

LEIGHTON  

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ART CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT  

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2019





Dear Friends of the Leighton Art Centre,

2019 was a year of transition and learning, and was marked by an exhibition and programming schedule that placed emphasis on community, collaboration, and coming together.

Four core staff members changed their roles early in the year, which meant that much development, sharing, and growth took place throughout 2019. Not only did the Centre experience an expansion in staff capacity, and a change in executive leadership, we also saw an increase in our earned revenue through art sales, memberships, workshops, and educational programs.



In 2019 we were excited to celebrate a diverse roster of creators including artists with developmental disabilities, artists from the Francophone community, and artists and curators who are just emerging onto Southern Alberta's vibrant art scene. We hosted five group exhibitions, three solo shows, two art festivals, and one public interactive art installation. In total we exhibited the work of over 200 individuals, and enjoyed collaborations with several major arts organizations including the Indefinite Arts Centre, the Rozsa Foundation, and the Canadian Society of Painters In Water Colour.

Hosting 44 workshops, we welcomed 25 art and nature instructors who shared their skills to 241 participants, and we experienced a whopping 46% increase in revenue generated through these programs, as compared to 2018. By the end of the year we were proud to be able to pay over \$144,000 directly to our local artist community through instructor fees, sales commissions, and CARFAC fees.



As always, the Children's Program at the Education Centre was a hive of activity throughout the year. The education staff did a phenomenal job of developing, presenting, and growing this program, welcoming 8450 children and youth. We saw a 9% increase in school and summer camp revenues, as compared to 2018. Thanks to the support of the Putnam Family Foundation, we were able to sponsor 667 children to attend the program in early 2019.



Continuing with our sustainable financial model, approximately 62% of our Annual Budget came from earned revenue. This was derived from art sales, memberships, workshops, education programs, and summer camp fees. Although we still rely on Casino funds, grants, sponsorships, and donations to sustain our museum operations and maintain the multiple heritage buildings on the LAC property, we are pleased to continue the development of our earned revenue streams.

All of us at the Leighton Art Centre are very proud of the work completed in 2019, and so grateful for our community of artists, volunteers, and supporters who helped make this success possible, and who make the Leighton community what it is.

The year reaffirmed to us that Barbara Leighton's vision of making art accessible to everyone is needed now more than ever. We are so grateful to follow in her legacy to provide a place for our community to inspire each other and learn from one another, all while celebrating art, history and nature.

Thank you all for making this valuable work possible.



Stephanie Doll  
Executive Director



# 2019 Highlights



## January

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- We were thrilled to showcase the artwork of 30 artists from Indefinite Arts Centre who had participated in an artist residency at LAC in the fall of 2018. *Pushing Boundaries with Art, Nature & History* was made possible with the support of the Rozsa Foundation, and brought many new visitors to the Centre in January. This collaboration was a great experience for all involved, and set the bar for future cross organizational residencies.
- Due to a generous donation made by the Putnam Family we were able to sponsor 333 students to attend our Art & Nature Program.

## February

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- After six years as the *Director of Exhibitions, Museum & Programming*, Stephanie Doll started her new role as *Executive Director* of the LAC.
- Although it was a blustery month, 389 Children attended the Education Program - 134 of these attendees were sponsored by the Putnam Family.

**The collaboration between the LAC, the Indefinite Arts Centre and the Rozsa Foundation was an incredible experience that set the bar for future collaborative residencies at the LAC.**

## March

- This month we celebrated the space that Barbara left to the community through the magic of site-specific installations. Artists Verna Vogel, Frances Vettergreen, and Monique Martin came together with the exhibitions *Just Turn Your Head A Little* and *Context is Everything*.
- Lindsay Corbet took on the role of *Manager of Exhibitions, Events & Volunteers*, after six years as *Manager of Gallery Sales, Volunteers, and Special Events*.
- 687 Children attended our Education Program, 200 of which were sponsored by the Putnam Family.





## April

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## May

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## June

- We celebrated our 17th Annual Juried Members Show featuring 60 works of original art by 51 Artist Members. This year we had 150 members submit 450 works to be juried... a new LAC record!
- Thanks to the support of the MD of the Foothills FCSS Grant, we celebrated our large volunteer community at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event. Over 200 artists and volunteers attended, and 16 prizes valued at over \$1000 were given away.
- Senior Art & Nature Educator Alison Marshall started her new role as Manager of Gallery Shop & Guest Services. Educator Coreen Thornhill was promoted to Senior Art & Nature Educator.
- 868 Children attended our Education Program during the month of April.

- Our Annual Sunset Soirée Fundraiser & Clothesline Festival and Art Sale came early in this year!
- With 174 ticket holders, Sunset Soirée was a wonderful and profitable fundraiser. We saw an 11% increase in art sales at the events as compared to 2019.
- The Clothesline Festival & Art Sale featured 68 artist members, well over a thousand works of fine art and craft, and was facilitated by 105 volunteers. It was a beautiful and bright weekend that showcased local singer songwriters, classical musicians, a steel drum band and multiple food vendors. In addition, the public was treated to numerous artist demonstrations and an interactive art installation. The event attracted 1,584 visitors and families, many of whom indicated they were new to the LAC.
- 1,732 students attended our Education Program in May.

- We launched *Vital Lines*, a land-based, site specific, interactive installation created by artists Patricia Lortie and Sabine Lecorre-Moore. The popular public installation was developed with the input of a local naturalist and a First Nations liaison, and acted as a site for visitors to rest dreams, wishes and affirmations for their lives and our world. The installation launch was celebrated along with the opening of *A Point on the Horizon*, a newly curated exhibition which featured 16 local emerging artists.
- The opening receptions were celebrated in both official languages and with a blessing by Siksika Elder Kelly God Eagle Sr.
- 1,560 students attended our Education Program in June.

## July & August . . . .

- We were thrilled to host 503 summer day campers this year! The week-long camps offered young artists the chance to experiment with many media and subjects, all while learning about, and interacting with their natural world.
- At the Gallery, *In The Open Air* celebrated the time-honoured Leighton tradition of painting *en plein air*, and featured 10 local plein air artists. The show exhibited concurrently with oil painting master Bobbi Dunlop's solo exhibition

**We were thrilled to host 503 summer day campers**



## September & October . . . .

- September was dedicated to Leighton history and the Centre's 45th birthday. We were honoured to host the Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour (CSPWC), who celebrated their *94th Annual Open Water Exhibition* on the Alberta Culture Days weekend. Artists from all over the globe participated in the world class watercolour exhibition.
- To celebrate the LAC's 45th year, Board Member and Curator Melissa Cole hosted the *45th Anniversary Tea & Talk* which featured a panel discussion with friends of Barbara Leighton, all of whom played a part in the developmental years of the LAC. A promotional video of the event was created and will be part of an online exhibition to launch in 2020.
- Thanks to the work of Board Member and Naturalist Jim Critchley the LAC launched Bluebird Trail.
- 1,141 children attended our Education Program in September

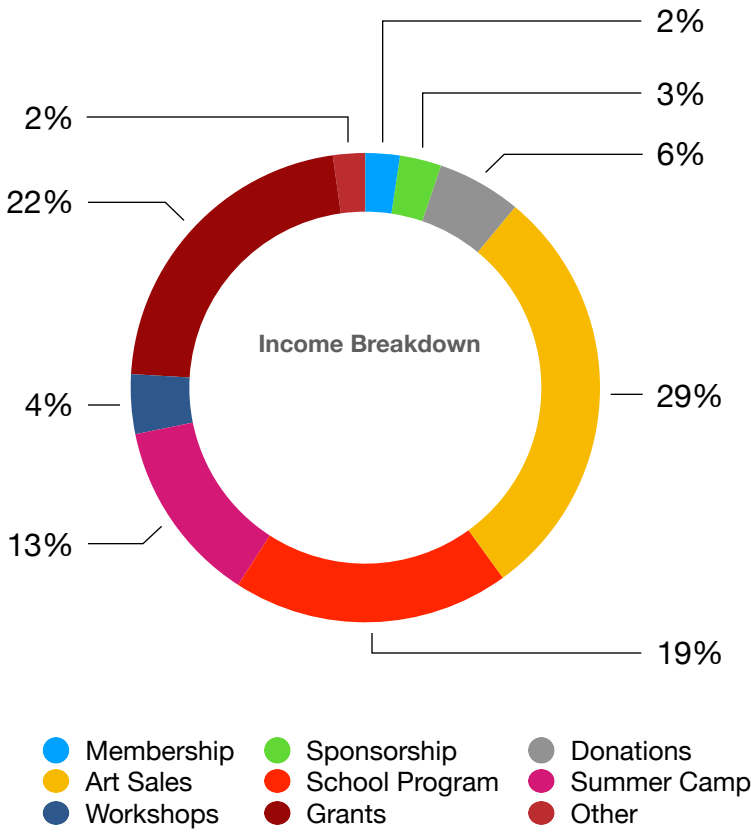
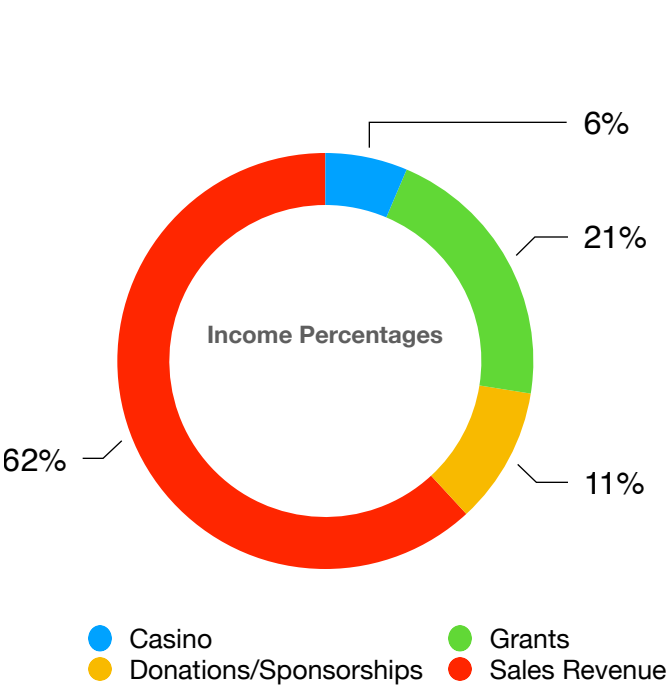


## November & December

- Our largest art sale of the year - *Christmas in the Country* - didn't disappoint! We were able to exhibit thousands of works of fine art and craft, and feature over 98 artist members. This year, we extended the event through December, with the cozy house, great art, and friendly atmosphere drawing in 2,172 visitors.
- We also had the privilege of hosting Casino on the opening weekend of *Christmas in the Country*. We were so proud and thankful that our amazing community of volunteers and artists stepped up to fill the 156 volunteer positions needed to facilitate the two events.
- 1,041 children attended our Education Program in November and December.



# The Break Down!



**Hours Open To the Public:**1668 Hours

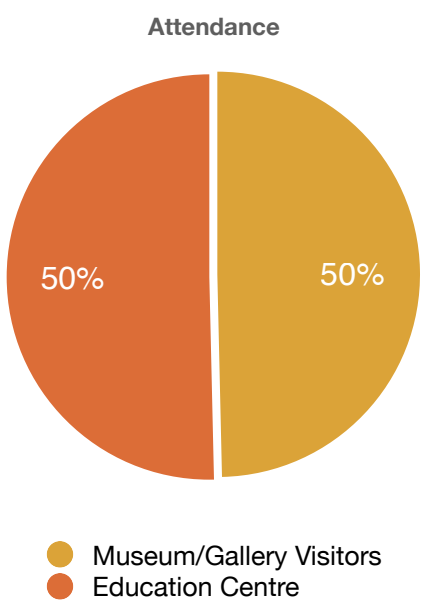
**Total Visitors:** 16,777

**Number of Members:** 330

**Volunteer Hours Worked:**185 Volunteers worked 2,614 Hours

**Number of Children Sponsored:** 667

**Paid Out to Local Artists & Instructors:** \$144,240



# The Team

## Board of Directors

**Michele Chiasson-Suart**  
*Board Chair*

**Melissa Cole**  
*Vice-Chair*

**Annette Resler**  
*Secretary*

**Darryl Hass**  
*Treasurer*

**Jill Cross**  
*Past Board Chair*

**Jim Critchley**  
*Director*

**Jim Conway**  
*Director*

**Kirsten Christopherson**  
*Director*

**Lynne Cunningham**  
*Director*

**Holly Wennerstrom**  
*Director*

**Jason Parker**  
*MD Foothills Representative*

## Management

**Stephanie Doll**  
*Executive Director*

**Bailey Arnholz**  
*Director of Education*

**Lindsay Corbet**  
*Manager of  
Exhibitions, Volunteers  
& Events*

**Alison Marshall**  
*Manager of Shop &  
Guest Services*

**Amanda MacKay**  
*Director of Marketing  
& Communications*

## Staff

**Coreen Thornhill**  
*Senior Educator*

**Kourtney Branagan**  
*Educator*

**Zoe Dobbin**  
*Educator*

**Caylee Dzurka**  
*Educator*

**Chandra Kuran**  
*Educator*

**Jenna Swift**  
*Educator*

## Summer Students

**Cassandra Sales**  
*Museums Assistant*

**Riley Merchant**  
*Shop Assistant*

**Manhattan Turn**  
*Camp Councillor*

**Alyssa Fortin**  
*Camp Councillor*

**Jay-Leena Looy**  
*Camp Councillor*

**Elizabeth Watts**  
*Camp Councillor*

**Lauren Wills**  
*Camp Councillor*

## Grounds

**Dave Parkinson**  
*Groundskeeper*



Canada 

**V M C**   
virtualmuseum.ca



Alberta   
Canada 



Alberta  
Foundation  
for the Arts



**CALGARY  
FOUNDATION**  
FOR COMMUNITY, FOREVER

Galvin Family Trust  
Perlette Fund  
Putnam Fund



**calgary arts**  
development



**SECTION23**

DEVELOPMENTS



**GÉRARD BERTRAND**  
L'ART DE VIVRE LES VINS DU SUD



**TAYLOR FLADGATE®**



**VILLAGE**  
BREWERY



## CONTACT US



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*In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Îyâxe Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.*

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