



# ANNUAL REPORT

The Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts

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

# 2025






















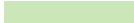
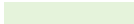
# Our Vision

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.

Background image: *Rainbow Fish* by Desiree McCook

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# Message from the Nina

It has been another busy, exciting and productive year at the Nina! There are currently over two hundred artists in the Nina Collective expressing themselves through painting, printmaking, ceramics, textiles, dance, and more. Creation and connection were at the forefront of our programming this year, with an emphasis on artistic growth through collaboration.

Creative collaboration has always been at the heart of our organization. Through sharing studio space, artists in the Collective see each other's work, exchange ideas and inspiration, and sometimes even work together on projects. As all of our studio staff are also professional, practicing artists, there is a constant flow of ideas and problem solving that leads to new techniques and innovation every day. This creative exchange goes beyond the artists within our collective and staff. We actively engage artists from outside the Nina through initiatives like our yearly RBC Emerging Artists Program, and support our artists in outreach efforts including public speaking, external exhibitions, and leading workshops. For twenty-two years we have seen how mutually beneficial collaboration between artists across the disability spectrum can be, and this year was no exception.

Nina artists Boyd Dymchuk, Aaron Harvey, and Shantel Timmerman collaborated with each other and the Art Gallery of Alberta to create an exhibition and publication that represented artists with developmental disabilities on a new level in Alberta. Dale Donahue, Aryn Pirani, and Jared Quinney worked with sculptor Lalith Senanayake to build a life-sized moose sculpture out of recycled materials. Several

artists from the Nina joined forces with artists supported by Chrysalis: An Alberta Society for Citizens with Disabilities to generate work for a group exhibition and permanent sculpture installation. These are just a few highlights from a year full of memorable moments and meaningful connections that we will cover in more detail throughout this report.

Another collaboration that is at the center of our organization is the Artist Advisory Committee. This group of artists works together with our staff and board to provide meaningful leadership and ensure that our organization moves forward in a way that honours the needs and interests of our Collective. This year they initiated our budding fashion program and organized our first ever fashion show, among other projects. The Nina is committed to amplifying the voices and talents of the artists in our Collective, and the creativity, tenacity, and dedication of our Advisory Committee makes that possible.

Lastly, we would like to extend our continuous thanks to all of our patrons, donors, volunteers and staff for enabling us to achieve so much this year. Our strong community of supporters provides the foundation for us to continue to grow and facilitate the life-changing power of creation and connection. Thank you.



Rona Fraser  
Chief Executive Officer  
(Interim)



Maddi Dewar  
Studio Manager



# Board of Directors

## Board Members 2024 – 2025

**Sara Hart**, Chair

**Adam Skoreyko**, Vice Chair

**Edwin Shale**, Secretary

**David MacGillivray**, Treasurer

**Arlindo Gomes**, Director

**Lynn Mandel**, Director

**Patricia Misutka**, Director

## Welcome to the Board

Mary-Lou Hamilton



Mary-Lou Hamilton joined the Nina's Board of Directors in September 2024. She brings extensive senior leadership experience in operations, human resources and sales management across a variety of sectors, including not-for-profit organizations, global IT and the telecommunications industries. Currently, Mary-Lou is semi-retired and works as an independent business consultant providing career management services to executive leaders including recruitment, restructuring advice, policy development and career transition counsel.

## Leaving the Board

Samantha Williams-Chapelsky



The Nina thanks Samantha for the five and a half years she served as a Director on our board. As a highly accomplished visual artist, her experience and insights were extremely valuable to our organization's growth.

# Staff

## Permanent Staff

### ADMINISTRATION

**Maria Layock**, Chief Executive Officer (departed December, 2024)  
**Rona Fraser**, Chief Development Officer, Interim Chief Executive Officer  
**Janice Easton**, Director of Communications & Artistic Outreach  
**Maddi Dewar**, Studio Manager  
**David Janzen**, Exhibition Coordinator (retired March, 2024)  
**Hilary Mussell**, Special Projects Coordinator and Lead Artist  
**Jenn Rutledge-Gordon**, Event and Volunteer Manager

### LEAD ARTISTS

<b>Tatyana Babee</b>	<b>Jenny Shaw</b>
<b>Mitch Chalifoux</b>	<b>Will Truchon</b>
<b>Brenda Christiansen</b>	<b>Shay Warkentin</b>
<b>Renee Hart</b>	<b>Lorelle Whittingham</b>
<b>Cynthia Sentara</b>	<b>Rin Wilson</b>

## Casual & Contract Staff

<b>Victoria Bethel</b> , Custodian	<b>Callum McKenzie</b> , Lead Artist
<b>Amber Borotsik</b> , Dance Instructor	<b>Anica Neiman</b> , Lead Artist, Administrative Assistant
<b>Mathieson Erikson</b> , Lead Artist	<b>Jared Quinney</b> , Community Outreach Liason
<b>Libbie Farrell</b> , Lead Artist	<b>Lorraine Shulba</b> , Community Programs Instructor

# Welcome to the Team

## Anne Harvey

Chief Operations Officer



Anne Harvey is a relationship-oriented leader who upholds a person-centered approach, enabling diverse voices to collaboratively shape collective impact. Anne is committed to fostering welcoming, inclusive spaces by respecting and celebrating diversity and strengths, and applies the principles and practices of Asset-Based Community Development.

Anne joins us from e4c, where she was a member of the Executive Leadership team as the Senior Director of School and Community-Based Programs, providing strategic and operational leadership of poverty-reduction programs and services. She brings extensive leadership and management experience in the public, private and non-profit sectors. Anne has a master's degree in Community Development and is trained and experienced in public and employee engagement, facilitation, ESL instruction, change management, and project management.

Outside of work, Anne spends her time with family and friends, outdoors and active, listening to live music, and attending or volunteering at local events. With an affinity for the arts as a hobby artist, amateur writer and piano player, Anne has deep appreciation for the power of creative expression and is grateful for the opportunity to join The Nina community.

## Terrena Boss

Gallery Preparator

Terrena Boss joined our team in March of 2024 as our Gallery Preparator. She has over fifteen years of experience in Edmonton's arts and culture sector, with previous roles including Exhibition and Art Education Manager at Harcourt House and Gallery Preparator and Art Educator at the Art Gallery of Alberta. Her strong background in exhibition production, installation, and art education has already made her an incredible asset and we look forward to what she will contribute to future projects and exhibitions.

## Retiring after 22 years

### David Janzen



It is hard to imagine the last two decades at the Nina without Dave Janzen. As our exhibition coordinator, Dave played a key role in just about every single show we put on both in our gallery and beyond. With his meticulous attention to detail and eye for curation he presented the artwork made by Nina artists with dignity, precision, and artistry. His contributions to our organization cannot be overstated and we will miss him dearly. We wish him all the best in retirement and cannot wait to see what he makes now that he has more time to focus on his own art practice.

# Volunteers

Dale Abbott Smith  
Aslin Angel  
Victoria Bethel  
Anika Birmingham  
Carol Brandl  
Kalelle Brule  
Zeg Butt  
Cole Chapelsky  
Danielle Charron  
Rachel Denholm  
Marc Dupuis  
Don Easton  
Brandi Ekelund  
Sheila Eliasson  
Jodi Eyolfson  
Rosemary Eyolfson  
Shauna Forsyth  
Janice Gadjewski  
Tammy Gaudet  
Diane Gersky  
Roy Gersky

Adeli Gil  
Monica Golab  
Arlindo Gomes  
Whistler Gordon  
Craig Gordon  
Sonia Griffiths  
Sara Hart  
Emily Hause  
Wendy Hollo  
Krys Holmes  
Cindy Huynh  
Laryssa Jamin  
Lorie Key  
Eric Kother  
Chalsey Kothke  
Deanne Lambert  
Todd Laycock  
Jeanette Lazar  
Max Ludwig  
Janette Maley  
Stephen Mandel

Lynn Mandel  
Sydney McAvoy  
Patty McGuire  
Brad Millward  
Patricia Mitsutka  
Kevin Monk  
Ali Moser  
Marie Muggeridge  
Damien Neubauer  
Ella Newman-Wilson  
Kim Nguyen  
Miguel Nguyen  
Beracah Nwankpa  
Tiana Osinchuk  
Eugene Park  
Becky Payne  
Meg Pierzchajlo  
Steve Pirot  
Colleen Reib  
Rayne Reib  
John Richardson

Sarah Ringma  
Austin Staub  
Eshal Shaizan  
Mishal Shaizan  
Edwin Shale  
Adam Skoreyko  
Kianna Stadnyk  
Teagan Sywyk  
Borys Tarasenko  
Scott Teixeira  
Jake Thompson  
Nico Tobias  
Thuy Tran  
Rhyll Velasquez  
Guy Voisey  
Samantha Williams Chapelsky  
Chloe Witherspoon  
Tammy Wright  
Joel Youb  
Kathryn Zitlaw





Thank you to our incredible  
volunteers for contributing over  
**1100 hours**  
this year!



# Financial Report

This year has been one of significant financial progress and growth for the Nina. We have successfully completed our capital campaign and are thrilled to announce that we can fully pay off our building. This milestone not only strengthens our long-term financial stability but also ensures that more of our resources can be directed toward programming and direct artist support. Achieving this goal is a testament to the dedication of our supporters and the strategic stewardship of our resources.

We are pleased to report a modest operating surplus for the year. We have accomplished a meaningful increase in artist commissions and merchandise sales. We also have a 60% increase in project and program funding, which has enabled us to expand our offerings and create exciting new opportunities for the artists in our collective. These investments have supported innovative programming, enhanced studio access, and deepened community engagement, all while remaining true to our mission of supporting artists with developmental disabilities.

While we are proud of our financial achievements, it is important to recognize that fundraising continues to grow more challenging each year. With nearly 60% of our operating budget reliant on non-guaranteed sources, we must work tirelessly to secure the funding needed to sustain our programs. In an increasingly competitive charitable landscape,

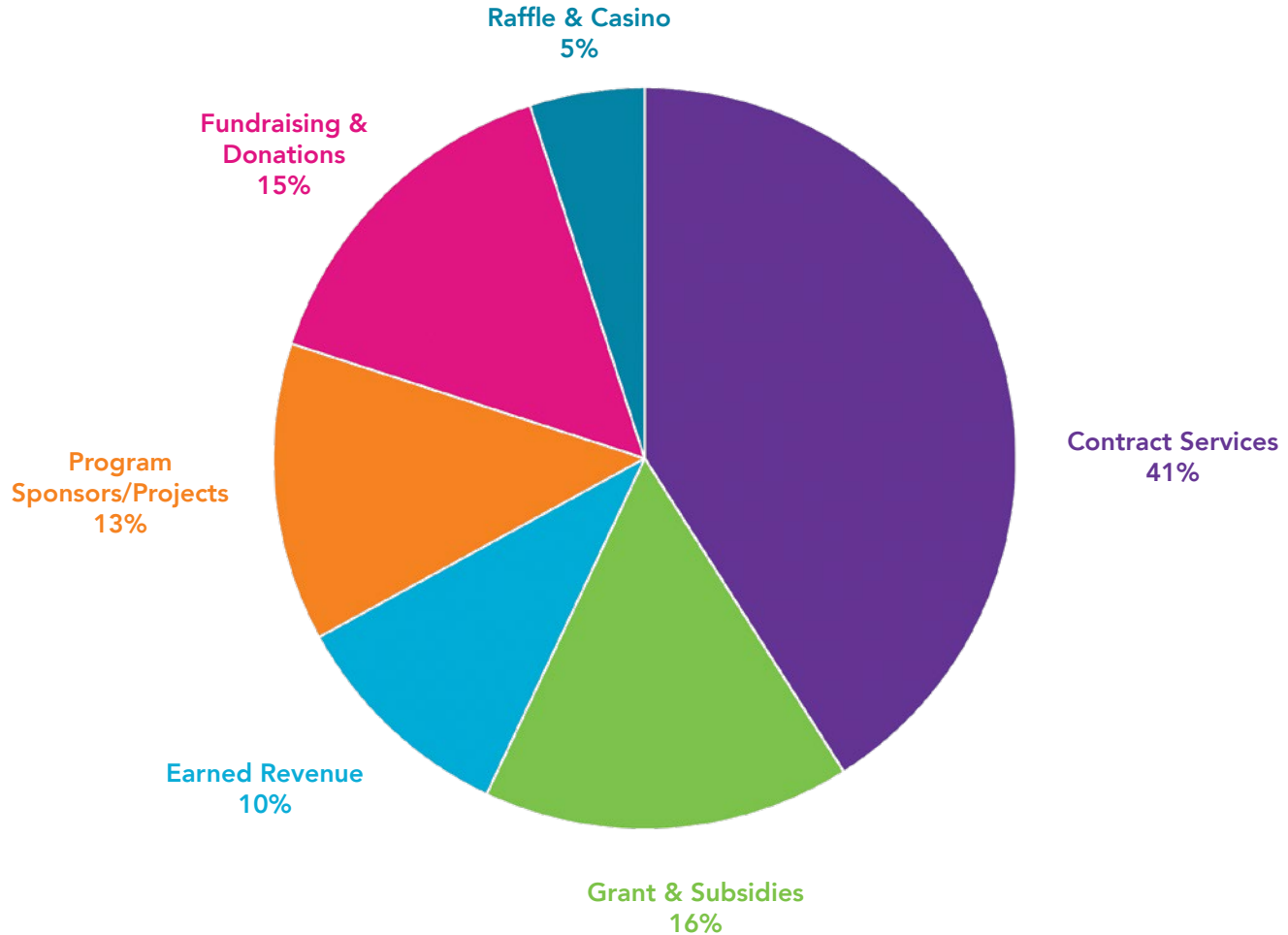
the support of our donors, sponsors, and partners is more crucial than ever. Their generosity directly enables the Centre to remain open and thriving, and we are deeply grateful for every contribution. Ongoing recognition and stewardship of these supporters will remain a top priority as we move forward to ensure a sustainable, inclusive, and vibrant future for our community.

Nearly 60% of our annual revenue comes from non-guaranteed sources such as fundraising, donations, and grants. This ongoing funding gap underscores the critical need for continued community and donor support to sustain our programs and services.

**We are truly grateful to all our supporters for making the work we do possible.**

# Revenue by Source

2024 – 2025 Fiscal Year



# Sponsors

## Project & Program Sponsors

Alberta Culture Days

ATB

Canada Council for the Arts

CIBC

Downtown Vibrancy Fund

Edmonton Arts Council

Edmonton Community Foundation

Milanote

RBC

TD

Telus

## 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.







# 2024 Patrons

ATB	Rona Fraser	Kevin Ladner	Adam Skoreyko
Ghalib Ahmed	Sara Fraser	Maria Laycock	Tammy Sluzar
Colton Bishop	Jodi Glen	Christine Makowichuk	Heather Smith
William Blahun	Arlindo Gomes	Lynn Mandel	Kierstin Smyth
Amy Bonnar	Jackie Rae Greening	Stephen Mandel	Barbara Steckly
Doris Bonora	Dao Haddad	Morgan Marley	Jennifer Steckly
Marian Brant	Sara Hart	Deborah Miede	Marilyn Sterling
Chelsea Brown	Sharon Healy	Colette Miller	Shelley Tobo Gaudreau
Trudy Callaghan	Wendy Hollo	Salvatore Miniaci	Robert Van Doren
Ida Colby	Helen Holth	Patricia Misutka	Unifor Local 21-A
Chivers Carpenter	Irene Howell	Sheena Moodie	Unifor Local 21-A IPEX Unit
Sir Winston Churchill Society	Ellen Hughes	Wendy Moody	Guy Voisey
Brian Dickenson	Ethan Jackson	Renee Nason	Derek Wicks
Lisa Dupuis	Susan Jamieson	Becky Payne	Samantha Williams-Chapelsky
Jean & Don Easton	Randy Jarock	Michele Perret	Yoko Wong
Jodi Eyolfson	Angela Keuling	Cherillyn Porter	Kazumi Yamazaki
Iannick Fallu	Kelly Kimo	Lorraine Rutledge	
Dina Floreancig	Bruce Kirkland	Jenn Rutledge Gordon	
Michelle Fornwald	Glenn Kubish	Dominic Schamuhn	

Becoming a patron provides the opportunity for you to forge a personal connection with an artist while supporting the continued development of the careers and practices of all artists in the Nina Collective.

By committing to a \$500 annual donation, our patrons help us keep our membership fee low and waive it for artists who find it a barrier to participation.

**Thank you to all our new and returning patrons in 2024!**



For information about becoming a patron, contact [jenn@thenina.ca](mailto:jenn@thenina.ca)



# 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 be more involved in organizational decisions and share their input with our staff and board.

One of the Committee's first major projects was organizing a market to sell their work during Kaleido Festival. This has become a popular annual event and the Committee hosted their third market in September 2024. This year the group also organized our first ever fashion show and continued to provide organizational guidance for our staff and board.



Carrie Reed at the Art Market organized by the AAC

## Committee Members

Sophie Connell	Craig Housen
Deserie Dick	Yvette Prefontaine
Dale Donahue	Jared Quinney
Katie Foss	Carrie Reed
Aba Garbrah	Roy Skoreyko
Alana Gersky	Carrie Wheeler
Abdul Hassan	Joel Youb

Our Support Manifesto is a document that the AAC created in 2023 outlining how artists in the Nina Collective expect to be treated and spoken to by staff, volunteers, visitors, and their support workers when they are here. This acts as a guiding light for our organization and is posted in each of our studios as a reminder.



# SUPPORT MANIFESTO

WELCOME TO THE NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS! THIS IS MY STUDIO SPACE.

I AM HERE TO MAKE ART, HAVE FUN, AND MAKE MY OWN CHOICES.

1. GIVE ME MY SPACE. MOST OF US WILL ASK FOR HELP IF WE NEED IT, BUT SOME OF US ARE SHY, OR NON-VOCAL. PLEASE CHECK ON US TO SEE IF WE NEED SUPPORT.
2. USE KIND LANGUAGE. WHEN YOU GIVE ME FEEDBACK, PLEASE MAKE SURE IT IS RESPECTFUL AND HELPFUL.
3. DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A CHILD. THIS IS A STUDIO FOR ADULTS.
4. PLEASE ASK BEFORE TOUCHING MY ARTWORK. IF YOU WANT TO SHOW ME SOMETHING, WORK BESIDE ME ON YOUR OWN EXAMPLE.
5. YOU DONT NEED TO KNOW WHAT MY DISABILITIES ARE, UNLESS I'M WILLING TO SHARE WITH YOU. DON'T ASK ABOUT MY MEDICAL HISTORY.
6. SOME OF US HAVE BARRIERS TO COMMUNICATING. DON'T ASSUME I CAN SEE OR HEAR OR READ. BE MINDFUL WHEN GIVING INSTRUCTIONS.
7. THIS IS MY STUDIO TIME. MY IDEAS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT, AND YOU CAN GIVE ME SUBGESTIONS, BUT I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THEM.

SINCERELY, THE ARTISTS

# Exhibitions

In our Stollery Gallery we feature artists who face barriers to sharing their work, including artists in the Nina Collective and beyond. We are also committed to helping the artists in our collective 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.

## Stollery Gallery

*Portrait Identity*, Centre for Autism

*Neighbourhood Orbits*, Nina Community Programs

*Self-ish*, RBC Emerging Artists

*Kaleido Festival*, Community Artists

*Gathering Sparkles to Grow Happiness*, Nina & Chrysalis Artists

*After Hours*, Nina Collective

*Deep Freeze*, Community Artists

*Here it Comes*, Jared Quinney

## External Exhibits

*Wavy Dimension*, Boyd Dymchuk and Aaron Harvey  
RBC New Works Gallery, Art Gallery of Alberta

*Potluck*, Nina Craft Collective  
Discovery Gallery, Alberta Craft Council

*AccessAbility Symposium*, Gerald B., Amynah P., Juliana Y.  
NAIT

*Gathering Sparkles to Grow Happiness*  
St. Stephen's College, Edmonton

*Self-ish*, RBC Emerging Artists  
City Centre Mall Window Gallery



// I've been at Nina since day one. To see the look on the people's faces when their art goes up in the gallery makes me feel proud. //

- Roy Skoreyko, Nina Artist



# Exhibition Highlight

## Wavy Dimension at the Art Gallery of Alberta

Boyd Dymchuk and Aaron Harvey with writing by Shantel Timmerman



In 2024 the Art Gallery of Alberta (the AGA) featured two artists from our collective, Aaron Harvey and Boyd Dymchuk, in a joint exhibition called *Wavy Dimension*. The two worked both independently and collaboratively to create pieces for the show. Sometimes Aaron's drawings and paintings were inspired by Boyd's ceramic sculptures, sometimes Boyd's sculptures were modeled after Aaron's drawings and some works were made together.

The AGA hired a third artist from the Nina named Shantel Timmerman to write the exhibition publication. Shantel worked closely with Aaron and Boyd as they prepared for the show to learn about them and their art and wrote an essay that is a work of art in itself. Her writing influenced the curation of the exhibition and created a narrative lens through which to view the work.

*Wavy Dimension* was an opportunity for three extremely deserving artists to advance their careers and reach a broader audience while representing artists with developmental disabilities at a new level in Alberta. Other artists in our collective say that seeing their peers' work in such an esteemed venue has given them new aspirations for what they can accomplish with their own art.



//

This was certainly a successful partnership, and the AGA is very fortunate to have been able to showcase Aaron Harvey, Boyd Dymchuk and Shantel Timmerman for our audiences.

//

- Lindsey Sharman, AGA Curator



Scan to read the exhibition publication online, or pick up a copy in the AGA's gift shop!



Installation view, Boyd Dymchuk and Aaron Harvey: *Wavy Dimension*, Art Gallery of Alberta, 2024.  
Photography by Charles Cousins, courtesy of the Art Gallery of Alberta.

# Wavy Dimension at the Art Gallery of Alberta



//

It was a proud moment for me.  
It was a life-changing thing for  
my life and for other people  
who have disabilities.

//

- Shantel Timmerman, Nina Artist

## Remembering Boyd Dymchuk

Boyd passed away shortly after celebrating the opening of *Wavy Dimension*. He was a friend and role model to all of us at the Nina; a fixture in our studios whose warmth, humour, and talent enriched our community deeply. We are grateful to have worked with Boyd for eight years and to continue supporting his wife, Marilyn, who is also a member of our Collective.



# Nina Artists in the AFA Collection

In 2024 the Alberta Foundation for the Arts acquired two works from artists in our collective for their permanent collection: *Self Portrait* by Aaron Harvey and *Bird Vase* by Carrie Wheeler.

This brings the total number of Nina Artists represented in the collection to five, with Uli Rossier, Vanessa Ryl, and Mark Traficante's work acquired in previous years. We are thrilled to celebrate Aaron and Carrie's achievement and to see artists with developmental disabilities represented amongst some of Alberta's most notable artists in this esteemed collection.



*Self Portrait* (2024) by Aaron Harvey, acrylic on canvas



*Bird Vase* (2023) by Carrie Wheeler, ceramic

## About the AFA Art Collection

Established in 1972, the AFA Art Collection is a unique representation of the history, development and achievements of our provincial visual arts community. The collection profiles the careers of hundreds of Alberta's most celebrated and important artists, and includes artworks in a variety of media that reflect the history and development of the province for more than 100 years.

# Artistic Programming

The Nina studios are always bustling as the artists in our collective explore new techniques and projects. This year several artists experimented with making mosaics, including making their own ceramic tiles. We saw an explosion of creativity in the fabric studio as artists jumped into designing clothing and accessories for the first time. In the print studio, artists developed a new process for dry point using acetate. Alongside these new techniques, artists continued to refine their skills in painting, printmaking, ceramics and textile art. There was an emphasis on creative collaboration and artist leadership this year, which resulted in some stunning largescale projects and new initiatives.

Whether an artist enjoys coming to the Nina to express themselves through art and spend time with their friends, or they are dedicated to building their career as a professional artist, the Nina strives to support them every step of the way. We would like to congratulate Nina artist Jared Quinney for receiving his first individual grant through the Edmonton Arts Council, and Aaron Harvey and Carrie Wheeler for having their work included in the Alberta Foundation for the Arts' permanent collection. These individual accomplishments reflect the continuous artistic growth we see in our studios every day.

// There's so much to learn and do.  
Everytime I come I get better  
and better. //

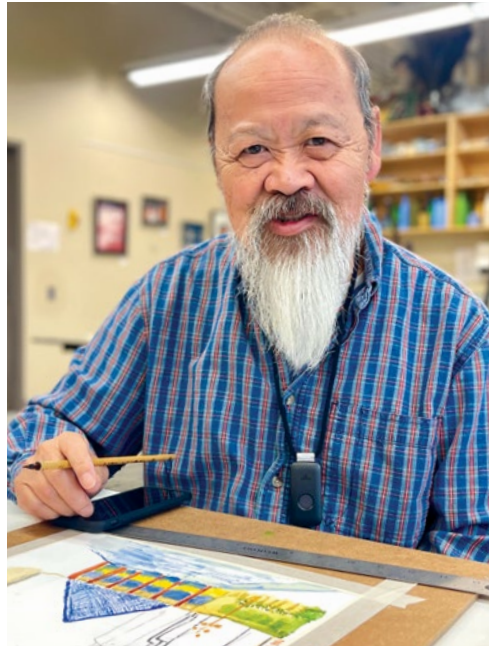
- Holly Sabourin, Nina Artist



Alberta Wildlife sculptures by Holly Sabourin (2025)



**Over 200 artists** attend the Nina to create art in our painting, drawing, printmaking, textiles, and ceramics studios each week.





# Project Highlights

## New installations at the Edmonton EXPO Centre

### Creative collaboration on permanent display

In the spring of 2025 we unveiled two new permanent installations at the Edmonton EXPO Centre: *Big Boyd*, a life-sized moose made of recycled and repurposed materials by three artists from the Nina working with sculptor Lalith Senanayake, and *Proud Flowers*, a mixed media sculpture born out of a year-long collaboration between artists from the Nina and Chrysalis: An Alberta Society for Citizens with Disabilities.

Both sculptures celebrate the power of creative exchange between artists working together and are a testament to what artists with developmental disabilities can accomplish when given the opportunity. Historically there have not been as many opportunities for artists with disabilities to create large public art installations, so we are thrilled to have such a large venue see the value of this work and help us share it with their large audience. The EXPO Centre has become a hub of inclusive arts, with work by eighteen artists supported by the Nina now on display throughout the building.

Thank you to the Edmonton Arts Council and the Edmonton Community Foundation for supporting these initiatives.



Photo by Ron Palmer

# Big Boyd

## Exploring sustainability



With support from the Edmonton Arts Council's Connections and Exchanges Initiatives Grant, three artists from the Nina got the chance to work with Lalith Senanyake, an award-winning Sri Lankan artist known for using recycled materials in his sculptures. Dale Donahue, Aynah Pirani, and Jared Quinney assisted Lalith in constructing *Big Boyd*, a life-sized moose sculpture named after their late friend and fellow Nina Artist, Boyd Dymchuk.

Together they practiced thinking big, using power tools, and considering environmental sustainability. It was an opportunity for them to work with new materials and get some hands-on experience that they can apply to their own future projects.



Lalith was a hands-on teacher. We got to do a lot of learning and see what it takes to do a project like this. I was always excited to go there to work on it. He is a great artist and I loved working with him.

- Jared Quinney, Nina Artist





# Project Highlights

## Proud Flowers

Nina Collective and Chrysalis Artists



These flowers were born from clever problem-solving, following our imaginations and learning to work together. The story of this artwork starts over a year ago, in January 2024. Artists from Chrysalis came to the Nina and worked in our gallery, creating drawings and paintings and getting to know each other. To start this project, we needed to first find some common ground. What does everyone care about? What do we find beautiful? And what should we make? It's a very tricky question with so many artists involved.



Eventually, we decided on themes of nature and friendship, and created a huge hanging mobile of paper flowers with beaded vines that hung from the centre of the gallery. When the time came to start planning this artwork for the EXPO Centre, we wanted to honor the original conversations and ideas that the whole group had put forth, and create something that we could be proud of. *Proud Flowers* takes the idea of the original mobile and flips it, making it huge and able to stand on its own. Every piece of these flowers was crafted by the artists - with the exception of the welded internal frame. We think it's a great metaphor for the beautiful things we can make together with just a little support.

We would like to thank everyone who supported us during this process: Tessa Stamp for literally welding the supports and being the installation expert, the EXPO Centre for being so enthusiastic and welcoming, all the staff who came to support the artists, and to the Edmonton Community Foundation for making this all possible.

- Hilary Mussell (the Nina) and Marie Muggerridge (Chrysalis)

Nina artists: Dale Donahue, Marilyn Dymchuk, Monica Hopgood, Jared Quinney  
Chrysalis artists: Alfredo Daestrela, Marvin De Jesus, Meranda Parravano, Ann Methuen-Hall  
Additional artistic support: Hilary Mussell, Marie Muggerridge, Tessa Stamp



“ I’ve never done something like that before. My favourite part was painting the leaves. It turned out really good. Now it looks like a garden! ”

- Marilyn Dymchuk, Nina Artist





# Project Highlights

## Artists find new form of self-expression through fashion

### How one artist and simple skirt grew into a whole new program

Returning to our studios after a break during the pandemic, Nina artist Alana Gersky felt like she was in a creative rut and decided to try something new: making her own clothes. Although we had limited experience supporting artists in fashion design, our studio staff took on the challenge and worked with Alana to take her design for a skirt from her sketchbook to the catwalk. Other artists saw what Alana was making and were eager to join in, and before we knew it we had a mini fashion program operating out of our textile studio.

Until this year the primary output from our textile studio included mediums like needlework, fabric collage, and soft sculpture, and we did not have the necessary equipment to meet the sudden demand for garment making. After seeing the “surge” of interest in fashion design, a generous volunteer donated a brand new, accessible sewing machine to allow more artists to start bringing their ideas to life. By spring of 2024, enough artists had completed garments for us to host our first ever fashion show – another brilliant idea from Alana. The show was a great success, and as soon as it ended the artists started planning for next year.

This is a perfect example of how an artist’s initiative and creativity combined with the support of our community can lead to magnificent things. We are confident that this is just the beginning for Alana and our fashion collective, and we look forward to developing this program further in the coming years.





// Having a chance to design and sew my own clothes is a dream come true.

- Alana Gersky, Nina Artist



You can support our growing fashion program by making a donation online, or reach out to [info@thenina.ca](mailto:info@thenina.ca) for information on in-kind donations or partnerships.

# Project Highlights

## Leading the way

### Artist-led workshops create opportunities for professional artists

We support many members of our collective in generating income as professional artists, which can go beyond selling and exhibiting their work. Leading workshops and classes is an excellent way for artists to be compensated for their talents, nurture their leadership skills, and participate in creative collaboration that benefits all involved. Several artists focused on professional development in workshop facilitation this year, with support from CIBC and Alberta Culture Days.

Cody Johnson is a longtime member of the Nina Collective who works primarily in printmaking. Last year he hosted his first workshop, guiding community members through the process of linocut cardmaking. This year he continued to gain experience, leading workshops for the public over two days during Kaleido Festival in partnership with Alberta Culture Days. He developed a format that would be accessible for all ages and skill-levels. Using small pieces of his old linocuts, he guided participants through the inking and printing process to create a “stamp collage” – a wonderful introduction to the medium that avoids the sharp tools and safety risks involved with carving linoleum. The workshops were a great success, and Cody worked hard all weekend to keep up with the crowd!

With support from CIBC, Cody continued to refine his workshop and facilitated it once again for participants in our Family Art Night program. With each workshop he leads Cody continues to grow as both an artist and educator.





Thank you to CIBC and Alberta Culture Days for supporting our professional development and artist leadership initiatives.

Interested in booking a workshop led by a Nina artist? We can accommodate sessions for small groups in printmaking, papermaking, and more! Contact [hilary@thenina.ca](mailto:hilary@thenina.ca) for more information.



Nina Artist Dee Lambert also stepped into a leadership role by teaching this year. Through several brainstorming sessions, she developed a papermaking project that incorporates techniques she has been using in her own practice. She led her first workshop for our Community Art Night class and is eager to continue sharing her process in the future.



# Project Highlights

## RBC Emerging Artists Project

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

From May to August of 2024, 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, exploring photography, stop motion animation, decorative stitching, and plaster casting.



### Thank you to our 2024 RBC Emerging Artists:

Jungeun An

AL McKee

Libbie Farrell

Evan Robinson

Nozomi Kamei

Kira Vlietstra

## Nina Dance Collective

Thanks to funding from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts was able to launch a dynamic dance program aimed at exploring and expanding the boundaries of movement. The initiative focused on researching new genres of dance through a series of inclusive workshops, engaging artists of all abilities in the creative process. These workshops served as a foundation for developing integrated, multi-genre choreography that celebrates accessibility and artistic expression. By fostering collaboration and experimentation, the program highlighted the Centre's ongoing commitment to creating space for diverse voices and innovative approaches in the performing arts.



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada



## Action on Ableism Gathering

We were honoured to participate and provide space for the John Humphrey Centre's Action on Ableism gathering in July of 2024. This event brought together representatives from arts organizations, funders, and artists with disabilities to discuss and address the pressing issues faced by disabled artists and to brainstorm ways to bridge the gaps in accessibility, funding, and inclusion. Thank you to the JHC for facilitating the valuable conversation.

**JOHN HUMPHREY CENTRE**  
for **PEACE** and **HUMAN RIGHTS**



Scan to read the JHC's report  
from the Action on Ableism  
Gathering

Lexus of Edmonton Presents

# Here's Nina 2024

Here's Nina is our annual gala that celebrates the accomplishments of Nina artists winning awards and raises crucial funding for our organization.

We were thrilled to return to the Edmonton EXPO Centre for this year's event. Longtime event hosts Sheri Sommerville and Josh Classen delighted guests along with musical performances sponsored by Dentons.



## Thank you to our event sponsors

Alberta Blue Cross

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Josh Classen

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REALTORS Community Foundation

Rotary Club of Edmonton NW

Roy & Co.

Sheri Somerville

Stephen & Lynn Mandel

Westkey Xibita

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Here's Nina 2025 will be  
on **November 13<sup>th</sup>**



# 2024 Award Winners

## Ashley C.

Realtors Community Foundation  
Create Award

Ashley is a multidisciplinary artist who has been a member of the collective since 2017. Across all mediums, she has a distinct style that is instantly recognizable. She primarily works in ceramics and acrylic painting but has also used pastels and charcoal to bring her ideas to life. She has an intuitive, maximalist approach when painting and will layer colours, text, and symbols to create images that encourage the viewer to examine them closely. In the clay studio, she creates fantastical figures and animals as well as intricately decorated functional work.



## Alana Gersky

Rotary Club of Edmonton Northeast  
Connect Award

Alana Gersky is a longstanding member of the Nina who worked in many mediums before she began sewing in 2024. Once she started, she couldn't stop. Her passion was the driving force behind the Nina's first ever fashion show, which she helped organize as a member of our Artist Advisory Committee. Following her example, several other artists designed and sewed scrunchies, purses, dresses, shirts, and skirts - each a reflection of their personalities and styles. At our Patron's Lunch event they took to the catwalk and showed off their creations, which was a highlight of the year and something we hope to make a tradition going forward. None of this would have happened if it were not for Alana's vision and leadership!



## Brenan Hamel

Edmonton EXPO Centre  
Innovate Award

When Brenan first joined the Nina in 2021, he exclusively painted with his favourite colour: purple. Since then, he has grown tremendously as an artist and developed his own unique painting technique. First, he sketches and shades in the composition entirely in pencil. He then works overtop the sketch with vibrant dabs of acrylic in a style that is reminiscent of pointillism, but all his own. Brenan has also worked in ceramics and is a regular member of the Nina's dance troop. His artistic development has been exciting to witness in the studios as he continues to grow and try new things.



## Abdul Hassan

ATB  
Emerging Artist Award

Abdul joined the Nina Collective in February 2024. He quickly jumped right into the studios and experimented with ceramics, drawing and painting. Though he hasn't been at the Nina for long, Abdul has already developed his own recognizable style. His favourite subject matter is animals, which he depicts with care and attention to detail. He is admired by staff and his peers for his dedication to his art, as well as his kind, friendly personality. We can't wait to see where his budding art practice will take him!



# 2024 Award Winners

## Scott Berry

Capital Care Foundation  
Legacy Award

Scott has been a member of the Nina for over twenty years and helped shape the Centre into what it is today. In 2015 he was selected as our first ever Artist of the Year and created an immersive solo exhibition called *Confusement*. The show explored “the feeling of being stared at but no one can see who you are”, a theme that he revisited in 2018 when he was commissioned to create the backdrop and costumes for Citie Ballet’s *See Me* performance. In 2022, Scott received a grant through the Edmonton Arts Council to work with artist Emily Chu to create a mural across three walls for Skills Society. Throughout his decades of experience as an artist his practice has grown but he has always held fast to his sense of humor and signature style.



## Alberta Ave Community League

Odvod Media  
Sustained Support Award

The Nina could not ask for a better neighbour than the Alberta Avenue Community League. They regularly host our Patron’s Lunch and dance programs and frequently lend us their space for special projects when needed. Artists have greatly appreciated using their beautiful community garden for plein air painting and building large sculptures. Without their support, many of these initiatives would not be possible. Karen and Steven go above and beyond to generously support not just the Nina but the entire community, and Alberta Ave would not be the same without them!



# Jared Quinney

## 2025 Artist of the Year

When Jared first walked into the Nina as a visitor during Kaleido Festival in 2017, we had no idea that he would become such an integral part of our community. Initially making small clay sculptures, his practice soon grew to include every medium the Nina offers and even pushed us to take on new ones.

Through his art Jared explores his interest in paleontology, nature, history, and pop culture. He is constantly pushing himself to learn new techniques and eagerly participates in as many special projects as possible.

Jared's work has been exhibited across Edmonton and beyond, including at the Alberta Craft Council, the H'art Centre in Ontario, and the Art Gallery of Alberta. His 2025 solo show *Here it Comes* was one of the most popular exhibitions in our history, and we are certain he has many more artistic accomplishments ahead of him.

Jared is a strong advocate for disability arts and a passionate spokesperson for the Nina. We are proud to employ him as our Community Outreach Liaison and have him represent our organization.



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



# Community Connections

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

## Autism Edmonton

Since 1971, Autism Edmonton (Autism Society of Edmonton Area) has provided services and support to autistic individuals in our community. Autism Edmonton has built a reputation as the "go-to" Autism Centre in Edmonton that connects families, individuals and professionals with autism-related resources and programs. We are happy to provide studio space for their art classes every month.

## 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, Community, and Crystal Kids 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. These free sessions are an opportunity for community members of all ages and backgrounds to gather and explore different mediums of expression.

A Community Art Night participant named Chantal shared their experience, saying "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."

Thank you to TD for making these programs possible.



// As a single income family, Art Night has been an incredible resource for us. Without it, our access to a variety of art projects and supplies would be much more limited. My daughter thrives when she is able to express herself through art. //

- Family Art Night Participant







# Help us continue to grow



Each artist in our collective has valuable perspective, talents, and lived experience that contributes to the vibrancy of our community. While we are extremely honoured to support over two hundred artists at this time, there are over 160 more potential artists on our waitlist. Our programs are at capacity, which means that the only way to join is if another member leaves the collective. Since artists love coming here, it can take up to two years for a spot to open up.

Addressing this unmet need is a top priority for our organization. We are working diligently to raise funds to allow us to open our studios for an additional session each week, which would create space for thirty-five artists to move off the waitlist and into the studio.

We are incredibly grateful to all of the donors and supporters who have helped us get this far, and ask that you will continue to support us to grow into the future.



*Wild Thing* sculptures by Deserie Dick

## How you can help

### Make a donation

From art supplies to electricity bills, running a studio is expensive! Financial contributions of any size make a huge difference. Scan the QR code on the top of this page or visit [thenina.ca/donate](https://thenina.ca/donate) to donate.

### Volunteer

No matter what your skillset or availability is, we can always use your help. Email [jenn@thenina.ca](mailto:jenn@thenina.ca) to see what opportunities are available.

### Purchase art

When you buy original art from the Nina, half the money goes to the artist and half goes to our organization to help cover some of our costs. It's win-win! You can shop a curated selection online or stop by our gallery to browse our full collection in person. Looking for something specific? Email [janice@thenina.ca](mailto:janice@thenina.ca) for special requests, commissions, and bulk orders.

### Support us on social media

Following us online is a free and easy way to help us grow, and sharing our posts helps even more. Plus, you'll stay up to date on all of the latest happenings at the Nina! You can find us on Instagram and Facebook at [@ninahaggertyarts](https://www.instagram.com/ninahaggertyarts)





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nina**  
Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts  
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