



NELSON FINE ARTS CENTRE SOCIETY
(OXYGEN ART CENTRE dba)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2025-2026

Friday, November 6, 2026, from 5:30PM - 6:30PM at Oxygen Art Centre + Zoom
(#3A-320 Vernon Street, Nelson, BC, V1L 4E4 + [Zoom link](#))

MEETING AGENDA

TIME	ITEM	DOCUMENT	LEAD
5:35 PM	Call to Order by Chair Land Acknowledgement		Riya Garg
5:38 PM	Approval of the 2025-26 AGM Agenda		Riya Garg
5:39 PM	Approval of the 2025 AGM Minutes	 OAC_A...	Riya Garg
5:40 PM	Board of Director's Chair Report	 Oxygen ...	Riya Garg
5:50 PM	Treasurer's Report Approval of Financial Reports 25-26	 Oxygen F...	Christine Wallace
6:00 PM	Executive Director's Report	 OAC_ED...	Julia Prudhomme
6:20 PM	Election of the Board of Directors 26-27		Riya Garg
6:30 PM	Adjournment of AGM		Riya Garg

+ Brief meeting of new directors...



Nelson Fine Arts Centre Society
(DBA Oxygen Art Centre)
2025 Annual General Meeting
November 11th, 2025 at 5:30pm
Held at Oxygen Art Centre

In Attendance:

E.D.: Julia Prudhomme

Board Members: Riya Garg, Christine Wallace, Laurel Terlesky, Carol Wallace, Emilie Leblanc Kromberg and Erica Konrad

Regrets: Clee Alice

Public in Meeting: Devon Welter, Allison Morgan, Kevin Suggitt, Jocelyn Banyard, Antonia Banyard, Stephanie Myers, Michelle Oakley, Tracy Fillion, Susan Andrews Grace, Catherine McIntosh, Vandi Foreman, Yolannah Diakin, Deb Thompson, Hannah DeBoer-Smith

1. Call to Order: by Chair Riya Garg at 5:14 pm
2. Territorial Acknowledgement
3. Approval of the 2024-25 AGM Agenda:
Motion that the agenda be approved
Moved- Carol
Seconded- Laurel
Carried
4. Approval of the 2023-24 AGM Minutes:
Motion that the 2023-24 AGM Minutes be approved
Moved- Emilie
Seconded- Erica
Carried
5. Board Report by Riya Garg

See AGM Annual Report 2024-2025 for Board Chair Report

6. Financial Reports- Prepared and read by Christine Wallace:

See Financial Report 2024-2025

Motion to Approve Financial Report

Moved-Laurel Terlesky

Seconded- Erica Konrad

Carried

7. Executive Director's Report by E.D. Julia Prudhomme

See AGM Annual Report 2024-2025 for E.D. Report

8. Board Elections:

Board Members Stepping Down:

Alison Talbot-Kelly, Karmelle Spence-Sing, Gabby Asbell, Carol Wallace

Call for nominations for new board members from the floor:

Kevin Suggitt and Clee Alice nominated by Carol Wallace

Allison Morgan nominated by Laurel Terlesky

Motion to re-elect directors Riya Garg and Christine Wallace as Board Members for a 2 year term

Motion to accept Allison Morgan, Kevin Suggitt and Clee Alice onto the Board for a 2 year term

Moved- Stephanie Myers

Seconded- Carol Wallace

Carried

9. AGM Adjournment

Moved- Cristine Wallce

Seconded - Laurel Terlesky

Carried

AGM meeting adjourned at 5:49 pm

Oxygen Art Centre
Board Chair Report
2025-2026

Hi,

Happy to be here, marking a year in the life of Oxygen Art Centre.

Oxygen is shaped by all of the artists who take time to interact (including you!). In doing so, we each join the creative process. As a public organization, we have the opportunity to both contribute and receive energy from this center. By making connections, we thrive together.

Over the past year, I saw many worlds overlap here.

‘Small is good, small is all’, says adrienne marie brown in her book, Emergent Strategy. This feels true to Oxygen. Nimble. Intimate. Serene. Momentous.

Understanding grows in this nurturing landscape.

There is depth and quality, along with an invitation to play, at Oxygen. As a dancer, I feel stable ground under me when I am here, and safe in my curiosity. I feel like time is granted to listen for new inputs in the environment. However long it takes, whatever arises, I feel supported.

Oxygen is a beautiful instance. It is a natural development, clearly part and parcel of this region, carrying forward a lineage. Those who find their way belong.

Oxygen is upheld with a spirit of love and care by Julia Prudhomme, Executive Director extraordinaire. She handles all kinds of whimsy and logistics, day-in day-out. I feel lucky to live through this time together. Thanks Julia, for your excellence and the possibilities that you create for this community; for your work, your spark, everything, everything. Everything that happens here, and the seamlessness of it, is thanks to your magic.

Thanks to two other employees who helped us connect the dots: Dara Van Meulen was this year’s summer residency coordinator, and Kenton Doupe brings his expertise as preparator and photographer. It is delightful to watch the community change and grow. The ideas and skills that people exchange here permeate the space with a joyful spirit, warmth.

The Board of Directors has been melding more this year, and carried out some amazing initiatives. Almost always we are in collaboration with staff and community. Below are some highlights:

1. Exhibition and Residency Committee

Paused intake to review and update the program, with a view to re-open applications in the new year. Thanks to Laurel Terlesky, for your work on this aspect!

2. Fundraising Committee

Our spring raffle raised good money for Oxygen, with thanks to local business support, and everyone who purchased tickets. Thanks to Emilie Leblanc-Kronenberg, Allison Morgan, Erica Konrad, and volunteer committee-member Stephanie Ostrander who made it happen!

3. Strategic Planning

Nate Gerber facilitated a strategic plan for Oxygen this year! This was a profound process of unearthing meaning... We dug deep, and simultaneously, it felt light since everyone contributed a piece. Big love being part of this journey; stoked to share the results!?

Thanks to Christine Wallace, trusty treasurer, and a brilliant voice on the board. Couldn't be here without you!

Thanks to Kevin Suggett, who brings enthusiasm to streamline our membership and digital operations, among other talents and qualities.

It is a blessing to reflect on the past year of artists, practice and interactions.

All the details, I cherish and hold. Feeling happy for Oxygen.

Looking forward to another year.

Riya Garg

NELSON FINE ARTS CENTRE SOCIETY
(dba Oxygen Art Centre)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(unaudited)

June 30, 2026

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, 2026.

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 14, 2026

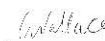
NELSON FINE ARTS CENTRE
(dba Oxygen Art Centre)

Statement of Financial Position (unaudited)
As at June 30

	2026	2025
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 10,462	\$ 399
Restricted Cash (Note 2)	60,418	67,254
Accounts Receivable	947	513
Prepaid Expenses	16,649	4,201
	<u>88,476</u>	<u>72,367</u>
Capital Assets (Note 3)	16,938	19,745
Total Assets	<u>\$ 105,414</u>	<u>\$ 92,112</u>
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 5,841	\$ 4,345
Unearned Revenue	-	-
Deferred Contributions (Note 4)	74,031	67,254
Deferred Contributions - Capital (Note 4)	16,935	19,739
	<u>96,807</u>	<u>91,338</u>
Net Assets		
Net Assets Invested in Capital Assets	3	5
Unrestricted Net Assets	8,604	769
	<u>8,607</u>	<u>774</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u>\$ 105,414</u>	<u>\$ 92,112</u>

Approved by the Directors:

 Director

 Director

NELSON FINE ARTS CENTRE SOCIETY (dba Oxygen Art Centre)

Statement of Operations (unaudited)

For the Year Ended June 30

	2026	2025
Revenue		
Grants (Note 5)	\$ 139,871	\$ 121,545
Grants - Capital (Note 5)	2,804	3,684
Education Class Fees (Note 6)	15,746	14,136
Fundraising and other	8,102	10,580
Donations	2,204	4,784
Memberships	772	624
Interest & Rebates	234	20
	<u>\$ 169,733</u>	<u>\$ 155,373</u>
Expenses		
Visual Arts - Exhibitions	\$ 31,106	\$ 33,238
Adult Education Programs	8,802	7,420
Presentation & Event Series	1,796	-
Youth Arts Education & Projects	446	4,334
Accounting & Legal	4,930	3,900
Advertising & Promotion	1,630	1,916
Amortization	2,807	3,690
Bank Charges	694	665
Insurance, licenses and dues	2,796	3,368
Office Equipment & Supplies	2,546	2,781
Professional Fees	8,000	4,000
Rent	14,564	15,005
Repairs & Maintenance	1,766	3,735
Sponsorship Expenses	1,500	-
Utilities	3,128	3,032
Payroll Expenses	75,390	70,186
	<u>\$ 161,901</u>	<u>\$ 157,270</u>
Excess of revenue over expenses (deficit)	<u>\$ 7,832</u>	<u>\$ (1,897)</u>

NELSON FINE ARTS CENTRE SOCIETY

(dba Oxygen Art Centre)

Notes to Financial Statements

(unaudited)

June 30, 2026

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

	2026 Cost	2026 Accum. Amort.	2025 Cost	2025 Accum. Amort.
Library	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Office Furniture & Equipment	6,639	5,242	6,639	4,893
Program Equipment	11,490	8,828	11,490	8,163
Signs	757	673	757	651
Computer	10,523	10,208	10,523	9,824
Leasehold Improvements	23,319	10,839	23,319	9,452
	<u>\$ 53,228</u>	<u>\$ 36,290</u>	<u>\$ 53,228</u>	<u>\$ 33,483</u>
Net book value	\$ 16,938		\$ 19,745	

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:

	2026	2025
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 86,993	\$ 106,813
Additional Grants Received - Operating	146,648	105,410
Additional Grants Received - Capital	-	-
Amount recognized as revenue in the year - Operating	(139,871)	(121,545)
Amount recognized as revenue in the year - Capital	(2,804)	(3,684)
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 90,966</u>	<u>\$ 86,993</u>

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

	2026	2025
BCAC - Operating Grant	\$ 25,200	\$ 25,200
BC Gaming	6,000	6,000
Canada Council for the Arts	-	29,500
Canada Summer Jobs	2,825	-
Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance	-	2,162
Lions Club	700	700
Regional District of Central Kootenay	3,006	3,692
Vancouver Foundation	36,300	-
	<u>\$ 74,031</u>	<u>\$ 67,254</u>

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

	2026	2025
BCAC Infrastructure Grant	\$ 1,905	\$ 2,422
BCAC - Resilience Grant	4,453	4,948
Columbia Basin Trust - Capital	1,994	2,475
Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance - Capital	8,583	9,894
	<u>\$ 16,935</u>	<u>\$ 19,739</u>

5. Grants Recognized (Current & Capital)

	2026	2025
BC Arts Council	\$ 25,200	\$ 25,200
BC Arts Council - Accelerate	3,600	7,200
BC Community Gaming	6,000	6,000
Canada Council for the Arts	29,500	67,500
Canada Summer Jobs	1,379	-
City of Nelson - RDCK - CIP	3,692	4,490
Columbia Basin Trust	3,800	3,200
Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance	2,300	3,856
Lion's Club	700	-
Osprey Community Foundation	-	3,800
Vancouver Foundation	63,700	-
	<u>\$ 139,871</u>	<u>\$ 121,245</u>
BCAC - Infrastructure Grant	\$ 517	\$ 697
BCAC - Resilience Grant	495	550
Columbia Basin Trust - Capital	481	631
Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance - Capital	1,311	1,807
	<u>\$ 2,804</u>	<u>\$ 3,684</u>

Oxygen Financial Statements as at June 30 2026

Final Audit Report

2026-09-25

Created:	2026-09-21
By:	Susan Bernhardt (susan.m.bernhardt@gmail.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAVWTGpyWXSwm_GcnfE9BxxnXkeHtA1nhx

"Oxygen Financial Statements as at June 30 2026" History

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

This year resists easy summary. Its projects, artists, and internal work reach backward and forward in ways that only make sense within an artist-run centre.

The first resonance began in summer, when we welcomed Kalli Van Stone and Manuel Axel Strain for a residency that culminated in the exhibition *kíkmin ul’cikʷm* (*mark and make light*). Yet, their collaboration began a year earlier at Oxygen Art Centre, where they developed new work using a laser, mirror, speaker, and microphone. Drawing on rhythms from song and drumming, they configured the laser to translate the vibrations of traditional Syilx song into images resembling pictographs and abstract forms. These forms informed both the individual and collaborative works created during their residency.

The artists returned in 2025 to continue this collaboration, creating the exhibition’s entire body of work during a five-day residency. The resulting installation explored spatial, temporal, familial, and embodied connections. Paintings by both artists were unified by fields of colour that moved between the micro—from chemical elements to individual grains of sand—and the macro—from geospatial maps of pit house sites to aerial views of the Columbia River. Dried camas bulbs held these fields of thought and experience together in light.

Like the seismic waves of pit houses seen from far above, the exhibition’s effects lingered as Oxygen shifted into the fall semester. Returning favourites Life Drawing and Art Speak supported artists eager to sustain their drawing practices and build community through critical dialogue. Weekly classes and weekend intensives brought back familiar instructors and facilitators while welcoming new instructors Kaylyn Hardstaff and Zen Wang.

Alongside its regular education program, Oxygen presented “Seed Bombs,” a series of free, community-focused art-making events. Tracy Fillion led natural-dye activities, while Keiko Lee-Hem guided drawing from the fall garden. Oxygen again partnered with the Polka Dot Dragon Society on its annual Remember the Dead workshop, where participants made luminaria for the festival. A new partnership with Nelson CARES also brought visual and literary arts classes to seniors in the community.

Oxygen’s beloved education program continues to extend beyond the centre’s walls through online classes, community partnerships, and new formats that support many paths into artistic practice. These resonances are sustained by relationships we continually make and remake through radical care.

Another profound resonance emerged when we welcomed local artist and former Oxygen Executive Director Genevieve Robertson for a residency as autumn gave way to winter. Arriving at a pivotal point in Robertson’s practice, the residency offered the time, space, and resources to

focus on a large-scale body of work later exhibited at the Midlands Art Centre in the UK in spring 2026. Grounded in long-term, place-based research, her work examines human impacts on ecology and climate, as well as the intelligence and interconnection of the living systems to which we belong.

During Robertson’s residency, conversations about the state of the world, the arts, and our rural community led us to the figure of the witch, or hedge-rider. Inspired by this practitioner who inhabits two realms at once—and by curiosity about rural and remote artists—we developed an online mentorship program with Robertson as artist-mentor to three artist-mentees. Through the *Hedge-Rider* program, we connected with artists in Nelson, Fernie, and Prince George, creating resonances that will continue to take new forms.

After the winter break, we opened the 2026 program with *porcelain like flesh and skin, flesh and skin like porcelain*, a solo exhibition by Tkaronto-based artist Phuong Nguyen. The exhibition featured oil paintings that examined Ornamentalist ideals of femininity through representational still lifes, each set within ornate wood-carved, ceramic, and woven frames.

The deliberately doubled title, *porcelain like flesh and skin, flesh and skin like porcelain*, evoked both the “undead”—a person simultaneously living and dead—and stereotypes linking porcelain with East Asian identities and feminine beauty. Nguyen unsettled these associations through material juxtapositions, traditional techniques, and art-historical references, particularly chinoiserie: the predominantly eighteenth-century European interpretation and imitation of East Asian art and culture.

Okanagan-based writer Corinna Chong accompanied the exhibition with “Paper Fan” (2026), a response to Nguyen’s *Planche X* series published online and in print. Drawing on imagery from the paintings—including incense smoke curling around porcelain and manicured hands presenting fans—the story follows a young Chinese Canadian writer in a master’s-level creative writing program. The protagonist navigates a wavering connection to their Chinese lineage while confronting systemic racism in institutional settings draw still further resonances through visual and textual storytelling.

As the days lengthened and the land thawed, the spring semester offered a framework for renewing our creative practice together. Online and in-person classes at Oxygen’s downtown studio energized returning programs and introduced new offerings, including Introduction to Cyanotype with Gillian Kloet and an *en plein air* drawing class with Keiko Lee-Hem. Amid this activity, Mrs. Inkpen’s Grade Nine art class presented the group exhibition, “Exquisite Audacity” in May 2026. Through Mrs. Inkpen’s exceptional advocacy and organization—and with installation support from Kenton Doupe and his father—we proudly exhibited drawings, collages, and sculptures by talented young artists from Trafalgar Middle School.

To close the 2025–2026 program and launch 2026–2027, Oxygen welcomed the *Three Way Mirror* collective—Daniel Barrow (QC), Glenn Gear (QC), and Paige Gratland (BC)—for a six-week summer residency. Working across textiles, moving image, and craft, the artists formed what they called a craft “triangle,” developing work both independently and together. Open studios, free workshops, and a special performance of Daniel Barrow’s “Winnipeg Babysitter”

accompanied the residency. We also welcomed Dara van der Meulen as *Residency Coordinator*. With support from Canada Summer Jobs, they assisted the artists-in-residence, researched the intersection of queer theory and craft, and produced a commemorative zine.

Oxygen’s relationships across communities of practice—from our local networks to broader sector conversations—remain central to our work. I am grateful for the expertise and generosity shared through the City of Nelson’s Cultural Development Committee and its Public Art and Policy working groups; the BC Cultural Space Operators Network Steering Committee; and the group that supported the Kootenay School of the Arts’ major transition into 606 Arts Space with the Nelson Community Land Trust. Even in bureaucratic settings, I am humbled by the insight and labour of cultural workers across our community and province.

Strategic planning with Nate Gerber of Interplx made the importance of this relational constellation especially clear. Community interviews, workshops, and research traced Oxygen’s relationships and resonances across twenty-four years of operation. Participants often described Oxygen through feeling rather than function: less a brick-and-mortar artist-run centre than a social and creative condition where people can experiment, grow, connect, and become across difference.

After nearly a year of strategic planning activities, we look forward to sharing our vision for Oxygen’s future in the new year. The Vancouver Foundation’s Transforming Systems program and the Columbia Basin Trust’s Non-Profit Advisor program generously supported this work. Extra-special-thanks to Nate for their expertise throughout this process!

I extend my thanks to the remarkable artists on Oxygen’s Board of Directors, who came together for the immense and often messy work of strategic planning and fundraising. I am especially grateful for the radical care and wisdom of Board Chair Riya Garg, who created a strong foundation for this work in every exchange. My enduring thanks also go to employees Kenton Doupe, Gallery Preparator, and Dara van der Meulen, Residency Coordinator, for their outstanding contributions this year. Finally, I thank the artists on whose relationships, resonances, and respiration this artist-run centre depends. As each tendril unfolds through Oxygen Art Centre, I am grateful for this place and the people that make this work resonate. Thank you.