

2020 Annual Report



Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts



On the cover: Artist Carl Philips working in Jeff Collins studio—a project supported by Edmonton Arts Council



Welcome to our 17th annual report!
Thank you for your interest in the Nina.
I hope that you enjoy this overview of
some of the highlights of the past year.

Wendy Hollo, Executive Director

In this issue:

Who's who at Nina.....	5
Message from board, board slate.....	6,7
E.D., Artistic Director messages.....	8-11
Financial report, sustaining funders..	12
Stollery supports Org Review.....	13
New roles for Nina staff.....	14,15
Brenda Kim Christiansen.....	16
In the studios.....	17-21
Jeff Collin's studio.....	22,23
Nina's dance troupe.....	24,25
RBC Emerging Artists Project.....	26,27
Family & community art nights.....	28,29
Crystal Kids.....	30,31
Saturday art classes.....	32,33
Volunteers.....	34,35
Exhibits in the Stollery gallery.....	36-40
External exhibitions.....	41-43
Art at Stantec and Expo Centre.....	44-47
2019 Award Winners.....	48-51
Here's Nina.....	52,53
Patron program.....	54,55
3rd party fundraising.....	56,57
COVID-19, social media.....	58-63
Jane Siberry & Nina on the Ave.....	64,65
Raffle.....	66



Artwork by Margaret Brown

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.*



Montana Philip

Board, staff and volunteers

Board officers and directors during the year

Shelagh Kubish, Past Chair
Janice Kosak, Past Chair
Jodi Eyolfson, Chair
Sara Hart, Vice Chair
David MacGillivray, Treasurer
Bruce Kirkland, Director
Roy Skoreyko, Director
Adam Skoreyko, Director
Samantha Williams-Chapelsky, director

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, Volunteer Manager
David Janzen, Exhibition Coordinator
Cynthia Sentara, Office Manager
Janice Easton, Communication & Marketing Coordinator

Professional artistic staff

Mitch Chalifoux
Diana Cline
Holly deMoissac
Madison Dewar
Amanda Howell
Susan Seright
Dennis Yowney

Relief/contract staff in the Nina studios:
Darren Andrychuk
Chelsea Boos

Contract artistic staff:
Lorraine Shulba, family & community art nights & crystal kids
Amber Borotsik, dance instructor

Joining the artistic team in 2019-20:
Diana Cline

Leaving the team in 2019-20:
Paul Freeman
Chelsea Boos

Volunteers

Dale Abbott-Smith
Basel Abu Hamrah
Hassan Abubakar
Mary Alabi
Tobi Alabi
Darren Andrychuk
Laila Ashlund
Madeline Au
Sarah Au
Calvin Becker-Burns
Melisse Benitez
Chelsea Boos
Sara Buczynski
Diana Cline
Keino Cooper
Emily Coutu
Daniel Cristini
Jesse Dahl
Yvonne DuBourdieu
Sarah de Medeiros
Jodi Eyolfson
Haylee Fortin
Brett Fraser
Brenda Hamel
Clayton Hamel
Kaylyn Hardstaff
Madison Hayward
Aileen Holdis
Irene Howell
Herb Howell
Michelle Hunt
Liisa Jorgensen
Jenni Kien
Ellie Korchagina
Janice Kosak
Shelagh Kubish
Glenn Kubish
Louise SePore
Kiona Ligtvoet
Mizuki Lopez
David MacGillivray
Janette Maley
Safa Masajedian

Oksana Maszczak
Gary McCook
Adele McCook
Renaldo McClain
Maureen McKenna
Raymond Mgaya
Alexis Milinusic
Ayisha Mitha
Serge Mulima
Prudence Nabude
Maria Nakalala
Roseanna Joy Nay
Anica Neiman
Truong Ngnyen
Olabisi Omotosho
Clement Omotosho
Guiliano Palladino
Mats Philipzig
Carl Philip
Ron Pierce
Ruth Pohl
John Richardson
Art Rossier
Jenn Rutledge
Taylor Ryan
John Felix Egbert Saleem
Madeleine Semashkewich
Tatyana Babee Semenova
Christina Sicoli
Adam Skoreyko
Stantec
Kerri Strobl
Borys Tarasenko
Paulina Volovodovsky
Shakoda Weech
Sydney Wood
Darka Zawalak
Axcella Zed
Anna Zelenski



2019-20

Thanks also go to staff who volunteered their time in support of our casino, patrons' luncheon, Here's Nina, Nina after Hours, exhibition openings, and other events held throughout the year.

Message from the Board Chair Jodi Eyolfson



Jodi Eyolfson

What a year it has been! The Nina started 2020 with an organizational review that created some amazing staffing opportunities. Congratulations to Janice Easton on being promoted to Director of Communications and Artistic Development and Madison (Maddi) Dewar to the position of Studio Manager. Rona Fraser will also be moving into a new leadership role, taking on the position of CEO as Wendy Hollo, Nina's founder, retires in July 2020.

There would be no Nina Haggerty Centre without Wendy. Inspired by a similar centre in the United States, Wendy conceived of the idea of the Nina and made it happen. What began in 2003 as a collective of one artist, in a rented space on 111 Avenue, has grown to include over 200 members who gather and create art in a beautiful space on Alberta Avenue. We owe so much to Wendy's vision, determination and energy. We will continue to be guided by her love of the Nina and will keep the centre strong.

This year we also said goodbye to our co-founder and long-time Artistic Director, Paul Freeman. His creativity and ability to always dream big challenged the staff and artists in the Collective to continually grow and tackle ambitious projects. While sad to see him go, we are excited to see him pursuing his dream of being a full-time artist. Paul and Wendy led the organization from the beginning, so it is incredibly bittersweet to see them go. We wish them both well as they enter new phases of their lives and thank them both for their vision and all they have done for the Nina.

2019 also saw a change in location of our satellite campus, moving from the Orange Hub to Jeff Collin's beautiful little studio located only a block away from our main studios.



Through an agreement with Jeff, Nina artists will benefit from dedicated space and mentorship from local artists as well as Nina's professional staff. The artists are loving the new space, especially its convenient location.

In March 2020, not long after celebrating Nina's 17th birthday, all of us faced unprecedented challenges and forced tough decisions that impacted everyone connected to the Nina. Under the incredible leadership of Wendy and Rona, our resilient staff team worked together to make the best of the pandemic crisis and find creative ways to stay in touch with our artists and audiences.

While Nina had to temporarily close its door to artists, staff packaged up and delivered art kits, created virtual art challenges, hosted virtual hang-outs and even launched a virtual gallery. Staff also made and received regular phone calls from artists isolated in their homes or group homes. We even managed to host a planned salon with Canadian singer and songwriter, Jane Siberry, all-be-it via Zoom from her living room in Toronto.

There was also time to do a major overhaul of the physical space, sorting, cleaning and painting. After more than a decade in the space, it benefitted from the attention, and as I write this message plans for a gradual re-opening are under way. As a board, we are so thankful for the Nina staff, able to keep things moving during these exceptional times.

The Board is always aware of the responsibility to watch the bottom line to ensure the Nina stays financially strong, even during a pandemic. Our directors bring diverse skills and a shared vision to help the Nina deliver its life-changing programs. We are grateful to our patrons, donors, sponsors and all those who take the time to share our story, follow us on social media and participate in events throughout the year. Right now we must thank you from a distance, but we hope soon to see you in person!



Amynah Pirani, Friendship 2019

2020 - 21 Board slate of Officers & Directors

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

Shelaugh Kubish: Past Chair
Jodi Eyolfson: Chair
Sara Hart: Vice Chair
David MacGillivray: Treasurer
Adam Skoreyko: Secretary

DIRECTORS RETURNING TO THE BOARD ARE:

Bruce Kirkland
Adam Skoreyko

DIRECTORS TO BE RATIFIED TO A FIRST OR SECOND TERM ARE:

Samantha Williams-Chapelsky

LEAVING THE BOARD:

Janice Kosak
Roy Skoreyko

Fond farewell to a long-serving past chair and to a two-term director, and warm welcome to new director

We are fortunate to present a strong slate of returning and new directors and officers to the board, but sadly must say goodbye, at least for now, to past board chair, Janice Kosak, and board director, Roy Skoreyko. Says board chair Jodi Eyolfson, "We will miss their smart questions and creative input around the table."

Janice Kosak served two terms as a director and officer of the board, and an additional year as past chair. She has been a long-term patron, engaging her whole family in the program, and played a key role each year in her support of Nina's annual fundraising gala. We are extremely grateful for her leadership and generous support.

Roy Skoreyko added a unique personal perspective to the board during his two terms. Roy has participated as a member of Nina's artists' Collective, creating art and even trying his hand at glass blowing.

We know that Janice and Roy will continue to be great friends of the Nina and we hope to see them at future events. In the meantime, we extend our sincere thanks and wish them all the best.

While we say goodbye to Janice and Roy, we also welcome a new director to the board, Samantha Williams-Chapelsky. Samantha is a local artist and international art educator and entrepreneur. The Nina is fortunate to welcome her to the board and will benefit from her perspective as a professional artist, and the thoughtful feedback and ideas she brings to the table.



*Samantha Williams-Chapelsky
joined the board during the
2019-20 program year*



*Janice Kosak (left) at patrons'
luncheon 2017*



Janice at Cake Walk (2013)



Roy Skoreyko

Message from Executive Director Wendy Hollo



In May 2002, I was introduced to a centre in Mexico City where adults with Down Syndrome were creating exciting artwork. Research led me to art centres in the San Francisco Bay area and Dr. Elias Katz, the man who literally wrote the book on art and disability, and then to Paul Freeman, a visionary Edmonton artist already working to create art opportunities for adults with disabilities in our city.

The stars were perfectly aligned, and with people like Bob Stollery, Stephen and Lynn Mandel, and Martin Garber-Conrad as early supporters, and SKILLS Society as parent organization, it simply could not fail.

While many projects struggle to take root, the Nina moved forward at lightning speed. By June 2003, only six months after first opening its doors, 100 adults with developmental disabilities were finding new ways to see the world and themselves through the power of art. In 2006, the Nina became an independent charitable arts organization and, only three years later, moved into its beautiful permanent home on Alberta Avenue.

Now, at 17, the Nina is strong and well-positioned for the future, with an incredible team of professional artists and visionaries ready to lead the Nina into its next phase of growth, making it the perfect time for me to step down. It's been an incredible ride and I am extremely proud to have played a role in creating this truly remarkable and life-changing community hub.

I remain in awe of the generous support that has allowed the Nina to grow and thrive, and the amazing people who have become our friends and staunchest allies along the way.

I will risk naming a few of these...Sheri Somerville, Trudy Callaghan and her team at Odvod Media, Lynn and Stephen Mandel, Bruce Kirkland. People I deeply admire and am proud to now call friends.

My greatest source of pride remains the stories of those whose lives have been enriched, even transformed, by having the chance to explore their creativity through art and to be recognized for their talent. This was our vision, but to see it actually happen every day in the Nina studios has been truly inspiring, and it never gets old.

I am grateful to Nina's board and to the Stollery Charitable Foundation for their proactive support of Nina's succession plan and organizational review—steps needed to ensure stability and future success. I must also express my deepest appreciation and respect for the people I have had the opportunity to work with along with the way.

I could not have asked for better co-conspirators than Paul Freeman and Rona Fraser, there from the beginning, and the roster of dedicated board members who have provided guidance and support. I have loved working with Nina's growing team of professional artists. "Lifers" like David Janzen, Sue Seright, Cynthia Sentara and Brenda Kim Christiansen, have indelibly left their mark on the Nina and my life, and have helped to build the studio and exhibition programs from the ground up.

I am excited to see what's next for the Nina and confident that the future will be bold. Personal thanks go to Rona Fraser and board chair Jodi Eyolfson for their leadership and support.



(left) 2015 with Bruce Kirkland - proud to be named a "Woman of Vision!" (right) 2009 opening for Nina's permanent home

A walk down memory lane...



Rideau Hall 2004



Nina's 6th birthday
2009



Nina's grand opening on
118 Avenue 2009 (inset);
groundbreaking in 2008,
held indoors at the Carrot
Community Arts Coffee
House.

Book launch 2011



PDD Citizenship Award 2012



Brett Kissel, Cakes and Cash 2012



Jeff Bryson, Stollery Foundation 2013



Jane Siberry salon 2013



Nina's 13th birthday 2016



Road trip with Leona Clawson 2016

Thank you Paul Freeman

It seemed like a tall order. Where would we find an artist who could quickly grasp the vision for the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts? Then we met Paul Freeman. Paul did not need anyone to explain what we hoped to create. He was already working to make it happen, teaching art classes within the disability sector wherever he could. Without hesitation, he left all other projects to focus on creating a permanent, full-time studio program where artists with disabilities could focus in a serious way on art making. He jumped in with both feet and all of his heart. Says founding Executive Director, Wendy Hollo, "No one could have worked harder, been more passionate, or dreamed bigger than Paul. It's been an honour to have shared this journey with him."

In October 2019, Paul made a much more difficult decision. After almost 17 years spent building and promoting the Nina and its Collective of artists, he left his position as Artistic Director to pursue his own artistic career and spend more time with his family. Says Paul, "I have learned a lot during my time at the Nina. I have seen what people can do when you believe in their potential. I have learned how having a strong philosophy and mission creates a team that can pull together when times are tough, and thrive when things are great. I have seen a city discover the creative potential of the artists who make up the Nina Collective and embrace their art and ambition."

Paul has changed the lives of so many people through his work with the Nina and he will continue to be an ambassador and booster for the Nina. "I always seek ways to include the voices developing at the Nina in the larger conversation of what it means to be a person supported by the arts."



(above) Paul's farewell with artists and staff, October 2019



A walk down memory lane...



2004 with Leona Clawson and Felix DuBourdieu-Grieg; with His Excellency John Ralston Saul at Rideau Hall in Ottawa



2012 CTV Keeping the Love Alive



2015 with Scott Berry



Book launch—You Looking at Me—2014 with Yvonne DuBourdieu and Wendy Hollo



2014 with Judy Billard

An Exhibition of works from the Staff and collective at the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts



2016 Scotland—International Summit, Art and Disability in Glasgow



Here's Nina 2019

Nina's first project, Human Rights & Citizenship Through the Eyes of Artists, caught the attention of philosopher John Ralston Saul. As a result, Paul and two Nina artists, Leona Clawson and Felix DuBourdieu-Grieg, travelled to Ottawa for a visit to Rideau Hall. Always a brilliant spokesperson and ambitious visionary, Paul spearheaded many projects and inspired both artists and supporters. Paul has created a lasting legacy and left the Nina having built a strong foundation.

Financial report April 2019 to March 2020

The Nina enjoyed a stable financial year both in terms of adherence to the budget and outcome. Both this year and last, the Nina posted a modest surplus at year end.

While total revenues were slightly lower this year than last, they came within \$300 of budget projections, and, through diligent stewardship of funds, expenses were under budget in all areas. While under budget, the Nina increased its investment in art programs, with a 10% spending increase in this area over the prior year.

Administration and facility expenses, on the other hand, were lower this year than last, as well as under budget, reflecting the organization's priority on development of our artists and arts programming.

While the Nina ended its fiscal year in March 2020 with a relatively strong financial position, it also saw the studios closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, placing an unprecedented strain on our lives and the economy.

As the new fiscal year gets underway, we are doing our best to remain connected with our artists during their lockdown and keep as many staff as possible employed. We have found creative ways to connect online with art challenges and virtual "hang outs" with our artists, and are delivering art kits to benefit those in isolation.

At the time of this report, we are cautiously optimistic that we will soon be able to begin inviting a limited number of artists back to the studios. We are grateful to our key funding partners for their continued support while normal programming was interrupted.

We recognize that this will affect our sponsors, donors, and benefactors and that impact of the pandemic will be with us for some time. Be assured, however, that Nina's board and management will continue to be fiscally vigilant, using our resources for the benefit and well-being of our Collective of artists.



Boyd Dymchuk

Thank you to our sustaining partners

Contract funding from the Alberta government (Disability Services) continued to play a vital role in ensuring financial stability and sustainability in 2019-20, representing 43% of operating revenue. This contract funding, combined with arts operating grants from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and City of Edmonton (Edmonton Arts Council), and proceeds from casinos and raffles through the Alberta Lottery Fund, create a stable base and are essential to Nina's ongoing financial health.

Even with this base support, the Nina, like all arts organizations, relies heavily on fundraising, donations and program sponsorship in order to sustain operations. During the fiscal period ending March 31, 2020, these sources, together with earned revenue from art sales and memberships, representing 23% of operating revenue.



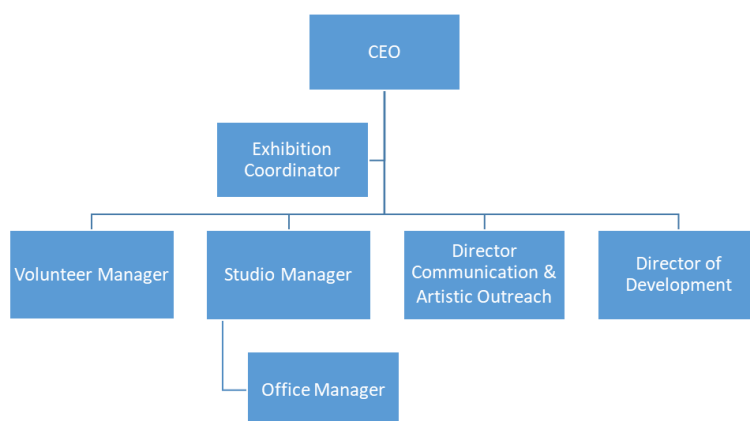
Stollery Charitable Foundation supports succession planning and organizational review

The Nina has grown continuously over the years, making organic adjustments to its organizational structure along the way, often based on who was in the position and their specific skills and interests. While working pro-actively to develop succession plans, the resignation of the artistic director created the opportunity to consider the larger picture. Nina's board and management felt the timing was right to conduct an organizational review as part of the succession planning process.

This is an ambitious undertaking for a small arts organization like the Nina, and required external expertise. The Nina is extremely grateful to the Stollery Charitable Foundation for supporting this work. A generous grant from the foundation allowed the Nina to hire Sandbar Consulting to conduct the organizational review and will provide opportunities for staff overlap and professional development as staff move into new leadership roles. The Stollery Charitable Foundation played a major role in establishing the Nina Haggerty Centre and supporting it as it moved from project to program status, and their support in 2012-13 was vital in ensuring the success of a capital campaign.

Working with Margot Ross-Graham of Sandbar Consulting to conduct the organizational review was an amazing experience. Says outgoing founder, Wendy Hollo, "It allowed us all to feel confident that, as the Nina enters a new phase in its existence, it is well prepared, with the right structure and right team in place for long-term success."

Margot was equally positive in her reflection on the experience. "Participating with the leadership team of the Nina on their organization review and assessment was one of the most positive engagements I have had the opportunity to work on. I was fortunate to meet with both employees and Board members, and discovered a consistent and strong commitment to the organization's vision and mission. Their focus is on the individuals they support, and they are deeply committed to providing a place for people to excel independently. There was unanimous consensus that the strength of the organization lies in its people - their commitment and professional expertise. When it came time to look to areas for improvement, employees were forthcoming, and Wendy and Rona were ready and open to building on the recommendations and implementing a revised structure that will support transparency while providing direction and stability. Artists engaging with the Nina can look forward to continued positive and productive experiences."



The new organizational structure reflects Nina's growth and positions the organization for ongoing success.



Michelle Pasemko

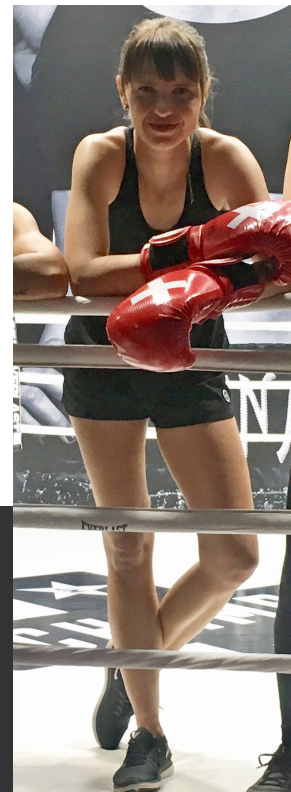
Rona Fraser takes on CEO role

Seventeen years ago, Wendy Hollo gave me the opportunity to help plan and promote the opening for an exciting new art centre in Edmonton. I fell in love from day one with the concept and received a great response from local media and civic leaders. What I was not prepared for, however, was how much I would fall in love with this incredible centre, the artists and the team.

I have had the pleasure of watching the centre grow from a handful of artists when it first opened to more than 220 now working in the Nina studios. From its original home on 97th street to the beautiful venue on 118th avenue we have called home for a decade now, I witnessed a community being built. I have been fortunate to see so many lives change as members from our collective learned, grew and transformed into undisputedly talented artists.

After these seventeen years my mentor and friend, Wendy Hollo, will be retiring and I am very humbled to be stepping up to try to fill her shoes. Wendy is a visionary and natural leader who took a dream and made it a reality. I look forward to leading the wonderful team she built and working with our dedicated board and our many stakeholders, supporters and friends.

Most of all, I look forward to watching our artists continue to grow and do incredible things. The short-term future may look different with the challenges of Covid-19 but the Nina Haggerty Centre will continue to be a strong positive force in the community as we ensure everyone has the opportunity to Create, Connect and Change Lives.



Champs Boxing Studio 2019



Cake Walk 2006, with Lynn Mandel



Top 40 under 40, 2013



Glasgow, Scotland, 2016



Grande Prairie, 2017



Nina's Sweet 16th, 2019

Janice Easton's role expanded

My first visit to the Nina in 2015 was a transformative experience. I was overcome by the energy of the artists and their work and have spent the past several years surrounding myself with that energy as much as possible. I have worked here as a volunteer, an intern, and a part-time employee, and I am thrilled to take on my next role as Director of Communications & Artistic Outreach. In this position, I will carry on with my previous duties of sales and digital marketing while taking on the additional responsibilities of seeking out artistic opportunities for the Nina Collective. My passion at the Nina is sharing the brilliant artwork and stories from our collective with new audiences and I am honoured to have the chance to do that in new ways in this role. [Can we dare say she is turning cartwheels?!]



Transition in role of Studio Manager

As Nina has grown, roles have continually evolved to reflect the changing needs of the organization. One of these changes was the creation of the role of studio manager, put in place to better support the growing team of professional artistic staff. Brenda Kim Christiansen rose to the task, managing scheduling challenges, regularly checking in with each studio and staff member, maintaining contact with families and service providers, and managing intakes and referrals. Often first on site and last to leave, Brenda's was the face that welcomed artists in the morning and saw them off at the end of day.

While this role has been rewarding, Brenda is looking forward to transitioning to retirement, working fewer hours and having less responsibility. Pictured (right) at Acoma, looking for artistic inspiration in New Mexico, Brenda is looking forward to many more art adventures.

Fortunately for Nina, Madison (Maddi) Dewar has agreed to take on the role of studio manager. Maddi initially came to Nina as one of the first RBC Emerging Artists apprentices, before joining the professional artistic team on a permanent basis in 2017.

Maddi says she is thrilled to take on the position of studio manager in the coming months. "While Brenda certainly casts a long shadow, I hope I can take what I've learned from her guidance into the future. I am looking forward to moving into this new phase of The Nina, and am incredibly thankful for the support I've received from the team!"



Stepping down, but not going far...

Brenda has been a warm and welcoming presence in Nina's studios since 2007, first as a volunteer, then in 2008 as a part time employee. Brenda brought an incredible depth of experience to the team and impressive credentials, having recently been awarded an MFA in Painting from the University of Alberta. Recipient of numerous awards and grants, her work has been widely exhibited and she has taught at MacEwan University and the University of Alberta.

As Nina's studio program continued to expand, so did the professional artistic team, creating the need for the Studio Manager position. Brenda has excelled in this role, supporting the team, managing an ever-evolving schedule, maintaining open communication with artists' support organizations and families and assuming responsibility for intake and referral.

Transitioning toward retirement, Brenda will be stepping down from her role as studio manager in July, handing the reins to Madison (Maddi) Dewar. Brenda will continue to work as a member of the artistic team, supporting artists in the studio and managing special projects two days a week. It is a bittersweet but exciting time for her, and as she looks forward to full retirement, she will be taking many wonderful memories with her as she moves on to the next phase of her life.

"It has been extremely rewarding to get to know all of our artists and their support persons, with many becoming friends along the way," says Brenda. "I will miss those many smiles and hugs that started each day. Equally meaningful was working with the Nina staff... we have an amazing team of people that I have been honoured to work with. I am so proud of the dedication and level of caring that is displayed each day in the studio by our team, working to help our artists strive towards their best. Thank you to everyone, Wendy, staff and Board, for your encouragement along the way. I will never be far away! "



Brenda and Nina artists have shared many happy memories in the studio



Laurie Matheson joins the Nina admin team

Succession plans and organizational restructuring created a new employment opportunity within Nina's administrative team. In April 2020, when many employers were laying off staff, the Nina began recruiting to the revised position of Director of Development, and many very qualified candidates responded to the call.

One of those candidates stood out from the rest, however, having recently worked with the admin team on a project, and the Nina is extremely excited to welcome Laurie Matheson to Nina's administrative team. In her position as Sales Manager for the Edmonton EXPO Centre, Laurie worked with the Nina to promote and implement the installation of large-scale art reproductions within the venue.

Laurie brings a diverse range of sales, business and event management experience to the team, along with demonstrated commitment to community involvement, and she is already working on creative ways to bolster Nina's fundraising capacity during what will be an undeniably challenging time.



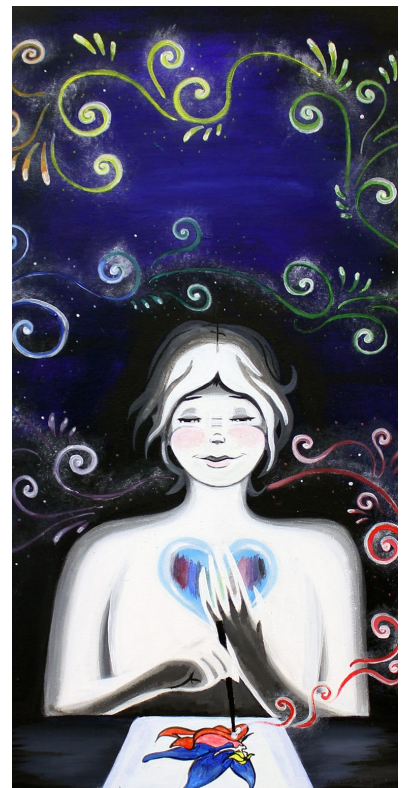
Laurie Matheson with artist Decinti Simpson at the EXPO Centre



Desiree McCook



(above) work in clay by JW; and (right) artwork by Kimberley Casarin





In the studios

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.

During the past year, 221 artists worked in Nina's busy studios each week.

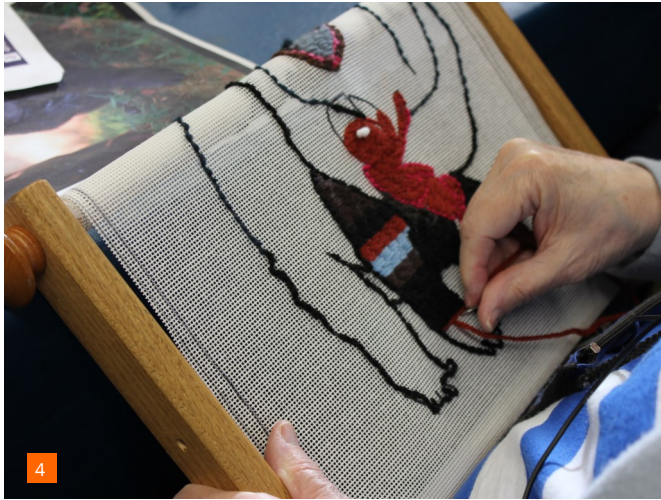
Selling work and seeing their art exhibited in public is life changing.

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. 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.

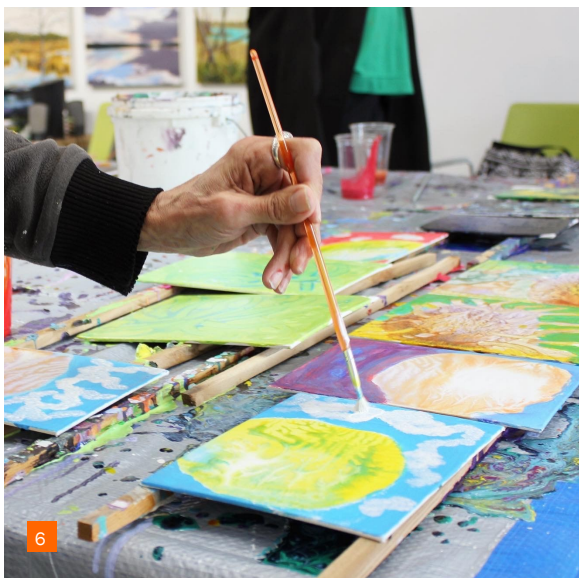
- 1 Lora Pallister
- 2 Erin Lepine
- 3 Kimberley Casarin
- 4 Weaving, Leona Clawson
- 5 Clay
- 6 Painting, Carl Philip
- 7 Print



Artists work in a wide range of media



More than 220 artists experimented with clay, fabric, print making, drawing, painting, sculpture, dance, silk screening and embroidery





(1 & 2) Aiden Telasky, a Lexus of Edmonton sales rep, got an art lesson from Carl Philip; (3) Tim Crnkovic is happiest in print studio; (4) Gabrielle Roccia and Darwin Chase recently tied the knot—congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Chase!; (5) AJ McKerlie; (6) Holly Sabourin, who usually works in clay, is also a talented sketch artist and painter





Thank you to The Rocket... best day ever!

Huge thanks to The Rocket Milkshakes and Malt, a local Edmonton company with a big heart! The business was started last year and serves up the best and most unique gourmet milkshakes and malts this city has ever tasted! Nina artists can certainly vouch for that, as the innovative start-up has twice donated their amazing ice cream for Nina events.

Co-owner, Cory Goulden, is a friend of Nina artist Jared Quinney. He has a growing collection of Jared's artwork and regularly attends Nina exhibition openings. Already a hero in our books, artists in the Collective will quickly agree that Milkshake Day was the best day ever!



(top of page) Jared Quinney's rocket art was commissioned by his friend Cory, co-owner of The Rocket; (above) Randy Stennes and Scott Berry; (right) Stephen MacCauley; Dennis Yowney serves up milkshakes in the painting studio



Jeff Collins Studio welcomes Nina artists



EAC grant creates enhanced studio opportunities



Nina cut short its lease for studio space in the Orange Hub, leaving the space in October 2019, and while some aspects of that experience were not successful, it demonstrated the benefit of providing artists in the Collective with dedicated space and more one-to-one mentorship. Artists were able to explore different processes, work on larger projects and had increased opportunity to share and explore ideas.

In January 2020, the Nina was able to enter into an agreement with local artist Jeff Collins to share his studio space and provide mentorship to a small group of artists one day a week. The studio's close proximity to the Nina, only one block away, made it an extremely attractive option, and it is proving to be a huge success.



Jeff was excited by the proposal and worked hard to make it happen. "One of the visions I have for the Collins Studio Gallery is to be a place where the exchange of ideas, techniques opportunities and outreach into the community is paramount," explains Jeff. He is a strong believer that art has the ability to affect real positive change in people lives, achieved through art making, collaboration and exhibition. "While some may think that I am giving of myself and my space to affect positive change in the lives of Nina artists, in reality, these artists are affecting much positive change in my life and practice." Jeff looks forward to continuing our relationship.

Sue Seright, who is also leading workshops in Jeff's studio, sees this as a great experience for the artists. They embrace new projects with great enthusiasm and frequently say that "there is not enough hours in the day to make art!"



The Nina extends its sincere thanks to the Edmonton Community Foundation for their support and for their flexibility during the COVID crisis, allowing the project to be extended.



(page 20) Lora Pallister and Carl Philip with Jeff Collins;
(this page from the top left) Grace Willard, Yvette Prefontaine, Carl Philip;
instructor Tatyana Babee Semenova (left) with Jared Quinney, Linda Vincent
and John Barayuga; (above) Aba Garbrah

The Nina dance collective creates first full time piece

The Nina Haggerty Dance Collective was instigated by Gerry Morita in 2009 and for the last decade has been facilitated by dance and theatre artist Amber Borotsik, supported by Cynthia Sentara.

The core focus of the Nina Haggerty Dance Collective is creation and movement within a contemporary context, guided by the dancers' own passion and interests. Last year, the troupe explored the relationship between sound and movement, and building on that, they decided to try to something on a larger scale.

For the first time, the dance collective created a full length piece, *The Magical Kingdom of Queens*, a fantastical exploration of duality. It follows the lives of those who live in the Kingdom of Queens and how they deal with The Chief of Change, a trickster figure in the form of a dragon. Their magical world, at first one of love-struck loveliness, is transformed by the dragon into one of supreme sadness.

Debating the performance as part of Azimuth Theatre's EXPANSE Festival also marked the first time the Nina Dance Collective presented work in a professional context, and it was an absolute delight for the dancers and audience alike. Not only was the work given a professional platform for performance, the a festival grant allowed the dancers to be paid for their work.

Now that the show has premiered, the collective is hoping to present their work in other contexts and performance venues.

The *Magical Kingdom of Queens* was written and performed by:

Yvette Prefontaine
Erin Lepine
Kelsey Hawkins
Jaymee Howarth
Sam Crier
Cynthia Sentara
Amber Borotsik
Laura Raboud
Aaron Macri

With music composition and performance by:

Laura Raboud
Aaron Macri

Costumes and photography by Tatyana Babee Semenova with narration by Brittany Leitheiser

Dance Sponsor for 2020-21 season:



(above) Erin Lepine with last year's set designer, Scott Berry; (group from left) Amber Borotsik, Erin Lepine, Aaron Macri, Yvette Prefontaine, and (right) Jaymee Howarth - crouching is musician Laura Raboud and peeking in from behind is Kelsey Hawkins

The Magical Kingdom of Queens



The Magical Kingdom of Queens was presented on Saturday, February 8th at The Chinook Series as a part of the EXPANSE Festival. Azimuth Theatre, who presents the EXPANSE Festival was a wonderful partner to work with, providing not only a professional platform for performance but also paying each artist for their work.

RBC Emerging Artists Apprenticeship at the Nina gives art grads valuable experience

For an incredible seven years, the RBC Emerging Artists Project has provided an apprenticeship experience at the Nina for artists who have recently graduated or are completing a post secondary art program.

The 2019 apprentices connected with individual artists in the Nina Collective and photographed their artwork in order to create or update their bios and CVs, and also prepared submissions for exhibition. A highlight, as always, were the invaluable workshops presented by senior artists and arts administrators, and the opportunity to curate and install an exhibition of their own work. The 2019 exhibition, *Gently Used*, included a range of media and demonstrated these artists' depth of experiment, aspiration and commitment.

The 2020 apprenticeship is going to be a unique experience, launched during Nina's closure due to COVID-19 pandemic. Six artists were chosen and together they bring a wonderfully diverse range of talent to the Nina.

While circumstances will require a bit of extra creativity, the apprentices will have the chance to take on several different projects, and will participate in three workshops. Each of the apprentices will be paired with an artist from the Nina Collective, meeting virtually at first, and together they will create work on a chosen theme. They will also be researching like-minded art studios in search of opportunities for collaboration, and will gain experience in developing online content for Nina's Art Challenges.

As always, the apprentices will have the chance to curate and install an exhibition of their work, alongside work created during the project. This year's exhibition will be installed in the Stollery Gallery but may also include a virtual gallery in order to reach a broader audience.

Congratulations to Breanna Barrington, Edith Chu, Mika Haykowsky, Ashley Herrington, Keita Kankam and Zana Wensel.



Muhammad Ali congratulated the 2019 apprentices on behalf of RBC



The Emerging Artists Apprenticeship Program is open to recent or current post secondary arts graduates and is intended to support them as they transition from academic life to professional careers in the arts. More than 50 artists have now participated in this valuable learning experience. The Nina is thrilled to announce that the program will continue in 2021, thanks to the generous support of the RBC Emerging Artists Project.

Meet the 2020 RBC Emerging Artists Apprentices (above) Zana Wensel, Mika Haykowsky, Keita Kankam, Ashley Herrington, Breanna Barrington and Edith Chu. (Top of page, RBC's Mohammad Ali. (Bottom page 27, from left to right) RBC representatives Ali Zaida and Muhammad Ali, Paul Freeman, Artistic Director and 2019 Apprentices Megan Klak, Kiona Ligtoet, Anica Neiman, Roseanna Nay, Ryan Andrade and Jennifer Penkova.



RBC
Emerging Artists
Project

Apprentices curate and install an exhibition of their work





Creating community through art making

Lorraine Shulba, the community artist who teaches Nina's popular Family Art Nights, took on our adult classes this year, and quickly won hearts and minds, offering an impressive and seemingly endless range of art options. Participants build confidence as they master new projects and experiment with new media, and they also build community. The classes were free, thanks to this year's program sponsor, MacEwan University, so they are accessible to everyone, regardless of circumstance, and offer a respite from the stressors of daily life.

One grandmother who also attends the family art classes with her granddaughter explains, "I go to the classes because I wanted to keep busy, and I live alone so could easily become isolated. This gets me out and socializing with other adults." Others point out that making art is good for their mental health and taps into a creative side that some do not get to enjoy.

As with the family classes, participants felt the loss when classes were abruptly halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but many were able to join Lorraine's virtual art classes, taking their sense of community online. They look forward to a return to in-person classes this fall. Classes are offered year round with a break during the summer months.

Community art classes were free for participants thanks to the generous support of MacEwan University



Family art nights fun for kids and adults

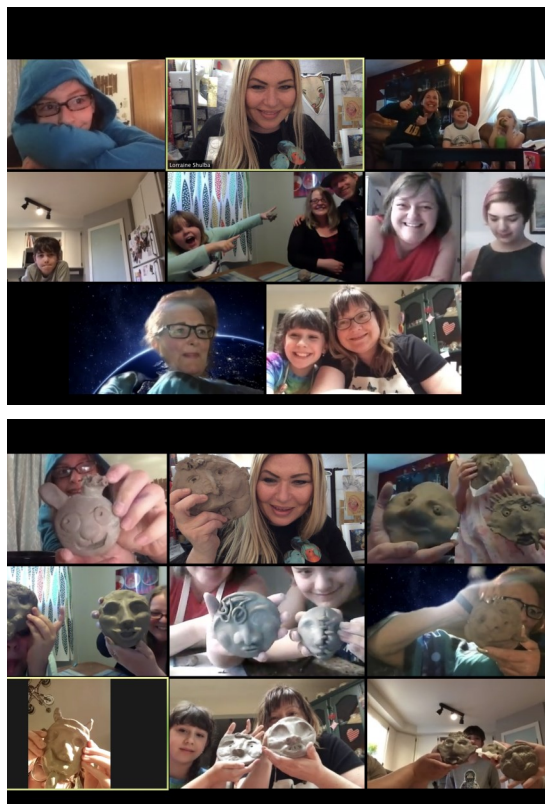
Thanks to a grant from the Edmonton Community Foundation, the Nina has been able to continue offering the very popular Family Art Nights on a weekly basis throughout the year.

Parents continually express the importance of these classes to their families. They appreciate the opportunity to meet other families, the diversity of projects and the chance to do something together with their children that everyone can enjoy and does not strain the family budget. Most comment on how the classes are an important stress reliever for both the adults and children and a chance for skill development.

One parent, realizing the important role that nurturing creativity in children plays in brain development, personal expression and managing emotion, struggled to find a program that would interest his son, who is mildly dyslexic. The dyslexia impacts his learning ability at school and causes anxiety, and it was difficult to interest him in trying his hand at arts or crafts.

Since participating in Family Art Night, his son, who struggled with writing, now writes stories to go along with his cartoon drawings and his confidence in this area has soared. "This is a major win for us that would not have been possible without this class. Spending time as a family in a non-competitive atmosphere is enjoyable and allows everyone to relax and enjoy each others company."

The year-end exhibition, normally held in June to showcase some of the work created during the year, was sidelined in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, however, instructor Lorraine Shulba very successfully took the classes online. The success of these classes did not go unnoticed. Rat Creek Press did an article and plans are in the works to broadcast the virtual classes on Telus TV!



EDMONTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION





Huge thank you to the
Edmonton Realtors®
Community Foundation
for sponsoring this year's
Crystal Kids art program

Neighbourhood kids find a safe after-school haven at the Nina

For several years now, the Nina has partnered with Crystal Kids and a local sponsor to provide a weekly after school program for at-risk children from the surrounding neighbourhoods. Initially funded by the Urban Spirits Rotary Club, this year's classes were supported by a grant from the Edmonton Realtors® Community Foundation.

The kids love instructor Lorraine Shulba and some have coaxed a parent or grandparent to participate in Nina's Family Art Nights, also taught by Lorraine. The number of children has been growing each year, and she finds it rewarding to see an increase in confidence and kindness among participants.

Lorraine also sees real connections forming, fostered through her nurturing approach to instruction, and understands that these help to build strong children, families and communities.

The Realtors® board took time to tour the Nina and spend time with the class and their instructor, and enjoyed seeing the kids light up as they talked about their art and seeing their pride.

They also had a chance to learn more about the Nina and its programs, and left inspired by the incredible passion exuded by Nina staff and the unique stories and accomplishments of individuals benefiting from the range of programs offered.



2019 exhibition opening for Neighbourhood Orbits



Making a difference
for children and
families in the
neighbourhood



Crystal kids

The Centre for Autism Services Alberta and the Nina nurturing the power of art

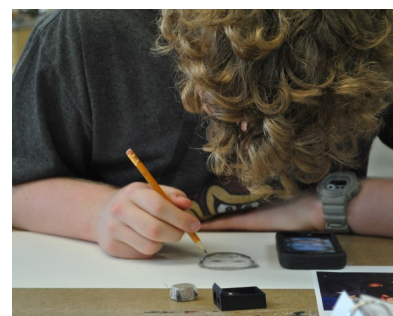
The Centre for Autism Services Alberta's relationship with the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts is one that the Centre values deeply. Year after year, the community art programs at the Nina are the most popular programs the Centre offers, both with participants and their caregivers. In 2019, 86 participants took part in art programming at the Nina and program popularity continues to grow.

It was 2005 when the Centre first began a community art program with the Nina. Back then the program looked very different! The participant group was a fraction of the size it is today, it was for children only, and participants were supported by their parents and interventionists.

After 15 years of partnership, the Centre for Autism Services Alberta's community art programs with the Nina have grown exponentially. Hundreds of children, teens and young adults with autism spectrum disorder have participated in these programs over the years and their value has proven to be unparalleled. Not only do the art programs help foster creativity and encourage experimentation in different art mediums, they support children, teens and young adults in developing social skills in a group setting, build independence and provide opportunities for community integration.

The Centre's art programs at the Nina are not only a skill-building and social opportunity for individuals with autism, but a unique way to support participants in becoming independent members of the community. These programs open up the opportunity for participants to experience a sense of pride in their work and in themselves, supporting them in building their confidence and, ultimately, their independence.

None of this would be possible without the incredible dedication of the Nina's art instructors and team. Recognition needs to be given to each of these passionate individuals, as their role in the development of these programs has been, and continues to be, pivotal. They are able to help participants tap into their unique skillsets and encourage them to step outside their comfort zones, exploring new depths and supporting them in their personal development. The art programs that the Nina and the Centre offer are a true representation of community programming: two organizations working together to create inclusive programming that provides the opportunity for participants to explore their individuality, build their independence and define their place in the world.



(left) instructors Hilary Mussell and Maddi Dewar with Gail Stanford. Gail is retiring from her position in 2020 and will be greatly missed. Her passion and commitment to the program was unparalleled.

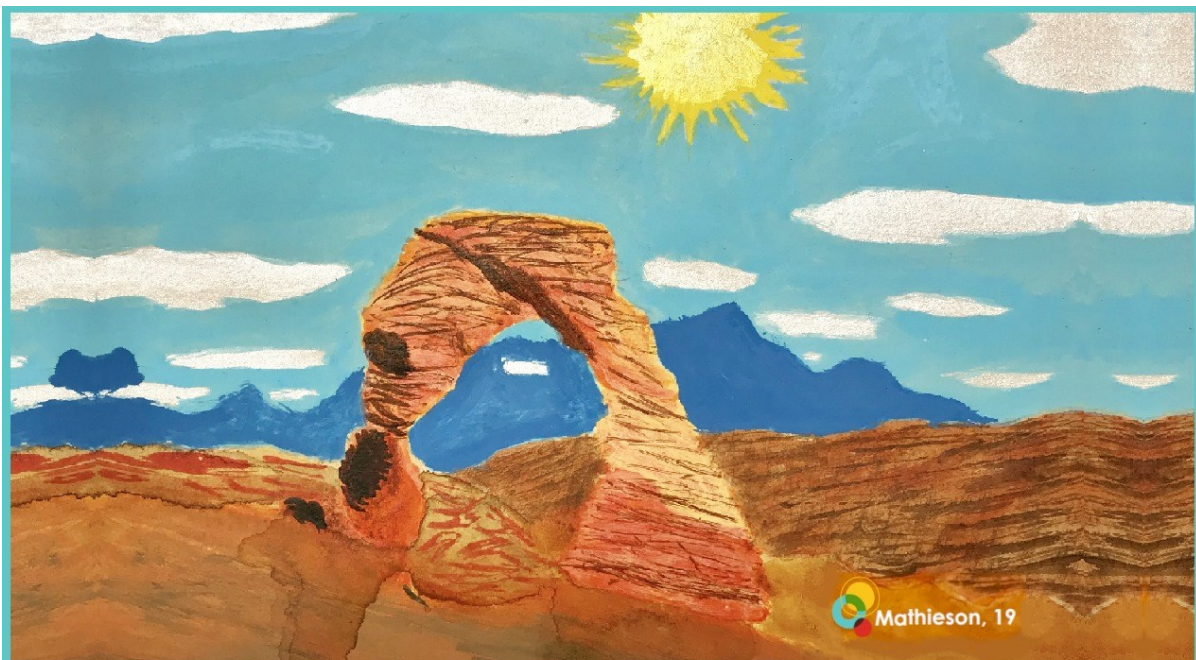
A few highlights from the Saturday classes...

In 2013 the programs expanded to include teens and young adults, allowing children to move through the art programs as they grew.

The introduction of the Art Show in 2015 and, with the growth of community popularity, an Art Show and Sale in 2016 and continued every year

Several program participants are so passionate about art that they became volunteers and mentors for others!

Many program participants have found much **SUCCESS** in their artistic journeys. One example from 2019: Mathieson, a long-time art program participant, was commissioned by the NAIT Culinary program this year to paint several Canadian-themed pieces as gifts for international guest chefs!



BRANCHING OUT Art Show & Sale

Message from Leslieanna Blackner-Au

I've worked at the Nina for the last three years and it's been an amazing journey. I've been able to share in the lives of our artists and the incredible volunteers that come forward to work with us. Our volunteers are, without exception, vibrant interesting people.

Volunteers have long been the lifeblood of the Nina. From the beginning, the Nina has relied on the spirit of our community to enrich the lives of others through creativity and art. Our volunteer board contributes many hours throughout the year, helping guide us with their experience. They also help with receptions, fundraising and special events. We are honored by the commitment they have for our artists. Volunteers who work at the Nina see lives changing through art every day.

Our volunteer program covers each day of our studio time and often is wait listed. Many of our volunteers are students hoping to gain volunteer hours and experience. We have been a practicum site for students in nursing, art therapy, and disability support, as well as providing references for academic study and employment. Our volunteers are empathic, competent, and adept. We have been very lucky to find like-minded people and organizations that share with us a belief that the arts bring people together to build community.

Some of our volunteers came to us through fine arts— Maddi, Mitch, Marin, Anica, Taissa, I'm thinking of you – and may have been part of the RBC Emerging Artist Program before becoming Staff Artists at the Nina. Almost all of our paid professional staff artists initially spent time volunteering in the studios. They are highly skilled and have training in art techniques, materials, and practice. Each and every one of our volunteers have amazing lives and interesting stories.

In working with people over time, many of our volunteers have now become extended family. And among our many exceptional people there are a few solid examples. Dale first came as a practicum student and has become a close Nina family friend. He completed his support program and is working full time in a group home. For over two years, he has volunteered at the Nina during the weekends when the gallery is open.

When Paulina first came to us, she was interested in disability access and law. She has worked in the studios, in the gallery and at special events. Currently she is working with the homeless for the Bissell Centre and is excited to be learning more every day.

Mizuki is part of the highly competitive neuroscience program at the U. of A. She has brought gentle understanding and a happy light to the Nina every Friday and volunteered over 120 hours in the studio and at special events, all while managing studies, work, research, and family responsibilities.

It is hard to list them all. However, a quick congratulations to Jesse who was accepted into MHSc Speech Language Pathology at University of Toronto. Daniel is now working at the AGA. Congratulations to Haylee and Rosie, who were accepted into Artists in Residence programs. Marin, who has held a number of exhibitions and workshops on string theory. Katlyn has continued with her art and is volunteering at the AGA. Jenn is still teaching art classes to children and those with special needs with distance solutions during the shutdown. Our own Amanda, Taylor and Nombe have gone on to teach in education and we are very proud of them all.



(left) Calvin Becker-Burns and Paulina Volovodovsky

Celebrating volunteers

It is a true privilege to get to know our volunteers. They bring variety, fresh energy and perspective to days at the Nina. Our volunteers have had to be flexible and responsive because every day is different with our unique, amazing artists. They work side by side with our artists in the studio. They have helped with our changing schedule of exhibitions, receptions, fundraisers, and special events, and have worked on special projects. Our volunteers spend their valuable time in service to benefit others at the Nina, and in return they receive creative experience and connections to the larger art community in Edmonton. Working at the Nina can be outrageously fun and uplifting. It can also create a sense of place and a sense of self.

Thank you all, it is an honour to work with you.



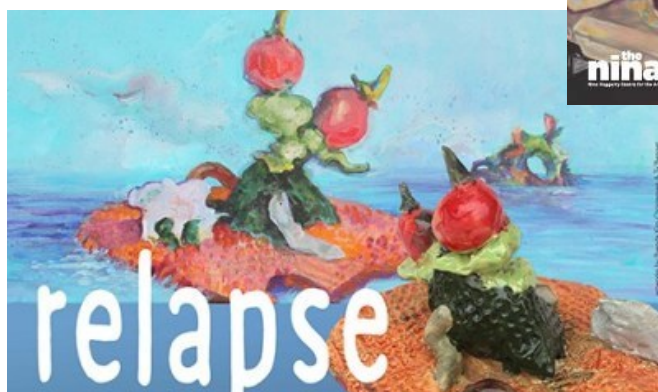
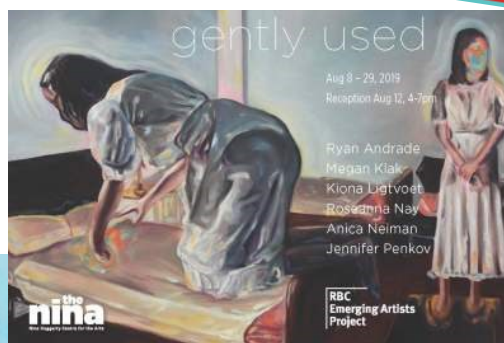
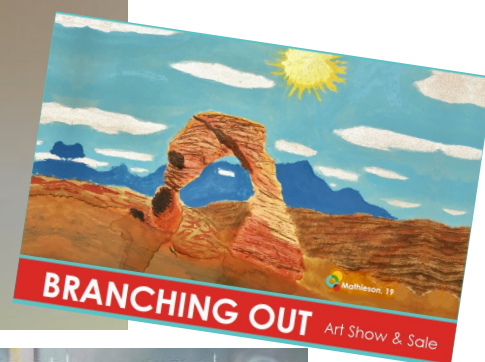
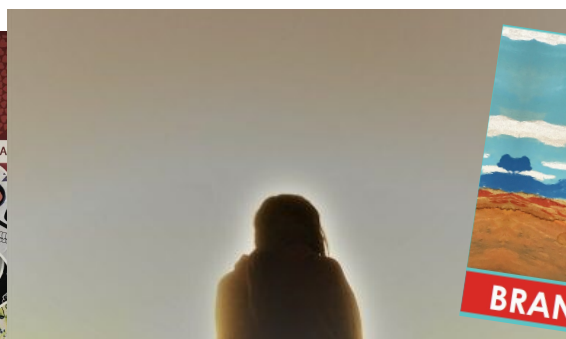
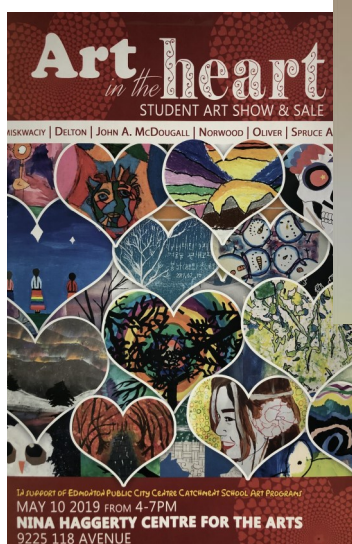
(top) Leslieanna Blackner-Au at opening receptions; (group shot) introducing Stantec volunteers to the Nina studios

thank you
to the 102
volunteers for
contributing
2054 hours in
support of
Nina activities

we couldn't do it
without you...

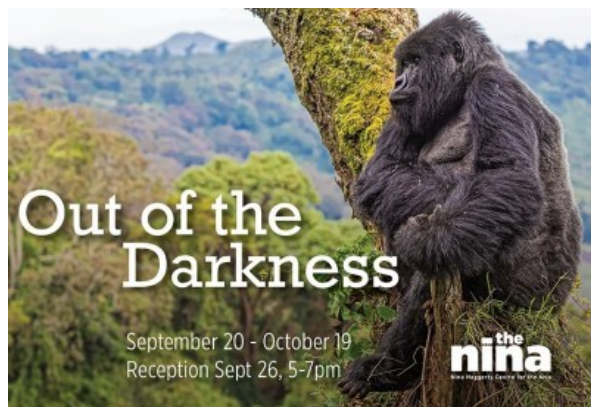
volunteers
create, connect
and change lives
every day at the
Nina

Exhibitions in the Stollery Gallery



(April to August 2019) Lora Pallister, *Selected Works*; City Centre Education Program, *Art from the Heart*; Family Art Night (Edmonton Community Foundation), Community Art Night (MacEwan University) and Crystal Kids, (Realtors® Community Foundation, *Neighbourhood Orbits*; Centre for Autism Services (The Centre) *Branching Out*; Meskanahk Ka Nipa Wit school (Montana First Nation), *Home*, sponsored by TD; Nina staff with artists from the Nina Collective, *Relapse*; RBC Emerging Artists exhibit, *Gently Used*; Kaleido Family Arts Festival...

April 2019 to March 2020



January 14 - February 7, 2020
Reception February 6, 5-7pm



Calling local artists 
Bleeding Heart's 5th Annual
OPEN WALLS community art exhibit

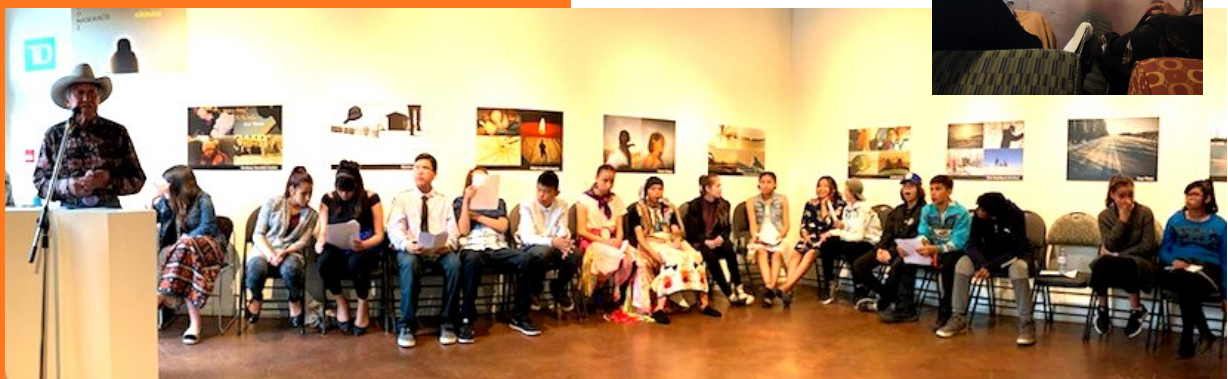
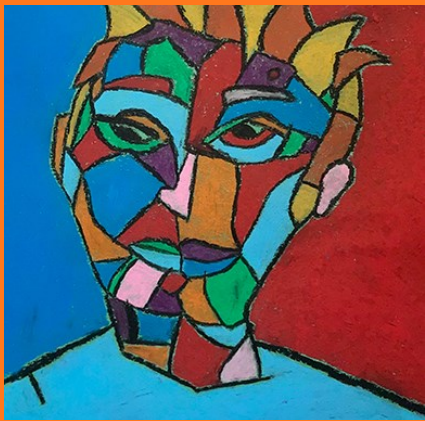
March 11-28, 2020
Reception March 12, 6-8pm



... (September 2019 to March 2020) *Out of the Darkness*, a photo series by Rob Hislop; Angèle Karosi and Tim Grieco, *(Dys) Function X*; New work from the Nina Collective; *The Nina After Hours*; Deep Freeze Festival gallery; 2020 Stantec Artist of the Year, Lora Pallister, *Lora Pallister*, Stantec Artist of the Year (and Nina's 17th Birthday; Skirts-A-Fire festival, *Words Unzipped and Peep Show*; Bleeding Heart Art Space, *Open Walls*

Highlights from this year's Stollery exhibitions...

(this page) City Centre Schools, Out of the Darkness, Montana First Nation reception for Home exhibition (page 41, Relapse exhibition: (from the top) Dennis Yowney with Jaymee Howarth; Paul Freeman (right) with Matt Sinn; Cynthia Sentara with Katryna Dixon, Hilary Mussel (right) with Christine Jarock, Sue Seright (right) with Jennifer Lee





the nina
Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts
Create • Connect • Change Lives

back by popular demand

This exhibition focuses on the visual dialogue created with the juxtaposition of an artwork from an artist of the Nina Collective and artworks from one of the Nina's professional artists. These paired relationships explore the visual language of creativity and transformation—the works tell the story of individuals who are resilient, joyful and passionate, discordant and beautiful. Approximately 200 artists work in the bright, well-equipped studios at the Nina every week. They are artists who live with developmental disabilities or other barriers, mentored by professional practicing artists. Come be part of the conversation.

thenina.ca



The Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts
9225 118 Avenue Edmonton AB T5G 0K6



Final exhibition before Stollery gallery closed due to COVID-19

Who knew?! The *Open Walls* exhibition opened in March 2020, with a gala reception just days before restrictions were placed on gatherings due to COVID-19. Little did we know that this would be our last party for the foreseeable future.

Celebrating the “beautiful chaos of diverse community,” *Open Walls* invited artists to submit one original artwork, any size, any medium, any subject. The show ran from March 11 to 28, with a “rolling submission” process meaning artists could drop off work anytime during the run and add their work to the show, as long as there was hanging space. The only rule was the limit of one piece per artist.

The opening was packed, the music lively and the mood optimistic. We look forward to welcoming visitors back to the Stollery Gallery later in the year, with restrictions in place. Until then, enjoy our virtual gallery!



Taking art downtown



Thanks to Oxford Properties Group, Nina artists are showing their work in a high profile location on the NE corner of City Centre Mall in downtown Edmonton. This year's exhibits included work by Stantec Artist of the Year (2019) Vanessa Ryl, work from the Lichen project and this exhibit, *What Matters*



A focus on exhibition in public spaces

The Nina continues to place a high priority on supporting artists in the Nina Collective to access exhibition opportunities in public spaces.

In addition to three exhibits at City Centre Mall, work travelled to the Mile Zero Dance studio, Spruce Grove Library, St. Faith's community hall, the Creative Hive, the Kaasa Gallery at the Jubilee Auditorium and to Stantec's new office tower in downtown Edmonton.

Work is also displayed on an ongoing basis at the Northeast Edmonton Health Centre, and a pop up show made its way to the McMullen Gallery.



*(above) Pop-up show at the McMullen Gallery;
(bottom) Eclipse exhibition in the Kaasa Gallery
at the Northern Jubilee Auditorium*





(top) Aaron Ennis, Randy Stennes and Jared Quinney proud to see their work at Metro Cinema; Janice Easton and David Janzen had fun at the Mile Zero Dance reception (art work by Tim Crnkovic and Jamie Laventure)



Vanessa Ryl's work stunning at Stantec

Vanessa Ryl was a relative newcomer to the Nina studios when she was named as the 2019 Stantec Artist of the Year. Vanessa possesses a natural talent and she quickly demonstrated tremendous growth as an artist. A creative force, she quietly wraps and weaves intricate forms, inspiring others with her focus and commitment to the work.

Vanessa enjoyed early success, with work selected for a YEGCanvas billboard in 2017 and for exhibition in Glasgow, Scotland in 2018. She has also sold work to private collectors, and has created a strong body of work that communicates both the joy she experiences when creating a piece and the intrinsic beauty of the object.

As Stantec Artist of the Year, Vanessa's work was travelled to public venues throughout the year, including this brilliant installation in the Stantec's gleaming new office tower in downtown Edmonton.

Vanessa was the fifth artist from the Nina Collective to enjoy the recognition and exposure afforded by Stantec's generous support, and the program has created momentum for ambitious projects in high profile venues including the Edmonton Expo Centre and Edmonton Convention Centre.



Artists ‘blown away’ to see their art produced large scale

It would be a thrill for any artist, regardless of their career status, to see their work reproduced in large format and installed in a venue that normally sees 1.5 million visitors annually. For Nina artists Lora Pallister and Decinti Simpson, it was mind blowing!

The Nina was excited to enter into discussions with the Edmonton EXPO Centre during the latter half of 2019, and to begin to plan large scale art installations. The EXPO Centre was enthusiastic about the partnership and soon identified numerous locations for art exhibition.

Nina hosts a significant number of exhibits in its Stollery Gallery and also programs exhibition space in downtown Edmonton, in addition to other public venues. With a modest exhibition budget and only 15 hours a week budgeted for exhibit coordination, these opportunities quickly seemed out of reach.

The Nina began a conversation with the Edmonton Community Foundation and Edmonton Arts Council about grant possibilities. Then very unexpectedly, the Edmonton Community Foundation notified us that a private family fund had awarded the Nina a generous grant in support of public exhibition. The Muhlenfeld Family Fund exceeded our wildest grant expectations, making a three-year commitment in support of public exhibition.

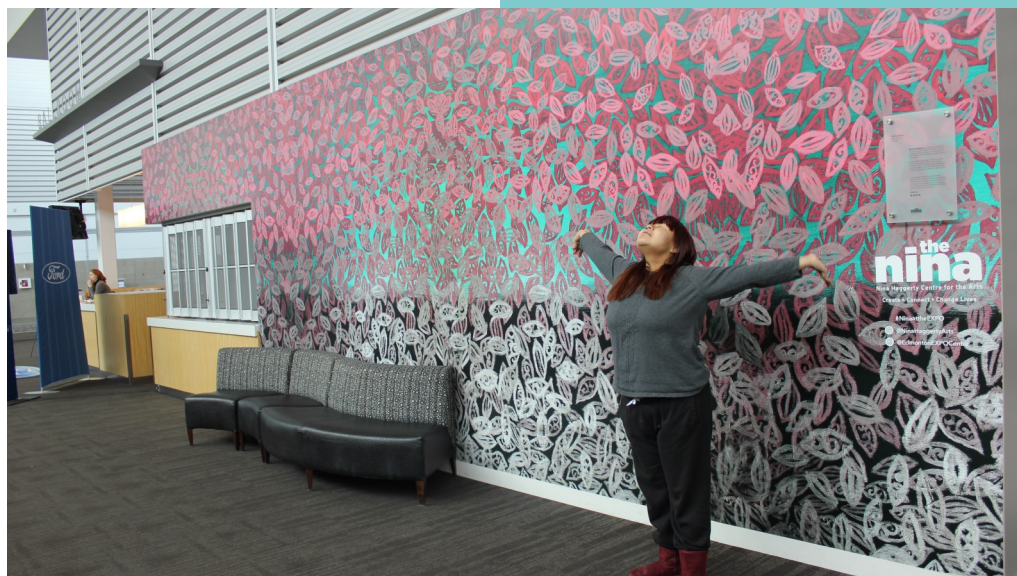
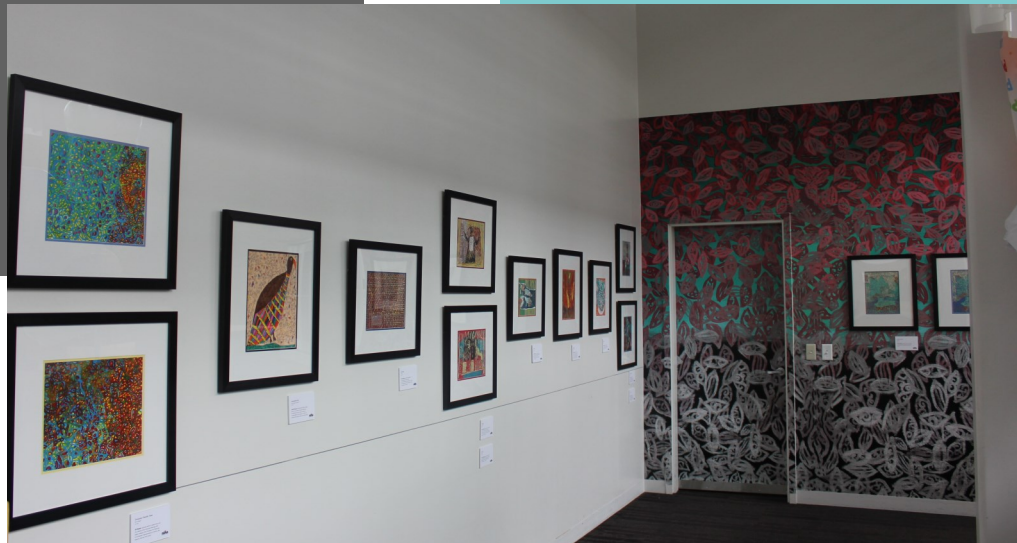
This grant allows the Nina and public partners to dream large and in full colour! Expect to see more art in the Edmonton EXPO Centre, Edmonton Convention Centre and other high profile venues.

“I feel very happy and proud to know that my work is in the EXPO Centre. It feels good to be recognized as an artist. This makes me want to keep on painting!”

Lora Pallister



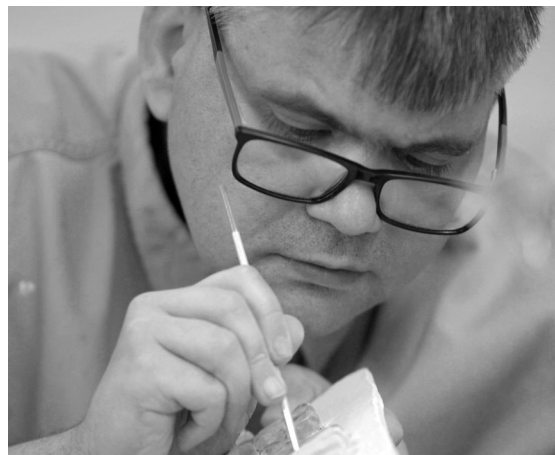
A generous 3-year grant commitment from the Muhlenfeld Family Fund in support of public exhibition allows the Nina to produce work in large scale for installation in high traffic venues such as the EXPO Centre



The *Ninas*: recognizing artistic merit

create

Jamie Laventure brings mundane objects to life with his own distinctively playful sense of colour and shape. He is a dedicated artist, devoting several days a week to studio time, and constantly exploring new subject matter in a variety of mediums. His work displays a consistent degree of finish and has been featured in many exhibitions both locally and internationally, including a permanent installation at the East Edmonton Health Centre. It is a delight to see the smile on his face whenever anyone stops to discuss his work. His joy radiates!



The Realtors® Community Foundation create award, presented by Jeneen Marchand and Gail Docken, 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. These artists are developing a vision for their work or have broken through a creative barrier and innovated their own practice.

connect

Aba Garbrah's artwork has brought together people who may not have connected otherwise, and has inspired personal friendships and community connections. She has formed a meaningful bond with her patron Dao Haddad that has grown to include both of their families and places of work. Aba's joy and love of life comes through in everything she does, and you can feel it in each piece of her art. Her work often celebrates her culture and heritage.



The Rotary Club of Edmonton Northeast connect award, presented by Jan Preece, 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.

Meet these artists on line! The videos are posted on Nina's website: thenina.ca/heres-nina-2019/



Edmonton's newest arts awards

changed lives

Katryna becomes totally absorbed in the work before her, striving to push it and herself to new heights. Always keen to hear feedback and suggestions, she continues to grow and shine. Since joining the Nina Collective, Katryna has come to see herself as a serious artist and is keen to embrace opportunities for personal and professional growth. Her self confidence has developed alongside her skill level, and she continues to take on more ambitious projects and share her work with new audiences.



The Canterbury Foundation changed life award, presented by Wendy King, is given to an artist who helps us see how art enriches lives. Through art, they have been able 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

Kimberley Casarin joined the Nina Collective in 2019 with a well-established illustrative style and technical skill. Her focus in the studio is admirable and her work serves as an inspiration for her fellow artists in the Nina Collective. Employing a seemingly endless variety of styles and techniques, Kim's commitment to developing her practice at the Nina promises to lead to incredible achievements in her future. Kimberley is always happy to share the inspiration for her work, often involving dreams.



The ATB Financial emerging artist award, presented by ATB's Ben Spencer, 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.



Huge shout out to Lindisfarne Productions for once again doing an amazing job of showcasing Nina's award winners. The video vignettes allow patrons at the event to connect with each artist in a very personal way.



The 2020 Stantec Artist of the Year



Lora Pallister's brightly coloured, quilt-like brushwork and abstracted perspective make her eye-catching paintings instantly recognizable. Her vibrant canvases have hung in solo shows throughout the city, and in 2019, two large-format reproductions of her work were selected for long term exhibition at the Edmonton EXPO Centre for 1.5 million annual visitors to enjoy. As the 2020 Stantec Artist of the Year, Lora's work will travel to multiple venues including Stantec's new downtown offices and Nina's street level exhibition space on the NE corner of City Centre Mall. (See page 46 for a look at Lora's art at the Expo Centre).

Lora has been a Nina regular in the Nina studios for many years. Says studio manager, Brenda Kim Christiansen, "It always amazes me how the content and meaning behind her paintings is allowed to organically flow as the piece progresses. She is truly an artist to inspire others." Lora is the sixth artist to be named as Artist of the Year.

The Nina extends sincere appreciation to Stantec for their generous sponsorship of Artist of the Year, launching the award in 2015 to recognize artist Scott Berry. Since then five other artists, including Lora Pallister, have had the opportunity to be celebrated for their work and dedication to their craft. Stantec first became involved as an exhibition sponsor, but wanted to do more. The Nina Artist of the Year was created to provide deserving artists greater public exposure to their work. Over the years, work has travelled to Grande Prairie and Calgary and has been exhibited in numerous public venues. Stantec will be moving on to support other projects. The Nina is deeply grateful for this unprecedented level of support.



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



2009 Cake Walk



Boundless talent, a skilled chanteuse and improv artist, and a heart of pure gold. Sheri Somerville has hosted Nina's annual gala every year since inception, and for many of those attending the event, she is the star attraction. From her clever opening number to original jingles for key sponsor and witty banter, the event has always been in good hands with Sheri at the podium.

Event organizers could rest easy knowing that whatever glitch or mishap might occur, Sheri could not only handle it, but find a way to make it look like part of the show! The best example of this would be Nina's inaugural Cake Walk event when one team chickened out and instead of coming on stage to present their cake, they shoved it onstage, unattended. Without missing a beat, Sheri turned that potentially awkward moment into a hilarious improv skit.

Beyond her hosting prowess, Sheri has been a staunch supporter of the Nina, attending events, doing her Christmas shopping at our annual Nina After Hours show and sale, and taking our cause to Ottawa when meeting with the Canada Council and Minister of Arts and Culture.

Presenting the award, Trudy Callaghan of Odvod Media expressed personal thanks to Sheri for being there for her during challenging times. It was with great pride and profound appreciation that Nina recognized Sheri Somerville for her generous support.



2009 Cake Walk, with chef/owner of Whimsical Cake Studio



2019 with Josh Classen CTV



2012 with Carrie Doll & Josh Mellot



2016

ATB presents 2019 *Here's Nina* awards gala

The Italian Cultural Centre rocked as talented local artists like Rubix Cubed, Mallory Chipman, Colleen Rae and Terrell Edwards took centre stage. CTV's Josh Classen was back to join long-time host Sheri Somerville at the podium, and as always did a brilliant job of keeping the fun-packed evening on track.

The highlight of course was presentation of awards to the year's deserving artists from the Nina Collective (see pages 48-51). Once again Lindisfarne Productions did an amazing job of capturing the essence of each artist in short video vignettes that allowed audience members to connect in a personal way with each artist.

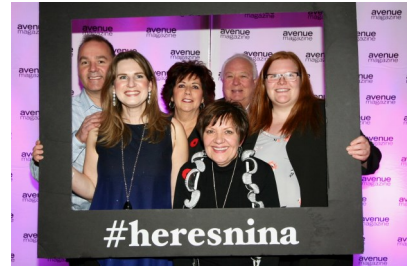
In addition to her hosting role, Sheri Somerville received the Odvod Media Sustained Support Award, presented with a personal and moving tribute by Trudy Callaghan. Sheri has hosted Nina's annual fundraiser since its inception, and her now legendary opening numbers, witty banter and original jingles for event sponsors are always much anticipated.

The Nina thanks to ATB Financial, stepping up for a second year as Title Sponsor. Ben Spencer represented ATB Financial at the event and presented the ATB Emerging Artist award. Thanks also go to the 2019 award sponsors, the Realtors® Community Foundation, Rotary Club of Northeast Edmonton, Canterbury Foundation, ATB and Stantec.

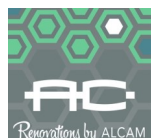
The Nina is grateful for the continued support of Entertainment Sponsor Dentons and Beverage Sponsor Lexus of Edmonton West. A full roster of event and award sponsors, combined with tremendous in-kind support, auction donors and patrons ensure the success of this annual fundraising gala. Special thanks go to Colleen Rae and Terrell Edwards for their contribution to the live auction.

This year's stellar line-up of entertainment also included the Josh Mellot Trio, Holle and David Jay. Billed the "fastest guitar player in Edmonton, David Jay performed his debut hit, *The Spaniard* and Rubix Cubed had the audience on its feet for their closing number.





2019 event and media sponsors



Patron program remains strong in 2020

Fifty eight artists in the Nina Collective are proud to have patrons in 2020! This program has been very successful, growing from thirteen patrons in 2014. This program is an important part of the Nina's annual fundraising activities, but it is much more than that to the artists who are chosen each year, based on the merits of their work and commitment to their art.

Bonnie Abel
Gahlib Ahmed
Wendy Antoniuk
Doris Bonora
Trudy Callaghan
Sarah Chan
Greg Christenson
Alison Davies
Brian & Arlene Dickinson
Delores Dilke
Nancy and Nicole Easton
Jean Easton
Jodi Eyolfson
Iannick and Deanne Fallu
Dina Floreuncig & Salvatore Miniaci
John Freeman & Lyndal Osborne
Jodi Glenn
Arlene Giguere
Jackie Rae Greening
Dao Haddad
Hannah Hamilton
Richelle Hanna
Sara Hart
Michael Hesketh
Ailien Holdis
Wendy Hollo & Janet Pavlic
Helen Holth
Ellen Hughes & Elaine Betchinski
Ethan Jackson
Kelly Kimo
Bruce Kirkland
Shelagh Kubish
Glenn Kubish
Bruce Laverty
Lynn Mandel

Stephen Mandel
Morgan Marley
Colette Miller
Matt Miller
Joe Ochman
Odvod Media
Walter Pavlic
Michelle Perret
Mary Persson
Fred Pheasey
Oliver Rossier
Julia Rudko
Dominic Schamuhn
Kierstin Smyth
Curtis Stange
Megan Anise Starchuk
Barbara Steckly
Marilyn Sterling
Chelsey Swankhuizen
Keren Tang
Sherri-Anne Turner
Adrienne Vanderheyden
Derek Wicks



Derek and Ahmed Patron Saints in 2020



(L to R) Derek Wicks and Linda Vincent, Randy Stennes and Ghalib Ahmed. Derek and Ghalib have been patrons from the beginning, and have made a connection with their artists and renew their matches each year. The Nina is proud to “anoint” Derek and Ghalib as our 2020 Patron Saints, recognizing them for their steadfast support.

A long line of Patron Saints...

Lynn Mandel graciously accepted the halo in 2013, an obvious choice for our first patron saint given her amazing support of the Nina. Since then, the halo has been passed on to a host of impressive women—Dianne Kipness, Beth Allard Clough, Suromitra Sanatani, Susan Moisan, Trudy Callaghan and Ailien Holdis. Beginning with only 13 patrons, this program has grown significantly and plays a key role in sustaining programming.



Seven deserving “saints” have good-naturedly accepted the halo at Nina’s annual patron event. (top) Ailien Holdis with Wendy Hollo (2019). (above left to right) Trudy Callaghan with her artist, Kaede Povilaitis (2018); Susan Moisan (2017); Dianne Kipnes (2014) and Lynn Mandel (2013) crowned Suromitra Sanatani (2016); Beth Allard Clough (2015) with Dianne Kipnes

Third party fundraising quickly becoming a popular way to support the Nina



In 2017, Apricity selected the Nina as their cause to amplify, kicking off that amazing year with an event at Poppy Barley. This also jump-started third party fundraising and increased Nina's social media presence. Since that time, numerous individuals and groups have stepped up to donate proceeds from their events, celebrations and sales to the Nina. This has become an important part of Nina's annual fundraising budget.

Higher profile events have included partnerships with the Royal Glenora Club and sponsor, MLT Aikins, for Hops & Whisky, a 20th anniversary celebration hosted by Preferred Client Services at Lexus of Edmonton., a Thrive Charity Fashion Show, and Etsy sales events.



This year, a number of generous friends found creative ways to support the Nina through their events, including an Expo Centre Wine Dinner, events at the Creative Hive and Moksha Yoga, a CPA golf tournament and a night sponsored by River City Tile. We also had a very impromptu concert with Eliza Mary Doyle and her band when they were passing through Edmonton.

Throughout the year, local businesses challenged their staff and clients to participate in a new fundraising challenge, Fundraiser in a Box. Many thanks to all those who took a box and encouraged donations. Winner of the challenge was Champs Boxing Studio!



(left from the top)above) Wendy and Rona at a Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA) charity golf tournament; Expo Centre Executive Pastry chef (Expo Wine Dinner); and impromptu concert with Eliza Mary Doyle and band



Congratulations to Champs Boxing Studio for their 'knock out' win of Nina's Fundraiser in a Box contest. Champs has also treated staff, volunteers and artists to boxing sessions!

Champs Boxing Studio was winner of the 2019 'Fundraiser in a Box' challenge. Champs has also provided staff, artists and volunteers with the chance to experience their high-energy fitness workouts with coach (and Nina patron) Dao Haddad



Previous third party fundraisers were organized by On-the-Spot Pop Ups (Etsy events), Smithstine Copper, Nest in the City, Tammy Deren (Thrive Charity Fashion show), Yoga Vibes, Deluxe Burger (with celebrity chef Shara Vingean), Ivano Ongaro of ProSource Wholesale (art show and sale), Preferred Client Services, Apricity, and the Royal Glenora Club/MLT Aikins (Hops & Whisky)



The Nina board and staff had the opportunity to re-assess the studio program during the COVID-19 closure. Artists returning to the studio will find that things have changed, including the way sessions are offered. While many of the changes are in response to health and safety guidelines, overarching changes will improve the studio experience for everyone involved. In order to reduce the number of artists working in the studios at one time, the day will be divided into two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. This allows for increased physical distancing, and it also creates the opportunity for the artistic staff to provide more one to one mentorship. While the suspension of programming has been difficult for everyone involved, it has allowed the unexpected luxury of time for reflection and planning.

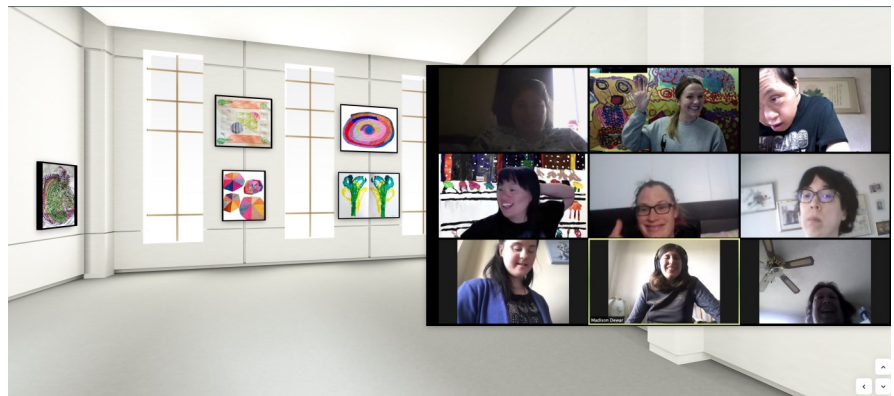
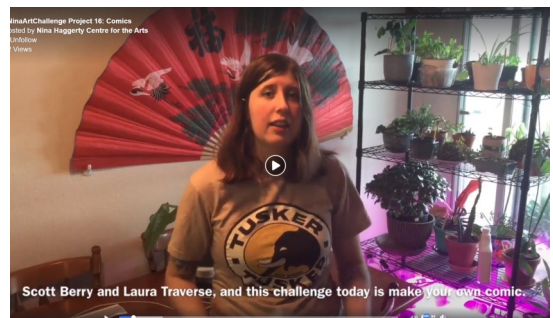
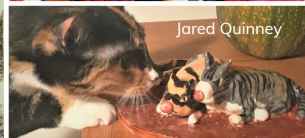
A chance to clean house and prepare the studios for re-opening



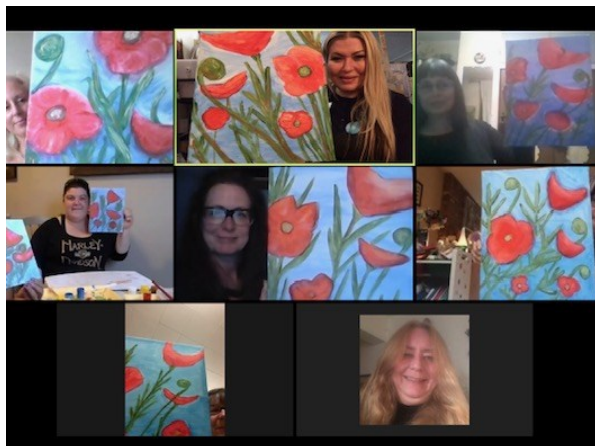
Things to the dump (thank you College Hunks!), things to storage, cleaning, painting—every surface was touched in some way during the COVID-19 closure. The fabric studio was relocated to brighter, larger space adjacent to the main painting studio. New shelving was installed to better organize office supplies. A hanging system for art was installed, and a chair rail added to protect newly painted walls. We look forward to welcoming artists back to the studios.



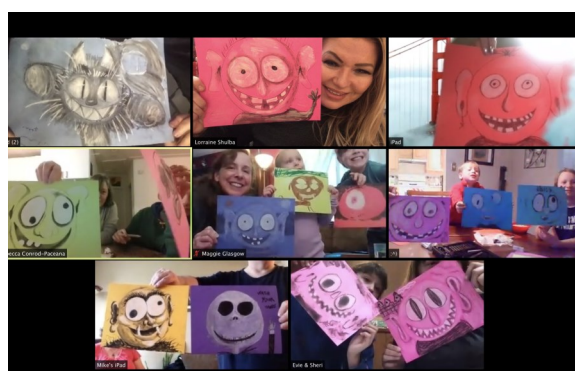
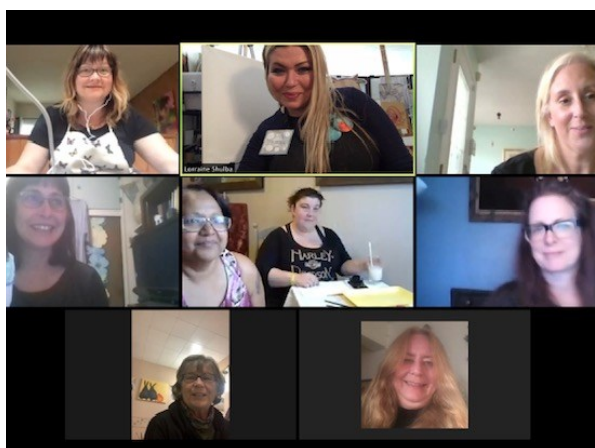
Art Challenges,
virtual “hangouts”
and an on-line
gallery helped Nina
artists to stay
connected...



During the first month of the COVID-19 closure, Nina posted 11 art challenges, helping artists stay active and connected when unable to work in our studios. Cynthia Sentara and her cats have been a popular subject for artists in the Nina Collective for years, so her challenge gave artists new poses to work from. Brenda Kim Christiansen, Maddi Dewar, Diana Cline and Mitch Chalifoux also posted challenges.



... Virtual family and community art classes helped adults and families deal with isolation



Lorraine Shulba took her popular family and community art classes online, dropping off art supplies where needed, in response to requests from regular participants. They wrote letters of support, sharing personal stories of how the classes reduce stress and enrich their lives. Thank you to program sponsors, MacEwan University and the Edmonton Community Foundation, for their flexibility in allowing classes to be offered in a different format.

Social media was
more important
than ever during
COVID-19

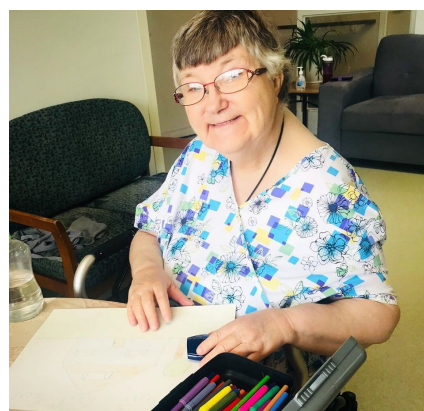
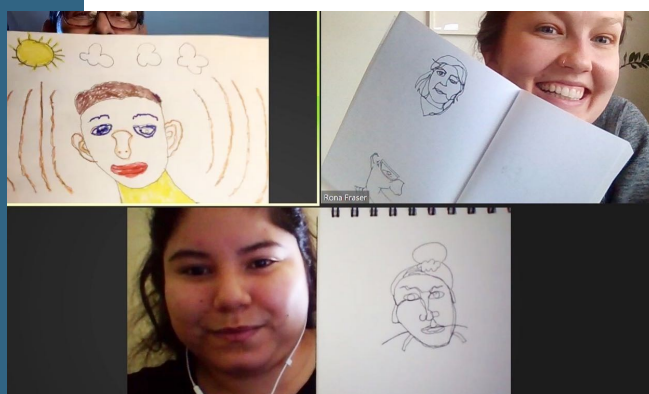
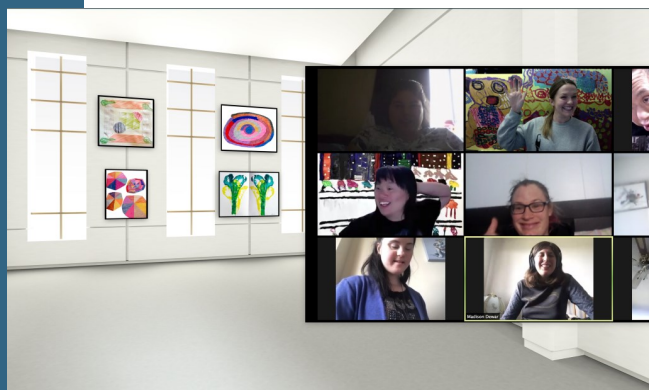
2010 followers
on Instagram

1977 followers
on Facebook

1816 followers
on Twitter

110 email
subscribers

+3000 visits to
thenina.ca



Online art classes for the whole family

The Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts ensures art is accessible

VICTORIA STEVENS

Operations will look a bit different for The Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts this spring after suspending their studio and community programs earlier this year due to COVID-19. Instead of in-studio events and classes, the centre will be offering art classes for the whole family online throughout the month of May and into June.

Lorraine Shulba, a practicing artist, will be facilitating both the Community Art Night and the Family Art Night remotely through Zoom meetings for all who would like to follow along. Beginning the last week in April, The Nina website will include a list of supplies needed for each upcoming class and instructions on how to get the supplies yourself, including delivery through The Nina, prior to each class. The classes are free and instructions on how to join will be posted on the website.

"Classes will follow the same format and will be kept simple," says Shulba, referencing the in-studio classes they would

normally hold twice a week. Instruction in a variety of different art forms will be offered, including painting, sculpting, and fibre arts. This is a great opportunity to expand your creative repertoire safely from the comfort of your home.

The Nina, founded in 2003, is a non-profit centre for art consisting of artists with developmental disabilities, facilitated by professional, practicing artists through mentorship, workshops, and small group sessions. The centre has grown to include over 200 members with their work being exhibited across Canada and internationally. They also run the Stollery Gallery at the Stollery Children's Hospital.

Information on the classes offered can be found on thenina.ca.

Victoria is an entrepreneur, roller derby player, and bassist living in the Delton area.

NINA CLASSES

thenina.ca



Lorraine Shulba will be instructing participants remotely. | Supplied

FAMILY ART NIGHT



We will offer free materials and classes in the comfort of your home. We will have curbside material pick up or delivery. Call, text or email Lorraine at 780-919-9627 or hello@lshulba.com to arrange!

While we are staying safe - Join LIVE online!



Class schedule:

- April 30** Love getting messy? Let's work with clay!
- May 7** Want to play with colour? Join us and get ready to have fun with tempera!
- May 14** Tissue into art? Let's have some fun!
- May 21** More texture work...Make a puppet using materials supplied.
- May 28** Get messy with pastel. Unique papers offer a unique look! Give it a try!

How it works:

You will download the Zoom app.

Enter Meeting ID:
235-913-8901 to
Join LIVE Thursdays
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM



Classes are FREE, thanks to the generous support from the Edmonton Community Foundation.

thenina.ca



COMMUNITY ART NIGHT



We will offer free materials and classes in the comfort of your home. We will have curbside material pick up or delivery. Call, text or email Lorraine at 780-919-9627 or hello@lshulba.com to arrange!

While we are staying safe - Join LIVE online!



Class schedule:

- April 28** Let's draw and learn a few techniques!
- May 5** Paint LIVE with Lorraine! She will show you how to do a landscape and paint along!
- May 12** Experiment with vellum and inks. Using reference materials, making your own masterpiece!
- May 19** Use of analogous colour with oil pastel and tempera paints. A composition is established and adorned with some techniques explored.
- May 26** Gel medium fun. We are going to learn some gel transfer techniques and have fun creating a composition.

How it works:

You will download the Zoom app.

Enter Meeting ID:
235-913-8901 to
Join LIVE Tuesdays
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM



Classes are FREE, thanks to the generous support from Grant MacEwan University

thenina.ca





Calling all angels... Jane Siberry salon a virtual success



(top photos) Jane Siberry gave her on-line guests a marvelously intimate salon experience in May 2020 after COVID travel and gathering restrictions called for a creative alternative to an in-person salon. (bottom photos) In 2013, Jane inspired Nina's music salons. Her magical performance thrilled her audience. Jane toured the Nina studios prior to her performance and generously met with guests after the show.

The Nina is a busy hub in the 'hood

If it's happening on Alberta Avenue (118th 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.

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.

It begins the second weekend in January with the Deep Freeze Byzantine Winter Festival, followed in March by Skirts-Afire Festival, Kaliedo Family Arts Festival in early September and ends with Yule Ave a Merry Christmas in December. And throughout the year, in addition to regular art exhibitions and openings, the Nina hosts play readings and performance, tai chi classes, birthday parties, book launches, choir practices, rehearsals, workshops, video shoots, community events, social gatherings, and fundraising events.



Pandemic puts travel on hold... but our annual raffle gives you something to dream about

Hawaii, Rome, your choice of London or Dublin - Charles Slaughter of Synergy Inmate Phone Solutions has personally tailored luxury trips each year in support of the Nina. This year was to be the piece de resistance... first class air for two to Sydney, Australia, with ten glorious nights in a spectacular five star property overlooking the Sydney opera house! And fabulous odds with only 390 tickets printed.

The pandemic has delayed our promotion of the raffle, and cancelled events have impacted our ability to sell tickets, but we remain optimistic that we can sell all tickets by the March 31, 2021 draw date. In order to allow time for travel restrictions to loosen and people to once again dream of travel adventures, the winner will have two years to claim their prize. Tickets are currently available on our website, and this summer and fall we will begin to promote the raffle in earnest. But why wait? Please consider buying your ticket now. In addition to unbelievable odds your purchase will directly support the Nina's important art and community programs during challenging times. We expect many of our usual fundraising avenues to be impacted this year by COVID-19 restrictions and a troubled economy.

Thank you to everyone who purchased or helped with selling tickets for our previous raffles. This is an important part of our fundraising efforts, thanks to the amazingly generous support of our raffle sponsor. With the prize donated by Synergy Inmate Phone Solutions **ALL** proceeds from raffle sales directly support programs.

Australian Getaway Raffle



Grand Prize Value Over \$30,000

Includes **FIRST CLASS** return airfare for two to Sydney, Australia
and ten night stay in the five-star Shangri-La Hotel & Resort

ONLY 390 TICKETS PRINTED!



\$50

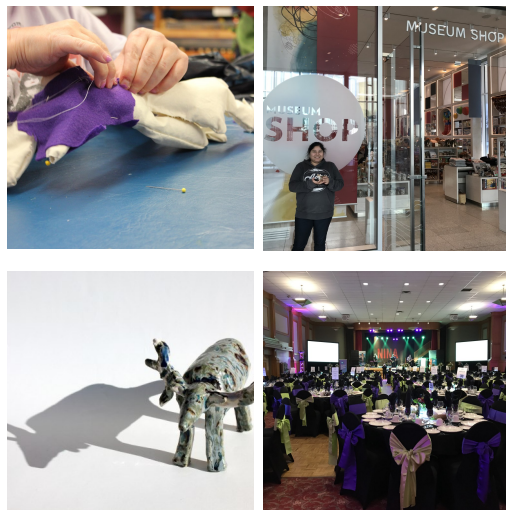
TICKETS

In support of the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts
a non-profit organization that supports over 220
local artists with developmental disabilities.



The trip will be delayed until travel can once again safely resume, but you can start dreaming today! The odds of winning are unbelievable (only 390 tickets printed) and your purchase directly supports Nina programs.





(from top) Carmella Spadafore in the fabric studio; Holly Sabourin, proud to have some of her work in clay for sale in the Royal Alberta Museum gift shop; work in clay by Alana Gersky; and 2019 Here's Nina awards gala at the Italian Cultural Centre



thenina.ca

9225—118 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5G 0K6
(780) 474-7611