



s m i t h e r s ART GALLERY

2024-2025 Annual Report

EXHIBITIONS

VISUAL ARTS
PROGRAMMING

ARTISAN SHOP

FUNDRAISING &
EVENTS



MISSION STATEMENT

"Creating Community through Art"

MANDATE

- Maintain and operate an art gallery to provide access to art exhibitions;
- Support local and regional artists;
- Maintain and operate a workshop space to provide visual arts education to children, youth, adults and seniors;
- Encourage connections and growth in the arts community

CORE VALUES

ACCESSIBILITY

Financial, physical limitations and other barriers to participation will not limit access to programming

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Equitable access to visual arts programming for underrepresented artists and diverse audiences.

OPENNESS & ADAPTABILITY

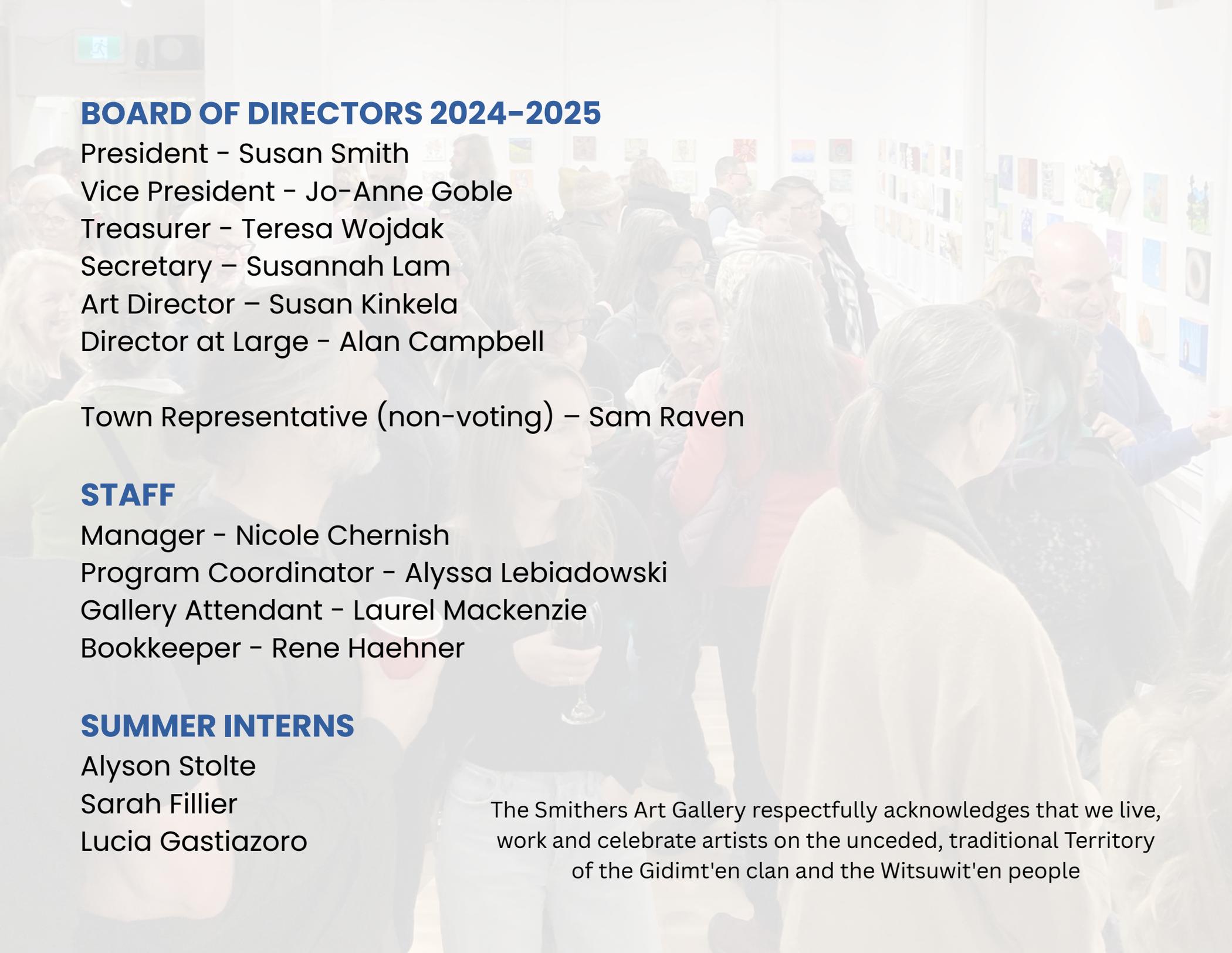
Respond and adapt to the needs, aspirations, challenges and opportunities of our community

INTEGRITY & RESPECT

Commitment to fair and transparent processes in gallery policies and decision making

SUSTAINABILITY

Commitment to financial stability, quality programming and professional staffing to ensure organization thrives



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025

President – Susan Smith

Vice President – Jo-Anne Goble

Treasurer – Teresa Wojdak

Secretary – Susannah Lam

Art Director – Susan Kinkela

Director at Large – Alan Campbell

Town Representative (non-voting) – Sam Raven

STAFF

Manager – Nicole Chernish

Program Coordinator – Alyssa Lebiadowski

Gallery Attendant – Laurel Mackenzie

Bookkeeper – Rene Haehner

SUMMER INTERNS

Alyson Stolte

Sarah Fillier

Lucia Gastiazoro

The Smithers Art Gallery respectfully acknowledges that we live, work and celebrate artists on the unceded, traditional Territory of the Gidimt'en clan and the Witsuwit'en people

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Susan Smith

The Smithers Gallery Association is pleased to present our 2025 Annual Report which covers the numerous exhibitions, activities and new initiatives that have taken place at the Smithers Art Gallery and Creation Station during the past fiscal year of April 1, 2024-March 31, 2025.

We hope that our Annual Report will give our community, our members, and our financial supporters a better understanding of the scope of our organization and the successes and challenges that the organization has experienced over this past year. Our organization continues to focus on excellence in exhibitions, programming and community outreach.

Firstly, the board of directors would like to recognize the dynamic leadership of our energetic gallery manager, Nicole Chernish, who entered her seventh year in this position during the past fiscal year.

Nicole's passion for the Visual Arts and her ongoing grant-writing efforts continue to bring greater financial stability to the organization which allows us to hire additional support staff and further advances key goals including improving accessibility and inclusivity within our diverse community through expanded programming and supports.

Secondly, the board would like to give a big shout to our Program Coordinator Alyssa Lebiadowski, and to our various past and present support staff at the gallery throughout the fiscal year 2024-2025, including Laurel Mackenzie, Alyson Stolte, Sarah Fillier and Lucia Gastiazoro. Our contractors are also very much appreciated including our bookkeeper, Rene Haehner.

Finally, we would like to show our appreciation and acknowledge the many people in our community that support the gallery as gallery volunteers and committee members. As well, the support of local funders including our business community is truly appreciated! The Town of Smithers and the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako partially fund the Gallery and recognize the value that the Visual Arts contribute to the quality of life in our community. Councillor Sam Raven has been a pleasure to work with in her role as council liaison to the gallery!

In closing I particularly want to acknowledge and recognize those who serve as our Board of Directors, including those who have exited the board over the past year. The Board of Directors of a non-profit organization have an important role to fulfill and are essential to the success of the Smithers Gallery Association. I thank you all for your contributions and commitment; your work and commitment are truly appreciated!



Gallery Summer Students (2024)

OPERATIONS REPORT Nicole Chernish

The Smithers Gallery Association (operating as the Smithers Art Gallery) provides both visual art Educational Programming and access to Art Exhibitions to Smithers, the greater Bulkley-Nechako Regional District and nearby communities. We are the only Gallery and Visual Arts Education provider open year round within a two hour plus driving radius of our locations. Total Program participation (exhibition visits and educational programming) was 10,682 from April 1, 2024-March 31, 2025.

STAFFING

In addition to our full-time manager, we have a full time position focused on visual arts education programming plus a Saturday attendant. We employed 3 full-time staff for July-August through the Canada Summer Jobs and the Young Canada Works programs.



Nicole Chernish, Alyssa Lebiadowski

The Gallery

2

Full Time Staff
1 Part Time,
3 Summer Students

10,239

IN PERSON VISITS (8% INCREASE)

8671 EXHIBIT VISITORS,
790 SATURDAY DROP INS,
778 STUDENT & TEACHERS

5

Special Events & Festivals

612

Participants at
festivals & events

EXHIBITIONS (no exhibitions in Dec or Jan)

The Gallery hosted eight exhibitions and one community exhibition in 2024/2025. Artists were local, regional or from BC and one international artist from France.

Our community exhibition was the Youth Art Exhibition where we had 64 youth who displayed their art. This exhibition is held every two years and gives local and regional high school students the opportunity to showcase and sell their work through a professional gallery. Young artists from the Bulkley Valley, Hazelton, Kispiox and Burns Lake participated. 496 visitors (including 44 online visits) attended the exhibition which ran for almost a month. 14 pieces of art were sold.



Jacquin Desplanches 2024

Emalee Ebare



Sophia Mattson



Elizabeth Merkens

EXHIBITION STATISTICS

Gallery in-person visits over the past year increased by 8% to 10,239 in 2024/25 including 8,671 visitors to our Exhibitions Programming, 38 class visits with 778 students and teachers participating and 790 Saturday drop-ins, which included children and adults.

Online exhibitions are a regular part of our programming and resulted in an additional 609 views (not included above).

EXHIBITIONS SCHEDULE 2024 –2025



Mo Hamilton & Susan Clay Smith vessels
Amanda Hartman finding joy

april 3 - may 4



MICHELLE GAZELY
entangled in blooms

and



JEFF WILSON
north by northwest

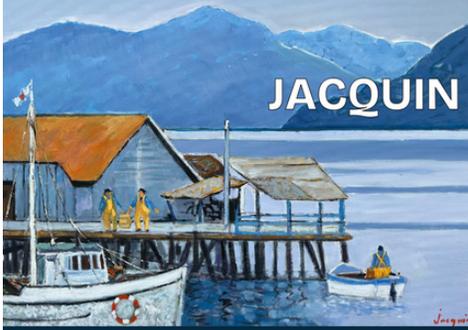


MICHELLE STONEY

june 12 - july 6

drumbeats
uniting community

Opening Reception Friday, June 14 7-9pm
smithersart.org/michelle-stoney



JACQUIN

Connecting Continents
côtes ouest/west coasts
July 10 - August 3



BETTY KOVACIC
We are One

and



NORTHERN ARTIST ADVENTURE GROUP
Derelict:
Waiting in Ruins
Aug 8 - Aug 31



LORI GOLDBERG
when the forest breathes, I do too

SARAH HICKS
cosmos out of chaos

september 5 - october 5
opening reception: friday, sept 6, 7-9 pm

smithers ART GALLERY smithersart.org



6X6 AUCTION

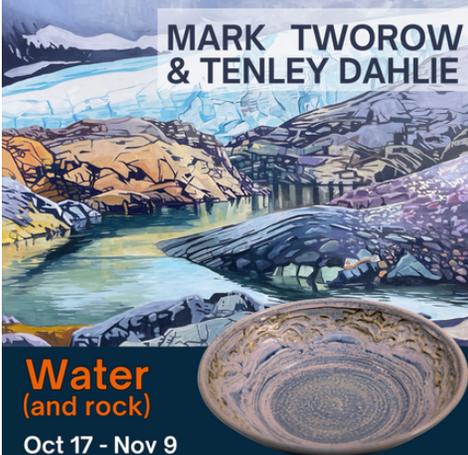
Exhibition from Oct 9-12

October 11th 7-9
Doors open: 6:30

Admission \$10
(tickets at the door)

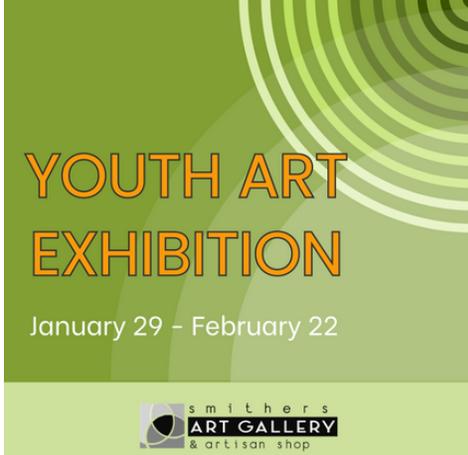
silent auction
food & drinks

Smithers Brewery and Bulkley River Booch.

MARK TWOROW & TENLEY DAHLIE

Water (and rock)
Oct 17 - Nov 9



YOUTH ART EXHIBITION

January 29 - February 22

smithers ART GALLERY & artisan shop



Susan Purney Mark
the industrial shoreline
Feb 26-Mar 2

and



Emily Wilson
up around the bend

Exhibitions

8,671
VISITORS

1

International
Artist

8

Exhibitions

49

Class Visits

1

Youth Exhibition -
64 Artists

236

Artists
6x6 Fundraiser

778

Students &
Teachers

609

Online Exhibition
Visits

3

BC
Artists

11

Regional
Artists

5

Local Artists

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Smithers Gallery Association is the only non-profit organization offering art education programs in Smithers and the Bulkley Valley to children, youth and adults. We have added 25 workshops and increased our participation by 152 people (since last fiscal) to meet the growing demand for visual arts education.

We offer bursaries to anyone facing financial barriers as we are committed to ensuring everyone can have access to visual arts!

Secondary location: Creation Station (3866 Railway Ave)

Since February 14 2018, our workshop space (Creation Station) has been located in the Town of Smithers building on Railway. This space is no longer available and we had to move as of September 2025. A new location has been found but has greatly increased our rental expenses. Ongoing efforts will need to be made to accommodate this increased expense so we can continue to serve the community with this vital service that keeps art thriving in our Valley.

VISUAL ARTS EDUCATION STATISTICS

In our fiscal 2024-2025 year, our Education Programming had a total of 1233 participants! 188 children in workshops, 255 in adult workshops and 790 Saturday drop-in free art activities. We offered 27 child programs (totaling in 96 days of programming!), 33 adult programs, 16 Saturday drop-in sessions (NO COST) at the gallery and 5 special event activities in collaboration with other organizations and non-profits in the area.



443
PARTICIPANTS
(291 IN PREVIOUS FISCAL)

2
Spring Break
Programs

Workshops

27
Child
Programs

33
Adult
Programs

96
Child Programing
Days

13
Wait Lists

60
Adult and Child
Programs
(38 in previous fiscal)

CHILDREN & YOUTH WORKSHOP SCHEDULE 2024 –2025

April 2, 9, 16, 2024 (ages 6-8)
Spring Mixed Media Art Camp

April 4, 11, 18, 2024 (ages 9-12)
Origami Art Class

April 6, 2024 (ages 7-9)
Art/Science Lab

May 9, 16, 23, 30, 2024 (ages 7-9)
Spring Mixed Media Art Camp

July 9-12, 2024 (ages 6 - 8)
Nature Explorations Art Camp

July 9-12, 2024 (ages 9 - 12)
Nature Explorations Art Camp

July 16-19, 2024 (ages 6 - 8)
3D Explorations Art Camp

July 16-19, 2024 (ages 6 - 8)
3D Explorations Art Camp

July 30-Aug 2, 2024 (ages 6 - 8)
Art/Science Explorations Art Camp

July 30-Aug 2, 2024 (ages 9 - 12)
Art/Science Explorations Art Camp

August 6-9, 2024 (ages 8-11)
Advanced Watercolours with Jen Mio

August 6-9, 2024 (ages 6 - 8)
Nature Explorations Art Camp

August 6-9, 2024 (ages 9 - 12)
Nature Explorations Art Camp

August 13-16, 2024 (ages 6 - 8)
3D Explorations Art Camp

August 13-16, 2024 (ages 9 - 12)
3D Explorations Art Camp

August 20-23, 2024 (ages 8-11)
Advanced Mixed Media with Jen Mio

August 20-23, 2024 ages (6 - 8)
Art/Science Explorations Art Camp

August 20-23, 2024 (ages 9 - 12)
Art/Science Explorations Art Camp

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 2024
Fall Mixed Media Art Camp

October 16, 23, 30, 2024
After SGHOUL Halloween Art Camp

November 15 2024
Kids Epoxy Resin Ornaments

November 20, 27 December 4, 11, 2024
Artistry Academy Camp

February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2025 9-12 yrs
Artful Adventures

February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025 6 - 9 yrs
Tiny Hands, Big Art

February 14 gr 1-3
NID Art Camp

March 18, 19, 20, 21, 2025 9-12 yrs
Spring Into Art Spring Break Camp

March 25, 26, 27, 28, 2025 7-9 yrs
Unconventional 3D Art Spring Break Camp

ADULT WORKSHOP SCHEDULE 2024 –2025

April 6, 2024

Needle Felting for Beginners

April 13, 2024

Intermediate Stained Glass Workshop

April 20, 2024

Stained Glass Workshop

April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 2024

Absolute Beginners Watercolour Workshop

April 26, 27, 2024

Advancing Watercolour Practice

May 4, 2024

Jigsaw Linocut Printmaking Workshop

May 14, 27, 2024

Art as Self Care

May 11, 2024

Make Your Mark – Landscape

May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 2024

Monday Night Life Drawing Group

September 7, 2024

Photo Transfer Mixed Media Workshop

September 8, 2024

Mono Printing Workshop

September 21, 2024

Acrylic Paint Pour Workshop

September 28, 2024

Art for Personal Growth Workshop

October 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024

Absolute Beginners Watercolours

October 12, 2024

Art Without Intent Workshop

October 26, Nov 2, 2024

Introduction to Landscapes in Oils

November 2, 2024

Art for Personal Growth Workshop

November 9, 2024

Peak Creativity Workshop

November 16, 2024

Expressive Life Drawing Workshop

November 23, 24, 2024

Gathering Hoop Basket Workshop

November 26, 2024

Scandinavian Star Workshop

November 30, 2024

Needle Felted Gnome Workshop

December 7, 2024

Art for Personal Growth Workshop

December 7, 2024

Needle Felting Workshop

January 25, 2025

Candle Making Workshop

February 3, 5, 10, 12, 2025

Basketry Skill Building Workshop

February 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025

Creating Depth in Watercolours

February 8, 2025

Textured Painting Workshop

February 15, 2025

Art Without Intent Workshop

February 22, 2025

Intro to Drawing Workshop

March 1, 2025

Little Pinch Pots

March 8, 9, 2025

Energetic Oil Painting

March 29, 2025

Painting with Alcohol Inks

Artist Support

ARTISAN SHOP

Our in house artisan shop sells work created by local and regional artists and artisans, providing the community with access to original works and artists with a venue to sell them. We continue to expand our indigenous artist offerings and encourage new artists to submit their work.

EXHIBITIONS

All artists (outside of community group exhibitions) receive fees for displaying their work in our gallery as outlined by guidelines developed through CARFAC. This provides artists with a small fee regardless of whether they sell their work during their exhibition and allows them to qualify for funding through Canada Council and BC Arts Council. As one of the few galleries in the northern part of BC to pay these fees, we provide a platform where local and regional artists can develop. This in turn provides the community with a professional visual art gallery and community space with access to a wider variety of media and artists for viewing.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Starting mid-November, through the month of December, we transform the Gallery into a seasonal market where artists from across the region can display and sell their work.

FINANCES

2024/2025 year ended with a deficit of \$2,371 which decreased our net assets to \$45,555. At the end of the fiscal year, the association had \$144,216 in cash assets (\$90,560 in deferred revenue from grants). Included in the cash amount is \$13,274 held in an interest-bearing term deposit.

FUNDRAISING

The Smithers Art Gallery continually strives to organize fundraising events that meet our goals of representing and supporting visual artists in our community, making connections with the broader arts community and providing opportunities for learning about the visual arts.

6X6 Art Show is held every other year with a total revenue of \$13,592 - 236 finished panels were available for purchase

Wintergold Gallery had 29 vendors and 813 visitors. The event brought in \$2,917 in revenue with expenses of \$239.20

One of a Kind is the Gallery's artisan Christmas Gift Shop. Sales over the period was \$18,129.79 which provided \$4532.44 in commission to the Gallery. We had 948 visitors from November 22 - December 24, 2024.

Gallery Artisan Shop is open year round. Sales provide income for local artists while also providing additional revenue to the gallery. Sales were approximately \$23,544.22 (not including our Christmas Market) bringing in an additional \$5886.05 in commission.

GRANTS

The Gallery Association has worked diligently to secure operational funding through grant partnerships. This fiscal year we were successful in acquiring an operating grant from the BC Arts Council. This funding is fairly stable- it depends on the Provincial Government providing funding to the BC Arts Council. We have received notice that we are approved for funding until 2027.

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako - Grant-in-Aid

Town of Smithers - Grant-in-Aid, Creation Station lease & associated tax exemption

BC Ministry of Finance Community Gaming Grant - Operating Assistance

BC Arts Council - Operating Grant- Visual Arts Organization

BC Arts Council - Resiliency Grant- Visual Arts Organization

Young Canada Works - Summer Student Funding

Rural Initiatives Plan 54 - Art Pulse Survey Grant

Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest Corporation - Riverside Mural (Deferred to 2025/2026)

Our grateful thanks to the following

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Nature's Pantry Hy-Tech Drilling Ltd

Thanks to these local businesses that continue to offer discounts and special offers to Gallery Members:

Mills Interior Stationery Aquabatics Heartstrings

VOLUNTEERS

A HUGE thank you to everyone who has helped out this year! You are the life and soul of the Gallery - your time and commitment is highly valued and appreciated.

CURATORIAL/SELECTION COMMITTEE

Selection Committee: Chair Susan Kinkela
Facundo Gastiazoro, Melanie Morin, and Anne Desplanches

Other Thanks

Edmison Mehr Chartered Accountants