

LEIGHTON ART CENTRE

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

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



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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.

Cover photo by Lindsay Corbet: INISKIM September 2020

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Adaptability and resilience aptly describe 2020 at the Leighton Art Centre. As the world reeled from wave after wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, we pulled together to explore creative opportunities to support our community.

On March 16th the Leighton Art Centre was mandated by the Government of Alberta to temporarily close our doors to the public because of COVID-19. All on-site Education Centre programs between March 16 – June 30 were canceled, and major events and workshops were postponed. We accessed the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program to ensure our talented staff remained employed to respond to the challenges in front of us. Staff then diligently worked from home to adapt our programming to the unfolding situation. Our priority was to focus on tasks that enabled us to remain financially sustainable, be of service to our community, and continue to meet objectives outlined in the 2019-2022 Business & Action Plan.

Like many arts and cultural institutions across the globe, the pandemic hit us hard. We closed our doors and reduced our capacity in many ways, during what would have been a period of fully subscribed programming. However, our vision to enrich lives through connections with art, nature, and history remained central to our endeavors. In April we launched *Arts 4 Hearts*, an initiative that sent 600 original art cards to seniors in extended care who were unable to connect with family and friends. We developed a new website and online shop and were able to host our first virtual exhibition - the *18th Annual Juried Members Show*, which saw over 3600 online visitors and was featured on CBC Radio

Canada and in the Okotoks Western Wheel. *Clothesline Online* was presented via our online shop from June 13th to 30th. The event featured 60 artists and over 300 works of art and was seen by over 5,000 online visitors. Through this endeavor we were able to raise over \$25,000. In October we partnered with the National Arts Centre and the Canadian Academy of Mask and Puppetry to present *INISKIM*, a filmed and live performance which told a traditional Blackfoot story of the bison and their relationship to the people and the land. Ultimately, the challenges of 2020 were matched by the effort and ingenuity of staff and volunteers, and we were able to:

- Provide opportunities for hundreds of local artists to exhibit their work and earn income from the sale of their artwork.
- Create a robust website and online community that fostered connection and participation through online interactions.
- Offer virtual exhibitions, school programs, workshops, and events that were attended by thousands of visitors online.
- Safely open our spaces for summer camps, workshops, and events while carefully monitoring and adjusting to changing health guidelines.
- Maintain our heritage home, historic schoolhouse, and beautiful natural setting.

These are just a few examples of what we were able to achieve in 2020. None of this would have been possible without the strong leadership of our Board of Directors, the unwavering dedication of our staff, the generosity of our volunteers, the creativity of our artists, and the support of grantors, donors, and sponsors. Ahead we envision a return to the exploration of art, history, and nature that surround the Leighton Art Centre, and we will keep our doors open wide every moment we can.

Respectfully submitted,



Christina Cuthbertson
Executive Director

EXHIBITIONS



YOUTH WORKS 2020

Youth artists from junior & senior high schools
JANUARY 11 to FEBRUARY 15, 2020 (On-site)

Back for its sixth year, *Youth Works* features artwork by local high school students. This year's theme is "photosynthesize"—students will make use of photography in their projects. This might mean photography as the finished product, photography incorporated into the finished product and/or photography as inspiration for their works.



WITHIN WINTER'S EYE

Stacey McRae, Marney Delver & Jan Daley
FEBRUARY 22 to JUNE 14, 2020 (On-site)

This group installation transformed the gallery into a winter dreamscape of monochromatic artwork including porcelain sculpture, mixed media painting and silver jewelry.



THEY WILL ALL BE GHOSTS SOON

Julya Hajnoczky
FEBRUARY 22 TO JUNE 14, 2020 (On-site)

This timely exhibit examines human relationships with the natural world and how ecosystems are changing as we journey through the Anthropocene. Our current days are remarkable in that, for the first time in our planet's history, the greatest geological and ecological impacts on Earth are being caused by humans.



18TH ANNUAL JURIED MEMBERS SHOW

APRIL 25 to JUNE 7, 2020 (Virtual)

Leighton Art Centre's 18th Annual Juried Members Show was our first virtual exhibition. It included 115 works of acrylic, oil painting, watercolour, photography, felting, printmaking, and mixed media.



EVENTS & PROGRAMS

March: Our Gallery Shop launched the *Monthly Members Collection* initiative, which ensures valuable exposure for four to five artists per month. From March to December 2020, we displayed 52 artists work - totalling 312 new pieces.

April: *Art 4 Hearts* rallied our community to create! We delivered 600 handmade art cards to seniors living in extended care who were isolated from family and even their fellow residents, due to COVID-19.

June 13 to June 30: *Clothesline Online Art Sale* transitioned this event to a virtual setting. We saw over 5,000 online visitors and realized over \$25,000 in art sales.

July to August: *Art & Nature Summer Camps* for kids ran at 1/4 capacity throughout July and August. We nurtured the creativity of 128 children, gave them valuable outdoor and social time, and generated \$25,980.

July to November: *Art & Nature Workshops* led by local artists and naturalists included everything from birdwatching to inks and felting.

August: The *Spark Science Road Trip* was a new collaboration with TELUS Spark, and we hope to continue this fun initiative in the future.

September 12: Leela Aheer, Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism, and Status of Women, and RJ Sigurdson, local MLA, visited the Leighton Art Centre for a tour during Alberta Culture Days.



SUMMER SALON

Members' Invitational

JUNE 25 to SEPTEMBER 6, 2020 (On-site & Virtual)

Featuring work by artists from Alberta and beyond, we celebrated the summer by enjoying art inspired by nature's splendor and beauty.



IN THE OPEN AIR

Juried Group Exhibition

SEPTEMBER 12 to OCTOBER 31, 2020 (On-site & Virtual)

In the Open Air honours the practice of creating art outdoors, in the moment. En plein air is a French expression that translates to "in the open air". Creating art outdoors goes back centuries and was popularized by the French Impressionists in the 1800's. Artists painting in the open air attempt to capture the fleeting effects of light and colour of the landscape at any given moment.



September 12 and 13: *Paint the Foothills* celebrated the tradition of plein air painting. Held during Alberta Culture Days, this event featured 60 artists painting the foothills, 50 entries for our wet paint competition, and a series of plein air workshops. We welcomed over 260 visitors to the centre during this two-day event.

September 26 and 27: *The Most Beautiful Art Tour in Alberta* brought Leighton Art Centre over 250 visitors, 90% of whom were newcomers to the centre.

October 3: Leighton Art Centre hosted *INISKIM*, a filmed and live performance of by the Canadian Academy of Mask and Puppetry and the National Arts Centre.

October 31: *Art-Oween on Halloween* at the Leighton Art Centre was a sold-out event, safely bringing creative and spooooky fun to some family cohorts.

October: Art & Nature programming accommodated 60 homeschoolers over several weeks.

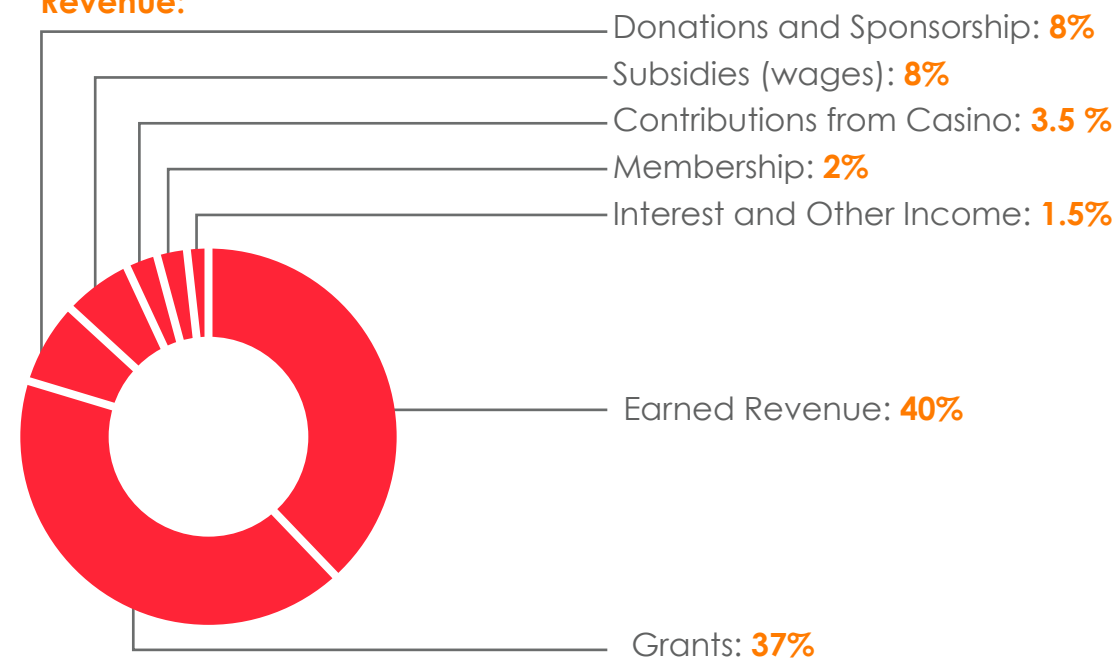
November: With the generous support of the Linda Putnam Legacy Fund, 100 kids from Radisson Park School attended our *Art To Go* program.

November 5 to December 13: *Christmas in the Country Art Sale* opened on-site and online November 5. Despite having to close early due to COVID restrictions, this popular annual event generated \$81,819 in sales.

THE NUMBERS

For 2020 Audited Financial Statements visit:
leightoncentre.org/about/board-of-directors/

Revenue:



Attendance: 7,549



Members: 318

Volunteer Hours: 538

No. of Artists Showcased: 180

Artworks Sold: 356

Amount Paid to Artists: \$124,440

Social Media Followers:

Facebook: **3,069 (29% increase)**

Instagram: **3,913 (54% increase)**

Twitter: **702 (11% increase)**

THE TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michele Chiasson-Suart
Board Chair

Melissa Cole
Vice Chair

Annette Resler
Secretary

Darryl Hass
Treasurer

Kirsten Christopherson
Director

Jim Conway
Director

Jim Critchley
Director

Lynne Cunningham
Director

Sarah Johnson
Director

Holly Wennerstrom
Director

MANAGEMENT

Stephanie Doll
Executive Director

Bailey Arnholz
Director of Education

Lindsay Corbet
Manager of Exhibitions,
Volunteers & Events

Amanda MacKay
Director of Marketing &
Communications

Alison Marshall
Manager of Gallery
Shop & Guest Services

Coreen Thornhill
Senior Educator

STAFF

Kourtney Branagan
Educator

Zoe Dobbin
Educator

Caylee Dzurka
Educator

Alyssa Fortin
Camp Counsellor

Chandra Kuran
Educator

Jay-Leena Looy
Camp Counsellor

Riley Merchant
Gallery Assistant

Jenna Swift
Educator

Manhattan Turn
Camp Counsellor

Elizabeth Watts
Camp Counsellor

Lauren Wills
Camp Counsellor

GROUNDS

Dave Parkinson
Groundskeeping &
Maintenance

CONTACT US

403.931.3633
info@leightoncentre.org
leightoncentre.org

Facebook:
@leightonartcentre

Instagram:
@leightartcentre

Twitter:
@leightoncentre

LEIGHTON FOUNDATION, CANADA REVENUE AGENCY # 119241917 RR 0001



SUPPORTERS



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