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**Education Coordinator Report: Natasha Smith** 

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Staff & Board

Thank you & Acknowledgements



Image: Shannon Garden-Smith, "Winter Garden (window clings)," pressed plant clippings, gel wax, 2019-2022 (open edition).



Below are the years highlights of Board activities:

#### **Board Training**

Board Training with PeernetBC (a non-profit organization that provides training, resources and support to peer-led initiatives)

- The board participated in 2 sessions: May and September.
- Learned about our group's collective strengths and needs and different levels of power.

The board is currently working toward methods to decolonize our meeting structure and decision making processes. An example of this is having Co-chair positions rather than one chair, which is what we have been experimenting with this last year.

#### Committees

Fundraising Committee has been working toward developing an education scholarship fund for marginalized artists in our community.

Scholarship Fund

#### **Exhibition and Residency Committee**

- Reviewed over 120 submissions in the spring! Double from the year before.
- Quality work, excited to share upcoming exhibitions with the community.
- Thank you to everyone in the exh/res committee for their colossal amount of time reviewing the submissions!

#### **Facilities Committee**

• Oxygen continues to explore expansion opportunities in the community. Ideally for a full-time gallery space and of course, more storage. Nothing to report at this time.

#### Youth Committee

- Efforts being integrated into the Youth Education Programming Rock/Paper/ Scissors and the upcoming Youth Retreat.
- Gabby Asbell has been Oxygen's Youth Chair for 2 years.

#### **Board Composition**

#### **Outgoing Board Members:**

• We would like to thank former and outgoing board members: Anita Levesque and Chelsey Freyta, who resigned early in the year, and Suzanne Simoni, who stepped down this summer. Samonte Cruz has completed their 2 year term and will not be continuing an additional term. Thank you all! We are very grateful for your generous contribution of time to the centre.

Up for election / Re-election:

- We would like to welcome and introduce Christine Wallace, who was appointed to the board in June and is up for election for her first term. We are delighted to have you on board!
- Although Gabby has been with us for 2 years as Youth Chair, now that she is 18, she will be up for election for her first term as an official director.
- Carol Wallace (secretary) is currently up for re-election for her third term.

#### Continuing Directors:

• Board members Marilyn Lee (Treasurer), Laurel Terlesky and Alison Talbot-Kelly are mid-term and will be continuing as directors in the upcoming year. Thank you for your continued dedication to Oxygen!

With our online Membership forms, people have been letting us know (in the volunteer opportunities section) if they are interested in participating in board of Director or Committee work with Oxygen. This has been a great way to get to know and welcome new directors, often new to the community, rather than just relying on who knows who in the area. That being said, we are currently looking for new directors, so please reach out if you or anyone you know may be interested.

#### Staff

Thank you to our Research Assistant- Megan K.H. Quigley, our summer Gallery Assistant-Daniel Reilly and summer Education Assistant- Gabby Asbell.

Thank you Natasha Smith for your continued dedication and enthusiasm as Education Coordinator. Natasha is always working to improve educational programming at Oxygen and the quality and diversity of courses offered is outstanding!

Julia Prudhomme, our Executive Director, continues to impress and amaze us all with her talents and skills as grant writer, programmer, curator, researcher and communicator extraordinaire, all while working on her PhD!!! We are very, very fortunate to have you at Oxygen and look forward to another year of incredible programming. Thank you Julia!

Lastly, we would like to extend our appreciation to all our volunteers, members, students and donors, who are an integral part of the centre. We look forward to sharing another great year of experimental, engaging and inclusive programming with you!

Carol Wallace Alison Talbot-Kelly

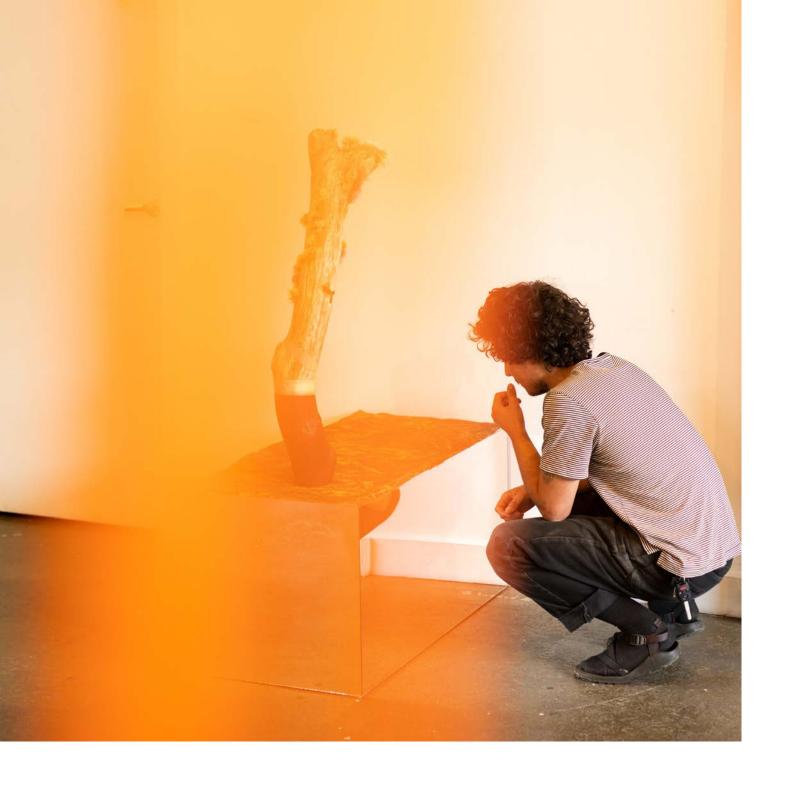


Image: Tracelines Opening Reception, Vance Wright, Photo: Kenton Doupe

# I SSAGE from the Executive Director: Julia Prudhomme

For me, the 2022-2023 year at Oxygen Art Centre can only be characterized as the concentric spiral of a whorl. Reaching backwards while looking ahead, this year was marked by research and collaborations that sought to dig into the ground. Following María Puig de la Bellacasa's call to reclaim care, I too acknowledge the "poisons in the ground that we inhabit rather than expecting to find an outside alternative, untouched by trouble, a final balance—or a definitive critique" (in Matters of Care, 2017, p.11).

With this, the artist-run centre established a ground—a ground to enact feminism(s) as an institutent practice; a foundation to counter colonial, patriarchal infrastructures. Through reciprocal practices Oxygen commits to the everyday work of radical care. By reclaiming care, we acknowledge the complexities of our positions as a public contemporary art organization that contributes and responds to social, environmental, and political ecologies. This work is critical as a non-profit artist-run centre to foster decolonial, post-capitalist relations within contemporary art programming and research contexts. Oxygen Art Centre's ground attends to intersectional feminist and queer concerns of interdependency by enacting a politics of care across all aspects of our operations.

In the (back)ground, this work begins with policy development and research. Initiated by Research Assistant Megan K. Quigley, her research resulted in Oxygen's Accessibility Action Plan and new protocols for the Exhibition & Residency submission guidelines, as well as composing and designing a welcome package for visiting artists and collaborators. Alongside such foundational work, Oxygen's staff and board engaged in anti-oppression and decolonial training to establish non-hierarchical ways of relating and making decisions collectively. This work is ongoing and is made possible by multi-year funding supports and the ongoing support from regional funders and corporate and private donors.

This (back)ground work permeates and deeply informs the fore(ground) that is Oxygen's programming. This year we concluded the co-curated exhibition-led project dig a hole in the garden and later shared the resultant catalogue with writing by mg hamilton, Astrida Neimanis, SF Ho, and Megan K. Quigley, and artistic contributions from Christina Battle, Chris Dufour and Alexis Hogan, featuring screen-printed dust jackets by Marcus Dénommé. We then welcomed Lucie Chan as artist-in-residence to activate her drawing installation, How to Be 57. During her residency Lucie interviewed community members on their experiences of racialized violence, which contributed to the exhibition and future installations. In the exhibition catalogue that followed, Dr. Sue Shon situates the aesthetic materiality of Lucie's practice as a radical kinship

with inherited legacies of colonial subjugation for Black, Indigenous, and migrant peoples in her essay response. These concerns extended into Vance Wright's residency in which the two-spirit reconnecting member of the Tl'azt'en Nation who was born on the traditional territories of the S'inix't Nation returned to the region to disentangle such forms of inheritance through the concepts of trace and portals. The resulting exhibition, Tracelines brought together new and existing works by the emerging artist. Like the gelatin window clings by Shannon Garden-Smith for the dig exhibition, each project temporarily held matter in an exchange of give and take among collaborators and visitors—suspended in light.

We continued whirling, coiling, spiraling along these lines with adjunct programming that included school tours, talks, and events such as the public talk and workshop series whorl with Nadia Chaney and Zoe Kreye, which sunk deeper into somatic embodied practices, and the Author Reading Series, which featured Joshua Whitehead, Kaitlyn Purcell, Kathy Freidman, Erin Robinsong, Canisia Lubrin, Jessica Johns, and students from Leesa Dean's creative writing class at Selkirk College. Taking place predominantly online as we began reintroducing in-person programming, Oxygen's adjunct programming connected us across distance and time, stories and practices.

Evidenced throughout Oxygen Art Centre's constellation of (back)ground and fore(ground) and everything in between is the work, play, curiosity, and care of the humans that make it all possible. Many thanks to Education Coordinator Natasha Smith for her expertise and kindness, and for our epic chats. To our all too temporary staff, Megan Quigley, Eija Loponen-Stephenson, and Ayal Heinrichs. To our contract workers, Brian Lye, Deborah Thompson, Jaymie Johsnon, Thomas Nowaczynski, Keiko Lee-Hem, and Kenton Doupe. To our incredible volunteers, board of directors, and members. I am humbled to collaborate, work with, and learn from the incredible people that unsettle and remake Oxygen's ground every day. *Thank you*.



## EXHIBITION & RESIDENCY PROGRAM

#### 2022

dig a hole in the garden
Shannon Garden-Smith + T'uy't'tanat-Cease Wyss
Co-curated by Greta Hamilton + Julia Prudhomme
Residency + Exhibition
Online reading group
Catalogue

How to Be 57
Lucie Chan
Residency + Exhibition
Catalogue
Essay by Dr. Sue Shon
Exhibition & Residency Coordinators:
Deborah Thompson + Jaymie Johnson

#### 2023

Tracelines
Vance Wright
Residency + Exhibition
Catalogue
Exhibition & Residency Coordinator:
Brian Lye

Exhibition documentation by
Thomas Nowaczynski + Kenton Doupe
Exhibition catalogues designed by Keiko Lee-Hem
Printed matter designed by Lorenzo Ignacio
Printing by Hall Printing (Nelson, BC)

### DIGAHOLE IN THE GARDEN

**Shannon Garden-Smith + T'uy't'tanat-Cease Wyss** 



## HOWTO BE 57



### TRACELINES VANCE WRIGHT

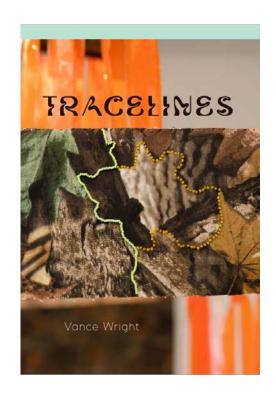






## CATALOGUES DESIGN: KEIKO LEE-HEM







### AUTHOR READING SERIES



## WHORL NADIA CHANEY + ZOE KREYE





# EDUCATION Coordinator Report: Natasha Smith

The 2022/23 Fiscal year for OAC's Education Programming was a great success and signaled renewed interest in the organization's arts education programming as we moved out of the pandemic.

#### Highlights:

- Oxygen engaged 85 participants in programming in the Fall of 2022 and 142 participants in the Spring of 2023, compared to 35 in the Spring 2022 and 19 in the Fall 2021.
- OAC education programming expanded to offer further community orientated affordable art classes and received CKCA funding to facilitate a new community art-making series entitled Lost Cat!
- OAC received additional funding for new youth programming this fiscal year from The Urban Systems Foundation and the Nelson & District Credit Union to support youth courses and two new youth scholarships.
- OAC received CKCA minor capital funding to purchase additional education equipment to support the new and expanding programming.

#### **Youth Programming**

Drawing on instructor and student feedback from the first Rock/Paper/Scissors offered in the Fall of 2022 and with input from OAC Youth Chair Gabby Asbel, we have refined the plan for the Fall 2023 youth programming to create an improved, integrated course structure. The new iteration features team teaching among the instructors in contemporary art practices and the addition of a new program entitled, WORM /HOLE, which is dedicated for an older age range.

OAC received \$2,500 from The Urban Systems Foundation and \$1,750 from the Nelson & District Credit Union to support this new youth programing. The organization is so grateful for this support!

Oxygen Art Centre recognizes that some young artists face systemic barriers that may cause economic hardship, which disproportionately affects historically marginalized people. In order to ensure access to Oxygen's arts education programming, and with financial support from the The Urban Systems Foundation and the Nelson & District Credit Union, we offered two scholarships to youth in financial need, with priority to 2SQTBIPOC youth living in the Columbia Basin region.

#### **New Partnerships and Community Programming in 2023**

In early 2023 we partnered with the Polka Dot Dragon Arts Society to offer lantern making community workshops (offered at a very affordable \$10 fee that includes art materials) and also a sculptural lantern making workshop that was part of the regular semester programming. The Arts Society provided the materials for all workshops. This programming encouraged participants to create their own lantern and then bring it to the Polka Dot Dragon Lantern Festival that took place on Saturday, February 11th at Lakeside Park.

Further community programming introduced in 2023 includes Art Speak – Peer to Peer Work Sharing facilitated by Emilie Leblanc Kromberg. This new series invites artists of all disciplines (professional or not) to share their work in a safe space and engage in contemporary art dialogue with other open-minded art loving individuals. We have expanded the amount of life drawing and figure painting in 2023 as the demand for this programming was very clear as we had large waitlists for the 2022 fall semester series. We are excited to be collaborating and offering further affordable, accessible community art engagement opportunities moving forward

I would like to acknowledge the amazing support and work of Executive Director Julia Prudhomme. I feel privileged to be working closely with such an innovative, caring and progressive manager. With shared dedication we are constantly working to actively support our faculty and student base and further develop the Oxygen education programing and including new inclusive educational opportunities. I feel I am positively challenged to grow and advance in my work, which is exciting and renews my commitment to this position and working hard for Oxygen Art Centre moving forward.

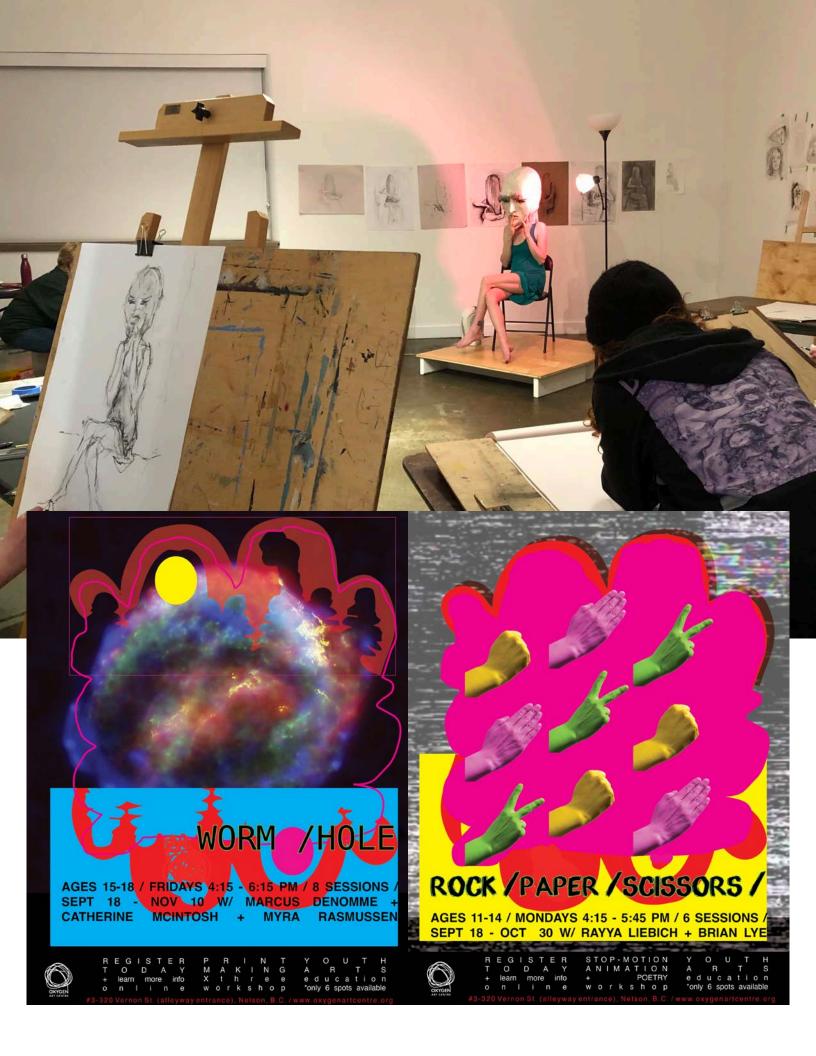
#### Adult Education Fall 2022 Semester:

Course Title	# of Students	Instructor Fee	Tuition
Hiking Sketch Club with Jaymie Johnson	7	\$308.00	\$651.00
Extraordinary in the Ordinary II with Deborah Thompson	5	\$1,024.00	\$1,710.00
Fragmented Forms in Creative Nonfiction with Rayya Liebich	10	\$352.00	\$950.00
Balkan Choir with Bessie Wapp	11	\$704.00	\$2,650.00
Writing Through Doubt with Susan Andrews Grace	7	\$528.00	\$942.50
Introduction to the Actor's Process with Val Campbell	6	\$264.00	\$800.00
INK with Jim Holyoak	7	\$974.00	\$1,662.00
Taking the Next Step: Diving Deep into the Actor's Work with Val Campbell	5	\$286.00	\$450.00
Introduction to Still Life Painting with Catherine McIntosh	4	\$710.00	\$840.00
Photographing Artwork with Jeremy Addington	5	\$223.00	\$400.00
DIY 16mm Film Processing + Intro to Bolex Camera with Brian Lye	4	\$395.00	\$360.01
Lino Printing – Reduction Technique with Myra Rasmussen	8	\$201.00	\$520.00
Life Drawing	6		\$40.00
TOTAL	85	\$5,969.00	\$11,975.51

#### **Adult Education Spring 2023 Semester:**

Course Title	# of Students	Instructor Fee	Tuition
Butterfly Lantern Workshops	47	\$0.00	\$235.00
Sculptural Lantern Making with Myra Rasmussen	6	\$245.00	\$450.00
Art Speak - Peer to Peer Work Sharing	6	\$200.00	\$240.00
Moth Catchers with Jim Holyoak	10	\$440.00	\$597.36
Writing What We Love with Susan Andrews Grace	5	\$440.00	\$600.00
The Fantastical Futures: Drawing from the Imagination with Deborah Thompson	8	\$553.00	\$850.00
Figure Drawing #1 (no instruction)	6	\$360.00	\$360.00
Beginner Drawing with Catherine McIntosh	7	\$829.50	\$1,179.00
Solo Performance with Bessie Wapp	3	\$528.00	\$690.00
Painting from a Model #1	6	\$105.00	\$210.00
Painting from a Model #2	4	\$105.00	\$140.00
Figure Drawing #2 (no instruction)	6	\$360.00	\$360.00
Art Speak - Peer to Peer Work Sharing #2	6	\$200.00	\$200.00
Low-tech Printmaking	7	\$553.00	\$1,008.00
Lino	6	\$245.00	\$424.00
Magic of Memory	9	\$352.00	\$855.00
	142	\$5,515.50	\$8,398.36





#### NELSON FINE ARTS CENTRE SOCIETY (dba Oxygen Art Centre)

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(unaudited)

June 30, 2023

On the basis of information provided by the Society, I have compiled the statement of financial position and the statement of operations of the Nelson Fine Arts Centre Society (dba Oxygen Art Centre) as at June 30, 2023.

I have not performed an audit or review of these financial statements, and accordingly, I express no assurance thereon.

Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Susan M. Bernhardt, B.Comm (Honours) Nelson, BC

Spernhaut

September 18, 2023

#### **NELSON FINE ARTS CENTRE** (dba Oxygen Art Centre)

Statement of Financial Position (unaudited) As at June 30

	2023	2022
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 31,264	\$ 36,233
Restricted Cash (Note 2)	135,555	150,650
Accounts Receivable	2,994	577
Prepaid Expenses	1,920	3,142
	171,733	190,602
Capital Assets (Note 3)	28,666	24,029
Total Assets	\$ 200,399	\$ 214,631
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	f 42.472	6 42 500
Accounts Payable	\$ 13,472	\$ 13,568
Unearned Revenue	672	71 <b>-</b> 11
Deferred Contributions (Note 4)	122,083	137.082
Deferred Contributions - Capital (Note 4)	28,638	23,969
	164,865	174,619
Net Assets		
Net Assets Invested in Capital Assets	27	60
Unrestricted Net Assets	35,507	39,952
	35,534	40,012
	\$ 200,399	\$ 214,631

#### Approved by the Directors:

Director Marilyn Lee

Marilyn Lee

Director

#### NELSON FINE ARTS CENTRE SOCIETY (dba Oxygen Art Centre)

#### Statement of Operations (unaudited)

For the Year Ended June 30

	2023	2022
Revenue		
Grants (Note 5)	\$ 170,788	\$ 230,336
Grants - Capital (Note 5)	5,482	8,040
Government Assistance		2,296
Education Class Fees (Note 6)	28,641	8,803
Event Series Donations & Fees	121	406
Fundraising and other	2,516	1,978
Donations	4,846	4,254
Memberships	650	1,070
Interest & Rebates	209	44
	\$ 213,253	\$ 257,227
Expenses		
Visual Arts - Exhibitions	\$ 40,826	\$ 95,557
Adult Education Programs	15,388	7,248
Presentation & Event Series	8,325	11,262
Youth Arts Education & Projects	1,242	13,403
Accounting & Legal	2,883	2,774
Advertising & Promotion	3,633	2,674
Amortization	5,516	5,942
Bank Charges	560	292
Insurance, licenses and dues	3,326	1,595
Office Equipment & Supplies	5,031	2,790
Professional Development	710	264
Rent	14,104	12,764
Repairs & Maintenance	3,497	2,684
Telephone	1,636	1,040
Utilities	1,846	1,554
Payroll Expenses	109,209	98,357
	\$ 217,732	\$ 260,200
Excess of revenue over expenses (deficit)	\$ (4,479)	\$ (2,973)

#### NELSON FINE ARTS CENTRE SOCIETY (dba Oxygen Art Centre)

Notes to Financial Statements (unaudited)

June 30, 2023

#### 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### Capital Assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost. Amortization is calculated on the declining balance basis at the following annual rates:

Library	20%
Office furniture & equipment	20%
Program equipment	20%
Signs	20%
Computers	55%
Leasehold Improvements	10%

The provision for amortization is reduced by one-half in the year of acquisition and no amortization is recorded in the year of disposition.

#### Goods and Services Tax

Goods and services tax is recoverable at a 50% as a rebate. The unrecoverable portion is recorded as an expense.

#### 2. Restricted Cash

A portion of the Society's cash is externally restricted by the respective funding agencies. Any funds, which are not expended in accordance with the provisions of the funding agreements, must be returned to the respective funding agencies. The Society records these funds as restricted cash and a corresponding liability for future expenditures is included in deferred contributions as disclosed in Note 4.

#### 3. Capital Assets

	7	2023 Cost	20	23 Accum. Amort.	2022 Cost		22 Accum. Amort.
Library	\$	500	\$	500	\$ 500	\$	500
Office Furniture & Equipment		6,639		3,911	6,639		3,228
Program Equipment		11,490		6,291	11,490		4,991
Signs		757		592	757		551
Computer		10,523		7,069	6,802		5,122
Leasehold Improvements		23,319		6,199	16,889		4,655
	\$	53,228	\$	24,562	\$ 43,077	\$	19,048
Net book value		\$	28,6	66	\$	24,029	)

#### 4. Deferred Contributions

Deferred contributions represent unspent externally restricted funding which are for the purposes of providing programming for children, youth and adult and other special projects in future periods. The changes in deferred contributions balance for the period are as follows:

	2023		2022
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 161,051	5	248,871
Additional Grants Received - Operating	155,789		147,454
Additional Grants Received - Capital	10,151		3,102
Amount recognized as revenue in the year - Operating	(170,788)		(230, 336)
Amount recognized as revenue in the year - Capital	(5,482)		(8,040)
Balance, end of year	\$ 150,721	\$	161,051

#### Deferred contributions at year end relate to grants from the following organizations:

BCAC - Operating Grant	\$ 25,200	\$ 24,000
BCAC - Resilience Supplement	19,719	40,000
BCAC - Accelerate Grant	3,600	-
BCAC - Arts Impact Grant	-	11,157
BC Community Gaming		6,000
Canada Council for the Arts	56,440	14,000
Columbia Basin Trust	_	7,000
Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance	11,014	-
Osprey Community Foundation	_	5,000
Nelson Home Building Centre (20th Anniversary)	-	1,000
Nelson & District Credit Union	1,685	-
Regional District of Central Kootenay	4,425	-
United Way	865	2,300
Vancouver Foundation	-	25,700
Young Canada Works		925
-	\$ 122,083	\$ 137,082

Deferred contributions at year end related to capital expenditures and matched to amortization are from the following organizations:

BCAC Infrastructure Grant	\$ 4,102	\$ 5,578
BCAC - Resilience Grant	6,109	3-1
Columbia Basin Trust - Capital	3,958	5,165
Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance - Capital	14,469	13,226
	\$ 28,638	\$ 23,969

#### 5. Grants Recognized (Current and Capital)

	2023	2022	
BC Arts Council	\$ 24,000	\$ 25,740	
BC Arts Council - Early Career Development	2 <del>-</del>	23,046	
BC Arts Council - Pivot Program	-	15,580	
BC Arts Council - Arts Impact Grant	11,157	7,443	
BC Arts Council - Resilience Supplement	40,000	38,000	
BC Infrastructure Grant	-	-	
BC Community Gaming	6,000	13,175	
Canada Council for the Arts	17,561	26,000	
Canada Summer Job Grant	4,378	-	
Columbia Basin Trust	7,000		
City of Nelson - RDCK - CIP	8,274	8,734	
Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance	13,072	52,272	
Lion's Club	-	-	
Osprey Community Foundation	5,000	6,500	
Nelson & District Credit Union	65	-	
Strategic Giving	252	1 - I	
United Way	2,300	2,700	
Vancouver Foundation	25,700	4,760	
Young Canada Works	6,029	6,386	
105 *	\$ 170,788	\$ 230,336	
BCAC - Infrastructure Grant	\$ 1,476	\$ 	
BCAC - Resilience Grant	321	_	
Columbia Basin Trust - Capital	1,207		
Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance - Capital	 2,478	 3,102	
	\$ 5,482	\$ 3,102	

Signature: Marily b

Email: marilynmlee@gmail.com



Image: documentation of "dig a hole in the garden" exhibition library and reading space, photo by Thomas Nowaczynski, 2022



Oxygen Art Centre is run by part-time staff and governed by volunteer Board of Directors.

#### STAFF:

Executive Director – Julia Prudhomme
Education Coordinator – Natasha Smith
Research Assistant – Megan K. H. Quigley
Exhibition and Residency Coordinator –
Deborah Thompson, Jaymie Johnson,
Brian Lye

#### **BOARD:**

Treasurer – Marilyn Lee

Secretary – Carol Wallace

Director - Samonte Cruz

Director – Alison Talbot-Kelly

Director - Laurel Terlesky

**Director – Christine Wallace** 

Youth Chair - Gabby Asbell

## THANK YOU HACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Oxygen Art Centre is an artist-run centre.

Oxygen Art Centre acknowledges with gratitude that we are located on the tum xula7xw/ traditional territory of the sncayckstx/the Sinixt People. As uninvited guests we honour their ongoing presence on this land. We recognize that the Sylix, Ktuxana, and Yaqan Nukij Lower Kootenay Band peoples are also connected with this land, as are Métis and many diverse Indigenous persons.

We are grateful for the financial support we receive from Canada Council for the Arts, BC Arts Council, BC Gaming, Province of BC, Government of Canada, Vancouver Foundation, Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, Vancouver Foundation, Columbia Basin Trust, Osprey Community Foundation, United Way, Nelson Lions Club, and Nelson and District Credit Union.

We offer thanks to Elephant Mountain Literary Festival and other key partners including Hall Printing, Speedpro Signs, and Selkirk College for their support.

We especially thank all of our volunteers, donors, and members.

### 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

### **★** OXYGEN ART CENTRE **★**



SATURDAY OCTOBER 15 1:00 - 4:00 PM