



NELSON FINE ARTS CENTRE SOCIETY
(OXYGEN ART CENTRE dba)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2024-2025

Friday, November 7, 2025 from 5:00PM - 6:00PM at Oxygen Art Centre
(#3A-320 Vernon Street, Nelson, BC, V1L 4E4)

MEETING AGENDA

TIME	ITEM	DOCUMENT	LEAD
5:05 PM	Call to Order by Chair Land Acknowledgement		Riya Garg
5:08 PM	Approval of the 2024-25 AGM Agenda	 OAC_A...	Riya Garg
5:09 PM	Approval of the 2023-24 AGM Minutes	 OAC_A...	Riya Garg
5:10 PM	Board of Directors' Report		Riya Garg
5:20 PM	Treasurer's Report Approval of Financial Reports 24-25	 Oxygen F...  OAC_A...	Christine Wallace
5:30 PM	Executive Director's Report	 OAC_A...	Julia Prudhomme
5:40 PM	Election of the Board of Directors 25-26		Riya Garg
5:50 PM	Adjournment of AGM		Riya Garg

+ Brief meeting of new directors...



Nelson Fine Arts Centre Society
(DBA Oxygen Art Centre)
2024 Annual General Meeting
November 20th, 2024 at 5:30pm
Held on Zoom

In Attendance:

E.D.: Julia Prudhomme

Board Members: Riya Garg, Alison Talbot-Kelly, Christine Wallace, Laurel Terlesky, Carol Wallace and Gabby Asbell

Regrets: Stephanie Ostrander

Public on Zoom: Erica Konrad, Emilie Leblanc Kromberg, Karmelle Spence-Sing, Kim Freeman, Keitha Patton, Chris Siemens, Susan Andrews Grace, Monica Carpendale

1. Call to Order: by Chair Riya Garg 5:34pm
2. Territorial Acknowledgement
3. Approval of the 2023-24 AGM Agenda:
Motion that the agenda be approved
Moved- Alison Talbot-Kelly
Seconded- Christine Wallace
Carried
4. Approval of the 2022-23 AGM Minutes:
Motion that the 2022-23 AGM Minutes be approved
Moved- Laurel Terlesky
Seconded- Alison Talbot-Kelly
Carried
5. Financial Reports- Prepared and read by Christine Wallace:
See Financial Report 2023-2024

Motion to Approve Financial Report
Moved- Alison Talbot-Kelly
Seconded- Emilie Leblanc Kromberg
Carried

6. Board Report by Riya Garg
See AGM Annual Report 2023-2024 for Board Chair Report
7. Executive Director's Report by E.D. Julia Prudhomme
See AGM Annual Report 2023-2024 for E.D. Report
8. Education Report prepared by outgoing Education Coordinator Natasha Smith
and read by Alison Talbot-Kelly
See AGM Annual Report 2023-2024 for Education Report
9. Board Elections

Board Members Stepping Down:
Marilyn Lee and Vincent Karcher

Call for nominations for new board members from the floor:
Erica Konrad and Stephanie Ostrander nominated by Carol Wallace
Emily Leblanc Kromberg self-nominated
Karmelle Spence-Sing self-nominated

Online voting for 3 board openings via chat

Motion to re-elect directors Laurel Terlesky and Alison Talbot-Kelly as
Board Members for a 2 year term

Motion to accept Erica Konrad, Karmelle Spence-Sing and Emilie Leblanc
Kromberg onto the Board for a 2 year term

Moved- Gabby Asbell
Seconded- Alison Talbot-Kelly
Carried

10. AGM Adjournment

Moved- Laurel
Carried
AGM meeting adjourned at 5:25pm

Nelson Fine Arts Centre Society (dba Oxygen Art Centre)

Annual General Meeting (2024-2025)

November 7, 2025, from 5:00pm to 6:30pm

Executive Director's Report

[Period: July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025]

STATS

2,678 volunteer hours

13 artists

1476 visitors

3 contractors

55 artist instructor/facilitator opportunities

335 students

REPORT

The year began with a seed packet. A small envelope containing seeds and informative texts by artist Chris Dufour was distributed among workshop participants and community members before their summer residency. Seeding is a perfect metaphor for the 2024-2025 year at Oxygen Art Centre. In all its hope, labour, struggle and responsive change, we plant seeds with an eye to the future.

Following the *Between Futility and Futurity* (March 2024) workshop series with frequent collaborator Alexis Hogan, Chris Dufour returned in July for their residency. Over eight weeks, Dufour transformed the studio for quilting, eco-printing, developing photographs, and ink making. It contained buckets of plants collected from cut block sites, a bubbling pot for bundles, and, above all, a space to gather. Sipping on fermented fireweed tea, we met to learn eco-printing techniques and to learn more about Dufour's practice in response to their seasonal employment as a tree planter and firefighter.

The site of the cut block became the focus for Dufour, where denuded landscapes contrast with regenerative plant life and soft quilts dipped in rich yellow tannins. To commemorate the new body of work and the many dialogues exchanged during the residency, we commissioned poems by fellow tree planter and writer Alana Friend-Lettner, entitled *weed poetics* (2024), which are featured in a limited artist book printed and compiled by Dufour under the overarching title, *no monetary value* (2025). Images of slash piles and cut blocks are printed in wildfire ink alongside texts by the artist that encapsulate their experiences in the forestry industry and making textiles. This intimate document encapsulates Dufour's residency, where each page, stitch, and ink is held

with care. Fireweed cuttings transformed into fluffy seeds, floating around the centre for weeks and months after Dufour's residency.

We held onto the creative energy generated during Dufour's residency as we transitioned into the Fall semester (2024). We began with an Open House event to showcase Oxygen's incredible artist-instructor faculty, featuring an ArtSpeak group exhibition and a nature still life drawing session facilitated by Keiko Lee-Hem. We said farewell (but not goodbye) to founding member and longtime Oxygen employee, Natasha Smith, who held the Education Coordinator position for over ten years. Natasha's departure is still keenly felt at the centre, but we wish her all the success and happiness in her new venture. Her departure also represents the changing needs and capacity of Oxygen's Education program, which continues to contract and transform. Subsidized community-focused classes like Life Drawing and ArtSpeak are very popular, while regular art classes struggle to gain enough registrations to cover professional artist instructor fees.

Despite these shifts, the fall semester generated significant interest in printmaking and literary arts classes, as well as the youth (ages 11-15) intensive, *Print & Paste*, led by Marcus Dénomme with Julia Pepler, where students learned printmaking and wheat pasting techniques. Oxygen also collaborated with regional organizations to offer free workshops and performance-based events, including the Polka Dot Dragon Art Society's Remember the Dead festival workshops, a series of senior art classes with Nelson CARES (supported by the Osprey Community Foundation), and an Out On Screen festival film screening event held by the Vancouver Queer Film Festival.

Following the fall semester, we welcomed artist, writer, and activist SF Ho for a two-month residency. We have had the opportunity of working with Ho at Oxygen over the last four years through the *Sacrificial Cabbage* workshop series (2021) and the *dig a hole in the garden* (2022) exhibition reading group where we commissioned an essay by the artist entitled *milk medicine* (2023), included in the exhibition publication. This expanded engagement with SF Ho and their practice, which engages with the relationships between plants, land, language, medicine, and history, continued in their residency where the artist deeply engaged this constellation of thought and materiality resulting in the exhibition, *TRIPLE BURNER FLOWER FIELD* (2025).

During their residency, they created an installation using textiles, video, and clay to explore the use of everyday plants, while also interviewing first-generation settlers about their relationships to farming and medicine, and researching the early Chinese market gardens in Nelson primarily through archival materials. Ho's exhibition focuses on dualities between emptiness and negation, separation and wholeness, and value as it is understood within the sacred and within capital. Of particular interest to the artist is a line of inquiry that travels between the meeting points of such binaries and examines the complexity that emerges from their energetic confluence.

Ho created a space that attended to the slow, cyclical temporality of four common plants significant to traditional Chinese medicine and the age of imperialism—tea, yarrow, poppy and mugwort—to examine how life is separated into the categories of useful commodities or invasive weeds within the framework of global capitalism. The body of work includes interviews on healing and agriculture that explore the transition from the Cultural Revolution to the current wave of diaspora from Hong Kong, arriving and unsettling without finality on unceded lands.

Their exhibition asks what the stories, experiences and memories we carry with us when we engage with the land.

TRIPLE BURNER FLOWER FIELD lingers just like the perfumes created by Ho for the exhibition. One suspends mint, galbanum, orris, geosmin, choya nakh, isobutyl quinoline, carrot seed, ajowan, seaweed in a delicate balance. Another pyralone, bitter orange, cassie, yarrow, cistus, spikenard, oakmoss, birch tar, black pepper, butter, and ambergris sitting together in a deep indigo concentration. Their distinct vapours extend and twist into the forthcoming publication designed by A Jamali Rad, featuring commissioned texts by writer Fan Wu (published digitally, July 2025) and ethnobotanist and curator Chanelle Adams, with documentation by photographer Kenton Doupe (forthcoming: March 2026).

After our annual winter break and during Ho's exhibition run, Oxygen's staff and board engaged in training through the Columbia Basin Trust's Non-Profit Advisors program to establish consensus-making strategies and better define board roles and responsibilities. This work established skills ahead of our strategic planning activities, which will take place in the new year, from January to March 2026. The cold winter weather also necessitated facility maintenance, resulting in our water heater and boiler both requiring attention. The community came together in a humbling fundraising campaign to support Oxygen's water heater replacement and again in the springtime for our first-ever raffle organized by our volunteer fundraising committee. Each membership, donation, and volunteer hour logged makes an incredible impact on the artist-run centre (Thank you!!)

As the Sichuan peppercorn and mullein dust settled from Ho's mirrored medicine-wall ovoid, we began the Spring 2024 semester in fits and starts. Once popular spring break camps faltered due to low engagement, turning our attention to support local playwright Madeline Setzer's staging of Lucy Prebble's play, "The Effect." The remaining semester marked a continued interest in life drawing, literary arts, and printmaking, with our last iteration of Marcus Dénomme's silkscreen printing classes before moving out east.

Throughout the year, we mounted exhibitions in O2, the window turned exhibition space along Stanley Avenue and Baker Street. O2 featured exhibitions by regionally based artists, Anne Fromont, Kalika Bowlby, and a group exhibition by the ArtSpeak students (Ojan Cromie, Michele Dupas, Craig Huff, Terry Huva, Martha Stokoe, Phaedra Urban; Facilitated by Emilie Leblanc-Kromberg). Fromont's sparse photographic diptych considered alternative kinship models, while Bowlby's installation considered the call and response of human-ecological relationships. The ArtSpeak group exhibition brought together artworks created in response to weekly prompts posed by facilitator and Oxygen board member, Emilie Leblanc-Kromberg, highlighting creative praxis and process-based exchange.

Alongside public programming and daily administration, I also represent Oxygen by sitting on committees in the arts and culture sector, including the City of Nelson's Cultural Development Committee and its Public Art Working Group subcommittee, the Pacific Association of Artist-Run Centres, and the newly appointed BC Cultural Spaces Operators Network steering committee. Oxygen is also presently contributing to and taking part in the West Kootenay

Regional Arts Council's Digital Strategies project and Carleton University's research project on the Canadian charitable sector ([CICP-PCPOB](#)).

The seeds planted this year unfurl and grow as we research, plan, and gather around Oxygen's upcoming internal planning work and public-facing programming. With a solid economic foundation from the Vancouver Foundation's Transforming Systems Change program to support Oxygen's operations, we embark on the upcoming year with a renewed understanding of the people, support, and creative energies that come together to make this work possible.

I want to extend gratitude to Oxygen's outgoing Education Coordinator, Natasha Smith for her expertise and friendship; to outgoing board member Carol Wallace for her unwavering commitment to Oxygen over these six-years together—your impact and kindness is unmatched; to outgoing board members Alison Talbot-Kelly, Karmelle Spence-Sing, and Gabby Asbell for their generosity of time and spirit; and to the artists and collaborators for planting their seeds and for sharing their urgencies and their practices at our artist-run centre.

- Julia Prudhomme, *Executive Director*

Nelson Fine Arts Centre Society (Oxygen Art Centre dba)

Annual General Meeting 24-25

Treasurer's Report – a florid tale

Prepared by Christine Wallace

Financial documents tell a story if you know how to read a column of numbers. Oxygen is fortunate to have a numbers-literate ally in our bookkeeper, Susan Bernhardt, who also delivers financial reports for many local arts organizations. We benefit from her understanding of the shifting financial realities that the arts in B.C. and Canada-wide are facing today.

And the realities are stark. Funding is becoming elusive, and rents are rising. Oxygen faced a 2024-2025 year that necessitated significant cuts in operating costs and programming deliverables. The Statement of Financial Position notes that revenue from grants and education class fees has drastically declined. Correspondingly, expenses decreased due to reduced programming, and the loss of a waged position and decreased hours for our executive director. Many cultural organizations were facing similar cost-based decisions at this time last year, and The Canada Council for the Arts reported on “the crisis story” in the article *It's Time to Change the Story About the Arts* (<https://canadacouncil.ca/spotlight/2024/10/changing-the-story-about-the-arts>).

But this piece also functions as a call to action, to raise awareness of how artists and cultural organizations benefit their communities. Believing in Oxygen's vision, the Board was galvanized to increase fundraising activities and membership drives. These raised funds, tangible support from our community, meant that exhibitions and residencies could continue—an important focus as we continue to refine Oxygen's role in this region.

We are able to look back on the past year knowing what an austere budget can still accomplish but from an enviable position as Julia secured funds through the Vancouver Foundation's “Transforming Systems Grants” (<https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grant-seekers/find-grants/transforming-systems-grants/>). This grant specifically recognizes organizations “advancing systemic change by addressing the root causes of inequality and supporting those most affected to shape their own futures.” As an artist-run centre, operating in a rural area, it is our responsibility to *uplift voices of justice, move at the speed of trust, and deepen understanding and relationships*.

NELSON FINE ARTS CENTRE SOCIETY
(dba Oxygen Art Centre)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(unaudited)

June 30, 2025

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, 2025.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bernhardt." with a stylized, cursive script.

Susan M. Bernhardt, B.Comm (Honours)
Nelson, BC
September 15, 2025

NELSON FINE ARTS CENTRE (dba Oxygen Art Centre)

Statement of Financial Position (unaudited) As at June 30

	2025	2024
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 399	\$ 551
Restricted Cash (Note 2)	67,254	83,389
Accounts Receivable	513	350
Prepaid Expenses	4,201	10,061
	<u>72,367</u>	<u>94,350</u>
Capital Assets (Note 3)	19,745	23,436
Total Assets	<u>\$ 92,112</u>	<u>\$ 117,786</u>
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 4,345	\$ 8,117
Unearned Revenue	-	185
Deferred Contributions (Note 4)	67,254	83,390
Deferred Contributions - Capital (Note 4)	19,739	23,423
	<u>91,338</u>	<u>115,115</u>
Net Assets		
Net Assets Invested in Capital Assets	5	13
Unrestricted Net Assets	769	2,658
	<u>774</u>	<u>2,671</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u>\$ 92,112</u>	<u>\$ 117,786</u>

Approved by the Directors:

Christine Wallace

Christine Wallace (Sep 20, 2025 11:22:49 PDT)

Director

Carol Wallace

Carol Wallace (Sep 17, 2025 15:54:48 PDT)

Director

NELSON FINE ARTS CENTRE SOCIETY

(dba Oxygen Art Centre)

Statement of Operations (unaudited)

For the Year Ended June 30

	2025	2024
Revenue		
Grants (Note 5)	\$ 121,545	\$ 171,250
Grants - Capital (Note 5)	3,684	5,215
Education Class Fees	14,136	25,136
Event Series Donations & Fees	-	1,211
Fundraising and other	10,580	4,077
Donations	4,784	3,467
Memberships	624	519
Interest & Rebates	20	130
	<u>\$ 155,373</u>	<u>\$ 211,004</u>
Expenses		
Visual Arts - Exhibitions	\$ 33,238	\$ 47,473
Adult Education Programs	7,420	16,879
Presentation & Event Series	-	12,101
Youth Arts Education & Projects	4,334	5,660
Accounting & Legal	3,900	3,169
Advertising & Promotion	1,916	4,522
Amortization	3,690	5,230
Bank Charges	665	721
Insurance, licenses and dues	3,368	2,082
Office Equipment & Supplies	2,781	7,255
Professional Development	-	651
Rent	15,005	14,520
Repairs & Maintenance	3,735	2,306
Professional Fees	4,000	-
Utilities	3,032	3,098
Payroll Expenses	70,186	118,199
	<u>\$ 157,270</u>	<u>\$ 243,866</u>
Excess of revenue over expenses (deficit)	<u><u>\$ (1,897)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (32,862)</u></u>

NELSON FINE ARTS CENTRE SOCIETY

(dba Oxygen Art Centre)

Notes to Financial Statements

(unaudited)

June 30, 2025

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

	2025 Cost	2025 Accum. Amort.	2024 Cost	2024 Accum. Amort.
Library	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Office Furniture & Equipment	6,639	4,893	6,639	4,456
Program Equipment	11,490	8,163	11,490	7,331
Signs	757	651	757	625
Computer	10,523	9,824	10,523	8,969
Leasehold Improvements	23,319	9,452	23,319	7,911
	<u>\$ 53,228</u>	<u>\$ 33,483</u>	<u>\$ 53,228</u>	<u>\$ 29,793</u>
Net book value	\$ 19,745		\$ 23,435	

4. Deferred Contributions

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

	2025	2024
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 106,813	\$ 150,721
Additional Grants Received - Operating	105,410	132,557
Additional Grants Received - Capital	-	-
Amount recognized as revenue in the year - Operating	(121,545)	(171,250)
Amount recognized as revenue in the year - Capital	(3,684)	(5,215)
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 86,993</u>	<u>\$ 106,813</u>

Current deferred contributions at year end relate to grants from the following organizations:

	2025	2024
BCAC - Operating Grant	\$ 25,200	\$ 25,200
BCAC - Accelerate Grant	-	3,600
BC Gaming	6,000	6,000
Canada Council for the Arts	29,500	37,000
Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance	2,162	3,000
Lions Club	700	-
Osprey Community Foundation	-	3,800
Regional District of Central Kootenay	3,692	4,490
Valhalla	-	300
	<u>\$ 67,254</u>	<u>\$ 83,390</u>

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

	2025	2024
BCAC Infrastructure Grant	\$ 2,422	\$ 3,119
BCAC - Resilience Grant	4,948	5,498
Columbia Basin Trust - Capital	2,475	3,106
Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance - Capital	9,894	11,700
	<u>\$ 19,739</u>	<u>\$ 23,423</u>

5. Grants Recognized (Current & Capital)

	2025	2024
BC Arts Council	\$ 25,200	\$ 25,200
BC Arts Council - Accelerate	7,200	3,600
BC Arts Council - Resilience Supplement	-	19,720
BC Community Gaming	6,000	-
Canada Council for the Arts	67,500	79,440
City of Nelson - RDCK - CIP	4,490	4,425
Columbia Basin Trust	3,200	-
Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance	3,856	29,887
Osprey Community Foundation	3,800	-
Nelson & District Credit Union	-	1,685
Strategic Giving		650
Valhalla	300	
Young Canada Works	-	6,644
	<u>\$ 121,545</u>	<u>\$ 171,250</u>

BCAC - Infrastructure Grant	\$ 697	\$ 983
BCAC - Resilience Grant	550	611
Columbia Basin Trust - Capital	631	852
Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance - Capital	1,807	2,770
	<u>\$ 3,684</u>	<u>\$ 5,215</u>