



...the sees relationships opportunities
...she has been waiting if she allows her
...so she does too but her feelings are not the
...because it
...has been a long time for
...waiting for things far from
...a very long time. She thinks it, believe
...her really. She's been waiting for her
...The best with her. She's hoping she will treat
...I say because her curiosity
...far from her eyes and speak
...this her in this moment
...we've never left you
...Even though you feel far
...We've never stopped singing
...for your pain to resolve."

NM
AG \ NELSON MUSEUM
ARCHIVES & GALLERY

Annual Report

NELSON MUSEUM, ARCHIVES & GALLERY 2023

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The Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery acknowledges that the Museum resides on the traditional unceded territory of the Sinixt and Ktunaxa Peoples. We would like to thank and acknowledge the Sinixt Confederacy, Yaqan Nukiy Ktunaxa Band, and the West Kootenay Métis Association for the opportunity to live, learn and share in cultural experiences in this beautiful place.



*The NMAG sign, installed in October 2023.
Photo by Bobbi Barbarich*

Year in Review: 2023

- 11,660** TOTAL VISITORS
- 1,096** COLD WAR BUNKER VISITORS
- 1,130** STUDENTS, CHILDREN & YOUTH
 - 38** SCHOOL TOURS
- 393** MEMBERSHIPS SOLD
- 5,132** VOLUNTEER HOURS
 - 57** VOLUNTEERS
- 142** ARCHIVES INQUIRIES
- 112** FREE PUBLIC PROGRAMS

From the Chair of the Board

The experience of slowly moving out of the pandemic has been both exciting and challenging. There has been a huge impact on every organization, business, family and individual in our community. However, with the Museum professional staff, dedicated volunteers, and an engaged Board, we have continued to grow and flourished despite the challenges of the past few years.

The re-branding of the Museum has been most exciting! Now known as NMAG, this name change has brought the organization in line with similar museums, archives and galleries across the country. Along with the new external signs, the Museum has undergone a refresh. In addition, the third floor and turret room is now available for rent and is indeed the nicest room in Nelson!

The Board of Directors was exceptionally impressed with the resilience of the staff team who continue to re-organize and re-develop all exhibitions and programs, re-apply for grants, and search for new funding streams to ensure our viability into the future. The financial sustainability of the organization continued to be a consuming focus during this year. The ending of regional, provincial, and federal emergency funding has been challenging, however, more emphasis was and continues to be on securing permanent funding, grants, and community support.

I wish to salute the many volunteers that donate hours of time to the running of the Nelson Museum. From the Shop to the Archives to the installation of new exhibits, nearly 60 volunteers remain the mainstay of the organization. Dedicated members and generous donors are crucial to the ongoing stability of the Nelson Museum.

The Board of Directors of Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery remained committed to the Vision and Mission alignment with the Strategic Plan. We continue to advocate for the four priorities of the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan which include: Sustainability and Consistency; Social Justice; Organizational Resilience; and Museum Redevelopment.

The 2023-2025 Strategic Plan will not only carry the organization forward through the unknowns in funding and shifting paradigms but will also help to create long-lasting systemic change within the Museum.

In November, we bade farewell to Astrid Heyerdahl, our Executive Director of seven years, and wished her well in her future adventures abroad. We were thrilled to welcome our new Executive Director, Jennifer Dunkerson. Jennifer

comes to this role with vast experience in museums, history, grants, and working with communities. We are so fortunate to recruit such a perfect fit for our Museum team!

This will be my swan song as well! I have had the pleasure of sitting as a director on the NMAG board for six years, four of those years as chair, and it is time for me to step down. I am extremely proud of this organization and the growth that I have seen during my time on the Board. I will continue my volunteer work in the Shop when needed!

I would like to sincerely thank our members and donors for their ongoing support. Once again, I wish to thank the incredible team that keeps us afloat, lead by Astrid Heyerdahl and now Jennifer Dunkerson, Executive Directors. And to all the past, present, (and future!) board members, thank you!

Sheila Achilles

Chair of the Board
Nelson Museum, Archives &
Gallery



From the Executive Director

Having taken on the role of Executive Director close to the end of 2023, following many years of hard work, transformational changes, and forward thinking that was Astrid Heyerdahl's legacy, I am honoured and privileged to have been passed the torch! I feel somewhat daunted by the task of writing an annual report for a year of activities that happened before my time but what I can do is emphasize the gratitude I have for everyone who has made me feel welcome and has helped ensure an easy and relatively seamless transition.

As I installed myself in my new office in this beautiful old building, reviewing notes and careful details left as part of my introduction and orientation, I observed a myriad of tasks and duties being performed around me with enthusiasm, grace, professionalism, and thoroughness in a team full of caring and creative people. I am proud to be a member of such a community.

2023 was a year of dynamic and inclusive programming, thought-provoking and creative exhibits, and extensive advancements in archival digitization. These foundational elements continue to guide us as a staff team and are represented in the dedication and commitment to excellence shown daily. So much of what is accomplished is not possible without our members and donors who instill confidence in us through their generous support.

The Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery, NMAG, is a unique museum entity instilling its broad world view in a small, rural community tucked away in the interior of British Columbia. Founded on the principles of telling community stories and celebrating cultural heritage, the museum endeavours to continue to speak to all members of our community, and beyond, and strives to be relevant to a diverse and dynamic audience. The way we tell these stories through art installations, historical presentations, curated publications, documentary style filmmaking, and creative workshops, allows us to remain true to our mission: To be a cultural hub that provides integrative art and regional history programs to encourage new perspectives and foster a collaborative community.

We continue to be guided by our 2023 – 2025 Strategic Plan and we are grateful for the members who make up the Board of Directors and whose guidance helps steer our ship. We continue to advocate for the priorities of our Strategic Plan, specifically: Sustainability and Consistency, Social Justice, Organizational Resilience, and Museum Redevelopment. Underlying our efforts, at all times, are the fundamental values of quality, accessibility, stewardship, and leadership.

To the staff, thank you for your hard work and dedication and for being committed to achieving the highest standards in what you do. The supporting role award goes to our volunteers who participate in so many ways and generate a community of their own within our walls.

I look forward to what we may achieve in 2024 and to keeping our greater community informed, inspired, and involved!

Jennifer Neal Dunkerson

Executive Director
Nelson Museum, Archives &
Gallery



Programming 2023

JANUARY

Aprés FREE Thursdays
Educator Industry Night
Geography of Memory book club

FEBRUARY

Valentine's Day cardmaking in ArtLab
Members Show & Sale submission deadline
Family Day Portraits
Picturing Ourselves exhibition opening
Aprés FREE Thursdays

MARCH

Museum Mash!
Lalin performs in Gallery A
Battle of the Atlantic book discussion with Ted Barris
Members' Show & Sale exhibition opening
Spring Break Art Camps
Spring Fling FREE Thursdays

APRIL

'New Echoes' writing and spoken word workshops with
Zaynab Mohammed
Faceless Doll workshop
Corazon performs in Gallery A
Earth Day jewelry demonstration with Tubes of a Feather
Spring Fling FREE Thursdays

MAY

Mother's Day cardmaking in ArtLab
Draper Catalogue book launch with Brian D'Eon
REDress Day
Family Yoga in the Gallery
Nelson Museum AGM
Spring Fling FREE Thursdays

JUNE

Stop Motion Animation workshop with Brian Lye
Unarchived film screening in the Bunker
Sinixt Canoe Journey celebration
Brain Scans/Neurotransmitting exhibition opening
Archives Ephemera cardmaking with Jenine Lillian
ArtWalk first opening
Summer Lovin' FREE Thursdays

JULY

Canada Day at Lakeside Park
The Forbidden Territory of a Terrifying Woman book
launch with Molly Lynch
Night Market on Baker Street
Columbia Basin Culture Tour
Summer Lovin' FREE Thursdays

AUGUST

'New Echoes in the Staircase' launch with Smokii Sumac
Making Waves exhibition opening
ArtWalk second opening
New Community Cabinet installations
Summer Lovin' FREE Thursdays

SEPTEMBER

'After Apocalypse' zine workshop in the Bunker
Wine and cheese estate planning event
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Fall into Fall FREE Thursdays

OCTOBER

Brain Scans/Neurotransmitting beading workshops
Brain Scans/Neurotransmitting artist talk with Ruth and
Theo Jean Cuthand
Are You Listening? A One-Woman Show by Zaynab
Mohammed performed in the Bunker
'Hallow Zine' workshop in the Bunker
Annual Membership Drive
Fall into Fall FREE Thursdays

NOVEMBER

Astrid Heyerdahl's going-away party
Museum Mash!
Give or Take a Few Million Years exhibition opening
Animation Jam with Brian Lye
Elevation exhibition opening
Fall into Fall FREE Thursdays

DECEMBER

Annual Nelson & District Credit Union Members Sale
Gift tag crafts in ArtLab
Holiday cardmaking with Jenine Lillian
Museum Community Day
Wreathmaking with volunteers
Aprés FREE Thursdays



Museum Mash November 2023.
Photo by Bobbi Barbarich



Canada Day activities at Lakeside Park.



Animation Jam FREE workshop with Brian Lye.



'Are You Listening?' by Zaynab Mohammed, performed in the Cold War Bunker.



The Galleries

The 2023 exhibition programming schedule opened with a celebration of community and artistic excellence, from both national and regional perspectives.

Picturing Ourselves in Gallery A, loaned by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, featured 13 seminal Indigenous artists from across the country. The exhibition, curated by the much-respected curator Lee-Ann Martin, included portraits of people, family, and community from each artist's perspective and place, via diverse media, along with images that purposefully and sometimes playfully inverted and challenged stereotypes of same. The works ran the gamut from quiet reflections of self and belonging to images that confront the troubled history of Indigenous peoples and representation associated with the colonial lens. The artists included in this exhibition (Carl Beam, Patricia Deadman, Rosalie Favell, George Littlechild, Martin "Akwiranoron" Loft, Glenna Matoush, David Neel, Jeneen Frei Njootli, William Noah, Annie Pootoogook, Arthur Renwick, Skawennati, and Simon Tookoome) reflect the diversity, distinction, and legacy of Indigenous art in Canada — an exhibition that is a privilege to experience anywhere in this country,

but especially a rural and relatively isolated city like Nelson. This exhibition, like many in the roster this year, provided invaluable opportunities for members, visitors, and especially school-aged children to learn important lessons about art and culture, diversity and discourse.

With *Picturing Ourselves* in Gallery A, Gallery B featured the semi-annual NMAG *Members Show & Sale*, which also reflects the power and beauty of community and creative expression. We had an unprecedented number of artists exhibit in 2023 (76!) which was an excellent and rewarding challenge for our Young Canada Works Curatorial Assistant Saydie Bubniw, who co-curated the exhibition. The opening reception was packed and appreciative, celebrating community and creative enterprise.

The summer exhibitions, *Brain Scans/Neurotransmitting* by Ruth and Theo Jean Cuthand, and *Otanimm/Onnimm (Daughter/Father)* by Neko Wong-Houle and Terrance Houle was an example of the kind of symbiotic subject matter in programming; it is not imperative for exhibitions in the two gallery spaces, but when it happens, it creates a compounded sense of synergy



Tyler Toews painting the iconic mural for the 'Elevation' exhibition in Gallery A.

and appreciation for subject matter and method. Both exhibitions involved parent and child collaborations, and utilized film and narratives about relationships, mental health, and culture. The respective films showcased distinct approaches, but both illustrated a generosity of spirit and trust in the viewer's empathy that made these exhibitions distinctly impactful and memorable. Theo Jean's film was accompanied by framed beadwork by his mother Ruth, pieces using intricate beadwork depicting MRI scans, as well as diseases that have affected Indigenous populations in North America from the mid 1880s. This work, in combination with the collaborative film are centered around issues of mental health, advocacy and identity.

From August to October the *Making Waves* exhibition in Gallery B explored the rich sporting history of Kootenay Lake. The local water sports community of organizations and individuals provided artifacts, photographs and information that helped feature a history of sporting activities such as canoeing, water skiing, rowing, and boating.

The last exhibitions of 2023 investigate and celebrate our understanding of place, from deep geological time

to present day perspectives and future explorations. *Elevation* in Gallery A features a showstopper art piece by Tyler Toews, photography by myriad photographers including Derrick J. LaMere and Douglas Noblet, heritage photos and ephemera from the archive and community partners, contributions from writers such as Eileen Delehanty Pearkes, Troy Sebastian, Suzanne Simard, and other community contributors, artists and creatives. The sports and tourism aspects of this exhibition were researched by co-curator Darren Davidson with help from our 2023 Young Canada works curatorial intern Sam McGuire. This exhibition has hosted a lot of school tours and seen a steady stream of members and patrons during operating hours, opening and programming. Similarly, Carol Wallace's exhibition *Give or Take a few Million Years* explores a deeper understanding of earth and our brief time here using textiles, video projection, ink drawings and sculpture. The programming for Carol's show included the creation of a catalog, launch and artist talk.

ARIN FAY
CURATOR



'Picturing Ourselves', featuring 'My Great Grandfather, Chief Yellow Head, who's Buried under McDonald's on Yonge Street in Toronto'. Photo by Bobbi Barbarich.

Picturing Ourselves

FEBRUARY 18 TO JUNE 3, 2023 | GALLERY A | LOANED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

The collected artworks of 13 Indigenous artists were united in one space to create *Picturing Ourselves*, a group exhibition spanning four decades, curated by Lee-Ann Martin and on loan from the Indigenous Art Centre, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) in Gatineau, Quebec. *Picturing Ourselves* refutes the narrative of the 'vanishing race' and instead, recounts a contemporary story of Indigeneity through each artists' interpretation of portraiture.

"*Picturing Ourselves* includes portraits of self, family and community from each artist's perspective. The images often confront the troubled history of Indigenous peoples and representation associated with the colonial lens. Indigenous artists choose portraiture not only to confront stereotypical misrepresentations of Indigenous people but also to celebrate their community and their culture. This exhibition invites viewers to consider the artists' reflections and reworking of many continuing misrepresentations."

- LEE-ANN MARTIN, CURATORIAL STATEMENT

The works pay homage to the ongoing effort to preserve and celebrate Indigenous culture — Patricia Deadman's *Jingled* (1991) invites the viewer to feel the energy of jingle dancing; *Life on the 18th Hole* (1990) by David Neel commemorates the Oka Crisis, which halted the development of a gold course on Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) land in 1990 — while other work captures with intimate detail the people who are embodying the fight against the 'vanishing race' narrative, such as Aurthur Renwick's *Tom* (2006) and William Noah's *Mother and Daughter* (2008). Additional works seek to capture the viewer with tongue-in-cheek humour, such as Glenna Matoush's mixed-media piece titled *My Great Grandfather, Chief Yellow Head, Who's Buried under McDonald's on Yonge Street in Toronto* (1995).



*Opening night of the '2023 Members Show & Sale'.
Photo by Bobbi Barbarich.*

2023 Members' Show & Sale

MARCH 18 TO MAY 6, 2023 | GALLERY B | CURATED BY SAYDIE BUBNIW

The beloved *Members' Show & Sale* returned to the Nelson Museum in 2023! This open, salon-style exhibition featured work across all mediums, submitted by the Nelson Museum membership to highlight the talent, dedication and passion that exists within the Nelson and district art community. With 67 entries, it was a record-breaking year for the exhibition, and pieces were spilling out of Gallery B and into the hallway and Shop wall for display.

Curating the *Members' Show* is always such an interesting endeavour as it allows us to see first-hand what techniques, styles, and mediums are being explored in our community and to have the opportunity to celebrate local artists. With the breadth of artwork that was on display, there was no doubt it was going to be a compelling exhibition.

The *Members' Show* is an accessible way for artists – from seasoned professionals to first-time exhibitors – to experience the excitement of showcasing work in a gallery setting. All pieces in the show can be made available for sale at a 60/40 split between the artist and the museum, providing an excellent opportunity to support local artists and fundraise for accessible museum programming. The *Members' Show & Sale* is held every three years; we are already fielding inquiries about the 2026 show!

This year's exhibition was curated by Saydie Bubniw, whose Assistant Curator role was funded through the Young Canada Works program. The Young Canada Works program provides opportunities for someone beginning their own journey in the arts; Saydie experienced the challenges and triumphs of exhibition curation first-hand, and also found opportunities to conduct research in the Shawn Lamb Archives for a number of ongoing projects, assist with public programming, and build lasting relationships with many museum staff, volunteers, and visitors.



Closing reception of 'Otanimm/Onnimm'.
Photo by Bobbi Barbarich.

Otanimm/Onnimm (Daughter/Father)

MAY 20 TO AUGUST 5, 2023 | GALLERY B | NIKO WONG-HOULE AND TERRANCE HOULE

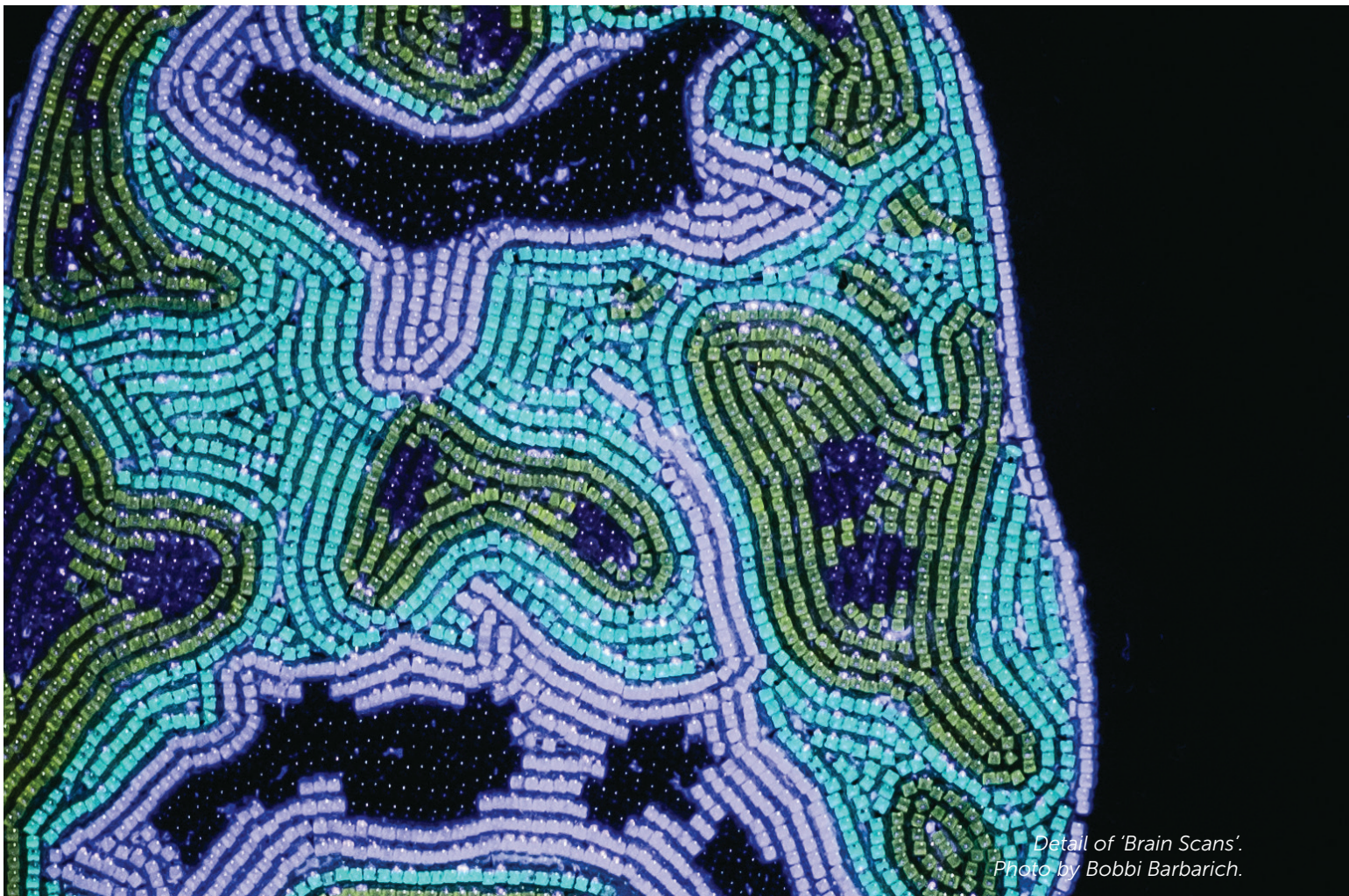
The artist skill and technical prowess of both father and daughter were on full display in *Otanimm/Onnimm (Daughter/Father)*, by Terrance Houle and Neko Wong-Houle. The exhibition featured a short film created using several techniques, including dialogue, music, traditional animation, and stop-motion, as well as more unconventional approaches such as experimental DIY photography using Caffinol - coffee/vitamin C developer - and 2D rotoscoping.

Terrance, throughout his career, has experimented with multiple mediums in addition to film, including painting, music, mass production, and performance. Neko, a student at Concordia University, stands to achieve her own multimedia reputation, with interests in both animation and fine art. Together, they have created a short yet powerful film that fully communicates their deep connection to one another, and lovingly explores an Indigenous daughter/father story.

Otanimm/Onnimm can be explored through the lens of family history and relationships, as well as through the myriad techniques used throughout, which makes it a really exciting piece to have in the Gallery. This was the first time the film has been shown in an exhibition setting – although it has been in many film festivals across North America – so the Nelson Museum was especially excited to be hosting this wonderful story.

We were able to virtually host Neko and Terrance for the closing reception of the film in August; after a screening of the film, the audience had opportunity to discuss the film's themes and techniques with the artists.

Otanimm/Onnimm won a 2021 Golden Sheaf Award from the Yorkton Film Festival – the oldest and one of the most prestigious film awards in Canada – when Neko was just 17 years old. The same year she won the Youth Award at the Roxbury International Film Festival, which has been celebrating films by people of colour for over 25 years.



Brain Scans/Neurotransmitting

JUNE 24 TO OCTOBER 21, 2023 | GALLERY A | RUTH AND THEO JEAN CUTHAND

One in five Canadians - about 7.6 million people - will struggle with mental health before age 25, according to the Canadian Mental Health Association, and only 25 per cent of children and teens have access to treatment, for a variety of reasons that range from socio-economic status to location to parental consent. Ruth and Theo Jean Cuthand's exhibition *Brain Scans / Neurotransmitting*, seeks to explore the difficulty of facing mental health challenges, and how families unite in support of one another.

Mental health is a big problem on reserves and there's a lot of shame with it. Mental health problems run in my family, so I'm really aware of it and want to bring awareness to the fact that mental health is not something to be ashamed of.

- RUTH CUTHAND, CURATORIAL STATEMENT

Ruth's contribution to the exhibition is a series of intricately beaded reproductions of MRI scans, illuminating the brain scans of people with ADHD, depression, PTSD, and more. Ruth's son Theo Jean created a short film to accompany the beadwork, capturing a conversation about his latest manic episode. The film is presented from the perspective of a mother trying to care for a child as they experience mental illness, as well as the individual experiencing illness firsthand.

Children and youth in our community are experiencing a rising level of mental illness and anxiety; *Brain Scans / Neurotransmitting* provided visitors a gateway to begin an important conversation. Public programming around the exhibition included beading workshops for youth and adults; we were able to bring Ruth and Theo Jean to the Museum for a closing reception and artist talk, and Ruth was able to join in one of the youth beading workshops, which was a special experience for the participants.



*'Making Waves' installation detail.
Photo by Bobbi Barbarich.*

Making Waves

AUGUST 19 TO OCTOBER 28, 2023 | GALLERY B | CURATED BY JP STIENNE

Kootenay Lake has long been a hub of activity, from the earliest sturgeon-nosed canoes to modern day sporting activities such as paddleboarding and kitesurfing. The history exhibition *Making Waves* explored this history through artifacts, photographs, and archival film from the Museum collection.

"*Making Waves* examined the diverse nature of this history and the role that the West Arm has in the community today. Kootenay Lake has always been of central importance to the people from the Nelson area, in transport, food resources and leisure," says Nelson Museum Archivist and Collections Manager JP Stienne, who curated the exhibition. "Many people have long since been attracted to our area to take part in lake activities."

Some of the artifacts included in the exhibition were the gold medal uniform of Olympic rowing champion Lorne Loomer (on loan from the University of Victoria Sports Hall of Fame); study trophies won by the famous Ladybird speedboat; watch a recently uncovered Shaw 10 tape discussing the origins of the Nelson Rowing Club; and much more. Nelson has history of being a leading rowing centre and boasts the oldest motorboat club in all of Canada. We learned so much about this fascinating history as we were putting the show together, and were so intrigued by the stories, artifacts, and ephemera that was provided by members of the community for inclusion in the show.

Assisting in the research and curation of the exhibition was Cas Haskins, a summer student working through the Young Canada Works program in the role of Archives and Collections Assistant. They spent many hours driving around the region, meeting people eager to share their personal histories, and collecting some of the loaned pieces, including a pair of vintage water skis. They also painstakingly handpainted a series of waves on the gallery walls, combining their love of art and history, and creating a true art/history convergence exhibition.



Carol Wallace at the opening reception of 'Give or Take a Few Million Years'.
Photo by Bobbi Barbarich.

Give or Take a Few Million Years

NOVEMBER 18, 2023 TO FEBRUARY 24, 2024 | GALLERY B | CAROL WALLACE

Nelson artist Carol Wallace reflects on her experience with the ridgelines and landscapes that have informed her life in *Give or Take a Few Million Years*. Through drawings, sculptures, and textiles she builds a dreamlike, otherworldly exhibition worth delving into.

Geology is like time travel. Rocks are visible evidence of earlier worlds going back more than 4 billion years. Atmospheres were created, oceans opened and closed, mountains were formed and eroded, and microorganisms evolved to a world we know today. We are all embedded in deep time.

- CAROL WALLACE, CURATORIAL STATEMENT

The exhibition invites the viewer to experience a visual anthology of stories found in the rocks. Geologic imagery is stitched and inked on layers of silk organza, magnified minerals of local bedrock are projected onto the gallery wall, biomorphic shapes are sculpted onto fractured rock, and ink drawings remind us that a rock is much more than its exterior surface.

Give or Take a Few Million Years challenged our collective understanding of time and evolution. The importance of presenting other perspectives is fundamental to understanding and expanding all subject matter; this exhibition presented a portal to a geological timescale rarely considered by people outside of the realm of science, and one which helps to tell the foundational story of place.

Over 100 enthusiastic gallery-goers were in attendance at the opening reception in November, and we welcomed another large crowd in February 2024 for an artist talk with Carol and the launch of a beautiful exhibition catalogue.



'Elevation' installation detail.
Photo by Bobbi Barbarich.

Elevation

NOVEMBER 25, 2023 TO MARCH 2, 2024 | GALLERY A | CURATED BY ARIN FAY

This four-seasons backyard playground we call home has produced world-class athletes, built a tourism economy, and hosts adventurers from around the world year after year. *Elevation* - an ambitious exhibition that explored the vast expanse of the mountains in the Kootenays, was a celebration but also explored the resounding environmental impact, the elitism of mountain sports, land and resource use, and more.

Elevation presented a balanced approach to understanding mountain life, and the highs and lows – the peaks and valleys – of living in and interacting with such a formidable landscape. There is so much to be grateful for, but also so much that is taken for granted. *Elevation* viewed mountain life through many lenses, including geology, history, sports, art, climate change, and environmental activism.

The exhibition featured a showstopper art piece by Tyler Toews, photography by Sinixt photographer Derrick J. LaMere, contributions from Eileen Delehanty Pearkes, Douglas Noblet, and other community contributors, and was heavily researched by co-curator Darren Davidson and Museum Research Intern Sam McGuire.

Throughout the show's tenure, which happened to coincide with an unusually warm winter and less than ideal conditions at the local ski hills, we saw a notable increase in visitors who came to ski and found themselves with some extra time. We also welcomed locals who had either never been to the museum before, or hadn't visited in years.

Elevation was the third in a series of community-supported art/history convergence exhibitions. It followed the same model as 2018's award-winning exhibition *Mountain Bike Retrospective*, and *The Grow Show* in 2021, which also has a publication slated for release in spring 2024.



Social Justice & Reconciliation

This year has been eventful. By signing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the Ktunaxa, Sinixt, and the West Kootenay Métis Association, the Nelson Museum is actively working towards advancing reconciliation. Our commitment extends to the ongoing processes of decolonization and Indigenization.

Since the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report in June 2015, we have consistently worked to address both the legacy of calls to action and reconciliation. Drawing from the wisdom of Indigenous academics and meticulously crafted best practice policies aligned with lifelong learning, the museum embraces the resurgence of Indigenous law, UNDRIP, OCAP, and more. Our collaborative efforts with communities aim to foster deep democracy, ethical representation, and enduring relationships that will nurture the well-being of the next seven generations across all our communities.

We continue to collect and share narratives that are often overlooked, engaging through the *Missing Voices* stories showcased in the 2nd floor museum exhibit. Additionally, we strive to develop thought-provoking exhibitions and educational opportunities, creating safe spaces for complex and critical community conversations.

As we move forward, we are actively reviewing how to incorporate more Equity, Diversity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (EDAI) into this space. Thank you for joining us on this transformative journey.

LESLEY GARLOW
SOCIAL JUSTICE COORDINATOR

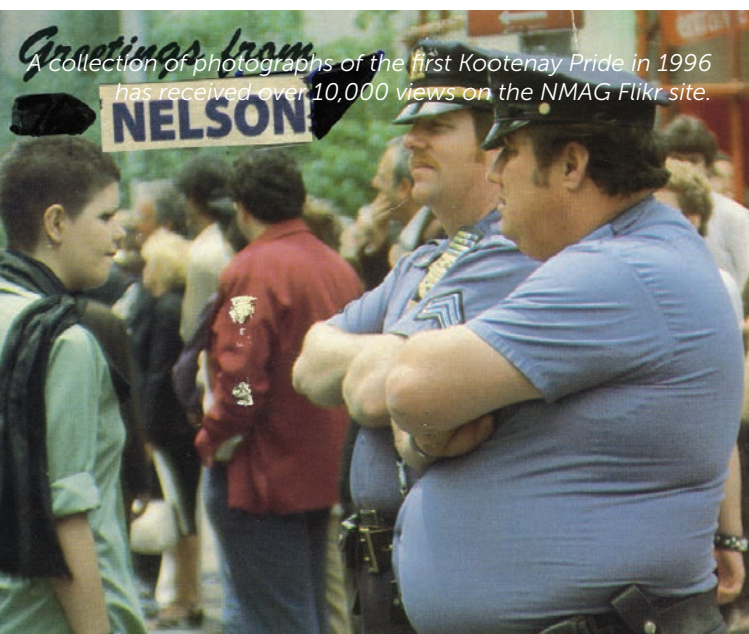
Smokii Sumac reads from his book of poetry, 'You Are Enough' for the Turret Series Season 1.



Opening day of Nelson's diesel maintenance shop at the CPR service station platform, Nelson, January 29, 1954.



Action from the Kaslo Summer Jazz Festival, 1992.



A collection of photographs of the first Kootenay Pride in 1996 has received over 10,000 views on the NMAG Flickr site.



Sincerely
Lynn

From the Shawn Lamb Archives

This year there was a grand total of 63 donations from individuals and organizations, including photographs of the construction of Nelson bridge, 1960s National Ski Team official clothing, a plaque honoring airman Hampton Gray from the Gyro Park bridge, and a contemporary woven Sinixt basket. The collection of architectural plans also grew, with a large further donation of original plans drawn by Ilsa and Frank Williams and Fairbank Architects.

Great strides were made in making the film and audio collections more accessible in 2023, as nearly 300 films were added to the NMAG YouTube site. This was made possible through the grant-supported purchase of new digitization equipment together with the assistance of volunteers in digitizing the film and identifying the people that appear in them. Most of these films were from the 1980s and 1990s Nelson Shaw Cable Community Channel. Theatrical and music performances at the Capitol Theatre, David Thompson University Sub Pub, and Kaslo Jazz Festival have been among the most popular. It has also been fantastic to share local history films that Shawn Lamb presented for the Nelson Museum's "Turning Back the Clock" series. We have also been able to go a little bit further back into our local history and we have made accessible some 8mm films from the 1950s to 1970s. Film footage of trains at the CPR yards and fires engulfing Baker Street buildings were among the action added. This year we also started to add local audio recordings going back as far as the 1940s. The recordings were made by Nelson radio presenter Ross Fleming, and include many musical performances in the Capitol Theatre and by music groups such as the Nelson Boys' Choir.

The team in the Shawn Lamb Archives had another busy year helping to answer inquiries, conducting research, and cataloguing the archives. From heritage trees to lawn bowling and everything in between, 142 inquiries were answered. A remarkable 2,729 recorded hours of work were carried out by a team of 27 volunteers during

2023. Six extensively detailed Nelson house histories were completed by volunteers this year. Many of the team also assisted with completing the arranging and cataloguing of the extensive School District 8 collections.

We continue to utilize the archives, collections, and information resources to increase access to, and knowledge of, local history. Our #ThrowbackThursday and #MuseumMonday social media posts do this by making use of the Archives' photographic and artifact collections.

At the end of 2023 we completed a project to document a vast collection of architectural plans held by Fairbank Architects; now 800 records of buildings across the Kootenay Region are available. This year we also started a column in the *Nelson Star* called 'History Buff', which explores a different local history theme each month.

The *Nelson Daily News* digitization program continued to make the newspaper's pages more accessible to a wider audience. We passed one million total views in the summer. The years 1948-1965 went online during 2023, with plans to publish pages well into the 1970s during 2024. The resource has become an asset to researchers around the world, and it has also proven to be a great string to our bow as we assist with inquiries, house histories, for social media posts, and for publications and exhibition research.

We were also delighted to be part of events such as Nelson Road Kings, Balfour Daze, and the events to mark the Hume School Centenary. During this year we also created new sporting history displays in the Civic Centre. The Nelson Bunker continues to draw community groups, schools, tourists, and locals—its relevance to events in today's world is undiminished.

JEAN-PHILIPPE STIENNE
ARCHIVIST AND COLLECTIONS MANAGER

2023 Inquiries

SOME OF THE TOPICS RESEARCHED:

Forest fires (Indigenous use)
Churches, hotels, factories, laundries
Mines, railroads, steamboats
Schools, Art Therapy Institute
Architects
Sports (hockey, archery, lawn bowling)
Hospital (nurses, matron)
Women's war effort
Heritage trees
Stone masons, granite quarry

GEOGRAPHICAL SOURCES OF ARCHIVES INQUIRIES

Local (West & East Kootenay regions) **46%**
Other parts of BC **22%**
Rest of Canada (AB, ON, SK, YK, MB) **15%**
Other (USA, Sweden, Netherlands, etc.) **10%**
Unknown **7%**

TYPE OF REQUESTERS FOR THE INQUIRIES

Private persons **68%**
Writers **11%**
Academics **6%**
Archives/Museums **6%**
Business **5%**
Film producer **3%**

The Shop

The Shop had another solid year in 2023. With international tourists returning, and our new name, signage, and great programming, the Museum was hard to miss in 2023. Over 2,600 visitors came through the doors specifically to shop!

The Shop added seven new artists to its talented pool of makers, including three Indigenous artists—Heron Moonlight Hargreave and Gina Phillips Lawrence, both with beautiful, beaded creations, and Medicine Bear Arts with his gorgeous silver casted jewelry. We also have blown glass creations by Wildfire Productions Glass and her offspring Canyon, gorgeous brass jewelry by Leo Maraviglia and t-shirts created by AFKO.

For our 17th ArtWalk we were very fortunate to show the work of Ilsoo Kyung. From Korea, Ilsoo is a multi-media artist living in Nelson and working with photography,

painting, and print-making. We hosted a plethora of authors this year, including Ted Barris (*Battle of the Atlantic*), Brian d'Eon (*The Draper Catalogue*), Molly Lynch (*The Forbidden Territory of a Terrifying Woman*), and a holiday time book signing by Ginia and Lucas Jmieff with their new children's book *Follow me to the Golden Tree*.

We were delighted to have some amazing upcycled wearable art on display by Haute Trash. These unique pieces were part of a runway style fashion show and competition the week before and then on display in the NMAG lobby for a few weeks.

CINDY FILLION
VISITOR SERVICES MANAGER



Book wall. Photo of Bobbi Barbarich.



Mugs from Ovo Ceramics. Photo by Bobbi Barbarich.



A group of SD8 students on a school tour of the Elevation exhibition, where they learned about land use, the recreation economy, sports history, and of course - the mural!

Education

2023 saw substantial growth in educational programming at the museum. There was a total of 38 educational tours in 2023, with a wide range of student groups from kindergarten to post-secondary. Paper and digital copies of the educational programming brochure were sent out to all the schools in SD8 before the start of the school year, highlighting our upcoming exhibit schedule. With the start of the 2023/2024 school year, teachers booking tours received lesson plans specifically designed to complement their visit, including pre-visit discussion questions and post-visit activities. The lesson plans offer a way to deepen and enrich the learning that takes place during a school tour, linking content to the BC curriculum.

Many classes have come for multiple tours—to visit the 2nd floor museum exhibit, the Cold War Bunker, or the current exhibits on display in Gallery A & B. Each space offers unique learning opportunities; it has been exciting to see students return to learn in the various spaces in

the building, each time expanding their understanding of history, art, and culture.

Teachers and students were especially excited to visit the concurrent exhibits *Elevation* and *Give or Take a Few Million Years* that finished off the year in the galleries and continued into 2024. The accompanying lesson plans for the exhibits focus on cartography (the storytelling of maps) and cultivating a sense of place. It has been a pleasure to hear about students' relationship to the land and mountains.

We look forward to welcoming many more students in 2024 and continuing to learn alongside and from the youth in the community!

KALIKA BOWLBY
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

2023 Financial Statements



Independent Practitioner's Review Engagement Report

To the Members of
Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society that comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society as at December 31, 2023, and the results of its operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by the Societies Act of British Columbia, we report that, in our opinion, the accounting principles in Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Pinnacle PAC

Chartered Professional Accountants
March 26, 2024

Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at December 31

	Note	2023	2022	2021
Assets				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents		\$ 782,768	\$ 409,300	\$ 675,959
Accounts receivable		37,111	150,450	16,896
Inventory		34,294	36,808	25,480
Prepaid expenses		12,710	25,621	15,735
		866,883	622,179	734,070
Prepaid Lease		-	-	210,325
Collections	3	100	100	100
Tangible Capital Assets	4	450,791	387,834	308,412
		\$ 1,317,774	\$ 1,010,113	\$ 1,252,907
Liabilities and Net Assets				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts payable		\$ 58,590	\$ 91,335	\$ 79,657
Government remittances payable		12,036	10,803	14,108
Deferred revenue (Schedule 1)		586,214	157,985	253,719
		656,840	260,123	347,484
CEBA Loan Payable	5	-	40,000	40,000
		656,840	300,123	387,484
Deferred Capital Contributions	6	385,433	343,034	279,770
Net Assets				
Building lease fund		-	-	210,325
Invested in tangible capital assets		65,358	44,800	28,642
Internally restricted net assets	7	210,143	322,156	336,738
Unrestricted net assets		-	-	9,948
		275,501	366,956	585,653
		\$ 1,317,774	\$ 1,010,113	\$ 1,252,907

Approved by the Directors:

Nick Kostiuk

Nick Kostiuk

Sheila Achilles

S. Achilles

Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended December 31

	Note	2023	2022	2021
Revenue				
Grants revenue	8	\$ 667,450	\$ 722,203	\$ 590,133
Earned revenue	9	156,369	126,451	145,684
Donations		103,114	45,757	26,348
		926,933	894,411	762,165
Expenses				
Human resources		441,157	396,046	354,386
Events and programs		232,211	202,613	222,481
Building operations		131,647	120,680	102,909
Administration		91,766	86,793	72,113
Amortization of tangible capital assets		73,212	62,025	48,296
Gift shop cost of sales		58,395	45,192	68,774
		1,028,388	913,349	868,959
Operating deficit		(101,455)	(18,938)	(106,794)
Covid 19 Subsidies		10,000	-	86,151
Excess of revenues over expenses (deficit)		\$ (91,455)	\$ (18,938)	\$ (20,643)

Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended December 31

	2023	2022	2021
Operating Activities			
Excess of revenues over expenses (deficit)	\$ (91,455)	\$ (18,938)	\$ (20,643)
Non-cash items			
Amortization of prepaid lease	-	10,566	10,429
Amortization of tangible capital assets	73,212	62,025	48,296
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	(58,723)	(48,612)	(43,264)
Changes in non-cash working capital			
Accounts receivable	113,339	(133,554)	(2,116)
Inventory	2,514	(11,328)	3,998
Prepaid expenses	12,911	(9,886)	(7,078)
Accounts payable	(32,745)	11,678	30,993
Government remittances payable	1,233	(3,305)	14,108
Deferred revenue	428,229	(95,734)	(16,403)
Deferred capital contributions	101,122	111,876	32,831
	549,637	(125,212)	51,151
Financing Activities			
Repayment of CEBA loan	(30,000)	-	-
Non-cash items			
Forgivable portion of CEBA loan	(10,000)	-	-
	(40,000)	-	-
Investing Activities			
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(136,169)	(141,447)	(32,831)
Change in cash and cash equivalents	373,468	(266,659)	18,320
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	409,300	675,959	657,639
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 782,768	\$ 409,300	\$ 675,959

2023 Volunteers

The Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery is grateful for the dedication of a strong team of volunteers in 2023. Cataloguing images in the Archives, greeting visitors at the Front Desk, setting up events, and participating on committees - volunteers make an impact in every department. We couldn't open the doors without you!

Achilles, Sheila	Elias, Christine	Nesteroff, Greg
Ames, Nelson	Gillender, Joy	Neville, Sharon
Attridge, Maureen	Goertz, Talia	Nicholson, Sherry
Backus, Gretchen	Harrison, Sudy	O'Neill, Lori
Becker, Nelson	Heer, Carmen	Radonich, Nancy
Bergman, Carol	Henderson, Linda	Ray, Dennis
Best, Marilyn	Inkster, Lorna	Rogula, Ola
Beug, Peter	Iocca, Laura Rose	Sanna, Anthony
Bukowski, Brent	Knox, Liz	Setzer, Madeline
Bukowski, Eli	Kostiuk, Nick	Steed, Wendy
Bukowski, Morgan	Kovats, Lena	Stroo, Anne
Carson, Ben	Lillian, Jenine	Suuban, Nancy
Christensen, Pat	Littlewood, Gail	Tremblay, Marianne
Couch, Barbara	Mackintosh, Susan	Tremblay, Nicole
Davies, Bruce	Mannings, Ed	Van Hombeeck, Linda
Davies, Eileen	McDonnell, Ann	Wallace, Christine
Dennis, Maggie	McDonnell, Bill	Wicks, Michael
Deon, Judy	McLeod, Della	Wilson-Birks, Elliot
Dew, Cheryl	Mulloy, Judy	Yates, Matthew
Dunkerson, Jennifer		

Staff & Board of Directors

STAFF (AS OF DEC 2023)

JENNIFER NEAL DUNKERSON | Executive Director
JEAN-PHILIPPE STIENNE | Collections Manager and Archivist
ARIN FAY | Curator
CINDY FILLION | Visitor Services Manager
STEPHANIE DELNEA | Communications and Development Manager
LESLEY GARLOW | Social Justice Coordinator
STEPHANIE MYERS | Public Program Coordinator
KALIKA BOWLBY | Education Coordinator
TRESSA FORD | Assistant Archivist

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (AS OF DEC 2023)

SHEILA ACHILLES | Chair of the Board
NICK KOSTIUK | Treasurer
NELSON AMES | Director
CHELSEY FREYTA YATES | Director
PETER BEUG | Director
NANCY SUUBAN | Director
LINDA KALBUN | Director

2023 Partners & Funders

DONORS

Applewhaite, Robin and Maureen
Barbarich, Bobbi
Barris, Ted
Calvert, Scott
Castonguay, Julie
Dawson, Julie
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Donaldson, Lana
Donaldson, Andrea
Dow, Sharon
Epton, Richard
Farenholtz, Elizabeth
Fortin, Bob
Freeman, Kim
Goldik, Heather
Leibov, Bernard
Mannings, Ed and Laurie
Martin, Dave and Sheila
Mint, Morton
Morrison, Janice
Muth, Kenneth
O'Connell, Caitlin
Poole, Alexander
Porter, Roland and Sheila
Repair Factory, The
Roback, Frances
Tremblay, Marianne
Van Hombeeck, Linda
Welwood, Frances
Wilson, Marcia
Wright, Jane

GRANT FUNDERS

BC Arts Council
BC Gaming Commission
BC Rural Development Fund
Canada Council for the Arts
Canada Summer Jobs
City of Nelson
Columbia Basin Trust
Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance
Fortis BC
Government of Canada
Hamber Foundation
Heritage BC
Irving K Barber Digitization Grant (UBC)
J & R Reilly Foundation
Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism
Osprey Foundation
Province of British Columbia
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Telus Community Foundation
Vancouver Foundation
Young Canada Works

PARTNERSHIPS, SPONSORS, AND COLLABORATIONS

Sinixt Confederacy
Yaqaan Nukiy (Lower Kootenay Band)
Ktunaxa Nation Council
West Kootenay Métis Association
Archives Association of BC
BC Historical Federation
BC Museums Association
Canadian Museums Association
Capitol Theatre
CIBC / Mannings Wealth Management
City of Nelson
Columbia Basin Culture Tour
Corazón / Lalin
Grant Thornton
Heritage BC
Kalesnikoff
Kays Contracting
Kootenay Bakery Café
Kootenay Co-op
Nelson & District Arts Council
Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce
Nelson Civic Theatre Society
Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism
Osprey Community Foundation
Selkirk College
School District 8

S

ART LAB

Every child is an artist.
The problem is how to remain an artist
once we grow up.

Picasso

n is more
than

A. Einstein

Welcome to the Touchstones ArtLab, a hands-on art station for families and people of all ages meant to inspire, create dialogue, and have fun. We encourage you to take a moment to create and further reflect on the themes and ideas presented in the gallery exhibit.



A quiet art break. Photo by Bobbi Barbarich.