



ANNUAL REPORT

The Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts

**the
nina**
Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts

2023



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.

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Message from the Nina

This year at the Nina has been one of significant growth. We have seen established artists expand the breadth of their work, and newcomers discover unknown passions. This is apparent in the incredible array of exhibitions and opportunities Nina artists have pursued throughout Edmonton and beyond.

2023 marked the Nina's 20th birthday, celebrated with an exhibition and a fabulous party. Though it has been two decades since our founding, the Nina has not lost momentum. Instead, we have grown, expanded, experimented, and sharpened our resolve to provide opportunities for artists to express themselves.

One member of our team who has been indispensable for our entire twenty years of operation is Rona Fraser. Rona stepped up as our President and CEO in 2020 after our founder and Executive Director for seventeen years, Wendy Hollo, retired. She guided our organization through the unprecedented challenges of Covid-19 and supported our staff and artists relentlessly. After nearly three years of incredible leadership, Rona has transitioned to a new role as our Chief Development Officer. Her focus will be in creating a sustainable funding model and building partnerships to ensure that the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts continues to be a pillar in the arts and disabilities communities for twenty more years, and beyond.

Joining our team as our new President and CEO is Maria Laycock, who has already proven herself to be an impactful asset. Maria is a graduate with a business diploma from NAIT, specializing in marketing. She brings with her many years of experience working in marketing management and hospitality, as well as owning and operating a children's art studio and working as a Developmental Assistant for children with disabilities with the GRIT Program. She has served on numerous not-for-profit boards, most recently as the co-chair of St. Albert Cultivates the Arts. We are so happy to have Maria with us.

The Nina would like to thank the tireless efforts of all the staff, board members, volunteers, donors, patrons, and artists who have been part of this vibrant organization for the last twenty years. The Nina is a tenacious ecosystem, with each important individual striving towards our common mandate.

Here's to another year to Create, Connect, and Change Lives together!



Jodi Eyolfson, Board Chair



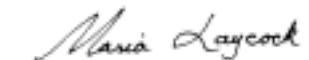
Maddi Dewar, Studio Manager

Message from Maria

As a brand-new member of Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts there is one word that comes to mind over and over. Impact. Impact that the artists have on the Nina, our team, their art, our patrons, sponsors, and our city. The artists we support create art, but they also create relationships with each other and with those who have the honour to work alongside them. The dedication to their craft is awe inspiring, from inception to completion. The artists are so proud and excited that they will bring their artwork around the studio to share with everyone. Sharing their art with the world on their own terms is an empowering form of autonomy. These examples all represent impact.

A big thank you to each artist who steps through our doors but let us not forget that behind every great artist is a great team. The team, many of whom are talented artists in their own right, can embrace, encourage and be flexible to changes in the day. Their dedication and enthusiasm are also inspiring. What a gift they all are in moving the Nina forward.

As I venture forward in my new role, I know I will reflect often on the impact everyone has on my heart and the hearts of others. "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched – they must be felt with the heart". Helen Keller.



Maria Laycock
Chief Executive Officer

Board and Staff

2023-24 Board Slate of Officers & Directors

The Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts is pleased to present the following slate of officers for ratification by members:

- Jodi Eyolfson, Chair
- Sara Hart, Vice Chair
- David MacGillivray, Treasurer
- Adam Skoreyko, Secretary
- Arlindo Gomes, Director
- Bruce Kirkland, Director
- Lynn Mandel, Director
- Patricia Misutka, Director
- Edwin Shale, Director
- Samantha Williams-Chapelsky, Director

Permanent Staff April 2022 - March 2023

- ADMIN
- Rona Fraser, CEO

Maddi Dewar, Studio Manager

Cynthia Sentara, Studio Manager

David Janzen, Exhibition Coordinator

Jenn Rutledge-Gordon, Event and Volunteer Manager

Janice Easton, Director of Communications and Artistic Outreach

Hilary Mussell, Special Projects Coordinator, Lead Artist

Amy Leigh, Grants and Partnerships Development Coordinator
- LEAD ARTISTS
- Tatyana Babee

Mitch Chalifoux

Brenda Christiansen

Holly de Moissac

Lucille Frost

Renee Hart

Amanda Howell

Anica Neiman

Sue Seright

Jenny Shaw

Will Truchon

Lorelle Whittingham

Rin Wilson



Casual and Contract Staff

- Victoria Bethel, Custodian
- Amber Borotsik, Dance Instructor
- Diana Cline, Virtual Instructor
- Mathieson Erikson, Lead Artist
- Emily Hayes, Lead Artist
- Nita Postma, Lead Artist
- Jared Quinney, Community Outreach Liason
- Lorraine Shulba, Community & Family Art Nights Instructor
- Shay Warkentin, Lead Artist



Volunteers

From washing windows to pouring wine at special events, our volunteers are always there when we need them! Thank you to all the volunteers who contributed their time and talents this year:

Dale Abbott-Smith	Laryssa Jamin	Keith Poelzer
Macha Abdallah	Liisa Jorgensen	Marla Poelzer
Ibiza Blackwell	Lisa Kercher	John Richardson
Riley Bouchard	Lorie Key	Jenny Shaw
Dee Cadrin	Erica Leveque	Ken Smith
Liann Cameron	Patty McGuire	Isela Solis
Cole Chapelsky	Alexis Milinusic	Jake Thompson
Brenda Christiansen	Davis Mulatris	Thuy Tran
Sheila Eliasson	Erika Namsechi	Rhyll Velasquez
Mathieson Erikson	Nanci Nedim	Guy Voisey
Jacqueline Frohn	Ella Newman-Wilson	Lorelle Whittingham
Whistler Gordon	Beracah Nwankpa	Samantha Williams-Chapelsky
Sonia Griffiths	Katie O'Connor	Rin Wilson
Kyra Heneghan-Smith	Joeley Piersdorff	
Wendy Hollo	Megan Pierzchajlo	



Volunteers contributed nearly
500 hours between
April 2022 - March 2023

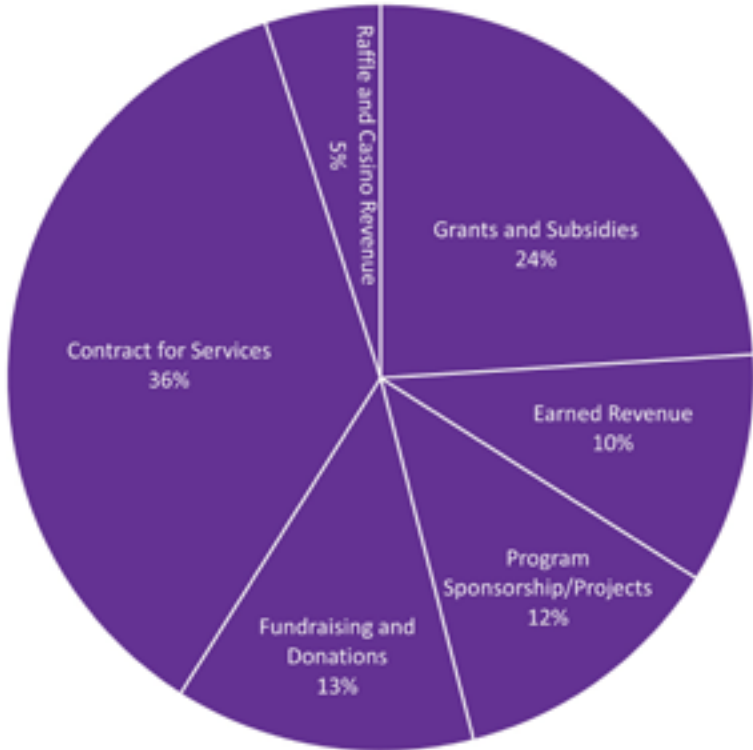
Financial Report

The Nina’s revenue mix shifted slightly this year with no covid restrictions. We were able to hold our annual fundraising gala, have a casino and take part in projects and programs. “Contract for services” is a smaller portion this year as there was an advance payment three years ago which meant one less payment this year. Despite this the Nina still posted a positive year end position, posting a small surplus for the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

The Nina is happy to announce we have met our fiscal goal to be able to accommodate thirty new artists from our waitlist. The centre opened an additional three-hour block per week. Funding for this will largely be met by an increase in PDD funding for our new three-year contract. Elimination of the remainder of the mortgage on the building would allow for more artists to be given the opportunity to create. The centre is getting very close to realizing this goal thanks to dedicated supporters.

We look forward to another strong year of growing and serving the community. Stability for the future will continue to be a top priority.

Revenue by Source 2022/2023



Thank you to our sustaining partners



Arts funding from our sustaining partners makes it possible for the Nina to serve so many incredible artists in the Edmonton cultural sector. We thank these ongoing supporters that provide a measure of security for the important work that happens here. Alberta Human Services (Disability Services) accounted for 36% of operating revenue. The Alberta Foundation for the Arts and Edmonton Arts Council also played a vital role accounting for 14% of operating revenue during the fiscal period. Sponsorship, fundraising and donations accounted for 35% this past year. Every donation is impactful. Thank you to each and every individual donor, organization, and business that has contributed.

25% of our operating revenue was generated through sponsorship, fundraising, and donations.

Project & Program Sponsors

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Alberta Recreation and Parks Association | Grant Thornton |
| ATB | Melton Foundation |
| Churchill Society | Mosaic Home Services Ltd |
| CIBC | RBC |
| Community Initiatives Program | TD |
| Edmonton Community Foundation | |

2022 Patrons

ATB	Rona Fraser	Colette Miller	Kierstin Smyth
Pam and Josh Baergen	Dao Haddad	Salvatore Miniaci	Clinton Sopchyshyn
Colton Bishop	Sara Hart	Patricia Misutka	Geneva Sopchyshyn
Marian Brant	Wendy Hollo	Sheena Moodie	Barbara Steckly
Chelsea Brown	Helen Holth	Becky Payne	Marilyn Sterling
Trudy Callaghan	Irene Howell	Michele Perret	Shelley Tobo Gaudreau
Brian Dickenson	Ellen Hughes	Cherillyn Porter	Robert Van Doren
Jean Easton	Ethan Jackson	Jackie Rae Greening	Vicky Varga
John Easton	Angela Keuling	Jenn Rutledge Gordon	Lisa Walters
Nancy Easton	Bruce Kirkland	Dominic Schamuhn	Erica Wolthuis
Robert Easton	Christine Makowichuk	Sir Winston Churchill Society	Yoko Wong
Jodi Eyolfson	Lynn Mandel	Adam Skoreyko	
Iannick Fallu	Stephen Mandel	Tammy Sluzar	
Dina Floreancig	Morgan Marley	Heather Smith	

For information about becoming a patron, contact jenn@thenina.ca

Our Patron Program helps keep our membership fee low and waive it for those who find it a barrier to participation. We are incredibly grateful to all our new and returning patrons in 2022!



Chelsea Brown and Mark Traficante



Holly Regel and Aaron Ennis



Michele Perret and Eli Adaba

Artist Advisory Committee

The Nina’s Artist Advisory Committee (AAC) was formed in 2021 as an official and meaningful way for artists in the Nina Collective to become more involved in organizational decisions and share their input with our staff and board. In the two years since its formation, AAC membership has nearly doubled from seven to thirteen regularly attending members.

The past year has been busy for the committee, who spearheaded and planned the Nina’s first ever artist-run market in September and led the production of a large group installation at Silver Skate Festival in February. They have also begun curating and installing quarterly exhibitions in the Nina’s Marian Allen Kitchen Gallery. The committee was key in creating projects for our annual RBC Emerging Artists program, which included grant-writing and a summer art picnic. In early spring 2023, many members of the committee participated in a discussion about disability justice, and the Nina’s role in promoting the rights of its members. These themes have continued in recent meetings with artists gaining momentum and passion around the topic.

Going forward, the AAC’s goal is to work on one market and one large festival or public art project each year.



Hilary, Aba, Carrie W., Carrie R., Jared, and Roy at a Committee meeting in 2022

Core Committee Members

Sarah Belding	Alana Gersky	Roy Skoreyko
Deserie Dick	Amynah Pirani	Carrie Wheeler
Dale Donahue	Yvette Prefontaine	Joel Youb
Katie Foss	Jared Quinney	
Aba Garbrah	Carrie Reed	

Project Spotlight

Artist-Led Market Supported by CIBC Propel

Selling art is important to many artists in the Nina Collective, and the Artist Advisory Committee wanted to create an opportunity for artists to be more involved in the process. With support from CIBC, the Nina held its first artist-run market during Kaleido Festival in September of 2022. Although we have participated in numerous art sales as an organization, this event marked the first time artists were responsible for preparing and selling their work individually.

- The group spent several months getting ready for the market and learning more about the business side of being an artist. Each artist made their own business cards and attended three workshops to help them prepare:
- An introduction to art markets, hosted by Carrie Wheeler from the Nina Collective
 - Tips on presentation, pricing, and curation, hosted by professional artist and Nina board member, Samantha Williams-Chapelsky
 - A discussion on others ways to make a living as an artist, hosted by professional artist Debbie Ratcliffe from BEING Studio in Ottawa

Fourteen artists participated in total, with others attending the market to support their friends and enjoy the festival. There is a lot of excitement in the studios as artists prepare for the next market in September 2023!



Lisa Reece and Marilyn Dymchuk braving the cold weather

Project Spotlight

Silver Skate Festival A Creative Collaboration

A group of Nina artists created a large installation for Silver Skate Festival inspired by Charlie Peters' story titled 'The Land of Shadows and the Land of Light'.

Over several planning sessions, the group decided to focus on using light and shadow to create something that can be understood without words. A great deal of collective effort went into bringing their concept to life in a way that could endure Edmonton's winter elements at the outdoor festival. Artists sawed, sanded, sculpted, and painted with help from Special Projects Coordinator Hilary Mussell.

After months of planning and preparation, the crew installed their finished work at Hawrelak Park in February of 2023, where it was seen by thousands of people.

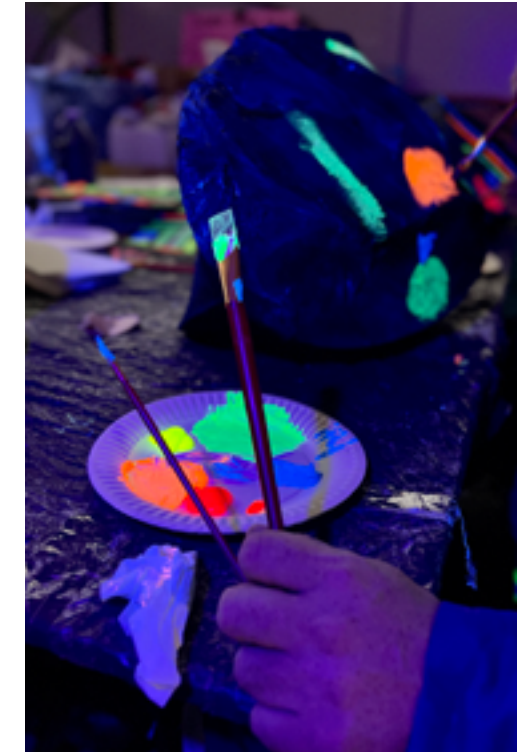
Participating artists include: Jared Quinney, Joel Youb, Roy Skoreyko, Dale Donahue, Aba Garbrah, Arynah Pirani, Carl Philip, Carrie Reed, Erin Lepine, Carrie Wheeler, Brenda Lapointe, Bonnie Blackburn, and Hilary Mussell.

We were able to complete this project thanks to support from the Edmonton Arts Council's Connections and Exchanges Initiatives grant.



// It was a project that I think everyone pulled together... we all had part of it. //

Roy Skoreyko



Artistic Programming

Nearly 200 artists attend the Nina to create art in our painting, drawing, printmaking, textiles, and ceramics studios on 118 Avenue each week.



Sue Seright and Collette V. rust-dyeing fabric



Katrina Filio adding watercolour to her cyanotype



Nina artists touring the Maud Lewis exhibition at the AGA

2022 was a year of experimentation and growth in our studios. Staff introduced new techniques to the collective, such as rust dying with Sue and cyanotype with Mitch. Amber returned and facilitated the incredibly popular dance program. In the summer, members developed their watercolour skills in outdoor plein air sessions in the beautiful Alberta Avenue Community League garden, sponsored by ATB. Wintertime brought the Silver Skate festival, and experimentation with light and plaster sculptures, powertools, and woodworking.

Artists also shared techniques with their peers. Joel Youb led a workshop on circle loom weaving, and Bonnie Blackburn taught the collective how to make sock monkeys. Following the publication of Brittany Leitheiser's novel, several other artists began writing their own books.

Thank you to the Art Gallery of Alberta for hosting nearly 80 artists for a tour of the Maud Lewis exhibition.

// It's beautiful to be surrounded by artists who have disabilities. We get to see each other's work and see each other do great things. //

- Jared Quinney



Erin Lepine painting in the Alberta Ave Community Garden



Amynah Pirani at the summer Art Picnic

Project Spotlight

2022 RBC Emerging Artists

Each year we welcome a group of artists in the early stages of their professional artistic careers to participate in a creative exchange with the Nina Collective of artists in partnership with the RBC Emerging Artists program. This valuable program strengthens relationships between the artists we support and the broader visual arts community in Edmonton and creates opportunities for creative connections between artists across the disability spectrum.

From May to August of 2022, six artists joined us in the studios to host workshops, participate in professional panels, and collaborate on projects. This year's artists shared their diverse skillset with our collective, facilitating projects that included

taking professional headshots of artists, making beads from seeds and dirt, traditional pysanky painting, creating ceramic stamps, paper pulp sculpture, and symbolism in art.

Thank you to our 2022 RBC Emerging Artists:

Kate Bang
Hannah Dotzenroth
Sylvie Ellis
Sonia Griffiths
Mikylie Shapka
Jenny Shaw



Dillon Bennet in Mikylie Shapka's Pysanky workshop



Jenny Shaw demonstrating the paper pulp process

Suncatcher Workshop

Presented by TD

This year's BIPOC Artist in Residence was Lorelle Whittingham. Lorelle worked with a wide range of Nina artists throughout the week to create ceramic suncatchers. The pieces were made in the wintertime to catch the scarce light with crystals, gold foil, homemade charms, and disco balls. Artists stamped in phrases of encouragement and self-care, such as "keep smiling" and "nobody's perfect". The final pieces were on display at *After Hours* in the Stollery Gallery. Each piece was unique, and reflected the personalities and values of the individual artists.



Artist Connect

We began hosting Artist Connect, a weekly virtual art session open to artists from supportive studios across Canada, in 2021 as an extension of BEING Studio's impactful Artist Connect Conference. Around twenty-five artists from the Nina, BEING Studio and The Space in Ottawa, H'art Studio in Kingston, and one artist from National AccessArts Centre in Calgary, join the session each week. The programming is planned entirely by participants, and includes drawing games, themed sessions, guest speakers, and even karaoke parties!

Exhibitions

Stollery Gallery

A Life in Colour, Robin Phillips

Duets, Nina Collective and Staff

In Bloom, The Centre for Autism Services Alberta Artists

Celebrating the Life & Art of Decinti, Decinti Simpson

Intimus, RBC Emerging Artists

Mythical Imagination, The Nina Collective

After Hours, The Nina Collective

20 Years, The Nina Collective

MGT, Mark Traficante



Hilary Mussell and Sophie Connell



Duets exhibition in the Stollery Gallery



Amanda Bauer and Mitch Chalifoux



Over **\$45,000** paid to artists in art sales, exhibition and licensing fees



Intimus exhibition (top); Mark Traficante at *MGT* (bottom left); *Mythical Imagination* curated by Brittany Leitheiser (bottom right)



Exhibitions

In addition to exhibiting work in our Stollery Gallery, the Nina is committed to helping the artists we support share their work with new audiences through exhibition outside our building. This includes group shows in other galleries and venues, as well as supporting individual artists in responding to calls for submissions and other opportunities.



Aba Garbrah with her artwork at the Art Gallery of Alberta



Kim Casarin with her work at Gallery@501

External Exhibitions

Shuffle, Nina Collective
Art Gallery of Alberta

Nano Conference, Nina Collective
Edmonton Convention Centre

Around You / Near You, Kim Casarin,
Jordan Kucy, Laura Traverse
Gallery@501

Special Olympics Showcase, Nina
Collective
Millenium Place

Albirda, Linda Vincent
Alberta Craft Council (Edmonton and
Calgary)

Open Walls, Deanne Lambert, Arynah
Pirani
Bleeding Hearts Art Gallery



Top: Laura Traverse with her work at Gallery@501

Bottom left: Artists attending *Shuffle* exhibition at the Art Gallery of Alberta Right: Vanessa Ryl with her work in *Shuffle*



Project Spotlight

Murals by Jamie Laventure

Celebrating *Edmonton Spirit* at ATB Place



Jamie Laventure with his two vinyl murals at ATB Place

Congratulations to Jamie Laventure who has two murals up now in ATB Place! These vibrant depictions of the Muttart Conservatory and Walterdale Bridge celebrate Edmonton's distinctive architecture and brighten up the food court area.

Thank you to Triovest for supporting local artists like Jamie with this wonderful, paid opportunity to share his work on such a large scale.

You can see Jamie's work downstairs in ATB Place, across from the Second Cup.

// [I feel] good, awesome and proud... them being a picture of Edmonton makes me feel good. //

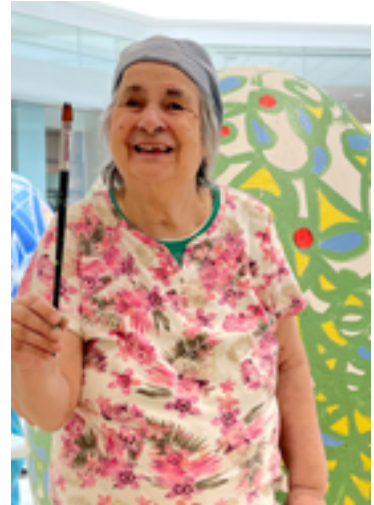
Jamie Laventure

Pysanky for Peace

Nina Artists Give Back

In April of 2022, Kingsway Mall and the Alberta Council of the Ukrainian Arts invited a group of six local artists to use their talents to raise funds for displaced Ukrainian families arriving in Edmonton.

Two artists from the Nina Collective, Eli Abada and Uli Rossier, participated in this unique fundraiser. They each spent several days on-site at Kingsway Mall painting six foot tall styrofoam eggs. Once complete, these one-of-a-kind works of art were auctioned off with all funds donated to Ukrainian Canadian Social Services to support their humanitarian efforts.



Mythical Forest

A Novel by Brittany Leitheiser

Brittany began writing *Mythical Forest* in 2019, and continued throughout lockdown, online sessions, and the Nina's reopening. The fantasy novel is the first in a series and features the unique monsters of Brittany's imagination. The novel was published on Amazon in 2022, where it is available for purchase worldwide. To launch the book, Brittany curated *Mythical Imagination* - a Halloween themed exhibition of the Collective's work. Nina artists attended the costume party opening, which culminated in a live reading from Brittany. The novel's success has sparked interest in the literary arts throughout the studios.



Mosaic Home Services Presents Here's Nina 2022

After a few years off due to COVID-19, we were so thrilled to have over 400 artists and supporters gather together once again for our annual awards gala and fundraiser, Here's Nina! This event celebrates the accomplishments of seven artists receiving awards and raises crucial funding for our organization. This year's gala took place at a new venue: the fabulous Edmonton EXPO Centre. Longtime event hosts Sheri Sommerville and Josh Classen delighted guests, along with musical performances sponsored by Dentons with support from the Edmonton Arts Council.

Save the date, Here's Nina 2023 will be on November 16!



Left: Aba Garbrah and her sister with Mayor Sohi
Right: Aaron Harvey and Des McCook

Thank you to our sponsors

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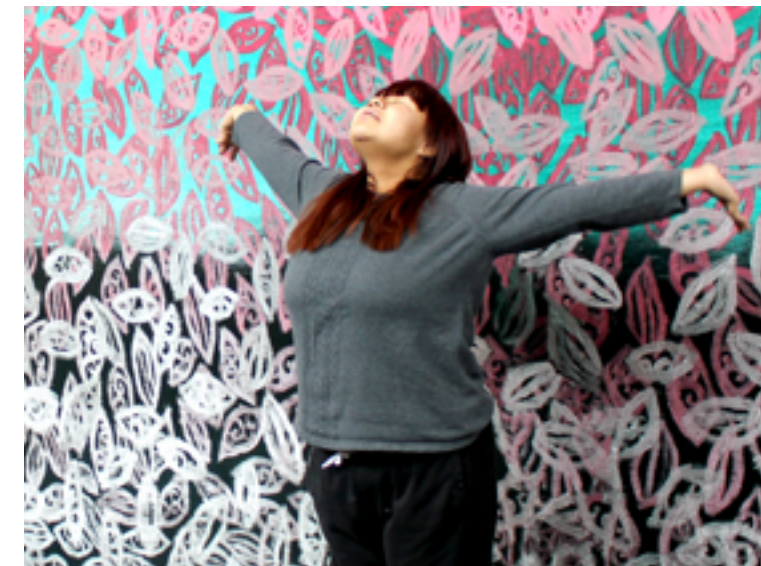
St. Albert Parking Lot Maintenance

Stephen & Lynn Mandel

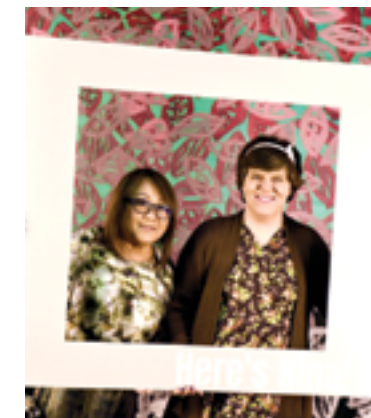
Westkey Graphics Xibita

Guests at Here's Nina posed for photos in front of a very special back drop this year. *Fall Leaves*, a vinyl mural by Nina artist Decinti Simpson, was installed at the EXPO Centre in 2019.

The Nina staff and artists were deeply saddened by Decinti's passing in 2022. It was very meaningful to see how her joyful spirit lives on through her art at this event. We know she would have loved seeing everyone all dressed up, posing in front of her masterpiece.



Decinti Simpson with her mural at the EXPO Centre in 2019



Here's Nina guests posing in front of Decinti's mural

2022 Award Winners

Amynah Pirani

EPCOR
Create Award

Amynah Pirani creates mixed media sculptures and collages on fabric that are rich with detail and texture. She often combines found objects and donated materials, handwritten text, and vibrant textiles. Much of Amynah's work is autobiographical. She has made several self-portraits, and a tryptic fabric collage that tells the story of her journey from Kenya to Canada, which was exhibited at the Art Gallery of Alberta in 2022. She also participated in the 2022 Mystery Art Box Challenge and exhibition at the Multicultural Heritage Centre in Stony Plain.



Carrie Wheeler

Rotary Club of Edmonton Northeast
Connect Award

Carrie Wheeler is a prolific artist who works primarily in ceramic sculpture at the Nina and sells her art independently at TIX on the Square, the Capilano Farmers Market, and various art walks and events. She is passionate about sharing her skills as an artist and entrepreneur and has hosted workshops for fellow artists at the Nina. She is also an active member of the Nina's Artist Advisory Committee and was a leader in organizing our first ever Artist-Led Art Market in 2022.



Rodney Dalessio

Realtors Community Foundation
Changed Life Award

Rodney Dalessio works in painting, sculpture, and printmaking at the Nina. Since 2018, he has used his art to explore memories of a boarding school he was sent to as a child in St. John, New Brunswick. A painting from this series titled "I hate it here, I want to go home", was exhibited on an LRT poster in 2021 and the entire series was shown at the Art Gallery of Alberta in 2022. He is also fascinated with trains and planes and enjoys painting and sculpting them. These works have been exhibited in several group shows throughout Edmonton.



Raymond Keung

ATB
Emerging Artist Award

Raymond Keung joined the Nina Collective in 2022. Originally from Hong Kong, he has lived in Edmonton for several years and worked as an accountant for much of his life. After having a stroke in 2021, Raymond decided it was time to try something completely different and start a new life as an artist. Although he had never made art before, he discovered an immediate talent for drawing and painting animals and landscapes. He practices to develop his skills every day. We are delighted to have him in the Nina Collective and look forward to seeing where his dedication and innate skill will take him!



2022 Award Winners

Brittany Leitheiser

Edmonton EXPO Centre
Artists' Choice Award

Brittany has been a friendly fixture of the Nina since 2015 and was selected for this award by her peers. Her practice has included ceramics, painting, printmaking, puppetry, animation, comic books, music, and fiction writing. After several years of writing and editing, Brittany's first novel *Mythical Forest* was published on Amazon in 2022. The Nina held a book launch, alongside a Halloween themed show of the collective's work curated by Brittany. Her accomplishments have sparked a renewed interest in literary arts at the Nina, inspiring other artists to begin writing.



Jared Quinney

CIBC
Propel Award

Since joining our collective in 2017, Jared Quinney has become a central presence in our studios. His natural inclination to share his passion for art with visitors to our centre has made him a wonderful ambassador, a role that was formalized in 2022 when he joined our staff as a Community Outreach Liaison. Jared is a founding member of the Nina's Artist Advisory Committee and plays a crucial role in representing his fellow artists both within our organization and the broader community. He has facilitated numerous workshops and spoken at public events, and exemplifies how an artist's role can transcend the studio and gallery space to bring people together.



Amber Borotsik

Odvod Media
Sustained Support Award

Amber Borotsik is a creator and performer working in contemporary dance and theatre. New work is her passion, and she delights in all kinds of creation, collaboration and exchange. After instructing dance at the Nina for over ten years, she has become a fixture of the Nina team. Through her patient, intuitive, and creative methods, she has helped Nina visual artists branch into movement, improvisation, and choreography. Amber has created an open, welcoming space for dancers of all abilities and experience levels to express themselves in new ways. We thank Amber for her ongoing support and passion for the Nina Dance Collective.



Scan to view the
award winner's videos,
generously produced by
Lindisfarne Productions

2022 Award Winners

Mark Traficante

2023 Artist of the Year Award

Every year we celebrate an artist who has demonstrated a consistent commitment to their growth as an artist over a period of at least two years. This artist has developed a vision for their own art making which can be seen through the development of consistent identifiable style and a persistent interest in media or subject matter, resulting in artworks that are consistently chosen for exhibition or sale.

Our 2023 Artist of the Year, Mark Trafficante, has been a prolific and long-term member of the collective. With two of his paintings included in the Alberta Foundation for the Arts' permanent collection and countless more in private collections, Mark has established himself as a prominent local artist. He is known for his acrylic paintings of celebrities, security guards, and biblical figures, and depicts all of his subjects with equal reverence. His reimaginings of The Last Supper with celebrities eating junk food have been particularly celebrated. He has inspired other artists at the Nina to try out portraiture. His work has been exhibited widely in group exhibitions, including *Shuffle* at the Art Gallery of Alberta in 2022. His 2023 solo exhibition *MGT* surveys his output from the last 17 years.



Community Connections

The Nina is extremely fortunate to have our own purpose-built studio and gallery space in the vibrant Alberta Avenue neighbourhood and strives to share our amenities with the community whenever possible. Outside of our regular studio hours we are pleased to share our facility with the following organizations:

Arts on the Ave

Arts on the Ave is a non-profit organization that has organized and presented a broad range of activities: extensive art showings, a variety of inter-disciplinary festivals as well as activities that are a blend of artistic expressions in an educational, mentoring and sharing environment. The Nina partners with Arts on the Ave for many of their events each year.

AMSA

The Art Mentorship Society of Alberta is a non-profit art wellness organization that provides crucial access points for emerging artists in Edmonton, Alberta. AMSA uses our studio space to host their weekly drawing classes.

Canadian Mental Health Association (Edmonton Region)

The Peer Connections - Fibre Arts Group is a community of people with lived experience of a mental illness or mental health challenge. Peer members meet at the Nina to share their skills and talents in the areas of quilting, knitting, crochet, sewing, and paper arts. The group offers socialization opportunities and friendships.

Centre for Autism Services Alberta

The Centre for Autism Services Alberta's visual arts programs for children, teens, and young adults allows aspiring artists on the autism spectrum to bring their ideas to life through a variety of mediums. Led by instructors from the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts, artists develop their skills in drawing, painting, and ceramics.

Rising Sun Theatre

Rising Sun Theatre provides opportunities for cognitively disabled people to practice the art of theatre. Their ensemble of emerging actors is committed to mastering a range of theatre skills with guidance from professional theatre facilitators and community support workers. They collectively create and publicly present original performance material which reflects the voices, stories, and imaginations of their actors. We are proud to share our space with this group for their weekly rehearsals and annual performance.



Crystal Kids

The Crystal Kids Art program offers youth in the community the opportunity to explore the visual arts. Children aged 7-14 attend a free art class every Thursday afternoon following early dismissal from school. They are provided a nutritious snack and a different art project each week focusing on painting, printmaking, sculpture and so much more.

Community Connections

Family and Community Art Nights



For many years our Community Art Night and Family Art Night programs have been a barrier-free hub for creativity and connection in the Alberta Avenue neighbourhood. During Covid we switched to hosting the art classes over Zoom with free art supply kits for participants, and although that was a meaningful way to stay connected during a difficult time, it felt wonderful to return to in-person sessions in 2022! A Community Art Night participant named Chantal shared their experience, saying “What you do is truly appreciated. I enjoy the camaraderie of the group. I learn new things and I learn that I can do art. The classes help me to be present as I focus on the project at hand and discover new things.”



The Nina thanks Lorraine Shulba for her dedication to facilitating these classes each week.

“Without this program, I would not have access to an art class. This program enriches my life.”

- Carol, Community Art Night Participant



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