multi-use studio alongside community artists.
- 5) Ensure that, by 2020, 20% of artists in the Collective will have developed a portfolio that supports them in pursuing their artistic goals.

## Nina by the numbers April 2016 to March 2017

170 artists work in the Nina studios every week

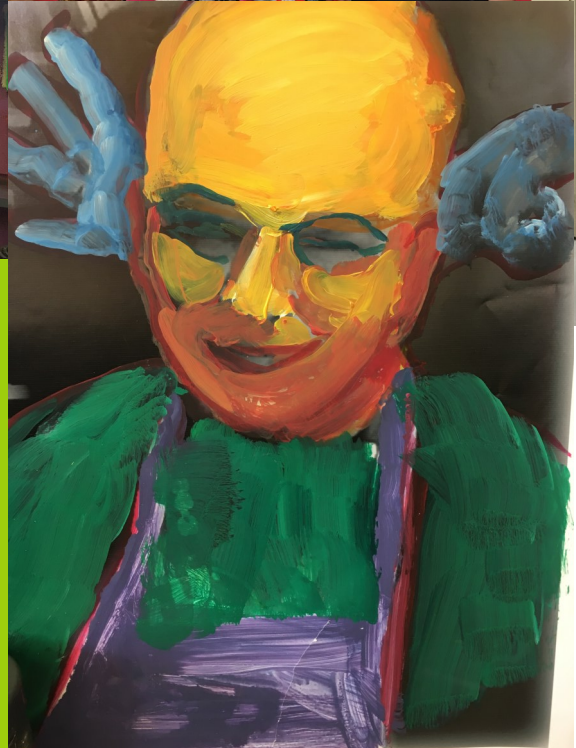
19 exhibits and events in the Stollery Gallery in 2016-17

14 exhibits of work by Nina artists in public spaces

75 volunteers contributed  
1,918 hours of their time

18 community groups regularly  
accessed space at the Nina

50% of proceeds from all art  
sales go to the artist - the other  
half is used to buy art supplies



visit Nina's  
on-line store to  
find cool art ...  
and change lives





Back cover (from top) Jill Taniguchi,  
Lina Bruni, Scott Berry and Holly Sabourin



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