



LEIGHTON  

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ART CENTRE

2022  
ANNUAL REPORT

# OUR MISSION

As a vibrant and open space for creativity, Leighton Art Centre inspires us to explore, appreciate, and create.

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The privilege of Leighton Art Centre's presence on 80 acres of foothills landscape within Treaty 7 territory is combined with respect, humility, and responsibility to be caretakers of the land. We acknowledge the people of these ancestral and traditional lands, which include the Niitsitapi - Blackfoot Confederacy - comprised of the Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani; the îyârhe Nakoda - Stoney Nakoda - including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations; as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nation and Otipemisiwak Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3. We also recognize that many more First Nations, Métis, and Inuit have marked these lands with their footsteps. We are grateful for all people who make their home in, or visit, the Treaty 7 territory of Southern Alberta, and who act as respectful stewards to this land, where we learn, create, and build relationships in meaningful ways.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Art, at its core, serves as a profound expression of our humanity. It is a medium through which we communicate our deepest emotions, thoughts, and experiences. Through art, we connect on a visceral level, transcending cultural, linguistic, and societal barriers. In this interconnectedness, we find a natural bridge to our responsibility as stewards of the land. Just as art reflects our inner world, it also mirrors the external world that surrounds us. Artists have the unique ability to shed light on the fragile balance between humanity and the environment. Their creations inspire us to pause, reflect, and reimagine our relationship with the natural world. As we appreciate art's power to ignite our empathy and shape our values, we are reminded that honouring nature is an essential part of our collective responsibility as custodians of both artistic expression and the world we inhabit.

At Leighton Art Centre, understanding the relationship between art and nature is core to our purpose, values, and programs. In 2022 we continued to build on this important concept that was intrinsic to both Barbara and A. C. Leighton's artistic practices. Central to fostering this understanding is the development of exhibitions and public programs that explore the web of connections humans share with nature.

For almost 50 years, Leighton Art Centre has continued to build on Barbara's mission to "grow artists" through exhibitions, sales, and workshops. Our exhibition program highlights the work of Alberta artists, giving them a space to deepen their practice, and provides a platform for their work to challenge boundaries, explore critical societal issues, and provoke thoughtful dialogue. The Gift Shop and community programs such as Monthly Member's Collection, Clothesline Art Market, and Festive Foothills Art Sale provide opportunities for both emerging and established artists to develop their commercial practice. And our Art & Nature Workshop Series provides exposure and income to instructors, while offering community and emerging artists the chance to try new media.





In 2022 we saw the return of school groups in our Art & Nature School Program. As a signature program for Leighton Art Centre, this is an opportunity for students to explore and create through hands-on experiences with art and nature. Each year, thousands of children participate in our Art & Nature programs, however aging infrastructure threatens the viability of these programs. In 2022, we made crucial investments, including a major digital infrastructure upgrade, allowing us to reliably connect with online communities. As an organization that is geographically isolated, the ability to connect in digital spaces opens new possibilities for program and audience development. With generous support from Calgary Foundation, we also constructed a Sprung Temporary Structure to ensure the continuity of programming while we raise funds for the redevelopment of the Education Centre.

Leighton Art Centre continued to lay the groundwork for this important capital project by meeting with donors, artists, educators, and community stakeholders. We conducted a Feasibility Study to gain valuable insight and we hosted our first Open House in October, which was a valuable chance to speak with community and gain feedback about our *Expanding Horizons: Education Centre Redevelopment Plan*. Over the next three years, we will raise \$3 million to design and build a new education studio at Leighton Art Centre, which will:

- Increase the capacity of Art & Nature programs for students, artists, and equity-seeking communities.
- Improve accessibility with inclusive design features throughout the studio.
- Centre environmental sustainability with solar energy and improved water and waste management systems.
- Allow us to support more artists at every stage of their artistic development.
- Provide a flexible community space for lectures, exhibitions, children's programs, and events, which will broaden community connection and engagement.



Photos by Jaime Vedres

Leighton Art Centre is a beloved community space and in 2022, we continued to focus on many facets of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Initiatives include:

- Ongoing collaborations with National accessArt Centre (NaAC), Canada's leading arts organization supporting artists with developmental disabilities.
- Providing a safe creative space where discrimination is never tolerated.
- Subsidizing programs for schools and families who need financial support.
- Engaging with Leighton Art Centre's history within a colonial framework.
- Adopting arts industry best-practices as outlined by CARFAC, Alberta Museums Association, and other arts leaders.

2022 was a year of re-building at Leighton Art Centre. Our exhibitions, gift shop, and workshop series continued to “grow artists,” we enjoyed the revival of our signature Art & Nature School Program, and made crucial investments in infrastructure to ensure the continuity and expansion of our programs. With the support of generous partners and community stakeholders, we laid the groundwork for an ambitious capital project, envisioning a new education studio that will amplify the capacity of our programs, prioritize accessibility and sustainability, and foster a vibrant community space for artistic development and engagement. Additionally, our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion manifested through collaborations, subsidized programs, hands-on tours, fair pay for artists, and a renewed commitment to stewarding a more inclusive understanding of history. As I reflect on the year, I am profoundly grateful for the support of our dedicated staff, volunteers, board of directors, partners, funders, and donors who have played an integral role in enriching the work we do at Leighton Art Centre.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Cuthbertson  
Executive Director





## EXHIBITIONS





### **MATTHEW O'REILLY: PILES OF BARBARISM**

**February 5 to April 2, 2022**

*Piles of Barbarism* was an exploration of the self and identity. O'Reilly challenged the notion of a singular, autonomous self, instead considering the idea of a collection of competing selves. By piling ceramic heads upon heads, he questioned the homogeneity of the self and invited us to contemplate the complexities of human existence. The exhibition delved into themes of connectedness, wholeness, and the subversion of sculptural embodiments of masculinity. Through his grotesque and fragmented sculptures, O'Reilly disrupted established boundaries, pushing us to reflect and engage in conversations about identity.



### **VERONICA FUNK: THE GRANDMOTHERS**

**February 5 to April 2, 2022**

*The Grandmothers* was a tribute to the often-overlooked challenges and accomplishments of women who came before us. Inspired by family photographs, Funk embarked on a year-long project, creating weekly portraits based on family stories and shared memories. As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, the significance of the project deepened, highlighting the resilience of women who navigated wars, hardships, and upheavals while supporting and inspiring future generations.



### **20TH ANNUAL JURIED MEMBERS EXHIBITION**

**APRIL 9 to JUNE 5, 2022**

This exhibition featured 64 artworks by 38 Leighton Art Centre members. The annual exhibition was an opportunity to support the wealth of artistic practices in our community.



### **STACEY WATSON: PAPER MOON**

**June 18 to August 21, 2022**

This exhibition investigated an intersection of artifice and landscape. Captured on local film sets, Watson photographed the serene moments when props and artificial elements lay dormant on non-filming days. In Watson's large-format photographs, these objects took on a new life, revealing their temporary nature and showcasing the craftsmanship behind their creation. The exhibition shed light on Alberta's role as a backdrop for numerous film and television productions, where landscapes play a crucial role in maintaining narrative authenticity.



### **THE MONOCHROME GUILD:**

#### **COAL IN ALBERTA: A JOURNEY TO OBSOLESCENCE**

**June 18 to August 21, 2022**

Through the use of traditional black and white film methods, the artists documented the historical and present impact of the coal industry in Alberta. The monochrome prints captured the gritty and dark essence of the industry, reflecting the challenging and sometimes perilous nature of coal mining. By employing old techniques and chemistry, the exhibition connected with the history of coal, prompting viewers to reflect on the significance of this vital matter.



### **BILLIE RAE BUSBY: NIGHT LIGHTS: THE WONDER OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS**

**August 27 to October 23, 2022**

The ethereal beauty of the aurora Borealis took centre stage in this exhibition by Billie Rae Busby. Through her precise and vibrant hard-edge painting technique, Busby captured the magic and energy of this natural phenomenon. Drawing inspiration from personal experiences of witnessing the northern lights, the paintings evoked the fleeting and unpredictable nature of the aurora, representing opportunity, uncertainty, and potential.





**LAURIE ALDRIDGE, LOUISE LACEY-ROKOSH, AND THERESA WILLIAMS: COME PAINT ALBERTA**

**August 27 to October 23, 2022**

*Come Paint Alberta* was the result of an artist-led community project promoting plein air painting in Alberta. Led by Louise Lacey-Rokosh, Laurie Aldridge, and Theresa Williams, the project involved painting iconic Alberta locations. The exhibition featured a series of large-scale acrylic paintings completed on location, capturing Alberta's unpredictable weather and natural elements. Additionally, selected works from participants who submitted their pieces during the project were juried into the exhibition.



**PIXEL KIM**

**International Artist In Residence**

In October 2022, Leighton Art Centre was honoured to host internationally-renowned artist, Pixel Kim, for a two-day residency. This initiative was organized in partnership with National accessArts Centre (NaAC). NaAC is Canada's leading arts organization supporting artists with developmental disabilities. Pixel Kim is a Korean-based artist with Down Syndrome who uses geometric patterns and bright colours to create his abstract works.



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS



## WHY ART & NATURE?

At Leighton Art Centre we believe that understanding the relationship between humans and nature is one of the most important lessons of our time. We want kids to have a head start by fostering the creativity they need to flourish and become future stewards of nature. We also know that art is an ideal platform for making connections and creating deeper understanding.

**How?** Leighton Art Centre's Art & Nature programs focus on the following philosophies and values:

**Exploration:** Art projects are a great way to try new things and risk making “mistakes” in a fun and supportive atmosphere. This makes us more resilient! We're excited about the process as much as the end result.

**Creativity:** Art & Nature programs are an opportunity to see the natural world in a new light! Students have the chance to discover the wonder of nature and express their learning through art making. We also know that students learn in many different ways, so we provide many tools for expressing themselves creatively!

**Sustainability:** Nature walks are a great way to discuss human impact in the natural world. We also use recycled, upcycled, and donated materials in our art projects.

### ART & NATURE SCHOOL PROGRAM

#### February to June and September to December, 2022

2022 marked the return of in-person programming at Leighton Art Centre. Art & Nature School Program is one of Leighton Art Centre's longest-running and highly respected programs. In 2022 thousands of students had the chance to explore and create in a fun and supportive atmosphere. We also offered virtual programs for hundreds of students. With the support of individual donors, many of these students and schools were able to access bursary funds to reduce or eliminate the cost of the program, allowing us to expand the scope and inclusion within this important program.

### ART & NATURE SUMMER CAMP

#### July to August, 2022

Art & Nature Summer Camps for kids ran at 100% capacity for the first time since 2019. This was made possible with the generous support of Calgary Foundation and the construction of a Sprung Temporary Structure. Throughout July and August, we nurtured the creativity of 480 children. As a Canada Summer Jobs employer, Leighton Art Centre's Art & Nature Summer Camp is also a chance for students and recent post-secondary graduates to gain valuable work experience in their field.





WORKSHOPS



## ART & NATURE WORKSHOP SERIES

Art & Nature Workshops led by local artists and naturalists included everything from birdwatching to inks and felting. Workshops are a great opportunity to connect with the arts community and generate new visitors and members.

### **Love is in the Air**

Instructor: Amanda Tanner  
Topic: Textiles  
February 26, 2022

### **Discover the Night Sky**

Instructor: Jim Critchley  
Topic: Astronomy  
March 12, June 11

### **Broom Making**

Instructor: David Campbell  
Topic: Craftsmanship, Broom Making, History  
March 26, April 30, May 7, 28, June 11, 25, July 9, 31

### **Easter Rabbit**

Instructor: Amanda Tanner  
Topic: Textiles  
April 2, 2022

### **Nature-Based Art: A Journey Through the Seasons**

Instructor: Andrea Merredew  
Topic: Art & Nature  
April 2, June 25,

### **April Showers and Flowers**

Instructor: Amanda Tanner  
Topic: Textiles  
April 23, 2022

### **Block Printing on Fabric**

Instructor: Michelle Wiebe  
Topic: Printmaking, Textiles  
May 1, 2022

### **On the Road - Travel Plein Air Sketching**

Instructor: Michelle Wiebe  
Topic: Art & Nature  
May 14, June 26, July 23

### **Forest Bathing**

Instructor: Alberta DeFrancesco  
Topic: Nature, Wellness  
May 14, July 16, 30, Aug 6, 27, Sept 25, Oct 16

### **Discover the Beauty of Wet Felted Landscapes**

Instructor: Fay Hodson  
Topic: Textiles  
May 28, 2022

### **Wet Felting Sampler**

Instructor: Leah Cathleen  
Topic: Textiles  
June 11, 2022

### **Meet the Foothills: Birding at the Leighton Art Centre**

Instructor: Jim Critchley  
Topic: Migration, Ecology, Nature  
June 11, 2022

### **Making a Good Impression**

Instructor: Michelle Wiebe  
Topic: Linocut Printmaking  
June 12, September 24, 2022

### **Capture the Magic: An Exploration of the Art of Photography**

Instructor: Barry Allen  
Topic: Photography  
June 12, 2022

### **Creative Freedom: Using an Art Journal to Unlock Your Creative Spirit**

Instructor: Michelle Wiebe  
Topic: Art Processes  
July 10, 2022

### **Plein Air Oil Painting**

Instructor: Louise Lacey-Rokosh  
Topic: Oil Painting  
September 10, 11, 2022

### **Milk Bottle Dry Point Etching**

Instructor: Neil Dawson  
Topic: Printmaking  
September 18, 2022

### **Baskets of Hope**

Instructor: Amanda Tanner  
Topic: Basket Weaving, Truth and Reconciliation, Wellness  
September 24, 2022  
Proceeds raised went to Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society in recognition of National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### **COME PAINT ALBERTA PLEIN AIR PAINTING SERIES**

**April 23, May 14, June 4, June 25, and July 6, 2022**

This series was organized by Laurie Aldridge, Louise Lacey-Rokosh, and Theresa Williams and culminated in the exhibition *Come Paint Alberta*. This initiative has also spurred an Alberta-wide collaboration between Leighton Art Centre, Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Coutts Centre for Western Canadian Heritage, Route 22 Artist Collective Gallery, and Rosebud Art Collective.

### **CLOTHESLINE ART MARKET**

**Online: May 21 to June 30 | In Person: June 4 and 5, 2022**

We were happy to host the 35th Annual Clothesline Art Sale in person and online. This important annual fundraiser supports artists, children's programs, and environmental stewardship.

### **PAINT THE FOOTHILLS**

**September 9 and 10, 2022**

Paint the Foothills celebrated the tradition of plein air painting. Held during Alberta Culture Days, this event featured artists painting the foothills, a wet paint competition, and a series of free plein air workshops. We welcomed over 360 visitors to the centre during this two-day event.

### **HARVEST DINNER**

**September 10, 2022**

The first annual Harvest Dinner was a chance to celebrate with community in a beautiful foothills setting.

### **THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ART TOUR IN ALBERTA**

**September 16 to 17 | December 2 to 3, 2022**

This collaborative self-drive tour continues to be a robust community endeavour, which opens art galleries and private artist studios to visitors for a two-day event.



**OPEN HOUSE: EXPANDING HORIZONS  
A NEW VISION FOR OUR EDUCATION CENTRE**

**October 19, 2022**

A feasibility study was undertaken to examine the Leighton Art Centre Education Centre. The heritage schoolhouse “Ballyhamage” was still fully functioning, but the pottery and weaving studios were found to be degrading beyond repair. Our beloved spaces had been patched and pulled together for years by dedicated staff, volunteers, and tradespeople, but they were signaling that it was time to renew and rebuild. In our first open house, we turned to community – to gather the support of artists and companies, naturalists and neighbours, friends and visionaries to discuss the future of our Education Centre.

**FESTIVE FOOTHILLS ART SALE**

**November 5 to December 21, 2021**

*Festive Foothills Art Sale* is a great chance for community artists to sell their work. This is an important annual fundraiser for Leighton Art Centre. Proceeds raised support artists, children’s programs, and environmental stewardship at Leighton Art Centre.

**BIRD NESTING BOX PROGRAM**

Leighton Art Centre hosts a formal migratory bird ecology study led by naturalist Jim Critchley. The program monitors and studies the migratory patterns of mountain bluebirds and tree swallows in our Nest Box Trail system. Jim holds a license from Environment Canada to band our nest box adults and nestlings. The 2022 study of 14 Nest Boxes observed the following:

<b>MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS</b>	1st Broods	2nd Broods	Total
# of successful nests	3	0	2
# of eggs	18	0	18
# of nestlings	17	0	17
# of fledged young	17	0	17
# of banded birds	2 (Adults)	11 (Young)	13

**TREE SWALLOWS**

# of successful nests	7		
# of eggs	48		
# of nestlings	41		
# of fledged young	31		
# of birds banded	32(Adults)	7 (Young)	9 (total)

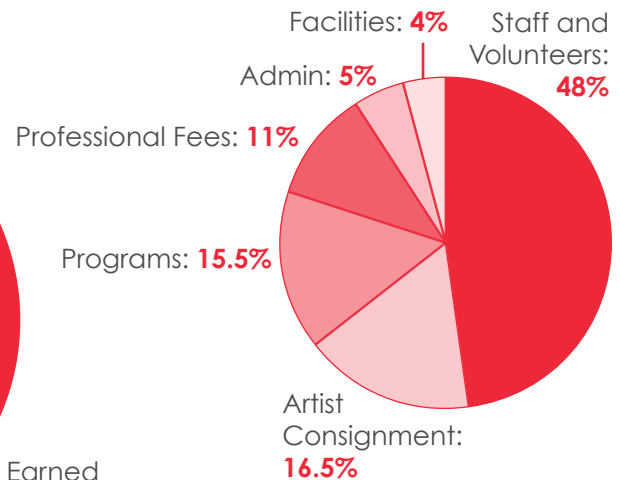
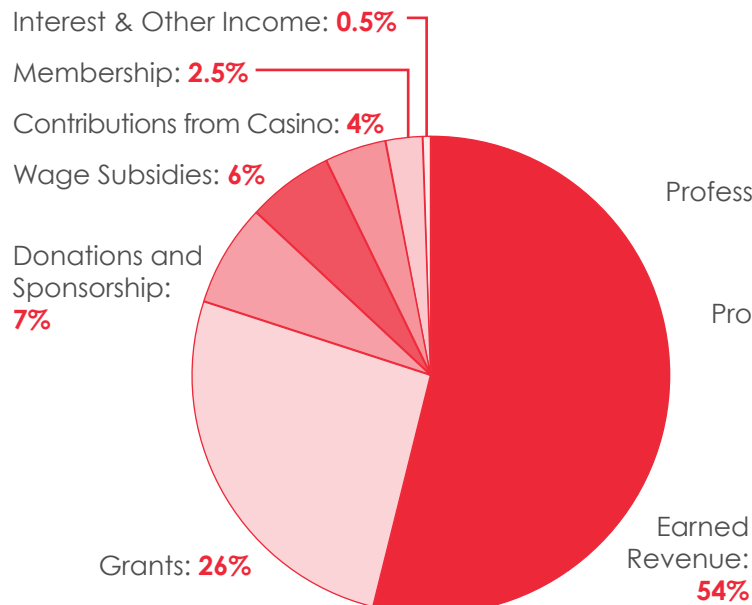
# THE NUMBERS

For 2022 Audited Financial Statements visit:

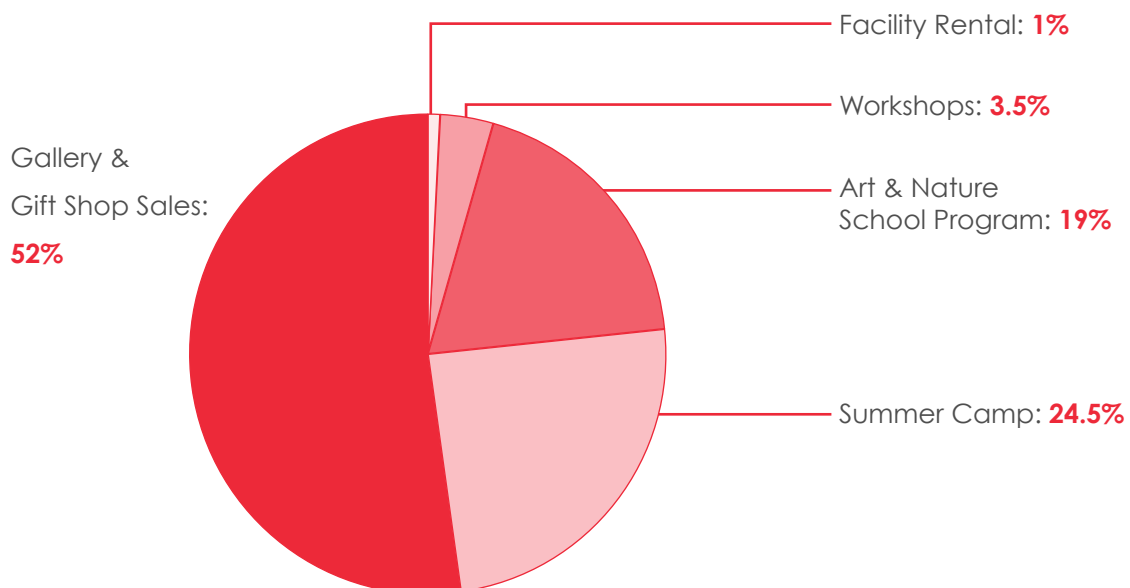
[leightoncentre.org/about/board-of-directors/](http://leightoncentre.org/about/board-of-directors/)

**OPERATING REVENUE: \$963,315**

**OPERATING EXPENSES: \$1,024,201**



**EARNED REVENUE BREAKDOWN:**

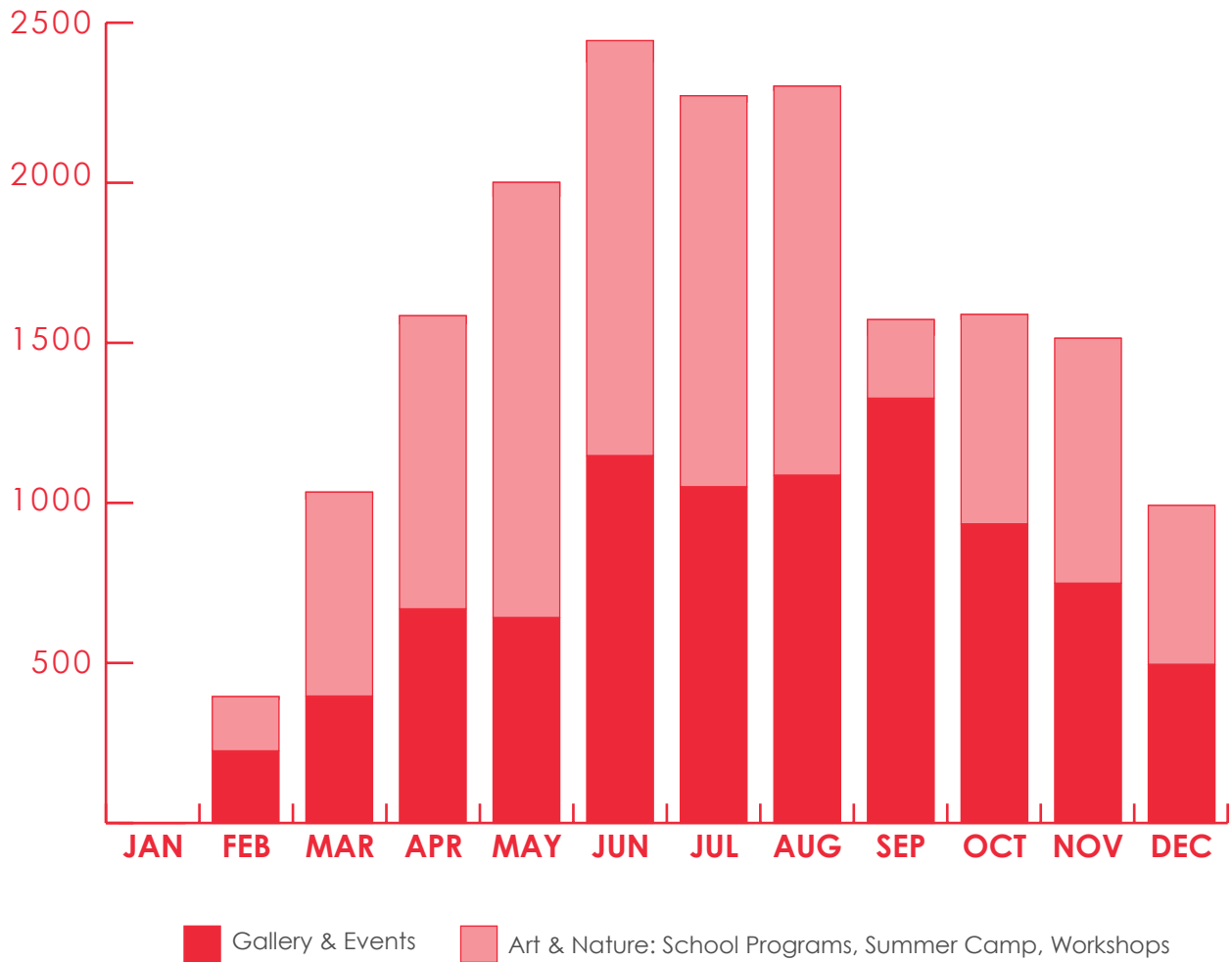




## THE NUMBERS

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### ATTENDANCE: 17,746



### COMMUNITY:

Members: **568**  
Volunteer Hours: **2,165**  
Earned by Artists: **\$202,403**  
Social Media: **9,282**  
Email Subscribers: **2,757**

## THE TEAM

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Conway  
Chair

Annette Resler  
Secretary

Darryl Hass  
Treasurer

Melissa Cole  
Past Chair

Michele Chiasson-Suart  
Director

Kirsten Christopherson  
Director

Jim Critchley  
Director

Lynne Cunningham  
Director

Jodi Currie  
Director

Sarah Johnson  
Director

Holly Wennerstrom  
Director

### MANAGEMENT

Christina Cuthbertson  
Executive Director

Lindsay Corbet  
Manager of Exhibitions,  
Volunteers & Events

Amanda MacKay  
Director of Marketing &  
Communications

Alison Marshall  
Manager of Gallery Shop &  
Guest Services

Dave Parkinson  
Manager of Facilities and  
Grounds

Coreen Thornhill  
Manager of Public Programs

### EDUCATION CENTRE AND GALLERY STAFF

Celeste Colborne  
Educator

Taylor Corasiniti  
Camp Counselor

Alberta DeFrancesco  
Educator

Abigail Dyke  
Gallery Assistant

Olivia Glabus  
Camp Counselor

Olivia Felstrom-Oickle  
Camp Counselor

Tice Kehler  
Grounds and Facilities

Chandra Kuran  
Educator

Morgan Martino  
Gallery Assistant

Riley Merchant  
Gallery Assistant

Joanne Smith  
Gallery Assistant

Amanda Tanner  
Educator

Manhattan Turn  
Camp Counselor

Tatiana Vacey  
Camp Counselor

### CONTACT US

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**LEIGHTON FOUNDATION, CANADA REVENUE AGENCY # 119241917 RR 0001**





## SUPPORTERS

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*Linda Putnam  
Legacy Fund*



Western Wheel



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