



# ANNUAL REPORT

The Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts

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

2026

# Our Vision & Mission

At the Nina, we believe 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.

Our mission is to support the creative expression of artists with developmental disabilities through meaningful artistic opportunities, inclusive programming, and community connection.



WHERE CREATIVE EXPRESSION KNOWS NO BARRIERS

Background image: *Bird* by Eli Abada

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# Message from the CEO

Every day at the Nina, we are reminded that meaningful community is built through creativity, connection, and people feeling genuinely valued for who they are. The Nina is far more than a gallery and studio space. It is a place where artists, staff, volunteers, and supporters come together to create something special. There is a tangible sense of care, individuality, and possibility here, and it is an honour to be part of an organization that helps foster meaningful artistic and creative opportunities every day.

At the heart of our work is a belief that every person deserves opportunities to grow, contribute, create, and flourish. We know that art changes lives, and we also know that healthy organizations and healthy communities are built through relationships, trust, collaboration, and care. That philosophy guides how we support Nina artists, and also how we work together as a team.

Over the past year, we have focused intentionally on aligning our work with our strategic priorities while also building a sustainable financial and operational management model, as well as continuing to foster a positive workplace culture. Clear roles, strong communication, shared accountability, and supportive leadership all matter

deeply to us because they create the conditions where creativity and innovation can thrive. We want the Nina to be a place where people feel empowered to lead, contribute ideas, learn, and do meaningful work together.

As we continue evolving, I remain incredibly grateful for the dedication, talent, and generosity of this community, and the opportunity to join this team. The Nina's impact is only possible because so many people believe in the importance of inclusive arts spaces and in the value and potential of artists with developmental disabilities.

Thank you for being part of the Nina community with us. We are excited for what lies ahead!



Anne Harvey  
Chief Executive Officer



Sea Anemone by Jordan Kucy



# Board of Directors

In 2025 our Board devoted extra time to complete a strategic planning process for our organization alongside staff and Artist Advisory Committee members. We would like to thank Catrin Owen for facilitating this work.

We are grateful to David MacGillivray for his many years of service on the Nina Board of Directors, and his contributions as Board Treasurer. Although he is stepping away from the role of Treasurer, we are pleased that he will be staying on for another year as a Director to support the transition of a new Treasurer.

## Board Members

2025–2026

**Sara Hart**, Chair

**Adam Skoreyko**, Vice-Chair

**Edwin Shale**, Secretary

**David MacGillivray**, Outgoing Treasurer, Director

**Arlindo Gomes**, Director

**Patricia Misutka**, Director

**Lynn Mandel**, Director

**Mary-Lou Hamilton**, Director

**Marilyn Sterling**, Director

**Aaron Brown**, Director

**Roger Chendria**, Director

**Alana Gerskey**, Artist Advisory Committee Liaison

# Welcome to the Board

## Aaron Brown



Aaron Brown joined the Nina's Board of Directors in April 2026. Aaron is a lawyer driven by a deep belief in the transformative power of the arts, He is passionate about the role the arts play in fostering inclusion, amplifying diverse voices and strengthening community. Aaron is pleased to join the Nina's Board of Directors and is dedicated to supporting artists with disabilities to promote accessible, community-centered creative expression.

## Marilyn Sterling



Marilyn Sterling was first introduced to the Nina through her role as bookkeeper for 9 years. She was inspired by the warmth and energy at the Nina and enjoyed working alongside the Artists and Staff. She quickly became a dedicated Patron and regularly attends Nina events and exhibitions. Marilyn was missed when she made a job change in 2025, and we are grateful that she rejoined us as a member of the Board. She has a deep understanding of the Nina's operations and history and brings a wealth of accounting and bookkeeping skills.

## Roger Chendria



Roger Chendria is the CFO at e4c and brings extensive experience in both corporate and nonprofit senior finance leadership. He is passionate about supporting mission-driven organizations and believes in the power of community-focused work. Roger is committed to supporting the Nina in strengthening foundations that enable them to thrive and create lasting impact.

## Alana Gersky



As a longtime member of the Nina Collective and passionate activist for people with disabilities, Alana Gersky brings crucial insight and perspective to our Board of Directors. Representing the members of the Artist Advisory Committee, Alana ensures that the artists of the Nina Collective are at the heart of our governance.

# Staff

**Anne Harvey**, Chief Executive Officer  
**Rona Fraser**, Chief Development Officer  
**Janice Easton**, Director of Communications & Artistic Outreach  
**Maddi Dewar**, Studio Manager  
**Deanna Irwin**, Event & Volunteer Manager  
**Jenn Rutledge-Gordon**, Past Event & Volunteer Manager  
**Hilary Mussell**, Special Projects Coordinator, Lead Artist  
**Roger Garcia**, Gallery Preparator  
**Terrena Boss**, Past Gallery Preparator  
**Anica Neiman**, Office Admin Support  
**Brenda Christiansen**, Lead Artist

## Contract Workers

**Amber Borotsik**, Dance Instructor  
**Basemah Al-Alawany**, Studio Facilitator  
**Lorraine Shulba**, Community Programs Facilitator  
**Sonia Griffiths**, Studio Facilitator

**Cynthia Sentara**, Lead Artist  
**Jenny Shaw**, Lead Artist  
**Jesse Bishop**, Lead Artist  
**Lorelle Whittingham**, Past Lead Artist  
**Mathieson Erikson**, Lead Artist  
**Mitch Chalifoux**, Lead Artist  
**Rin Wilson**, Lead Artist  
**Shay Warkentin**, Past Lead Artist  
**Tatyana Babee**, Lead Artist  
**Will Truchon**, Past Lead Artist

**Jared Quinney**, Community Outreach Liaison  
**Kaida Kobyłka**, Studio Facilitator  
**Victoria Bethel**, Custodian

# Welcome to the Team

## Roger Garcia Gallery Preparator



Roger Garcia joined our team in October 2025 as our Gallery Preparator. He brings more than ten years of experience from the Art Gallery of Alberta, where he worked as a Gallery Preparator, Art Educator, and Art Rentals Associate. In addition to his museum work, Roger has been a freelance illustrator for more than three decades and actively contributes to the community through workshops and art classes. His artistic practice is grounded in sharing family stories with themes of grief, resilience, and healing.

## Deanna Irwin Event and Volunteer Manager



Deanna Irwin joined the team in September 2025 as our Event and Volunteer Manager. She brings a diverse background in client-facing roles, alongside her work as a Provisional Psychologist. Deanna is deeply passionate about volunteerism and Edmonton's arts community, and she enjoys creating engaging, community-centered events that bring people together.



Frog by Duncan Smith

# Volunteers

Hassan Al-Khafaji  
Tatyana Babee  
Tatiana Bee  
Jesse Bishop  
Sally Bourgi  
Aaron Brown  
Mitch Chalifoux  
Roger Chendria  
Jenny Crawford  
Morgan Davis  
Marc Dupuis  
Don Easton  
Nicole Easton  
Janice Easton  
Renna Elladan  
Cheryl Epp  
Matheson Erikson

Jodi Eyolfson  
Iannick Fallu  
Noah Fallu  
Zachary Fallu  
Rudy Flores  
Rona Fraser  
Brett Fraser  
Diane Gersky  
Roy Gersky  
Arlindo Gomes  
Soroor Hajsardar  
Mary-Lou Hamilton  
Anne Harvey  
Wendy Hollo  
Marlene Jackson  
Eric Kother  
Deanne Lambert

Pam Lasuita  
Lynn Mandel  
Stephen Mandel  
Sheree Margaret Bracke  
Connie McKenna  
EJ Meneses  
Michael Moore  
Anica Neiman  
Robin Pawliuk  
Becky Payne  
Philly  
Meg Pierzchajlo  
Sarah Ringma  
Lori Rogers  
Angela Schroeder  
Cynthia Sentara  
Eshal Shaizan

Mishal Shaizan  
Jenny Shaw  
Alva Shewchuk  
Adam Skoreyko  
Tammy Sluzar  
Carla Stevens  
Teagan Sywyk  
Borys Tarasenko  
Emma Vanderlinden  
Guy Voisey  
Molly Walsh  
Julia Walsh  
Rinn Wilson  
Katherine Woodford  
Joel Youb  
Anna Zelensky



**Thank you to our incredible  
volunteers for contributing over  
1350 hours  
this year!**

# Financial Report

The Nina remains in a strong and sustainable financial position. This year we generated approximately \$1.17 million in revenue, managed \$1.12 million in expenses, and achieved a positive operating surplus of almost \$50,000. The surplus will be allocated to the increasing program delivery costs, helping ensure meaningful artistic opportunities and supports for Nina artists including the 33 new artists welcomed to the Nina this year. We also celebrated a significant milestone in November with the final payment towards the purchase of our purpose-built studio and gallery space, strengthening our long-term financial stability and creating greater flexibility for future investments in our programs and services, and in the dedicated team who make it happen each day.

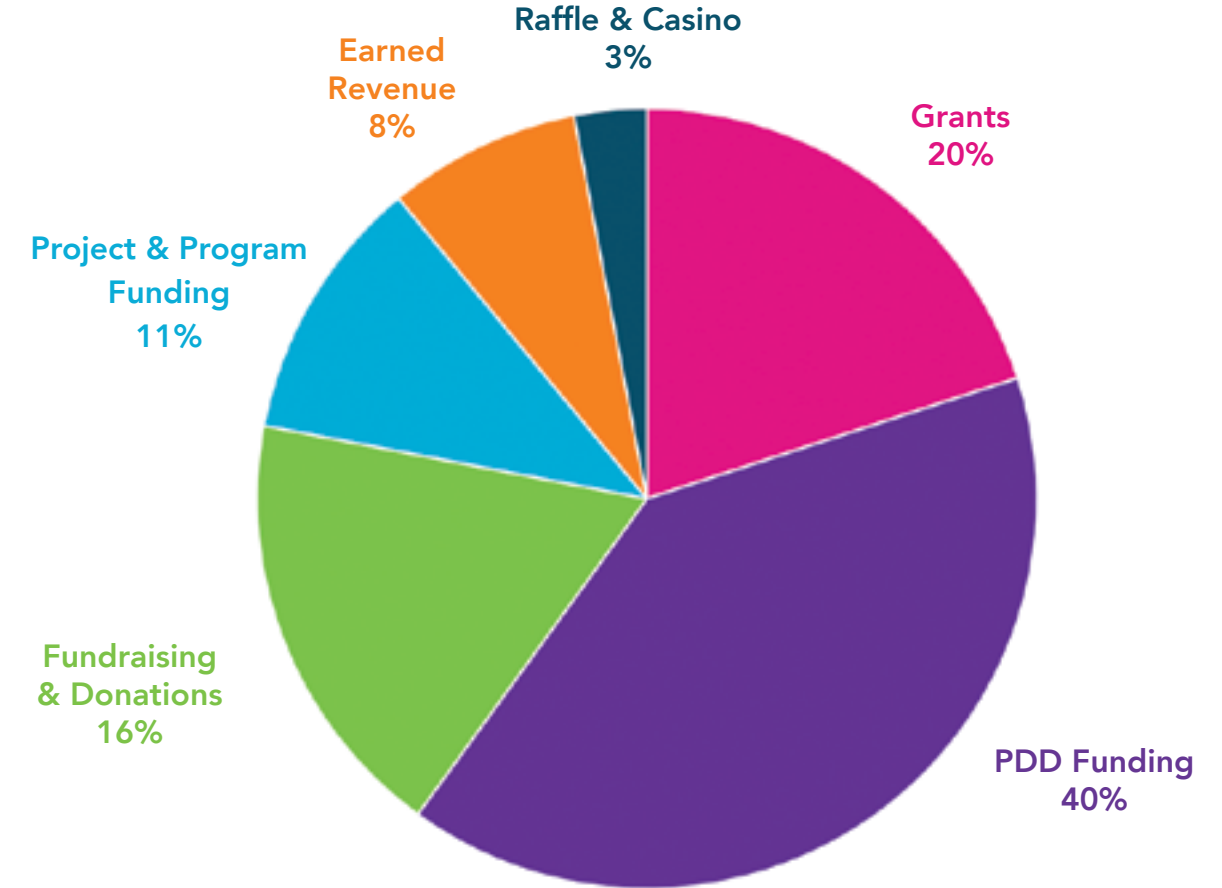
As we wrapped up this fiscal year, we built on the financial (and operational) management learnings and successes of this and past years, to set ourselves up well for the coming years. This included collaborative development of the Nina's Strategic Plan 2025-2028 which will guide our short- and long-term planning in alignment with our vision, mission, goals and guiding principles. We also invested in operational management improvements such as the implementation of QuickBooks Online launched in late March, and a transition to SharePoint earlier this year. And informed by our experiences, learnings, and achieved outcomes this past year, we developed an Annual Action Plan to guide our operational and financial

decisions moving forward. Collectively, these changes have strengthened our efficiency, real-time collaboration, information management, financial oversight, and overall organizational capacity, helping create the systems and supports our team needs to do its best work in service of artists, community and the Nina's mission.

Revenue growth was supported by increased project and program funding, successful fundraising efforts, and strong community support. Looking ahead, we anticipate continued growth in our operating budget as the organization expands its impact and programming, welcoming more artists off the waitlist to join the collective. One funding area we continue to monitor closely is the evolving Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) funding model. We have entered a 1-year funding agreement during the ministry's review of the funding program, and we are actively engaged in the community input opportunities taking place. The Nina's reputation for impressive outcomes-reporting bodes well for a funding agreement renewal for the years ahead.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, sponsors, granting agencies, government and corporate funders, community partners, volunteers, and all supporters. Your generosity and commitment make it possible for artists at the Nina to create, connect, and thrive.

## Revenue by Source 2025 – 2026 Fiscal Year



# Sponsors

## Project & Program Sponsors

Alberta Culture Days

Allard Foundation

Andrekson Family Fund

ATB

Canada Council for the Arts

Churchill Society

CIBC

Edmonton Civic Employees Charitable Assistance Fund

Edmonton Community Foundation

Harmony Senior Citizens Society

Kinsmen Foundation

RBC

TD

Tekara Wealth

Telus Foundation

The Ukraine Millenium Society of Alberta

## 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.



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.

# Patron Program



Nina artist Bonnie Blackburn with Patron Stephen Mandel

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.



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

# 2025 Patrons

Thank you to all our new and returning patrons!

- |                    |                             |                      |                            |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Ghalib Ahmed       | Iannick Fallu               | Christine Makowichuk | Shelley & Guy Scott        |
| Shayla Andersen    | Tetyana Fesik               | Lynn Mandel          | Lindsey Sharman            |
| Maria Atienza      | Sara Fraser                 | Stephen Mandel       | Adam Skoreyko              |
| Lyle Best          | Rona Fraser                 | Rita Maniego         | Robyn Smart                |
| Bhavnish Bilimoria | Riley Gallant               | Morgan Marley        | Wesley Smart               |
| Colten Bishop      | Emilie Iggiotti             | Meghan B. McConnan   | Heather Smith              |
| William Blahun     | Diane Gersky                | Pamela McCulloch     | Jennifer Steckly           |
| Amy Bonnar         | Jodi Glen                   | Deborah Miede        | Barbara Steckly            |
| Jayda Bott         | Arlindo Gomes               | Genevieve Mireau     | Marilyn & Cameron Sterling |
| Aaron Brown        | Elizabeth Grynoch           | Patricia Misutka     | Davey Thompson             |
| David Brunton      | Justin Hackenschmidt        | Lou (Dwight) Moodie  | Shelley Tobo Gaudreau      |
| Shannon Butler     | Dao Haddad                  | Sheena Moodie        | Brenda Tyson               |
| Blake Bunting      | Sara Hart                   | Wynn Moodie          | Robert Van Doren           |
| Trudy Callaghan    | Brooke Hayes                | Lynda Neil           | Amanda M. Venner           |
| Sine Chadi         | Wendy Hollo                 | Janet Pavlic         | Guy Voisey                 |
| Amanda Chin        | Kelly Kimo                  | Becky Payne          | Rhonda Webster             |
| Caroline Clark     | Christine Kirkland Simpson  | Jana Pruden          | Derek Wicks                |
| Jason Collins      | Bruce Kirkland              | Kathleen Rich        | Yoko Wong                  |
| Svitlana Deriabina | Angela Keuling              | Doug Rezewski        | Eileen Wynnyk              |
| Brian Dickinson    | Candy Lam                   | Oliver Rossier       | Kazumi Yamazaki            |
| Chris Duncan       | Bruce Laverty               | Nina T. Rossier      | Ralph Young                |
| Jean & Don Easton  | Jeffrey & Sharon Litchfield | Lorraine Rutledge    |                            |
| Jodi Eyolfson      | Ian MacGillivray            | Dominic Schamuhn     |                            |

# 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 fourth market in September 2025.

This year the group also organized our second annual fashion show, applied for two public art festivals and continued to provide organizational guidance for our staff and Board, including contributing to our strategic planning.

## Committee Members

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



AAC member Deanne Lambert at the fourth annual Art Market

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 DON'T 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 SUGGESTIONS, BUT I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THEM.

SINCERELY, THE ARTISTS

Lettering by Connor Henschel

# 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

*Creative Connections*, Centre for Autism Services Alberta  
*Off the Deep End*, Nina Collective  
*So many stars take care of me*, RBC Emerging Artists  
*Kaleido Festival*, Community Artists

*My Life in Art*, Aba Garbrah  
*After Hours*, Nina Collective  
*Deep Freeze*, Community Artists  
*Tim Crnkovic: 2026 Artist of the Year*, Tim Crnkovic

## External Exhibits

*Downtown Vibrancy*, Nina Collective  
 City Centre Mall Window Gallery

*Nina Collective Showcase*  
 YEG International Airport

*Here it Comes*, Jared Quinney  
 City Centre Mall Window Gallery

*Here it Comes Again!*, Jared Quinney  
 McMullen Gallery

*Sea Life*, Carrie Wheeler  
 The Carrot

*Lora Pallister*  
 Arts AccessAbility Network Manitoba

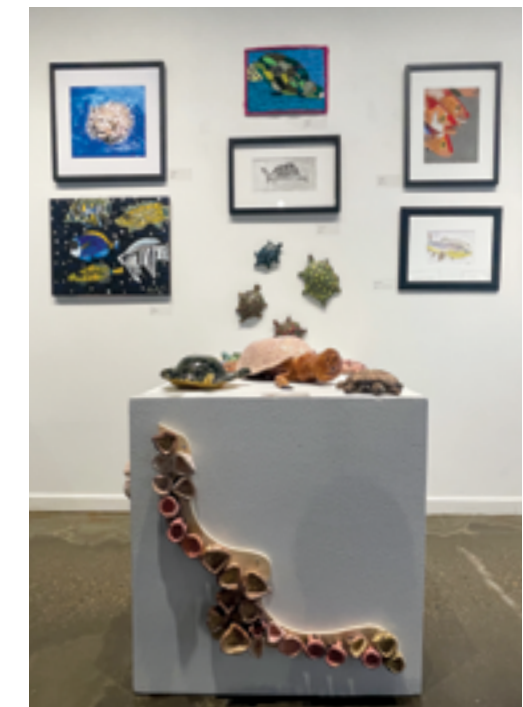
*So many stars take care of me*, RBC Emerging Artists  
 City Centre Mall Window Gallery

*Nina Collective Showcase*  
 Churchill LRT Station



“ 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

## Aba's True Story: My Life in Art

Aba Garbrah launches her autobiography with a solo show



Since joining the Nina Collective in 2011, Aba Garbrah has been a dedicated artist exploring many mediums. She established a foundation in painting, drawing and ceramics before branching out into fused glass and even dance.

In November of 2022, she embarked on a new challenge: writing and illustrating her life story. "I had to do a lot of research, a lot of thinking

and remembering things. I got to explain some facts about myself that I never knew I knew. It helped me understand who I am as a person, as a Canadian with two great parents who are from Jamaica and Ghana".

The process took nearly three years and resulted in an autobiography that is touching, insightful, and creative. *Aba's True Story: Based on Real Events of My Life* describes how she overcame racism, losing her parents, struggling to fit in and other obstacles early in life before finding success as an artist, a bowler, and a public speaker.

We celebrated the book launch with a solo exhibition featuring artwork from her book and throughout her career. A huge crowd came out to hear Aba read from her book and buy an autographed copy.



Get a copy of Aba's book & her wild rose pin at a special price!



//

I had to do a lot of research, a lot of thinking and remembering things. I got to explain some facts about myself that I never knew I knew. It helped me understand who I am as a person.

//

— Aba Garbrah, Nina artist



# Exhibition Highlights: Beyond the Nina



Lora Pallister had her first out-of-province exhibition, a solo show in Winnipeg, Manitoba



We partnered with ETS to display artwork in Churchill LRT Station



Carrie Wheeler had an underwater-themed solo show at the Carrot



A collection of artwork by Nina artists is on display in the Edmonton International Airport near Gate 18.



**Nina artists earned over \$40,000** through art sales and commissions, exhibition fees, workshop facilitation, and paid creative engagements this year.



Jared Quinney was selected for a solo exhibition at McMullen Gallery

# Artistic Programming

The Nina has had a busy year of creation, with artists refining existing skills and experimenting with new ones. Members are provided access to professional grade supplies and peer mentorship from the Nina's lead artists. While they are professionals in their own mediums, staff are equally committed to working alongside each artist to discover what works best for them. Under guidance from the Artist Advisory Committee, we strive for continuous improvement in our offerings and to prioritize what matters to the artists who attend the centre.

Mosaics continue to be popular in the ceramic studio, with increased interest after a collaboration with visiting artist Susan Day. The studio has also been experimenting with high fire glazes and coil building. Fashion continues to be a highlight in the fabric studio, with artists often working on pieces all year for the Patron's Lunch runway. Woodcut has been introduced within the print studio and has now become a popular option alongside monoprint and linocut. In the painting and drawing studio there are a plethora of techniques and materials to explore, and each artist utilizes them in their own unique way. Alongside the studios' regular offerings, the Nina participates in various special projects and collaborations throughout the year.

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



People by Lisa Reece



“ There’s so much to learn and do. Everytime I come I get better and better. ”

— Holly Sabourin, Nina artist



# Program Highlights: Sharing artists' stories

Many artists in the Nina Collective have stories to tell, and we strive to create opportunities for them to share those stories with the world. While visual art remains a powerful way to express personal experiences and perspectives, this year artists shared their stories in new formats, through new partnerships, and with audiences beyond the gallery walls.

Aba Garbrah shared her life journey through an artistic autobiography and was invited to speak at the Alberta Teachers' Association Diversity, Equity, and Human Rights Conference.

Several artists contributed artwork to an anthology of non-fiction stories developed by the Edmonton Chinese Writing Club and Edmonton Heritage Council. Others partnered with students from MacEwan University on a collaborative storytelling project, while another group are working with the University of Calgary's Faculty of Social Work on a research project exploring multisensory approaches to preserving and sharing stories from Albertans with disabilities.

These collaborations demonstrate the many ways artists can connect with others, build understanding, and contribute to important conversations in their communities.



Nina artists Jared Quinney and Uli Rossier signing copies of *Edmonton Heritage Stories* at City Hall

## Edmonton Heritage Stories:

*A collection of stories on crossing, courage, community*

is an anthology compiled by the Edmonton Chinese Writers Club and Edmonton Heritage Council that explores and preserves local heritage through non-fiction writing. The project celebrates Edmonton's diverse cultural heritage while building inter-cultural connections and community engagement, and the Nina was honoured to participate.

The book launch event took place in City Hall, where Nina Artist and Community Outreach Liaison, Jared Quinney, shared a speech on behalf of the Nina.

The following artists from the Nina Collective contributed artwork to illustrate themes from the stories:

Eli Abada	Raymond Keung	Jared Quinney
Sheila C.	Jamie Lavature	Ulrike Rossier
Aaron Harvey	Amynah Pirani	Randy Stennes

## Multisensory Storytelling

Nina artists Roy Skoreyko, Carrie Wheeler, Jared Quinney, Amynah Pirani, and May Jones are collaborating with the University of Calgary on Sensing the Past: Exploring Disability Histories in Canada, an ongoing research project that explores memories and personal stories through smell, touch, and sound.

The project will result in a published sensory map. By reflecting on their experiences and memories, these artists are helping to uncover new ways of sharing stories and preserving history through the senses, demonstrating that storytelling can take many forms beyond the written or spoken word.



Edmonton Heritage Stories collaborators posing for a photo at City Hall (left); Jared Quinney speaking at the book launch (right)



Nina artists participating in a workshop with the University of Calgary

### Collaborative Storytelling with Macewan University

Students from MacEwan University's Creative Writing 317: Collaborative Storytelling course visited the Nina over several weeks to interview artists and work alongside them to transform verbal narratives into written stories that reflect each artist's unique voice and perspective. The project provided students with hands-on experience in ethical, community-based storytelling while creating a meaningful opportunity for artists to share their experiences, connect with others, and see their stories preserved.

We extend our sincere thanks to Professor Jocelyn Brown and her Creative Writing students for their creativity, dedication, and partnership.



Nina artist Dale D. with Macewan student Selina McMahan-Aguilar

## Barb's Story

**Why do I do art?** Because it helps me to relax, and I like how pottery feels when exercising my fingers. And it reminds me of happier times. Pottery, being my favourite, reminds me of making bannock, and I can do it longer than beadwork or painting.

I like feeling the rough clay smooth out between my fingers. It reminds me of the soil of the forests I walked through when I was younger, searching for sweetgrass, rat root, white flowers and medicine with my grandma, in nature.

When I want people to appreciate my art, I want them to think about the softness of my pieces and to think of nature, such as grass, forests, and family.

I make art at the Nina Haggerty Centre because it reminds me of family and where I came from. It helps me exercise my mind and helps me feel close to my family. Sometimes I make money off it, but if I could be remembered by something in my art, it would have to be my soft personality, my generosity, my grandma, my smile - things like that, yeah.



Nina artist Barb Lagrelle with her beadwork

Excerpt from Creative Writing 317 Collaborative Storytelling draft (edited for length)

Storyteller: Barb Lagrelle, Nina Artist  
Interviewer: Talen LeClair, Macewan University Student

# Program Highlights: Supporting professional development

ATB

## Artist Financial Empowerment Program

With support from ATB, this program engages artists in the Nina Collective to strengthen and grow their financial independence through workshops, networking and experiences to create and sell art. The artists are also growing skills such as teaching art classes. This directly supports financial empowerment by giving participants real opportunities to earn income. Through this work, artists develop practical skills in pricing, budgeting, managing

sales revenue, and planning for future income — all of which mirror core personal finance outcomes like responsible spending, money management, and long-term financial planning. This fusion of creative skill building and tangible financial literacy helps participants gain confidence and independence both artistically and economically.

## Sync Leadership Residency

Sync Leadership is a disabled-led project that inspires disabled creatives worldwide to be their best selves through a blend of coaching practice and leadership thinking.

Nina artists Aba Garbrah and Jared Quinney were selected to participate in the Summer 2025 *Sync Shorts/ Syncing Space* online residency. Over several weeks, they participated in virtual sessions and leadership coaching workshops where they shared their process and ideas, experimented, and made new work.



Scan to see the artists' virtual studios & exhibition

## CIBC CIBC Propel Project

This year's CIBC Propel Project was guided by a few key ideas:

- Creating financial independence for Nina artists
- Teaching practical skills and allowing artists time to practice
- Artist-led projects based on skills they really want to learn

The program culminated in an art walk where artists used their skills to market and sell art.



Anna Thomas (left) and Claudia Ward (right) selling their ceramic sculptures at the Art Walk

# Program Highlights: Exploring new mediums

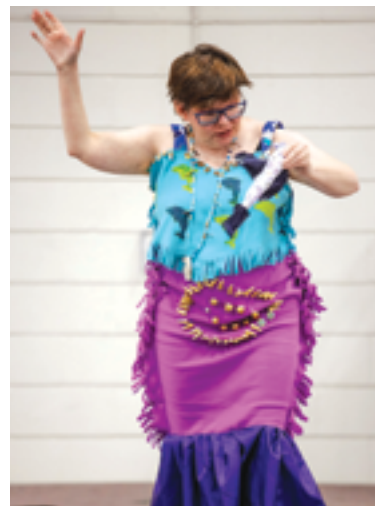


Interest in creating wearable art continues to grow each year since Alana Gersky and the Artist Advisory Committee kickstarted our fashion program in 2021. More and more artists have been inspired to express themselves by designing their own clothes, and they showed them off on the runway at the fashion show during our 2025 Patrons Lunch.

Thank you to Kristen Buchholtz for photographing the event and to MC College for providing hair and makeup.



Scan to see a video of Nina Artists working the runway!



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

— Alana Gersky, Nina artist



//

It was my first time trying [Shibori]. It's fun and it's different.

//

— Rose Seerey, Nina artist



# Program Highlights: RBC Emerging Artists



## RBC Emerging Artists Project

Each year we welcome a group of artists from outside the Nina who are in the early stages of their artistic careers to participate in a creative exchange 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 2025, 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 puppet-making, pop-up cards, painting, and making ink from plants.

### Thank you to our 2025 RBC Emerging Artists:

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Ilsa Ahmad         | Louisa Hammond    |
| Basemah Al-Alawany | Rexell Livelo     |
| Jesse Bishop       | Sarah Von Gertzen |



Preferred Client Services Presents  
**Here's Nina 2025**

Here's Nina is our annual gala that celebrates the accomplishments of artists in our Collective receiving 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 host Josh Classen teamed up with our CEO, Anne Harvey, to deliver a magnificent evening along with musical performances sponsored by Dentons Canada LLP.



Thank you to our event sponsors



- Alberta Blue Cross
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- Rotary Club of Edmonton NE
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Is your business interested in supporting our next gala event?

Contact [rona@thenina.ca](mailto:rona@thenina.ca) for sponsor and partnership opportunities.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
 Here's Nina 2026 will be on **November 12<sup>th</sup>**

# 2025 Award Winners

## Jeffrey Yamazaki

REALTORS® Community Foundation  
CREATE AWARD

Jeffrey Yamazaki has a meticulous eye for detail and is known for his large, intricately detailed paintings that can take several years to complete. He has recently been making smaller paintings depicting everyday objects in vivid colour and detail. His work features fantasy, environmental, and mythological subjects. When not at the Nina, Jeffrey enjoys reading about politics and playing video games.



## Dale Donahue

Rotary Club of Edmonton Northeast  
CONNECT AWARD

Dale Donahue is a longtime artist at the Nina working in ceramics, soft sculpture and printmaking. He is fascinated with animals and often creates multiple depictions of a single species in different mediums. A big sports fan, Dale also creates work inspired by his favorite teams, the Edmonton Oilers and Edmonton Elks. Dale is an active member of our Artist Advisory Committee and has participated in a variety of group exhibitions and projects. He is always happy to lend a hand around the studios and at various community events.



## Jordan Kucy

Edmonton EXPO Centre  
INNOVATE AWARD

Jordan Kucy is a visual artist who creates abstract soft sculptures. Using objects such as old frames, tree branches, or crumpled newspaper as a base, he builds shapes with layers of coiled yarn and arranges them into interesting compositions. His work has been included in multiple group exhibitions, including *Around You/Near You* at gallery@501 in Sherwood Park.



## Chris Cli

ATB  
EMERGING ARTIST AWARD

Chris Cli is an artist and proud First Nations man, a part of the Dene-Slave nation from Fort Simpson. He moved to Edmonton in 2012 and has been coming to the Nina since 2021. Chris most enjoys working in acrylics, coloured pencils and watercolour. He has been an artist since he was very young and draws inspiration from images of nature. His subject matter often includes birds, animals, and buildings, depicted in his bright, colourful, graphic style.



# 2025 Award Winners

## Deanne Lambert

CIBC  
PROPEL AWARD

Deanne Lambert has been a member of the Nina since 2022. Her art practice is fluid, and she alternates between mediums based on her mood and inspiration of the day. She has worked in ceramics, painting, drawing, and printmaking. Recently she been experimenting with making her own paper by hand and using it in mixed media pieces, a skill she has taught in workshops and plans to continue to share with the community. Dee is also a dedicated volunteer at the Nina, helping out in our studios once a week.



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



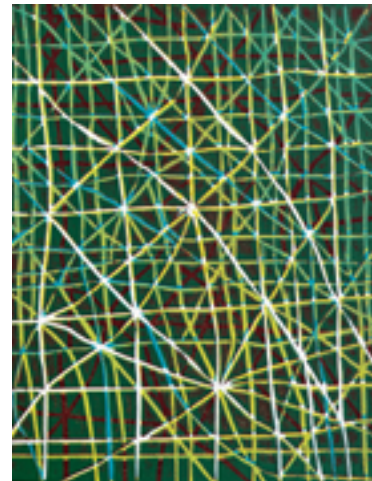
Here's Nina photos by Kristen Buchholtz

# 2025 Award Winners

## Tim Crnkovic

### 2026 ARTIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Tim Crnkovic is a multidisciplinary artist who works in painting, drawing and linocut. He takes inspiration from art historical images and photographs of animals and people, reinterpreting them in his own unique and recognizable style. Tim has grown tremendously as an artist since joining the Nina Collective in 2014, creating increasingly interesting work and refining his skills. His work has been included in numerous group shows throughout Edmonton and internationally. Tim received the CREATE Award in 2020 and has continued to flourish and expand his practice since.



## Jennifer Rutledge-Gordon

Odvod Media

### SUSTAINED SUPPORT AWARD

Jenn was a longtime volunteer before joining the Nina staff as Volunteer and Event Coordinator in 2021. She quickly became an essential part of our community. Nina artists, staff, and volunteers were deeply saddened by her passing in March 2026.

At the Nina, Jenn was known for her warm, nurturing spirit, for pouring thoughtful attention to detail into every event at the Nina, and for her innate ability to make each person who walks through our doors feel welcome.

We are grateful that we had the opportunity to recognize Jenn's many contributions with this award within her lifetime, and feel privileged to honour her memory by hosting her celebration of life in our gallery in April.

In fall of 2026 we will be opening a newly renovated studio space in Jenn's memory. The Jennifer Rutledge-Gordon Sensory-Friendly Studio will be a calming and welcoming place that embodies the atmosphere that Jenn fostered here.



# 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 bi-monthly drawing classes.

## Autism Edmonton

Autism Edmonton (Autism Society of Edmonton Area) provides services and support to autistic individuals in our community. They have 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.

## 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 and Telus Community Foundation 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 unique 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 one hundred 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 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.



Sea Creatures  
by Carrie Wheeler



Carrie Wheeler posing under her *Sea Life* mobile in the gallery, wearing an aquatic-themed outfit she designed and made by hand

## Ways to support

### 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 bottom of this page to donate or visit [thenina.ca/donate](http://thenina.ca/donate).

### 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.

You can shop a curated selection online, stop by our gallery to browse our full collection in person or email [janice@thenina.ca](mailto:janice@thenina.ca) for special requests, commissions, and bulk orders.



**DONATE TO THE NINA**  
Support local artists with disabilities

### Volunteer

Whatever your skillset or availability, we can always use your help.

Email [deanna@thenina.ca](mailto:deanna@thenina.ca) to see what opportunities are available.

### 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 [@ninahaggertyarts](https://www.facebook.com/ninahaggertyarts)



Fish by Carrie Wheeler





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