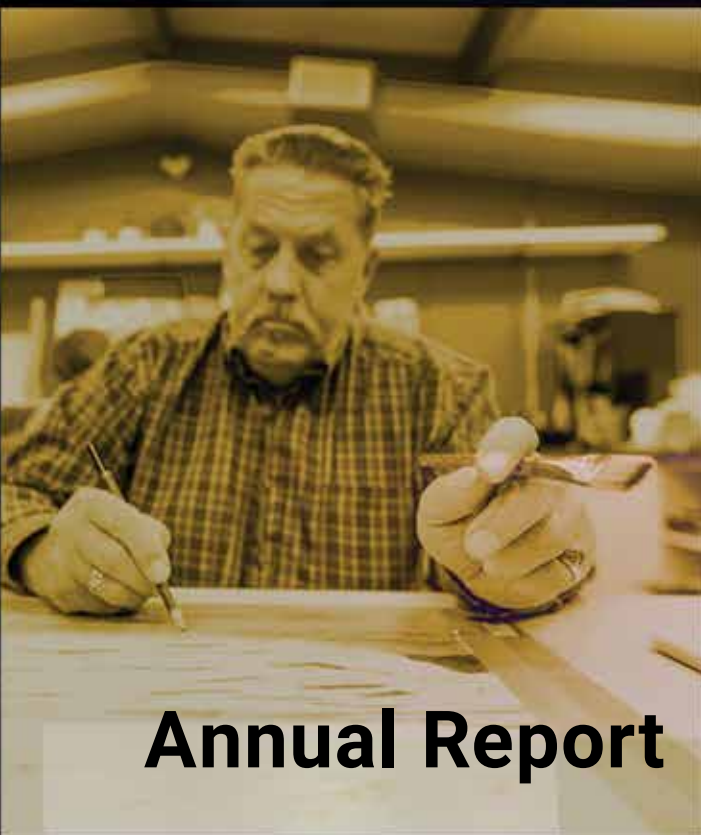


NaAC
CNaA

National
accessArts
Centre

Centre
National des
accèsArts



Annual Report

2022
2023





**RESET.
REFOCUS.
REIMAGINE.**

NaAC

Message from the Board Chair and the President + CEO

Dear friend of the NaAC,

We are excited to share our 2022/23 Annual Report of the National accessArts Centre (NaAC). In what appears to be an annual NaAC tradition, we look back on a year of extraordinary growth – fuelled by our artists' creativity and the generosity of our government partners, foundations, and donors.

Having completed our second full year operating as the NaAC – proudly the country's largest disability arts organization – there are so many things to celebrate, including:

- The hosting of Canada's first national conference on arts training for artists with developmental disabilities – BEGINNING – in Banff and Vancouver in May 2022.
- The premiere of Canada's first classical music composition by seven neurodiverse artists in Toronto and Calgary in Summer 2022.

- The announcement of a new partnership with the family of the late Canadian sculptor Won Lee, which has led to the donation of a new venue in Toronto.
- Our ongoing international partnerships, hosting the world-renowned Daniel Vais from Drag Syndrome as a producer-in-residence – leading to the development of a new performance piece ICONIC+ (which will soon tour nationally), as well as artist Pixel Kim from Korea.

All of this work continues to be centred on the aspirations of our 350+ artists living with disabilities. Our growing team of staff and volunteers remain committed to creating an environment where bold ideas and ambitious risks are encouraged and supported. It is this dedication that continues to bolster the careers of our artists – and where, once again, we celebrate close to \$800,000 in artist fees and commissions disbursed to our community since 2019.

Our journey is not without its challenges. More than doubling our size in less than five years has increased financial pressures on our organization, but we are encouraged by the unprecedented support from our funders. Our Board of Directors is also undergoing an ambitious evolution to ensure that our governance and leadership reflect our organization's ongoing growth, and address short- and long-term opportunities and challenges.

But our challenges pale in comparison to those facing our artist community, and there is much more work that remains as we strive to dismantle the many barriers that exist in our country's arts and culture sector. We know that the NaAC is optimally positioned to continue this work as a national leader in our space, and that our artists will always remain resilient and committed to their practice. This is why our work matters – and why we're proud to share with you the progress we've made in the past year.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Ron Hoffmann
Chair, Board of Directors

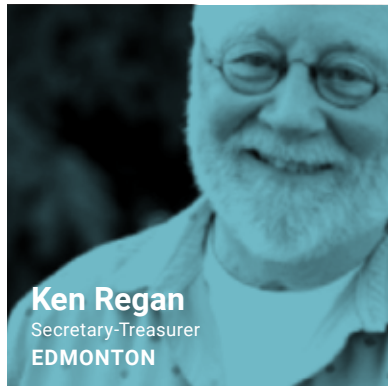
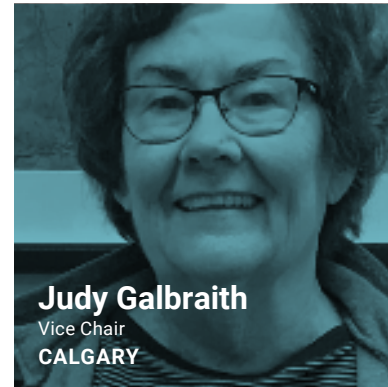


Jung-Suk (JS) Ryu
President and CEO



**National
accessArts
Centre**

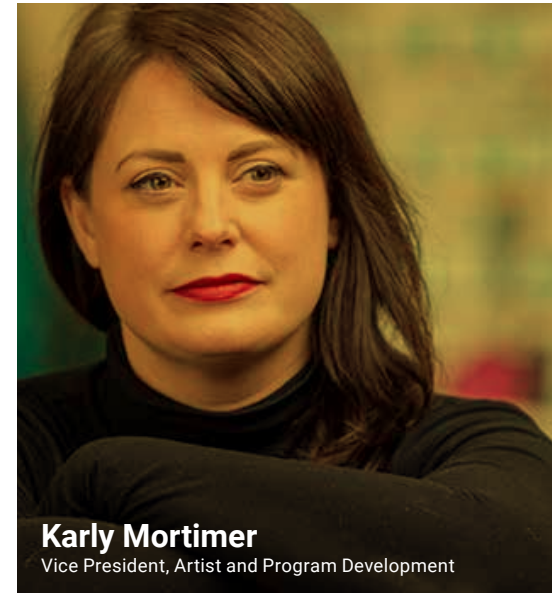
NaAC Board of Directors 2022/23



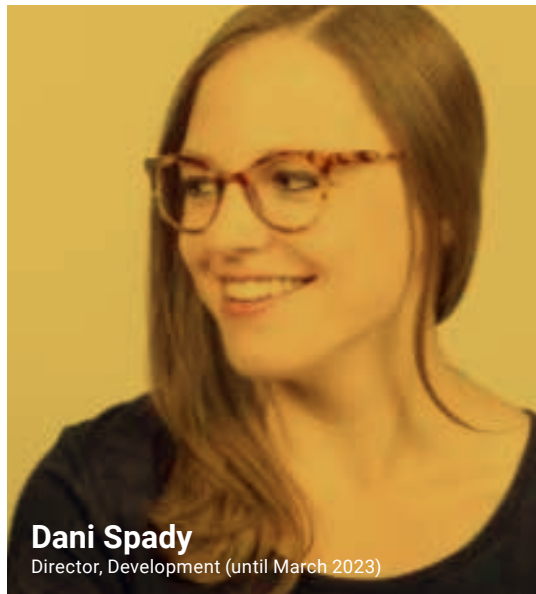
NaAC Management Team 2022/23



Jung-Suk (JS) Ryu
President and CEO



Karly Mortimer
Vice President, Artist and Program Development



Dani Spady
Director, Development (until March 2023)



Ankur Gupta
Director, Development (March 2023)



Heather Jones
Director, Artist Services

We are the National accessArts Centre.

VISION:

Communities across Canada recognize, celebrate, and proactively include the talents and skills of artists with disabilities.

MISSION:

Providing artistic training, creation, exhibition, and presenting opportunities for artists with disabilities, and sharing the power of their creativity through local and global partnerships and advocacy that open doors for their inclusion in our arts and culture ecosystem.



Our annual report reflects on our progress made against our current strategic plan – Reset. Refocus. Reimagine. We encourage readers to read our strategic plan by visiting accessarts.ca/about.

RESET. REFOCUS. REIMAGINE.

NaAC

Artistic Training

GOAL:

Guided by the strengths, needs and aspirations of artists with disabilities, the NaAC will establish a new artist training framework that pushes boundaries – giving the artists opportunities to advance their individual practice and develop and grow as leaders in their field.



THE NATIONAL ACCESSARTS CENTRE



INITIATIVE 1.1:

Launch a hybrid program delivery model with digital elements that allow for recording, livestreaming, and immersive learning experiences for artists.

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the NaAC continued to deliver programs both in-person (respecting health and safety protocols) and online via Zoom. With ongoing feedback from our artist community, NaAC's online programs focused on skills development and collaborative learning – successfully engaging 95%+ of our artist community.

The NaAC is now in the final stages of launching artLMS, a new digital learning experience platform that has been funded by Shaw Communications.



INITIATIVE 1.2:

Proactively compile and develop learnings and best practices through our own artistic training initiatives.

Work continues to secure funders to support this important element around our work. In the absence of a formalized process, the NaAC studio team convenes weekly to do a deep dive into our participating artists, celebrating their successes and also brainstorming solutions to break down any current or foreseen barriers in their work.

INITIATIVE 1.3:

Develop specific training opportunities tailored to an artists' stage of practice.

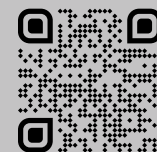
Canada

Last year, the NaAC formalized its Professional Track

programs, building more structure around NaAC's track record of connecting our artist community to professional development and advancement opportunities. Professional Track programs spans visual arts, dance, music, film, and interdisciplinary mediums – with the goal of working with individual artists and ensembles to help build their careers as artists. At the time of writing (May 2023), the Government of Canada has committed \$400,000 through the Canada Arts Training Fund towards the development of these programs.

In Fall 2022, the NaAC launched the inaugural Artist Practicum Program, providing nine months of advanced training for four selected NaAC artists, focusing on specific areas of practice: Mark Bedford (Painting and Drawing), Alison Cherer (Ceramics), Laura LaPeare (Photography), and Andre Paradis (Fibre). In addition to their dedicated studio time, they are given a further six hours of weekly hands-on training and mentorship from the NaAC community of studio facilitators.

The NaAC also continues to expand its artShare program, a complimentary learning initiative that provides auxiliary professional training to NaAC artists. Over the span of eight weeks, seven NaAC artists have visited local art spaces, developing an understanding of the nuances between commercial and artist-run spaces, as well as public art galleries.



Meet our NaAC artists participating in the first Artist Practicum Program.

LEARN MORE

Creation

GOAL:

The NaAC will create brave spaces for experimentation and commissioning of works that span and connect multiple disciplines.



INITIATIVE 2.1:

Expand opportunities for collaborative and multidisciplinary creation.

In the last year, the NaAC has increased its focus on providing ensemble-based arts training initiatives, now with six active ensembles that are trained and actively engaged in creating new work at a professional level. From engaging in commissioning projects or creation residences, participating artists are exploring new artistic disciplines including film, musical theatre, visual art, digital media, and beyond.

Last year, the NaAC completed its first phase of exploring opera/musical theatre in partnership with Calgary Opera. The project, dubbed Act I, brought together NaAC artists with composers and performers from the Calgary Opera to discuss elements of building stories and characters that could then evolve into an operatic or musical theatre production.

CALGARY opera



INITIATIVE 2.2:

Push boundaries with more emphasis on digital and large-scale projects.

The NaAC Film Program kicked off led by Katie Wackett who has developed a series of community classes and a new NaAC ensemble. The artists have been experimenting with digital and analog filmmaking processes, and adding original sound and scores to their films which will be making their way through the festival circuit in the next year

Ninety artists contributed to the Modern Icons exhibition where artists had their work displayed digitally on the big screen at the cSPACE Studio Theatre. Artists explored what it means to be an Icon via exhibition kits that were delivered to the artists' homes. Artists joined virtual and in-person workshops to develop and refine their works culminating in a powerful exhibition about who our community determines to be iconic.

INITIATIVE 2.3:

Create more opportunities to be engaged in the display of our artists' works in more publicly accessible venues (e.g., public art).

DIALOG sponsored an exhibition series that saw 3-month solo exhibitions in their Calgary office. Kim McGowan kicked off the partnership with her exhibition "Chocolate Cake" featuring fibre and painting works.

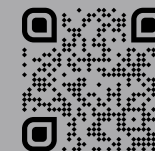
DIALOG®

The WINDOW project, in partnership with Calgary Arts Development and ATB Financial, continued through the first half of last year, with large vinyl reproductions of our artists' works on display in the windows of several ATB Financial branches across Calgary.



ATB Financial™

The NaAC began a partnership with Calgary Public Art through the artShare program where artists were supported in the application to a public art call. In 2023-24 this partnership will support 8 artists from the NaAC in the development of public artworks to be displayed in a large window space in downtown Calgary.



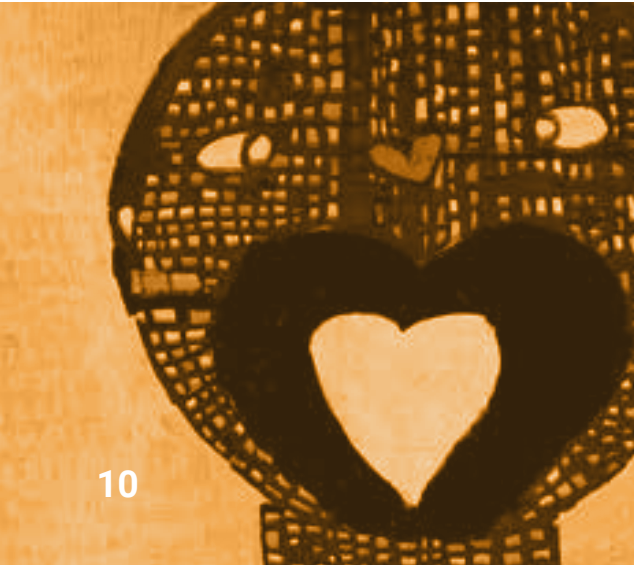
The NaAC dance ensemble has unveiled a new performance piece

LEARN MORE

Exhibitions + Presenting

GOAL:

The NaAC will embrace exhibitions and presenting opportunities as creative platforms for artists. We will showcase the works, contexts and stories of artists through diverse and sometimes unexpected approaches, and will also support opportunities for artists themselves to lead the design and execution of their exhibitions or productions.



INITIATIVE 3.1:

Expand opportunities that provide income-generating opportunities for artists.

The NaAC connected our artist community to more than \$193,000 in artist fees, commissions, royalties, and rehearsal fees over the past fiscal year. These fees continue to be aligned with industry standards defined by bodies such as CARFAC and the Canadian Dance Assembly.

NaAC staff worked one-on-one with a cohort of NaAC artists to apply for their first individual project grants from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. Artist Andrew Harding was successful in securing a grant to support a new project in 2023-24.

NaAC artists have been in paid teaching positions. The community programs in dance continue to be co-led by Alicia Morrison and James Silcock, and Andrew Harding lead his Art in the Dark workshop for a group at Cenovus.

Still in pre-launch, beta mode, more than 50 NaAC artists are now regularly engaging with the artjourney platform, a marketing tool that empowers NaAC artists to share their creative journeys and completed works.

artjourney.

INITIATIVE 3.2:

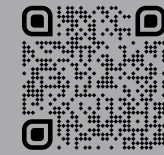
Provide spaces for artists to engage with the public in both digital and in-person conversations.

In Summer 2022, the NaAC – in partnership with Xenia Concerts – premiered Seven Miniatures for the Rolston String Quartet in Toronto and Calgary to sold-out crowds. The piece, composed by seven neurodiverse artists from both Calgary and Toronto, is the first composition of its kind in Canada, showcasing the potential of artists with developmental disabilities when exploring the composition of classical music.

The Conference of the Birds ensemble was invited to showcase their work at the What Works Summit in Banff in May 2022. The conference is a global meeting about the health and vibrancy of our communities, and the ensemble was there to share ways that the disability community can be engaged in important civic conversation.

In May 2022, the NaAC took over the Pioneer on Steven Avenue to present several solo exhibitions including “I Learned His Story in the News” by David Oppong, “Holy Grail” by Roby King and “Pixel Sharing” by Korean-based artist Pixel Kim. The venue also showcased “Midnight in Space” curated by Michelle Bennie featuring 17 NaAC artists. Michelle curates the works into subcategories and gives them alternative titles to weave a narrative in an exhibition. Her decision to include her own interpretations in the way the works are presented demonstrates freedom to connect to artworks in our own ways.

In June 2022, the NaAC partnered with Crip Rave to host an accessible dance party and album launch from NaAC’s music ensemble. Crip Rave is a Toronto-based collective showcasing and



The 5 Stages
of Music
Production

LEARN MORE

prioritizing disability within safe and accessible rave spaces. Hosted as part of Sled Island Art + Music Festival, the event included lively ASL music interpretation and DJs from the disability community including DJ REGULAR DAD, Wheel-Sexi, ra / sol and DJ Vidojee.

In September 2022, the NaAC partnered with the estate of the late Canadian sculptor Won Lee – whose remaining works are now under the stewardship of the NaAC – in exhibiting a selection of his works at StART Art Fair in Seoul, Korea. StART Art Fair was founded by the London-based Saatchi Gallery as an antithesis to the Frieze Art Fair movement.

In May 2022, the NaAC hosted Salon 0.0 at Kaffeeklatsch hosted by Daniel Vais of Drag Syndrome. This in-person event was also streamed live and featured performances and discussions about contemporary disability practices. JorDen Tyson performed an improvised dance with Calgary saxophonist Jairus Sharif and Paul Brain discussed his approach to thinking big and reframing what it is to be an artist with a disability.

In May 2022, the NaAC hosted ICONIC, an event and exhibition at cSPACE. 31 artists exhibited their work conceptualizing original film ideas as part of the Movie Poster Exhibition. The evening included a performance by the dance ensemble and culminated in a dance party.

Sharing

GOAL:

The NaAC will be a recognized listener, leader, and convener of vital conversations about art and disability. We are in solidarity with the larger community of marginalized groups, and will be fierce advocates for understanding and change in the broader issues around equity and social justice.



INITIATIVE 4.1:

Position and provide opportunities for artists with disabilities to be seen and recognized as thought leaders.

Beginning: A NATIONAL CONVERSATION

In May 2022, the NaAC successfully hosted BEGINNING: A National Conversation, inviting more than 80 delegates to Banff and Vancouver to take part in the country's very first conference focused on ways to increase accessibility and supports for Canadian artists living with developmental disabilities. Alongside keynote speakers from the UK, the US, and Korea, NaAC artists played a key role as panelists, moderators, and participants in the many discussions that took place over the course of four days.

In September 2022, the NaAC's Board of Directors started an internal stakeholder engagement initiative with the goal of incorporating the aspirations and ideas of our artist community into our governance and leadership efforts.

In January 2023, the staff and ensemble artists began a fuller investigation into what disability leadership looks like in the program New Work New Ways. All members of the NaAC's 6 ensembles met together monthly to share their work and approach with the goal of continually improving the ways that our artists are centered as leaders in their larger artistic projects. Learnings included new approaches to working with technicians and guest artists, and new ways of articulating the diverse ways our artists work and their ideal support.



INITIATIVE 4.2:

Expand our public policy and advocacy work in the arts/culture sector to also take form in other equity-seeking communities.

Business / Arts

The National accessArts Centre became the first disability-centred arts organization to be invited to the Canadian Arts Summit in 2022. Reserved for organizations that meet a budget threshold and/or meet programmatic expectations that have national impact, the NaAC is now beginning to actively advocate for accessible arts policies and programs via this national platform.

In May 2022, President and CEO JS Ryu participated in the Canadian Heritage Minister's National Arts and Culture Summit in Ottawa. In September 2022, he was invited to participate in the Banff Forum in Charlottetown, PEI.

Our President and CEO has spoken at: The Creative Growth Symposium (Oakland, CA), Alberta Council of Disability Services (Edmonton, AB), and The Graduate College of the University of Calgary (Canmore, AB).

Over the course of the past year, the NaAC has participated in or authored op-eds in The Hill Times and Calgary Herald, who our community determines to be iconic.

INITIATIVE 4.3:

Expand our digital presence.

Work is underway to publicly launch our artjourney and artLMS platforms.

artjourney.

In early 2023, preliminary work has completed to develop a new client/donor/stakeholder/artist management platform that will be launched in tandem with a new accessarts.ca website that is set to launch Winter 2023.





A new home.

The NaAC continues to make progress in the construction of North America's first multidisciplinary accessible arts campus. Work on the NaAC visual arts studios has begun in partnership with the City of Calgary, with completion slated for 2025, while the organization continues to await a federal funding decision to construct an adjacent multidisciplinary arts space – also with projected completion by 2025.



A new presence in Toronto.

In May 2022, the NaAC announced that it will be opening the NaAC x Won Lee Community Arts Hub in Toronto, Ontario, thanks to the generous donation of a \$2.0M facility by the family and estate of the late Canadian sculptor Won Lee. This transaction has now been completed, and work will begin in Fall 2023 with a round of local and national roundtable discussions to see how this new opportunity can, in turn, provide much needed support for the local arts – and disability arts – scene.

Financials

The National accessArts Centre concluded its fiscal year (ending March 31, 2023) with significant changes to its financial position.

On the one hand, the NaAC finished the year with a larger than projected deficit caused by both a decrease in donations and an increase in expenditures related to projects such as BEGINNING: A National Conversation.

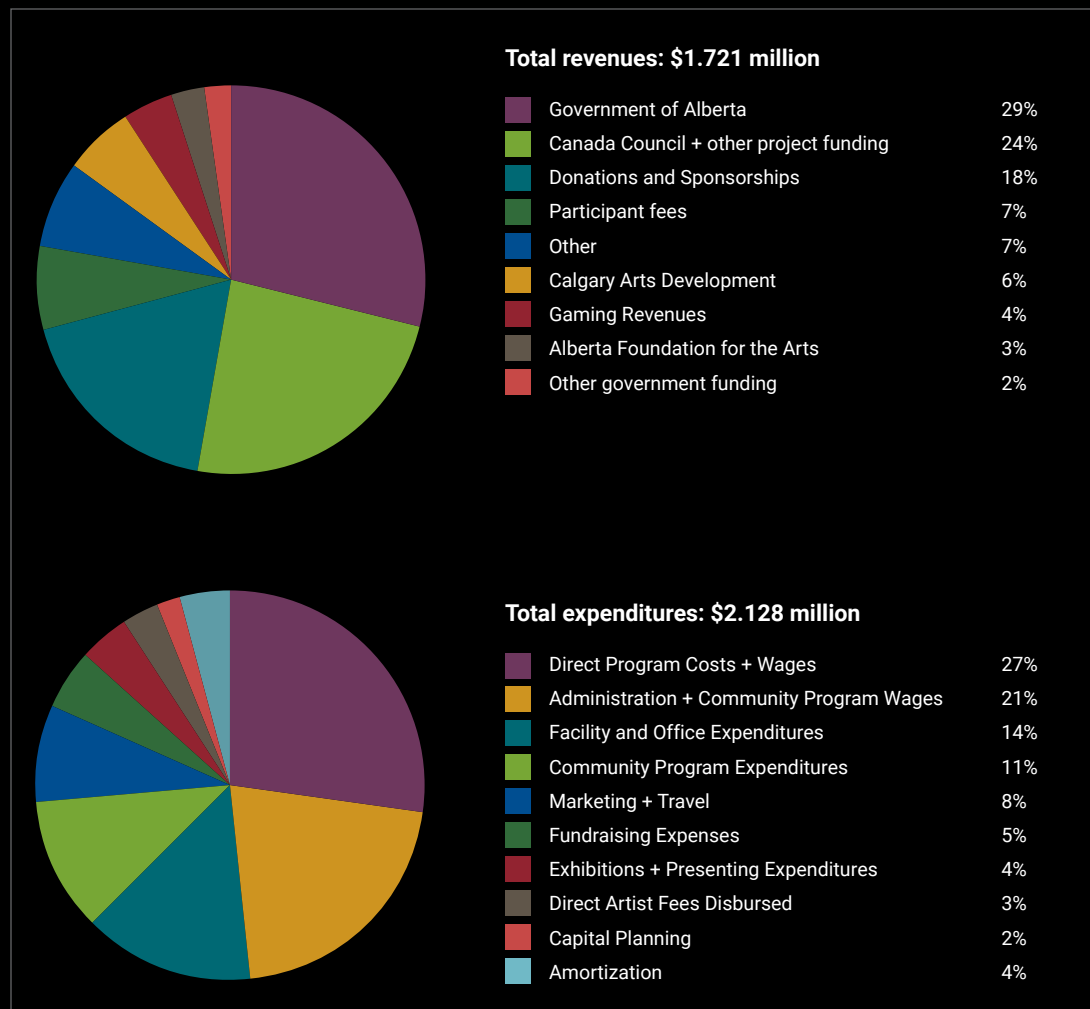
On the other hand, however, the NaAC also inherited its first real estate asset – the Won Lee Community Arts Hub. Valued at \$1.7 million, this is the largest gift ever to be received in our organization’s history – and presents several strategic opportunities to leverage our organization’s strengths and amplify them nationwide in Canada’s largest city.

This past fiscal year, the NaAC Board and Management approved a \$400,000 Line of Credit secured against our Toronto property to help finance this deficit and withstand any cash flow pressures. With new funding avenues in place for the 2023/24 fiscal year – including a more aggressive fund development strategy – the NaAC Board and Management is confident that our growth in programs will be supported by a significantly increased amount of donations and investments from our donors and funding partners, respectively – efforts that will ensure that we continue to invest in our programs, while also paying down the debt incurred this past year.

Numbers presented are pre-audited. Audited financial statements can be requested by emailing info@accessarts.ca or can be found online at accessarts.ca/about.

For our full audited financial statements, visit www.accessarts.ca/about

Assets	2023	2022
Cash + Intangible Assets	\$405,694	\$697,653
Property and Equipment	\$1,620,105 <small>(including the Won Lee Community Arts Hub)</small>	\$24,674
Total	\$2,025,799	\$722,327



Supporters

OPERATIONAL FUNDERS

Government of Alberta
Calgary Arts Development
Alberta Foundation for the Arts
TD Ready Commitment

PROJECT PARTNERS

Calgary Foundation
Canada Council for the Arts
Global Affairs Canada
Government of Korea: Ministry of
Sports, Culture, and Tourism

DONORS \$20,000+

ATB Financial
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Banff Global Business Forum
Hotchkiss Family Charitable Foundation
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Pansy Angevine
Rachel Wade
Roland Wigham
Simon Mallett

What is an Artist Fund Patron?

Our Artist Fund Patron initiative is for monthly donors whose support is directed towards subsidizing the cost of travel, supplies, framing, rehearsal spaces specific to our professional track artists. There is so often a financial barrier for an artist to reach the next level in their practice – the Artist Fund allows us to address this, and our patrons' support is absolutely critical. Learn more about becoming an Artist Fund Patron by visiting accessarts.ca/help, and selecting Artist Fund Patron when signing up for your monthly gift of \$20 or more.

OPERATIONAL PARTNERS



**TD READY
COMMITMENT**

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Centre
National des
accèsArts

accessarts.ca



CALGARY

NaAC Visual Arts Studios

8038 Fairmount Drive SE, Calgary

Most of our programs currently operate out of the NaAC Visual Arts Studios, across both levels.



CALGARY

Decidedly Jazz Danceworks

111 12 Ave SE, Calgary

Dance and movement programs operate out of Decidedly Jazz Danceworks.



TORONTO

NaAC x Won Lee Community Arts Hub

1594 Queen Street West, Toronto

Some programs will have workshop and exhibition opportunities at our NaAC x Won Lee Community Arts Hub in Toronto.

