

ANNUAL 2022 / 2023 REPORT

ART GALLERY of GRANDE PRAIRIE

“I grew up here in the 70s/80s and whenever I visit, I make an effort to come see this great gallery! It is not only a beautiful space, but I admire the gutsy and thought-provoking exhibits. This is a sophisticated and very professional organization!”

Barb



Image / Artwork by Rita Letendre in the exhibition, *The Neon Kitten*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Messages from the Chair of the Board	4
Message from the Executive Director	5
Vision, Mission and Goals	6
Partnership and Support for the Community	7
Exhibitions and Collections	8–9
Gallery Exhibitions	10 – 13
Permanent Collection	14 – 15
Travelling Exhibitions (TREX)	16 – 21
Learning	22 – 27
Financial Statements	29 – 47
Major Funders, Partners, Gifts in Kind, and Volunteers	48 – 49
Board of Directors and Staff	51

We acknowledge that we are located on Treaty 8 territory – the ancestral Land of the sovereign Dane-zaa, Nehiyawak, Dene, and Otipemisiwak Nations. We acknowledge the many Indigenous Peoples who have lived and cared for these lands for generations. We are grateful for the traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders who are still with us today and those who have gone before us. We make this acknowledgement as an act of reconciliation and gratitude.

The Art Gallery of Grande Prairie also recognizes that Land Acknowledgments are not enough. Through our actions we commit to truth, reconciliation, decolonization, and allyship in support of Indigenous lifeways and wellbeing.

Cover Image / Artwork by Ryan McCourt (sculpture) and BuckingJam Palace Music Foundation and Quickdraw Animation Society (video) in the exhibition, *Jazz Influences*



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Vaugn Bend

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie (AGGP), I am very pleased to share our Annual Report for 2022-23. At the AGGP, we strive to create an environment where art flourishes and connects with diverse audiences. Our carefully curated exhibitions aim to provoke thought, spark conversations, and ignite the imagination. Each artwork on display is thoughtfully selected to offer a glimpse into the minds and souls of talented artists, both established and emerging.

We believe that art has the ability to transcend boundaries and touch the deepest parts of our humanity. It has the power to challenge preconceptions, inspire change, and bring people together in shared appreciation. It is our mission to provide a platform for artists to showcase their work and engage in meaningful, enriching experiences with our community.

The work of artists around the region, including Indigenous artists and culturally diverse artists, formed the heart of our exhibitions this year. To honour the memory of the thousands of Indigenous children who lost their lives in the Indian Residential School system in Canada, George Littlechild's exhibition, *Here I Am – Can You See Me*, curated by Adjunct Curator of Indigenous Art MJ Belcourt Moses, was a profoundly moving tribute to the artist's family, the lost children and the generations of Indigenous Peoples who have survived this trauma.

Our commitment to using art as a vehicle for dialogue, engagement and inspiration saw the AGGP Permanent Collection gain pieces that engage and reflect our diverse communities. This year's acquisitions included *Undocumented Studies* by Evy Hook Newton/McBryan, and *The Neon Kitten* by Northern Polytechnique Permanent Collection.

I would like to thank our artists for your resilience, vulnerability, and lasting impact on our gallery and the broader artistic community.

Our commitment extends beyond the walls of this gallery. In 2022, we actively collaborated with local communities, educational institutions, and cultural organizations to promote the arts and foster creativity in all its forms. Through our Summer Art Camp, Alberta Culture Days, and Art at Home, we invested in the next generation of artists and cultivated a vibrant and inclusive art ecosystem.

As we continue to emerge from the depths of the global pandemic, the AGGP is entering a new era as a beacon of light, hope and healing.

The Board is most appreciative of the Gallery's new Executive Director Daniel Becker, who advises us and supports our work as a Board. We are thrilled to have Daniel join our team and lead us into a new chapter of artistic excellence and innovation. Daniel brings a wealth of experience, vision, and passion for the arts that will undoubtedly propel our gallery to new heights.

I am deeply grateful to our AGGP Board of Directors for their steadfast leadership, our employees and volunteers for their passion and dedication, and major funders for their unwavering support: The City of Grande Prairie, The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, The County of Grande Prairie, The Municipal District of Greenview, and The Alberta Museums Association.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Daniel Becker

In 2022-2023, The Art Gallery of Grande Prairie had a remarkable year, filled with captivating exhibitions, engaging events, and a celebration of artistic expression. As a prominent destination for art enthusiasts, we continued our mission to showcase diverse and thought-provoking works, fostering creativity and cultural appreciation within our community. Several large projects and different ongoing challenges created a rich and productive year where we achieved quite a few goals that increased the organization's capacity and the depth of it's practice.

At the end of 2022 the organization was awarded Recognized Museum status by the Alberta Museum Association. This was an application that had been started in 2018 and was finally drawn together and completed in November.

In March of 2023 the organization received notice that the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board had approved the reapplication of a group of artwork whose application was started in 2015 and, over 8 years had experienced multiple challenges and delays.

In December of 2022 the Gallery completed a much-needed basement renovation that was funded by the Gallery, the City of Grande Prairie, and the Canadian Heritage Cultural Spaces Fund. Effectively expanding the organization's operable workshop and storage space by 1117 square feet.

The Gallery also received funding from the Tourism Relief Fund, facilitated by Western Economic Diversification, to facilitate a major renovation to its website. An ongoing project that will be bringing our permanent collection and our exhibitions to life by providing access to our collection records, and a 3D rendering of each exhibit currently on display.

Special thanks go to the City of Grande Prairie, the County of Grande Prairie, the MD of Greenview, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the Department of Canadian Heritage, Fred and Ruth Estlin, Marjorie and Turk Taylor, and to the Sargent Family Foundation, for providing not only funding for the organization, but tangible faith in what the arts can do for communities.

In 2022-2023 the Gallery saw all of it's operations return to pre-covid levels and while the organization is still adjusting to the realities of coming out of a pandemic, I am confident that with the amazing support that the community gives we will continue to enrich and empower the lives of the people of Grande Prairie and region.

Daniel Becker
Executive Director



VISION

The Art Gallery of Grande Prairie will be a centre of excellence, inspiration, creativity and innovation for the Arts. We will be a valued cultural partner and vital resource for the public, artists, curators and writers.

MISSION

Enriching the community through the creation, conservation and sharing of art.

GOALS (2021-23)

Expand on our partnerships
Develop extraordinary opportunities to experience the Arts
Build on our donors, members and sponsors
Build organizational leadership and capacity

GOALS (2021-23)

Connect with our community
Build strong organizational resilience
Create outstanding opportunities for artists and visitors

62% ▲ ***ANNUAL VISITATION***
15,227

The Gallery was closed to the public due to provincial restriction related to COVID-19 between the dates: April 1, 2021 until June 28, 2021

13% ▲ ***VISITORS TO TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS (TREX PROGRAM)***
139,707

10% ▲ ***PARTICIPANTS IN GALLERY LEARNING ACTIVITIES***
17,384

35% ▼ ***NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS***
17 Contributing at least 653 hours **(up 18%)**

The Gallery did not host an Annual Art Auction event between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023 where volunteers would typically contribute hours.

30% ▼ ***NUMBER OF MEMBERS***
58

1% ▼ ***NUMBER OF UNIQUE VISITORS TO THE WEBSITE***
33,238

2% ▼ ***NUMBER OF WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS***
37,902

14% ▲ ***NUMBER OF FOLLOW AND LIKES THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA***
Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
8,947



Northwestern Polytechnic students with instructor and guest curator, Tina Martel, in the exhibition, *gen.es.is.*

PARTNERSHIP

The Art Gallery of Grande Prairie is proud to be an active member of the community and during 2022-2023 the Gallery was active in ensuring multiple partner goals and collaborations.

The Northwestern Polytechnic, the Center for Creative Arts, Traditional Paths Society, Grande Prairie Friendship Centre, the Grande Prairie Aboriginal Circle of Services, the City of Grande Prairie, Grande Prairie Catholic Schools, and Grande Prairie Public School District are all some of the partners who we have worked with over the last year. We are proud of the connections we have with our community, and we are even more excited when community members reach out to collaborate or work together on projects to enliven and better our community.

In 2022-2023 the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie was able to continue its partnership with the Alberta Foundation for the Arts in providing the region well designed and accessible exhibitions in their communities. This program averages around 65 venues per year and spans from as far west as Dawson Creek, as far north as Fort Vermillion and La Crete, as far east as Slave Lake and as far south as Jasper.



December 2022: Exhibition Sponsor **Bear Creek Funeral Home** with artwork by Jim Stokes from our Permanent Collection on display through our Temporary Art Loan program.

SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY

In 2022-2023 the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie continued its support for the community in its current operations via the already extremely popular learning programs for school groups, the free openings to exhibitions, and the free general attendance to its gallery spaces.

The Art Gallery of Grande Prairie is still the largest free to attend Gallery in Northwestern Alberta and Northeastern BC. By providing the public with free to attend high quality experiences from other regions we can create an experience that is uplifting, educational, and enlightening. Placing a financial value on this is difficult, however, in 2019 Oxford Economics, working with the Canadian Museum Association and Library and Archives Canada created a value study that examined the economic effects that Galleries Libraries Archives and Museums have on society. Within this study they calculated that the average value on ticket prices for Canadian Galleries and Museums was $43. With this amount in mind, and considering that for 2022-2023 the Gallery had 15,227 attendees, by keeping attendance free the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie and their funding partners saved Grande Prairie and its regions an estimated $654,761 in admission fees.

Our **Temporary Art Loan program** continues to expand throughout our major government funders and local businesses, so we can 'put art in all spaces' by animating their facilities.

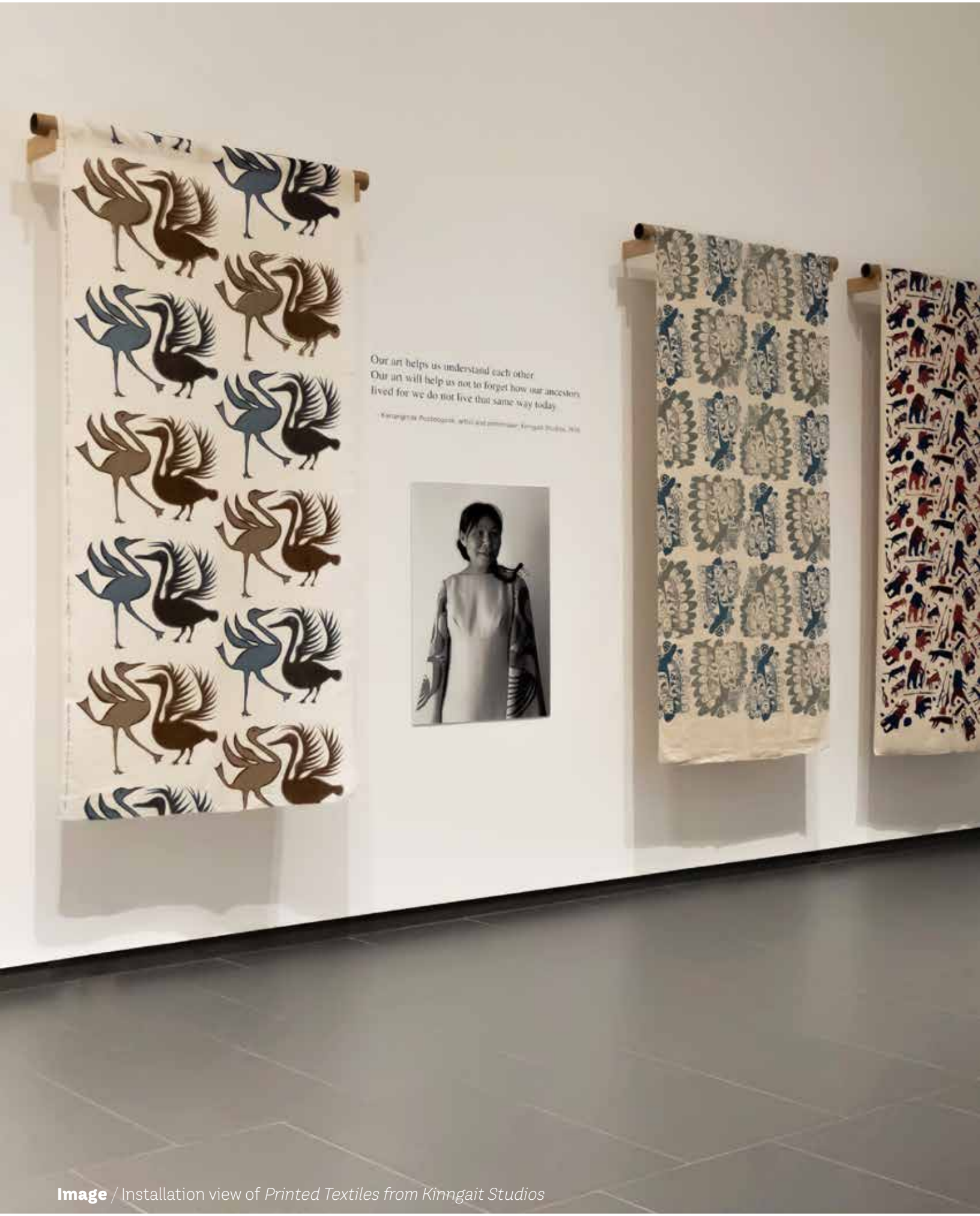


Image / Installation view of *Printed Textiles from Kinngait Studios*



EXHIBITIONS AND COLLECTIONS

Over the past year, the Gallery has focused on maneuvering through the obstacles brought forth by the pandemic. Our priority has been to offer our visitors a first-hand experience of art in person again. Through the implementation of different exhibitions and programs, we have strived to create a dynamic space that fosters creativity and nurtures a deep appreciation for the arts.

The Gallery began the year 2022 with an award-winning exhibition *Printed Textiles from Kinngait Studios*. This exhibit was curated by Roxane Shaughnessy and put together by the Textile Museum of Canada in collaboration with the West Baffin Eskimo Cooperative. It shared the story of a group of Inuit artists and printmakers who created a remarkable collection of graphic textiles in Kinngait (Cape Dorset, Nunavut) during the 1950s and '60s. Alongside this, we showcased the Sock Monkey Scenarios exhibition, which took visitors into a carefully choreographed world of folk-art puppets, exploring their theatrical and anthropomorphic qualities.

Throughout the past year, we have actively sought out artists from diverse regions working in a variety of mediums. This was strongly reflected in two group exhibitions *Jazz Influences: Rhythm, Movement, and Improv!* and *Video Games? Art and Technology*. These multi-disciplinary exhibitions explored and reflected on the history and influences of jazz music on contemporary art and examined video games as an art form, respectively. We concluded 2022 with a solo exhibition of Syrian artist Aboud Salman. The exhibition, *Euphrates Storyteller* explored his life and experiences as a refugee artist, telling a tale of displacement. The exhibition was a great success for both the artist and the gallery, receiving positive feedback from our local community and beyond.

The Gallery's Permanent Collection holds many artworks, some yet to be exhibited. The *Undocumented Studies* exhibition introduced these lesser-known pieces, featuring Evy Hook Newton/McBryan's undocumented studies. It also included a participatory drawing project *Endless*, allowing visitors to express their thoughts on the glass walls of Gallery 5, transforming it into a captivating mural. Visitors also explored works from the Northwestern Polytechnic Permanent Collection in *The Neon Kitten* exhibition.

Last year, the Art Acquisition Committee met to review donation proposals for the Permanent Collection. After careful consideration, the committee decided to acquire valuable pieces by influential regional artists such as Euphemia McNaught and Peter Von Tiesenhausen. The Gallery also embraced the opportunity to collaborate with like-minded institutions, fostering the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and artistic experiences. In line with this mission, Dean Drever's artworks from the Gallery's Permanent Collection were temporarily showcased at the Art Gallery of Alberta through our Temporary Art Loan Program, for the exhibition *In Black and White*.

As we embark on the next chapter of our journey, we remain steadfast in our mission to foster creativity and cultural exchange within our region. We are grateful to the artists, patrons, sponsors, and the entire community for their support and together we will continue to create a space that brings people together and inspires change.

GALLERY EXHIBITIONS



Here I am – can you see me?
April 7 - July 11, 2022
Curator: MJ Belcourt Moses
Artist: George Littlechild

Exhibition Sponsors

art gallery of alberta

Capital Power
capital power art

Grande Prairie Friendship Centre
Since 1965

> **"This was such an amazing set of exhibits. Eye-opening shows downstairs with George Littlechild and the textile print display was so beautiful, educated, and an emotional truth. Thank you for the experience"**
>
> **Aaron**
> **Lethbridge, AB**

> **I was deeply moved by the George Littlechild exhibit.**
>
> **Pamela**
> **Lethbridge, AB**



gen.e.sis
April 14 - May 30, 2022
Guest Curator: Tina Martel

Artists:
Connie Potter, Shayna Geisel, Alysoun Wells, Ali Boychuk, Christina Wallwork, Rosemary Kay, Wenoa Backer-Kisner

Exhibition Sponsor

BEAR CREEK
·FUNERAL HOME·

> **“Printed textiles from Kinngait studios is my personal favourite of any showing here so far! Wonderful. Also loved the Undocumented Studies. Thanks!”**
>
> **Cynthia**



Printed Textiles from Kinngait Studios
May 26 - September 18, 2022
Curator: Roxane Shaughnessy
Project Partner: West Baffin Eskimo Cooperative
Project Advisor: West Baffin Eskimo Cooperative Arts Committee and Dr. Heather Igloliorte

Artists: Anna Kingwatsiak (1911–1971), Anirnik Oshuitoq (1902–1983), Eegyvudluk Pootoogook (1931–2000), Innukjuakju Pudlat (1913–1972), Ishuhungito Pootoogook (1939–), Iyola Kingwatsiak (1933–2000), Kananginak Pootoogook (1935–2010), Kenojuak Ashevak (1927–2013), Lukta Qiatsuk (1928–2004), Lucy Qinnuayuak (1915–1982), Mary Samuellie Pudlat (1923–2001), Osuitok Ipeelee (1922–2005), Olivu Tunnillie (1949 –2014), Parr (1893–1969), Paunichea (1920–1968), Pitseolak Ashoona (1904–1983), Pudlo Pudlat (1916–1992), Sharni Pootoogook (Sharnee) (1922–2003), Sheouak Petaulassie (1923–1961), Sorosilutu Ashoona (1941–), Ulayu Pingwartok (1904–1978).

Exhibition Sponsors



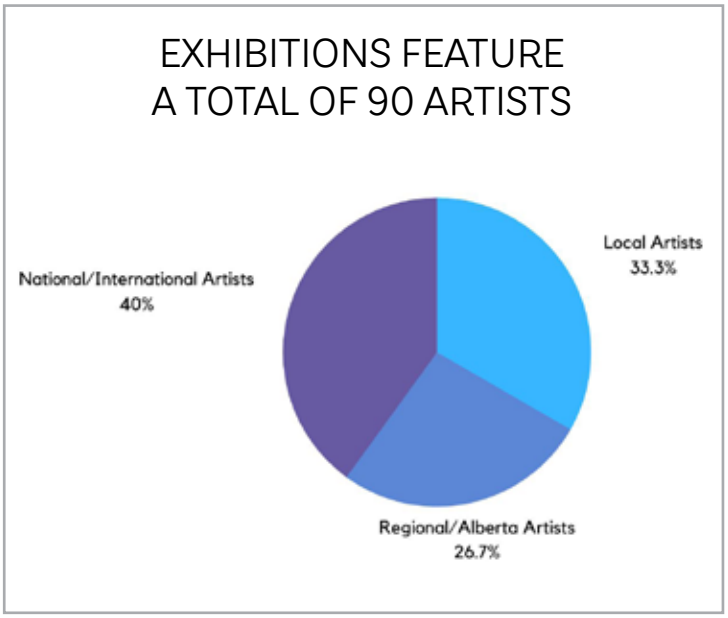


Sock Monkey Scenarios
June 16 - October 9, 2022
Curator: Sabine Schneider

Artist: Thomas Anfield

Exhibition Sponsor

CROUSE'S cleaners



GALLERY EXHIBITIONS



Video Games? Art and Technology

October 6, 2022 - January 29, 2023
Curator: Manar Abo Touk

Artists: Pippin Barr, Sandee Moore, and SpekWork (Cat Bluemke and Jonathan Carroll)

Exhibition Sponsor

Sargent Family Foundation

Exhibition Partner

NEXT LEVEL VR ARCADE
VIRTUAL REALITY - ARCADE - APPAREL - COLLECTIBLES

> **Aboud Salman's exhibit was tremendously moving – Perhaps the most impactful I have personally experienced thus far in life. Thank you for the privilege of viewing it.**
>
> **Jude**



Undocumented Studies: Evelyn McBryan, Sketches from The Permanent Collection
June 30, 2022 – February 26, 2023
Curators: Manar Abo Touk and Jamie-Lee Cormier

Artist: Evy Hook Newton/McBryan

> **It was super fun to play all the games and I wish I could come here more often.**
>
> **Haiden**



How Does a Moose See the World? From the Permanent Collection
March 16, 2023 – November 19, 2023
Curator: Mohsen Ahi Andy

Artist: Euphemia McNaught, Illingworth Kerr, Robert Guest, John Snow, James Agrell-Smith, Vicki Hotte, Arthur Peterson, Inez Demuynck, Janet (Kruse) Enfield, Jim White, Holly Crichton, C. Wolfe, Holly Perret.



Jazz Influences: Rhythm, Movement and Improv!
July 21 – November 6, 2022
Curator: Manar Abo Touk

Artists: BuckingJam Palace & Quickdraw Animation Society (Noah Spencer, Troy Kokol, Sheena Agnew, Arielle McCuaig, Leslie Bell, Lyndon Navalta, Caity Gyorgy, Carsten Rubeling, Mark Limacher, Luis 'El Pana' Tovar, Lisa Jacobs), Aretha Laverne & Shei Onu, Breanne Bandur, Darren Kooyman, Ryan McCourt, Stéphanie McLean.



The Neon Kitten
November 24, 2022 – April 9, 2023
Curator: Melanie Jenner

Artists: Rene Marcil, Sheri Nault, L. Hein, Bogdan Mirkovic, Danita Vandervaate, Brian Marion, Rita Letendre, Danielle Collins, Arnold Shives, Vaughn Mueller, Stanley Lewis, Ron Melnchenko, Ron Melnchenko, Lina Tardif, Greg Donis

Exhibition Sponsor

JMS Construction

Exhibition Partner

MADDHATTERS eat local



What's Held
November 10, 2022 – February 19, 2023
Curators: Kiona Callihoo Ligtvoet and Robin Lynch

Artists: Kiona Callihoo Ligtvoet, Jewel Shaw, Alana Bartol, Bruno Canadien, Robin Smith-Peck, Bryce Krynski, Amy Malbeuf, Sarah Fuller, Laura Grier

Program Supported by

Alberta Foundation for the Arts

Alberta Government

TREX NW Program Sponsor

KMSC LAW LLP
Lawyers for the journey ahead

Exhibition Partner

MADDHATTERS eat local



The Euphrates Storyteller
February 16, 2023 – May 21, 2023
Curators: Manar Abo Touk and Mohsen Ahi Andy

Artist: Aboud Salman

PERMANENT COLLECTION

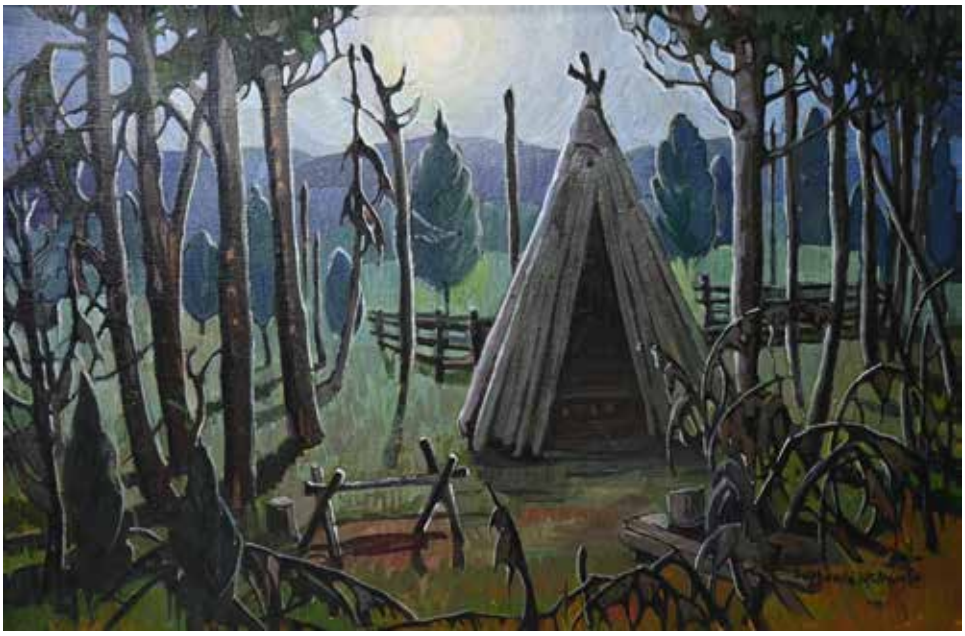
The Art Gallery of Grande Prairie's Permanent Collection currently stands at approximately 850 works of art, almost exclusively created in Alberta in the mid to late 20th Century. Designated as a 'Category A' Institution by the Movable Cultural Properties Directorate of Canadian Heritage, the Gallery is permitted to receive art donations of outstanding significance and national importance due to our strict climate, safety and security controls.

2022 ACQUISITIONS - 4 acquired artworks

Art Collection Committee 2022

Terry Gorgichuk / Board Representative
Esther Hofflick / Community Representative

Gallery Representatives /
Daniel Becker (Executive Director)
Mohsen Ahi Andy (Assistant Curator, Exhibitions and Collections)



Donor / Lynn Holroyd
Artist / Euphemia McNaught
Title / Two Lakes Road at Pinto Creek
Year / No Date
Media / Painting on panel
Dimensions / 36 inches x 24 inches



Donor / Colleen Band
Artist / Euphemia McNaught
Title / Unknown
Year / No Date
Media / Painting on Panel
Dimensions / 14 inches x 10 inches



Donor / Ella and William Simpson, Wendy Derrheim
Artist / Peter von Tiesenhausen
Title / Alex's Field (A)
Year / 1991
Media / Painting
Dimensions / 24 inches x 18 inches



Donor / Colleen Band
Artist / Anton Kohalyk
Title / The Swamp
Year / 1988
Media / Watercolour
Dimensions / 11 inches x 8.25 inches

Disclaimer: The four (4) artworks on page 14 were in error placed in the 2022/2023 report but were in fact acquired in 2023/2024 fiscal year.

2021 ACQUISITIONS - 30 acquired artworks

Art Collection Committee 2021

Edward Bader / Board Representative
Grant Berg / Community Representative

Gallery Representatives /
Jeff Erbach (Executive Director)
Manar Abo Touk (Curator, Exhibitions and Collections)
Sabine Schneider (Curator, Learning)







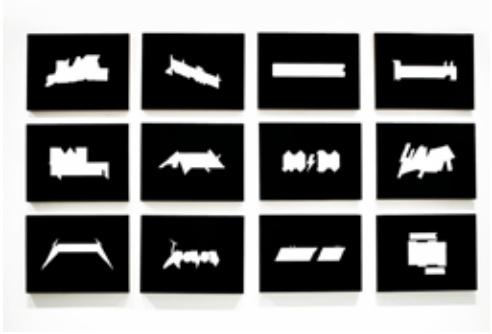
Donor / Luciano Galasso
Artist / Dean Drever
Title / Knuckle Dusters
Year / 2004
Media / Stainless Steel
Dimensions / 4.2 x 2.85 x 0.75 inches each (3 pieces)



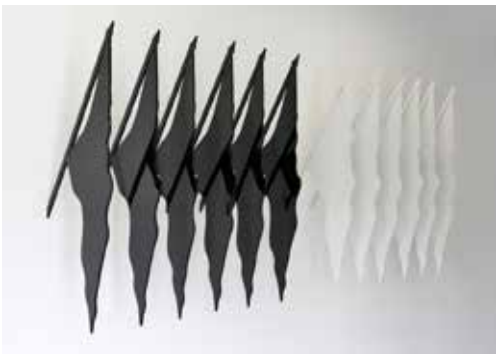
Donor / Leon Liffmann
Artist / Dean Drever
Title / White Eddie
Year / 2010
Media / Aluminum, lacquer
Dimensions / 132 inches x 159 inches x 0.5 inches



Donor / Andrew Parks
Artist / Dean Drever
Title / A Nice Pair
Year / 2010
Media / Wooden bats, water lacquer, maple
Dimensions / 35 inches x 3 inches each (2 pieces)



Donor / Matthew Schadbolt
Artist / Dean Drever
Title / White Metal (12 pieces)
Year / 2011
Media / Linen, water lacquer, oil paint, maple
Dimensions / 18 inches H x 24 inches W, each



Donor / Matthew Schadbolt
Artist / Dean Drever
Title / Black Flag / White Flag (12 pcs)
Year / 2011
Media / Painting
Dimensions / Each 45” H x 22” W x 0.5” D
(Displayed as a set is 28 feet x 4 feet)



Above / *A Cordial Word*, an exhibition featuring work from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Permanent Collection installed at Grimshaw Library.



Image / *What Lies Beyond*, on view at the Grande Prairie Public Library

TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS (TREX)

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) has supported a provincial travelling exhibition program since 1981. The mandate of the AFA Travelling Exhibition Program is to provide every Albertan with the opportunity to enjoy visual art exhibitions in their community. Three regional galleries and one arts organization coordinate the program for the AFA in the province of Alberta.

The Art Gallery of Grande Prairie is contracted by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts to manage and facilitate the program in Region 1, North Western Alberta, and has been involved with the program since the beginning. We strive to maintain the high standards the program has become known for and continue to support Alberta's talented artists.

TREX Northwest Program Sponsor

KMSC LAW LLP

Lawyers for the journey ahead

> **This exhibition was VERY well received by the community. Lots of positive comments regarding the beauty of the artwork!**
>
> Educator's response to TREX exhibit, *Adornment*, on view at Rotary Club of Slave Lake Library.



TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS

Message from Jamie-Lee Cormier
Curator/Manager

What a year it's been for the TREX Program! As I celebrate one year in this position, I'm thrilled to share what the program has achieved. We had approximately 123,245 people view the 16 exhibitions that toured Northwestern Alberta. The Travelling Exhibition program was created 50 years ago by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts to provide as many communities as possible across Alberta with the opportunity to see visual art exhibitions, and to share their collection with the public. The program helps to promote and encourage artistic careers in the province, this year we were able to showcase 113 artists in exhibitions which toured to 21 different communities in the Northwestern Region.

Beginning in May 2022, we framed, crated, and circulated three wonderful exhibitions curated by past manager, Robin Lynch. They were *What's Held*, co-curated by Kiona Callihoo Ligtvoet, featuring work by eleven Indigenous artists. Their work explores the ways of memorializing, mapping, and holding onto significant sites, keeping the stories of them alive and present, even as the landscape shifts or carries them further away from home. *What's Held* was on display at the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie from November 2022 – February 2023, and Kiona Callihoo Ligtvoet came for the opening where she gave an Artist/Curator Talk. *Touching the Sky* featured works by Peace Region artists and art educators, Elizabeth Hutchinson, Esther Hoflick & Angela Fehr. Their watercolours and mixed media works hover between our ability to represent space, and our environment's profound shaping of our daily experiences. *Careful Space, Gentle Matters* highlights the work of two artists, Nicole Jones (Fairview, AB) and Chelsey Campbell (Edmonton, AB) who center and affirm their lived experiences of disability and chronic illness. The works explore these complex feelings in addition to celebrating the important forms of care, rest, and joy that they gently make with themselves, and with community. To make this exhibition more accessible QR codes with voice recording of ALT TEXT Poetry by Meredith Grace Thompson were created along with brail labels. In addition to the Education Guide which accompanies each exhibition, we produced a digital videos of artist talks and workshops.

We launched a new initiative in December 2022 to help artists in the area display their work by creating the TREX WALL, located just outside the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie doors. We had over 13 individuals and/or groups apply to the open call and will have 5 exhibitions on display this year. Thank you to our Program Sponsor, KMSC Law for the support to make the TREX WALL a reality for the next 4 years!! KMSC Law has deep roots in this community, over 100 years, and are pleased to continue their relationship with the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie and support the arts in Grande Prairie and surrounding area through the TREX program.

The TREX program strives to share a variety of artwork styles, provide opportunities to emerging artists and educate viewers on cultural traditions across Alberta. Thank you to all my current and new venue coordinators who volunteer their time to install the artwork at their schools, libraries, museums, or cultural centres. This position has been incredibly rewarding and it's so wonderful to work with the artists and organizations to enrich communities through the sharing of art. I'd like to thank the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Government of Alberta, Art Gallery of Grande Prairie and KMSC Law for supporting the TREX Program.

> **Love, Love, Love having the opportunity to have Elsa Robinson in our school for a workshop! So much excitement and engagement from the students when they knew they would meet one of the artists. The exhibition was a fabulous jump off for Black History Month Lessons in the classroom. We are thankful for the opportunity to bring authentic voice and personal connection through each artist's work.**
>
> Educator's response to TREX exhibit, *bring a folding chair...*, on view at St. Catherine Catholic School in Grande Prairie.





Images / Artist Workshop at St. Catherine Catholic School, featuring *bring a folding chair...* artist Elsa Robinson.

TREX VISITING ARTIST PROGRAMMING

In recognition of Black History Month, we hosted Elsa Robinson, a featured artist in the TREX exhibition, *bring a folding chair...* for an Artist Talk at the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie on Thursday, February 23rd and for a two day Artist Workshop for students at St. Catherine Catholic School.

bring a folding chair... is inspired by annual Black History Month celebrations and recognizes the significant contributions Black Canadians, and Black artists in particular, make to Alberta. With art works exploring history, heritage, identity and contemporary concerns, the artists in this exhibition *bring a folding chair...* to the table of Canadian society and the art scene in Alberta and, in sitting at the table, give voice to our common humanity.

Elsa Robinson is an Edmonton-based mixed media artist, sculptor and painter whose decades-long devotion to artistic practice has imbued her work with vibrancy, versatility and an intuitive spiritual poignancy. Through her years of study, both as a self-taught artist and as a graduate of the University of Alberta's Art and Design program, Elsa has honed the ability to transmit, through a range of visual modes, her deep love and care for humanity.



Above / *TREX WALL* Ribbon cutting for the opening of the TREX Wall. (L-R) Kelsey Hasler of AGGP, exhibiting artist Sharron Krushel, Narnia King, Partner KMSC Law, Jamie-Lee Cormier, Manager/Curator TREX NW, and Lori Pollock, Business Manager KMSC Law.

> **Love having the opportunity for rural kids to have art come to them. Teachers had the opportunity to have discussions about the artists and art and lead their classes in projects with the works.**

Educator's response to TREX exhibit, *What Lies Beyond*, on view at Saint Marie RC School.

13% ▲ ***TOTAL NUMBER OF VIEWERS*** **139,707**

17% ▲ ***TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMUNITIES SERVED*** **21**

14% ▲ ***NUMBER OF EXHIBITIONS CIRCULATED*** **16**

4% ▼ ***NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS MOUNTED*** **80**

36% ▲ ***NUMBER OF ARTISTS REPRESENTED*** **113**

6% ▼ ***NUMBER OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS INVOLVED*** **30**

Left/ *What Lies Beyond* installed at Saint Marie School in Spirit River

Below / *What's Held* Artist Talk with artist and Co-Curator, Kiona Callihoo Ligtvoet at the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie







Above / *YEG Old Houses* by Aeris Osborne on view at the Montrose Cultural Centre



Image / School Tour exploring the exhibition, *The Euphrates Storyteller* and artwork by Aboud Salman.

LEARNING





Message from Sabine Schneider
Curator, Learning

The Art Gallery of Grande Prairie's Learning programs provide opportunities for our patrons and public to learn more about art and artists in featured exhibitions through a range of educational formats. Responsive to and engaged with diverse communities and encouraging a vibrant cultural exchange between art, artists, and audiences, this year, we facilitated high-quality art experiences to **17,384 individuals** who joined us for **237 program**s.

Refocussing our educational initiatives to in-person and in-class presentations, we were incredibly grateful to see how quickly many visitors, community organizations and schools wanted to experience our thoughtfully curated art programs and camps, community events, artist presentations as well as the Carlstrom Family Green Space and Creativity Kits again personally. Highlights this year included Alberta Culture Days events and our Grande North Winter Festival inspired interactive community art installation *Frosted Forms*.

Thank you to ATB for sponsoring our programs. We couldn't provide that many free programs without their generous support. Thank you also to our wonderful volunteers who tirelessly assist the Learning department in assembling our well-liked and free Creativity Kits. Last but not least, we are incredibly grateful to all community members for contributing their creativity, inspiration, and ongoing support.

Learning Programs Sponsored by

ATB

THE CARLSTROM FAMILY GREEN SPACE and CREATIVITY KITS

Due to emergency maintenance and renovations to the space, the popular Carlstrom Family Green Space reopened on July 16, 2022 as a drop in self-facilitated community artmaking space welcoming visitors back almost in its original version. While we have yet to get back to our original visitation numbers from before the pandemic, monthly visitation of The Carlstrom Family Green Space has seen a robust attendance between 380 and 740 people which we are grateful for, reaching 4,212 participants this year.

We built 41 Partnerships with community organizations and schools and delivered 4197 free Creativity Kits to 142 Community and School Groups while 6,518 free Creativity Kits were circulated as free take home Creativity Kits. Together, this joined category of free Creativity Kits and the Carlstrom Family Green Space reached 14,927 people within our community and beyond. This tells us that the social agencies and schools in our community have made our free Creativity Kits an integral part of their programming for their diverse audiences and that there is a high need for creativity-based self-facilitated art projects inspired by our current exhibitions.

89% ▲ *Carlstrom Family Green Space*
NUMBER OF VISITORS
4,212

The Carlstrom Family Green Space was closed for 47% of the previous fiscal year due to emergency maintenance and renovations to the space. We were very happy to welcome visitors back!

3% ▼ *CREATIVITY KITS*
10,715

Free Take Home Creativity Kits – **6,518 Kits**
Free Creativity Kits to Schools/Community Groups – **142 groups received 4,197 kits**



We love it here! What a great space for a family to play and explore and create. Thank you!

Mel, Jett & Vance





Above: The "Balance" Creativity Kit
Top: Visitors to the Carlstrom Family Green Space.



Right: Holy Cross Catholic School Residency, Grade 2 class.

ART PROGRAMS AND CAMPS

Community organizations and schools have been eager to return to in-person art programs at the Gallery which meant that online options we have been providing in the last two years discontinued. Last year we facilitated only 47 in-person Art Programs and Camps. This year, **73 school and community groups with an attendance of 1,606 students** visited the Gallery and explored our current exhibitions through a guided tour and hands-on art project inspired by our current exhibition.

Special opportunities this year included an Art Program designed and facilitated for the **Grande Prairie School Division's Staff Wellness Day** on February 10, 2023. Since March 2023, we have partnered with the **Grande Prairie Public Library** and **Mountain Plains** facilitating an arts-based program for people with disabilities. The first one we co-facilitated was attended by over 70 people.

With 94% attendance, our three week-long half day Summer Art Camps were well received. The students experienced many new forms of artmaking, such as Sculptural Installation, Printmaking, Abstract Painting, and Collage completing each week 5 planned activities. Some of the art activities were inspired by our current exhibitions. Students toured three of our current exhibitions as inspiration for artmaking including *Sock Monkey Scenarios, Printed Textiles from Kinngait Studios,* and *Permanent Collection, Undocumented Studies* gaining insight and knowledge about each exhibition's concepts and artistic processes.

52% ▼

TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL ART PROGRAMS AND TOURS

88

Art Programs: 73 groups/ 1,606 participants
Summer Art Camps: 15 groups / 175 participants

23% ▼

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING ART PROGRAMS AND CAMPS

1,781

ARTIST PRESENTATIONS

Artist Talks are scheduled in conjunction with current exhibitions and provide further insight into the artists' concepts, history, motivation, and processes. This year, we facilitated 4 in-person Artist Talks which were appreciated by 114 attendees.

On June 17, 2022, artist Thomas Anfield, a Vancouver-based contemporary figure painter and performance artist, facilitated two guided tours through his exhibition *Sock Monkey Scenarios* sharing his insights into the human psyche through the equally majestic and mischievous symbol of the Sock Monkey, with 48 grade 3 students from Holy Cross Catholic School in Grande Prairie.

During the opening reception of *Video Games? Art and Technology*, a group exhibition that questioned how Video Games can shape and contribute to the way we learn history and understand our contemporary world, on October 6, 2022, 42 attendees enjoyed a fascinating virtual reality interactive music performance featuring exhibiting artist Jonathan Caroll of artist collective SpekWork.

Finally, on November 24, 2022, 24 Gallery visitors joined us in person for *What's Held* Artist Talk with Kiona Callihoo Lightvoet, a mixed Cree, Métis, and Dutch artist coming from scrip land, and descending from Michel First Nation, sharing the stories behind her artworks and provided insight into her curatorial practice. Kiona is currently practicing in amiskwaciwâskahikan, where she primarily works in painting and printmaking while exploring stories of grief and tenderness.

> **"My class enjoyed our time at the Art Gallery. The students said they loved the VR experience and Art project. They wanted to visit again!"**



75%

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING ARTIST PRESENTATIONS

114

Total Number of Artist Talks: 4



Top: Kiona Callihoo Lightvoet, artist and co-curator of the exhibition, *What's Held,* during an Artist Talk in November 2022.

Above: A virtual reality interactive music performance featuring exhibiting artist Jonathan Caroll of artist collective SpekWork during the opening reception of *Video Games? Art and Technology.*

COMMUNITY EVENTS

This year's community events involved facilitated art experiences for Earth Day, Alberta Culture Days and Grande Prairie's Grande North Winter Festival. These three community events were visited by 562 people. For **Earth Day** on April 22, 2022, we partnered with the City of Grande Prairie. For **Alberta Culture Days**, on September 17, 2022, we hosted a Sketch Party throughout both the main and the upper level of the Gallery which was attended by 95 people who enjoyed sketching the Jazz-inspired artworks showcased in *Jazz Influences: Rhythm, Movement, and Improv!*, the archetypal folk art puppets in *Sock Monkey Scenarios*, as well as the historically significant Inuit graphic textiles in *Printed Textiles from Kinngait Studios.*

During Grande Prairie's second **Grande North Winter Festival**, an annual event showcasing Grande Prairie in a Winter theme throughout the downtown core and into Muskoseepi Park, we hosted a community event in the Gallery on January 14, 2023 where community members were invited to create a Winter-inspired sculpture and contribute to *Frosted Forms*, a community art installation evolving during the event and displayed at the Gallery within *The Neon Kitten* exhibition until January 29, 2023. It was an exciting and lively art making event inspired by the ice sculptures carved during the Grande North Winter Festival. With 347 people attended, *Frosted Forms was* the highest in-person attendance for a community event we ever have had during a single afternoon in Gallery history!

63%

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN COMMUNITY EVENTS

562

Frosty Forms: 347 attendees
Earth Day: 120 Attendees
Alberta Culture Days Sketch Party: 95 Attendees







Top: Visitors during the Grande North Winter Festival in *Frosted Forms*, a community art installation evolving during the event.

Centre: Artworks made during *Frosted Forms* and temporarily displayed at the Gallery within *The Neon Kitten* exhibition.

Above: Visitors during the Sketch Party held during Alberta Culture Days creating artwork in *Printed Textiles from Kinngait Studios* exhibition.



Visitors in *The Euphrates Storyteller* exhibition with artwork by Aboud Salman.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Prairie Gallery Society

Financial Statements
Year ended March 31, 2023.

GIFTS AND SERVICES IN KIND

Throughout the year, many local businesses provided services and support to the Gallery's programs, exhibitions and operations. Their support is a valuable contribution to the Gallery's mission and signals the Gallery's intention to collaborate with the private sector in delivering high value opportunities in the Arts.

92 BEVERAGE CO

DELI CALABRIA BISTRO

resourceful spirit GRANDE prairie ALBERTA growing opportunity

MH MADDHATTERS eat local

Pippin Barr
(Exhibiting Artist)

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers contributed greatly to the Gallery's ability to deliver programs and remain a vibrant and accessible facility for everyone. This past year, volunteers primarily assisted with assembling our incredibly popular Creativity Kits and serving as a friendly face at the reception desk to welcome visitors. Volunteers also supported the Gallery during our Casino fundraiser in April 2022. A huge thank you to them for their ongoing support.

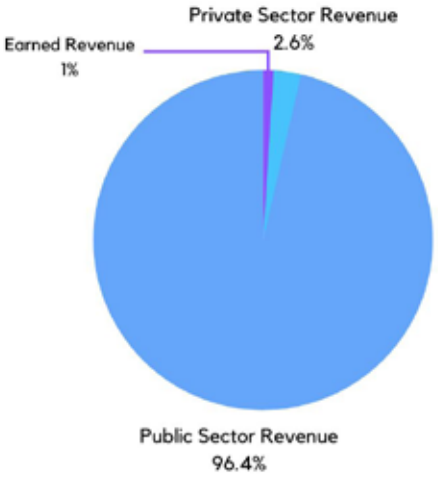
Alysoun Wells
Andrea Kelsey
Colleen Band
Debbie McCallum
Edna Smith
Jesseca Gagnon
Joanne Scarrow
Julie Schwindt
Kaylon Mathias
Krista Umble
Lorna McIlroy
Marcia Tofer
Mary Riley
Michelle Scarrow-Bailey
Wendy Kempert

> "I volunteer for the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie and I love it! I've been so warmly welcomed by all the staff. Every week I'm thanked so much for my help, but I really need to thank them! I love prepping and building the activity kits imagining how they'll bless and encourage people in my community! Thank you to all the staff at the Art Gallery! You rock!"
>
> Julie

MAJOR FUNDERS

As a public institution and charitable non-profit, all of the Gallery's exhibitions and programming remain free and accessible for everyone. This level of inclusiveness and accessibility is achieved through the dedication and commitment of all levels of government, local businesses, donors, members and volunteers who come together to support the Gallery and its mandate.

ANNUAL OPERATING FUNDING



FOOD AND BEVERAGE PARTNER

92 BEVERAGE CO

DELI CALABRIA BISTRO

MEDIA PARTNERS





2022/23 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 2022 - September 2022

OFFICERS

Chair / Christine Quinn
Vice Chair / Candice MacPhee
Treasurer / Melanie Kimble
Secretary / Holly Sorgen

DIRECTORS

Andrea Rosenberger-Deleeuw
Dave McRae
Fran Rogers
Vaughn Bend
Wendy Bosch

September 2022 - March 2023

OFFICERS

Chair / Vaughn Bend
Vice Chair / Dave McRae
Treasurer / Melanie Kimble
Secretary / Vacant

DIRECTORS

Andrea Rosenberger-Deleeuw
Candice MacPhee
Leah Paslawski
Terry Gorgichuk
Wendy Bosch
Christine Quinn, Past Chair

Annual General Meeting held
September 20, 2022

GALLERY STAFF

Executive Director / Daniel Becker
Art Preparator / Rob Swanston
Curator, Exhibitions & Collections / Manar Abo Touk (until November 2022)
Curator, Learning / Sabine Schneider
Curatorial Assistant, Exhibitions & Collections / Mohsen Ahi Andy
Curatorial Assistant, Learning / Garry Bradley
Gallery Administrator / Melanie Jenner
Gallery Receptionist / Sarah Drydale
Manager, Development and Administration / Brittany Kelsey (until August 2022)
Manager, Development and Administration / Kelsey Hasler
TREX Manager/Curator, Travelling Exhibitions / Jamie-Lee Cormier

Left / Visitors to the Sketch Party held during Alberta Culture Days in September 2022 in the exhibition, *Thomas Anfield: Sock Monkey Scenarios*.
Back Cover Image / Installation view of *The Neon Kitten*



ART GALLERY
of GRANDE PRAIRIE

#103, 9839 103 Avenue / Grande Prairie, AB / T8V 6M7 / (780) 532-8111

aggp.ca