



s m i t h e r s  
**ART GALLERY**



Photo from June 2020—BC Museums Association Magazine front cover

# ANNUAL REPORT

**April 1, 2020 — March 31, 2021**

# MISSION STATEMENT

*"creating community through art"*



s m i t h e r s  
**ART GALLERY**

## MANDATE

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

## CORE VALUES guide the vision, creation and delivery of SGA programs and services

1. Accessibility: Financial and physical limitations and other barriers to participation will not limit access to programming
2. Diversity and Inclusivity: Striving for equitable access to visual arts and programming for underrepresented artists and diverse audiences
3. Openness & Adaptability: Desire to respond and adapt to the needs, aspirations, challenges and opportunities of our community.
4. Integrity & Respect: Commitment to fair and transparent processes in galleries policies and decision making
5. Sustainability: Commitment to financial stability, quality programming and professional staffing to ensure organization thrives.



## Board of Directors 2020-2021

President - Susan Smith  
Vice-President - Julie Chaplin  
Treasurer - Teresa Wodjak  
Secretary - Britt Stenberg-White  
Director at Large - Marie-Lou Lefrancois  
Art Director - Francois Depey  
Town Representative (non-voting) - Mika Meyer

## Staff

Manager—Nicole Chernish  
Programming & Exhibition Preparator—Michelle Gazely



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Susan Smith

The April 2020- March 2021 gallery year kicked off in full pandemic mode, with local business and services scrambling to protect staff and community by radically adjusting their ways of operation.

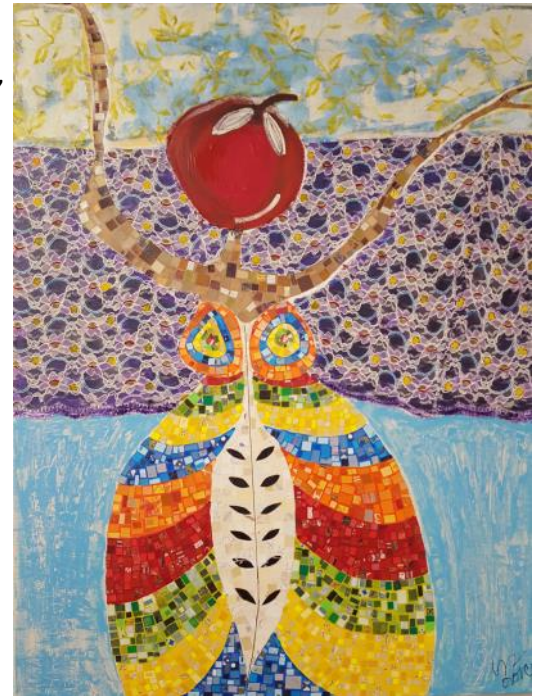
Board and staff discussions resulted in quick adjustments to our operations, beginning with the gallery closing its doors mid-March 2020 in order to put a Covid safety plan and to adjust to new recommended measures and orders of the Provincial Health Office.

The board of the Smithers Gallery Association directed a lot of focus on strategic visioning, planning and reconfiguring our governance model, with our decision-making shaped by the Covid 19 pandemic. We were pushed to develop new ways to deliver programming and promote exhibiting artists.

To adjust for cancellations from artists affected by travel restrictions, our exhibition schedule needed to be entirely reconfigured. After a two and a half month closure to the public, the gallery re-opened in June 2020, with new cleaning protocols, capacity limitations and a suspension of opening night events.

Our June and July 2020 exhibitions were run as pop-up multi-artist shows featuring a range of local and regional artists. Our usual Saturday drop-in art activities for children became take home activities supported by online video demonstrations and were very popular with local families.

This challenging fiscal year culminated with renewed optimism as vaccination rollout commenced. We hope that our Annual Report report will give our members a better understanding of the successes and challenges that the gallery has experienced this past year.



Linda Stringfellow



Brandon Zimmerman

The board would like to give a big thank-you to all of our excellent staff! Nicole Chernish entered her third year as gallery manager and has continued to provide strong and dynamic leadership to our organization. Nicole's extra focus on grant-writing during the pandemic brought significant success, which brought much-needed financial stability during these uncertain times.

Michelle Gazely was hired to finish the contract as Programming Coordinator (funded by Wetzink'wa) during this fiscal period which was much needed and appreciated. The galley board is very pleased that Michelle's role with the gallery has been expanded in our current fiscal year.

We were all pleased by the return of the wonderful Tina Edwards as one of our summer staff and the addition of a second very capable summer student, Nikki Hawkins who is now attending Emily Carr University of Art & Design. Both Tina and Nikki worked for the gallery from May through August 2020.

In closing, I would like to extend a big thank you to the many in our community who directly support the gallery including committee members, Board of Directors and funders. Although our gallery attendants, event volunteers and business sponsors were unable to participate in 2020 due to health and safety restrictions, we felt your support! Your contributions and commitment to the Smithers Art Gallery are truly appreciated.

# OPERATIONS REPORT

Nicole Chernish

2020 was an incredibly difficult and busy year for the Gallery as COVID19 forced the gallery and our visual arts education programming to shut down and then scale back. While the Gallery was unable to provide programming and exhibitions in our usual manner—we showed our creativity and resiliency by pivoting our programming to meet our community's needs in a difficult time.

Some highlights:

- Pop Up Shows in June and July on re-open—gave local artists the opportunity to showcase work that was able to be taken home immediately after exhibitions were postponed
- Revamp of website to include online exhibitions
- Video showcase of exhibitions to “replace” openings
- Online visual art demonstrations/paint nights
- Online Kids Activities with and without kits picked up at gallery
- Building deeper relationships with galleries/festivals in our region
- Created new fundraising opportunity for artists and galleries (Skeena Salmon)
- Strategic Planning with board and staff to solidify new mandate and guiding principles
- New grant opportunities (7) moving the gallery forward into 2021 and 2022



Cara Dawson



Sarah Zimmerman

The gallery was fortunate to receive grants from 3 agencies we have not had grants with recently: BC Arts Council, New Horizon Federal Funding and Rotary Club Smithers. We also secured additional funding for 2021 from BC Community Gaming and the Town of Smithers. All the new funds are to be used in our 2021/2022 year and beyond to hire a full time Community Engagement and Communications Coordinator, increase senior's programming, curate a group Indigenous Exhibition, purchase movable walls, stock and organize Creation station and hire a part time programming administration assistant.

This year forced the Gallery to take a hard look at how we impact our community and how we can be a leader for the arts community both in Smithers and our region. Building deeper relationships with other galleries, arts organizations and individual artists will continue to strengthen the Gallery and the voice of the northern BC arts community. I truly believe that this difficult year has strengthened the Gallery Association board, staff and the people we serve, uniting us to build a stronger northern BC arts community.

A huge thank you to Kira Westby of the BV Museum for collaborating on COVID safety planning in our respective spaces, and for being a sounding board and resource during the difficult initial stages of the pandemic.



# FINANCES

The 2020-21 fiscal year ending on March 31, 2021, was a year of growth for the gallery. We ended our 2020/2021 year with a surplus of \$3820 which increased our net assets to \$36,012. This is a change from Net Assets from \$32,192 at the beginning of the fiscal year. This surplus was a combined result of receiving wage subsidy for staff hours during the early part of the pandemic and an increase in revenues during our One of a Kind market at Christmas. This was in part due to “shop local” initiatives initiated due to the pandemic.

At the end of the fiscal year, the association has \$179,732 in cash assets (103,249 in deferred revenue from grants for next year and a 60,000 loan to be repaid in 2022. The organization also has \$12,688 in a term deposit.

As you review the financial statements you will notice some year to year differences. The first is that art sales were down \$1634 this past fiscal which was down \$16,000 from 2018/2019. We are continuing to experience a downward trend in art sales - this year's loss is not surprising since we did not have regular exhibitions. Art and Card Sales were up again this year (\$8418) from a dramatic increase (\$23,003) in 2019.

We also received additional grant funds this year from the Canada Summer Jobs and finished up the funding from Wetzink'wa for a program coordinator.



## NEW BUILDING UPDATE

A grant submitted by the Town of Smithers to the Federal/Provincial Governments for 12 million dollars was unsuccessful. An new application was made for the second phase of this funding for 8 million which was also unsuccessful. The Fundraising committee has raised over 700,000 to date with up to an additional 1 million matching dollars donated by the Tremblay family. Meetings will be held by individual stakeholders and with the Building Project Team to determine next steps.

# EXHIBITIONS

In 2020-2021 the gallery postponed five exhibitions. Several local artists were able to participate in two POP UP exhibitions during the summer months. We resumed gallery exhibitions in January 2021 and have rescheduled all artists for 2021 that were meant to show in 2020. The gallery was unable to host opening receptions and created opening videos that are released on social media as a replacement and way for artists to connect to their audience. All exhibitions were also photographed and hosted on our website for those who are unable to come into the gallery in person.

With the pivot in programming to include online access, I have included that information in our stats this year. The gallery was closed to the public from March 15, 2020 to May 31, 2020. Gallery visit over this past year totaled **9,522** including 8,561 visitors to our Exhibitions Programming and 1 class visits with 28 students and teachers participating.

We thank our volunteer selection committee for the time and care that they put into selecting exhibiting artists and our Exhibition Preparator for liaising with artists and providing excellent install/take down of our exhibitions.



Emily Klaassen



Mark Tworow

## EXHIBITIONS SCHEDULE 2020 –2021

Mar 15-May 29	Gallery Closed due to COVID19 restrictions
June	POP UP — Sarah Zimmerman/Emily Klaassen/Mark Tworow
July	POP UP— Perry Rath/Brandon Zimmerman/Anneh Kessels/Klaassen/Twoorow
Aug	Skeena Salmon heARTs Fundraiser & Exhibition
Sept 8-Nov 7	Member Show
Nov 12-Dec 24	One of a Kind - Artisan Christmas Gift Shop
January	Closed
Jan 26 - Feb 27	Matt Simmons
March 2-April 3	Fantastic5point0



# PROGRAMMING

## Secondary location Creation Station (3866 Railway Ave)

In our fiscal 2020-2021 year, our Visual Arts Education Programming had to change the way we interacted with the community. Once we were able to re-open and resume in person children's programming, our class sizes were limited to 6 participants per class. Education Programming had a total of **1,796** participants including 127 from our Adult Workshop Series, both in person and online. **Kids Summer Art Camps**

This program started in 2006. Due to increased demand, the half day program was increased to 3 weeks each summer in 2017 and 4 weeks in 2019. In 2020 we ran 8, 2 day sessions of kids summer workshops with 40 participants.

## Kids Afterschool workshops & Spring Break

This program began in 2017 with sessions for ages 9-12 and for ages 13+. In Spring 2019 we expanded the program to include a series for ages 6-8 years. In 2020 the gallery had 55 participants in our after school programming (15 youth and 40 children) and an additional 16 in our 4 Spring Break Art Camps.

## Online Art Activities – Kids

This program was developed to replace the Saturday morning drop-in activities that could not run due to COVID19. We had 533 children and parents access our free online activities.

## Adult Spring and Fall Workshop Series

Continuing Art Education ages 16 and over. We had 127 adults take part in our online programming/demonstrations.



**Family Day Fun!**

Explore art and natural history with **FREE Family Day activity kits** from the **Smithers Art Gallery & Bulkley Valley Museum**

Kits can be picked up during regular business hours at:  
Smithers Art Gallery and BV Museum (Feb 12th, 13th, 16th)  
Hudson Bay Mountain Resort (Family Day weekend only)  
Bulkley Valley Wholesale (Family Day weekend only)

Logos for Smithers Art Gallery, Bulkley Valley Museum, BC Family Day, and British Columbia are at the bottom.



Skeena Salmon heART Auction

# SPECIAL EVENTS

**BC Family Day** - in collaboration with the BV Museum, we created 125 kid's activity kits. We distributed the kits at the ski hill and in the gallery and museum. All kits were picked up and there were over 1000 views of the online video.

# 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. This year we had to postpone our 6x6 auction and Wintergold due to COVID19 restrictions.

**Skeena Salmon heARTs Auction** In response to Covid19, the Smithers Art Gallery partnered with the Terrace Art Gallery, the Misty Rivers Arts Council and the Skeena Salmon Festival to create a heart themed exhibition and auction. The fundraiser shared sales equally between hard hit artists and galleries while providing the community with an amazingly colourful and timely exhibition. Each gallery had a fabulous response to the content and the auction, creating new relationships between artists and communities in the region.

**One of a Kind** is the Gallery's artisan Christmas Gift Shop. In 2020 the gallery commission totaled **\$6354** ( an increase of \$1777 over last year) even though the number of visitors dropped to **860** from **1062** in 2019. The shop was open for an additional 2 weeks with Wintergold being cancelled.

**Gallery Artisan Shop** opened in the gallery from June 1-Nov 10 this year. Sales provide income for local artists while also providing additional revenue to the gallery. Sales were lower this year due to COVID and Out of Hand competition.



# GRANTS

The Gallery Association continues to work towards financial stability for gallery operations through grant partnerships. We have been successful in acquiring the following grants this fiscal year and are deeply grateful for the financial support and opportunities they have provided.

**Town of Smithers & Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako** for *Grant-in-Aid*

**Town of Smithers** for our *Creation Station lease & associated tax exemption*

**Canada Summer Jobs HRSD** for *summer student funding*

**BC Ministry of Finance Community Gaming Grant** for *operating assistance*

**Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest Grant** for a *Programming Coordinator (part-time staff position)*

**BC Museum Association Family Day Program Grant** (collaboration with BV Museum)

**BV Arts Council** *strategic planning grant*

**BC Arts Council** (for 2021/2022 & 2022/2023) *Pivot Grant (staff position)*    *Infrastructure Grant (moveable walls)*  
*Program Grant (Group Indigenous Exhibition)*    *Reliency Grant (Covid Relief)*

**Government of Canada** *CEBA Loan & New Horizons Grant (2021 & 2022)*



## our grateful thanks to the following

Corporate Sponsors: *While we held off asking for funds during this difficult year, we want to thank our sponsors for their community spirit and focus on keeping their businesses moving forward during this difficult year—see you next year!*

**Pretium Resources Inc.  
Hy-Tech Drilling Ltd  
Babine Animal Hospital  
Re/Max Bulkley Valley  
Bulkley Valley Insurance Services**

**Nature's Pantry  
All-West Glass  
LB Paving  
Calderwood Realty**

**Smithers Lumber Yard  
Wed'zinkwa Family Medical Clinic  
Bulkley Valley Wholesale  
Smokescreen Graphics**

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

**Mills Interior Stationery**

**Aquabatics**

**Heartstrings**

**Neilsen Framing**

## a HUGE thank you to our volunteers

Our volunteers create the life and soul of the Gallery through the work they do on its behalf and our first thanks go out to all of them for their time and commitment - it is highly valued and appreciated. This COVID year meant zoom meetings and almost no volunteers in the gallery as we felt it was more important to safe guard the health and well being of our volunteers this year. We honestly can't wait until we can see you back in the gallery!

One of a Kind—Artisan Christmas Gift Shop, December 2020: *Many thanks to the intake and setup committee volunteers who helped with intake, promotion, gift-shop setup and takedown, and a huge thank-you to all the sitters who ran the gift shop during the 6weeks of operation.*

Curatorial Committee: *Who juried and selected show submissions*

**Art Director: Francois Depey**

**Liliana Dragowska**

**Christine Pali**

**Katie Kmet**

**Facundo Gastiazoro**

**Julie Chaplin**

Other Thanks:

**Mary Davidson & Edmison Mehr Chartered Accountants:** preparing the year-end financials pro bono, and Bookkeeper **Rene Haehner** for his patience and attention to detail



**SMITHERS GALLERY ASSOCIATION**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**MARCH 31, 2021**

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**EDMISON MEHR**  
**CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS**

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Box 969 1090 Main Street  
Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0  
Tel (250)847-4325 Fax (250)847-3074  
E-mail: info@edmisonmehr.ca

Partners:  
BRIAN R. EDMISON, B.A., CPA, CA  
MICHAEL B. MEHR, B.Comm, CPA, CA  
JEANNE M. MACNEIL, B.Comm, CPA, CA

**NOTICE TO READER**

On the basis of information provided by the Association's management, we have compiled the Statement of Financial Position of Smithers Gallery Association as at March 31, 2021 and the Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets for the year then ended. We have not performed an audit or a review engagement in respect of these financial statements and, accordingly, we express no assurance thereon. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Smithers, B.C.  
August 11, 2021

  
Edmison Mehr

**SMITHERS GALLERY ASSOCIATION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**MARCH 31, 2021**  
**(Unaudited - see Notice to Reader)**

2021

2020

**ASSETS**

**CURRENT**

Cash	\$ 179,732	\$ 15,182
Term deposits	12,688	12,500
Prepaid expenses	<u>1,000</u>	<u>606</u>

TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS, Note 3  
Less: Accumulated amortization

33,890	28,018
<u>17,758</u>	<u>11,186</u>

<u>16,132</u>	<u>16,832</u>
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<u>\$ 209,552</u>	<u>\$ 45,120</u>
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**LIABILITIES**

**CURRENT**

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 8,735	\$ 1,209
Source deductions payable	1,556	1,186
Deferred revenue	<u>103,249</u>	<u>10,533</u>

<u>113,540</u>	<u>12,928</u>
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LONG TERM DEBT, Note 4

<u>60,000</u>	<u>-</u>
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**NET ASSETS**

NET ASSETS	<u>36,012</u>	<u>32,192</u>
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<u>\$ 209,552</u>	<u>\$ 45,120</u>
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APPROVED BY THE BOARD:

SE Smith DIRECTOR

Wojdak DIRECTOR



**SMITHERS GALLERY ASSOCIATION**  
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021**  
(Unaudited - see Notice to Reader)

	2021	2020
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Art sales - exhibitions	\$ 13,593	\$ 15,227
Art and card sales	33,364	24,946
Canadian Employment Wage Subsidy	8,957	-
Corporate sponsorships	-	7,350
Donations	1,202	640
Fundraising	4,109	6,094
Grants	51,341	46,474
Interest revenue and freight recoveries	617	249
Membership fees	1,975	1,950
Program fees	15,446	13,486
PST commissions	310	315
Rentals	780	2,835
Grant - summer student	18,146	10,351
Wetzin'kwa Grant	5,543	13,884
	<u>155,383</u>	<u>143,801</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Accounting and legal	2,953	2,913
Advertising and promotion	210	537
Amortization	6,572	6,572
Artists payments	32,048	32,406
Bank charges and interest	962	1,737
Contract fees	3,770	797
Exhibition costs	1,772	2,973
Freight	286	350
Fundraising	2,523	410
Insurance	1,315	1,282
Janitorial	128	111
Licenses and memberships	423	296
Office and meetings	1,303	905
Programs	9,732	12,991
Program cost - Wetzin'kwa	450	52
Rent	9,525	9,245
Repairs and maintenance	573	1,017
Supplies - Railway Avenue	107	167
Telephone and internet	1,509	1,427
Training	305	1,642
Utilities - Railway Avenue	2,233	2,703
Volunteer acknowledgements	-	221
Wages and benefits	72,183	72,878
Website and computer	166	196
Workers compensation	515	451
	<u>151,563</u>	<u>154,279</u>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>		
<b>FOR THE YEAR</b>	3,820	(10,478)
<b>NET ASSETS, beginning of year</b>	32,192	42,670
<b>NET ASSETS, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 36,012</u>	<u>\$ 32,192</u>

**SMITHERS GALLERY ASSOCIATION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**MARCH 31, 2021**  
(Unaudited - see Notice to Reader)

**1. PURPOSE**

The Smithers Gallery Association is a non-profit organization at the heart of the local visual arts community and has been in operation since 1971. The gallery's exhibitions change every four to five weeks and showcase the work of local and regional artists in solo and group shows. The Gallery regularly offers artists' talks and demonstrations, art classes and workshops, community art events, summer art camps, and free drop-in art activities for kids. The Smithers Gallery Association mission statement is "Creating community through art". The Association is considered a non-taxable entity by Canada Revenue Agency.

**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Tangible Capital Assets**

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost and are amortized on a declining balance basis, with the exception of leasehold improvements which are amortized on the straight line basis, each at the following annual rates:

Equipment	20 %
Computer hardware	50 %
Leasehold improvements	20 %
(approximates straight-line over 5 years)	

**3. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS**

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>Net 2021</u>	<u>Net 2020</u>
Equipment	\$ 15,027	\$ 4,469	\$ 10,558	\$ 6,592
Computer hardware	1,374	1,116	258	515
Leasehold improvements	<u>17,489</u>	<u>12,173</u>	<u>5,316</u>	<u>9,725</u>
	<u>\$ 33,890</u>	<u>\$ 17,758</u>	<u>\$ 16,132</u>	<u>\$ 16,832</u>



**SMITHERS GALLERY ASSOCIATION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**MARCH 31, 2021**  
**(Unaudited - see Notice to Reader)**

**4. LONG TERM DEBT**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) loan with 0% interest and no principal repayments required until December 31, 2022. Principal repayments can be voluntarily made at any time. Up to \$20,000 loan forgiveness is available on CEBA loans advanced for \$60,000 provided \$40,000 is paid back prior to December 31, 2022. If the balance is not paid by December 31, 2022, the remaining balance will be converted to a three year term loan at 5% annual interest, paid monthly, effective January 1, 2023. The full balance must be repaid by no later than December 31, 2025.		
	\$ 60,000	\$ -
Less principal portion due within one year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 60,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>