



Galt
MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

AKAISAMITOHKANA O'PA

eternal gathering place

**2023
ANNUAL
REPORT**

eternal gathering place

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Above: The Oki sign outside the Museum.

Opposite page: Bird's eye view of the Galt Museum & Archives.



MISSION

Our community-centred approach and our commitment to reflecting the world around us deepen the sense of belonging for our communities.

VISION

As the heart of our community, our dynamic energy is the spark for curiosity, compassion and connection.

VALUES

- Working with our communities, we steward and share stories.
- We believe trust is at the foundation of strong, positive relationships, with each other and with our communities.
- We work in service of our communities, listening and being accountable for our actions.
- We approach our work with courage, embracing innovation and adaptability.
- We continually work toward sustainability and holistically consider our practices from cultural, health, financial, environmental and social perspectives.

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENTS

- Redefining Museum: Meaning is created from challenging our traditional ways of working.
- Reconciliation: Actively standing in reconciliation, truth is heard and acknowledged, and respectful and healthy relationships are nurtured.
- Gathering Place: A beautiful, safe and comfortable space where everyone feels welcome.
- Platform for Inclusion: Diverse voices are elevated.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

It was an honour and pleasure to serve as Board Chair for Galt Museum & Archives and Fort Whoop-Up in 2023, and to build on the great work that the Board of Directors had undertaken before I joined. The past year marked a period of continued change, renewal, and regrowth for the museum, as we continued to navigate the arts and culture landscape in Southern Alberta post-COVID. I take great pride in observing the numerous accomplishments made by the staff at the Galt and the fort this year, and the substantial progress achieved on various crucial priorities for the institution.

In 2023, at the Board level, we diligently advanced key initiatives such as updating and formalizing policies and processes, continued to advocate for the role of the Board in governing the museum, engaging in active recruitment for new Board members and attending events and exhibition openings. One of the Board's major initiatives this year was the organization of the Community Connections event in late November. The event was an opportunity for the community to (re)connect with the Galt, learn about goings on at the museum over the past few years post-pandemic, enjoy some refreshments and play a fun historical engagement activity. We hope this becomes an annual event that continues to see the doors of the Galt flung open for new and returning supporters of the institution. In addition, the Board provided steadfast support to the CEO/Executive Director, Darrin Martens, as he continued to lead the organization forward with his team, growing memberships, public and school programming, and advancing timely and critical exhibitions.

As a key cultural institution in Lethbridge and the Southern Alberta region, the Galt persevered through the lingering challenges posed by the pandemic but did so by continuing to forge strong relationships with the varied communities and publics that make up our wonderful city and region. The museum experienced positive growth in visitor numbers, both for the museum and the fort visitation, as well as an increase in memberships. Additionally, the Galt welcomed more K-12 students in 2023, as well as increasing the number of community programs on offer, all encouraging indications of regrowth at the museum.

As the outgoing Board Chair, my sincere hope is that I am leaving the Board and organization in a stronger position than when I first assumed the role. As I reflect on the efforts undertaken during my tenure as Chair, I have unwavering confidence that the Board and the museum are in a better place and will only continue to grow and develop. In one of my final responsibilities as Chair, I wish to express sincere gratitude on behalf of the Board of Directors to the skilled and indispensable staff, members, volunteers, donors, and sponsors who contribute to the ongoing success of the museum. It has been an immense pleasure to be associated with such a passionate group dedicated to redefining the museum, advancing reconciliation, and creating a gathering place where a diversity of communities are welcome.

Devon Smither, Board Chair



Devon Smither



Darrin Martens

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

“The Only Constant in Life Is Change.” - Heraclitus.

Oki. Welcome to 2024! This year is full of immense potential and opportunities for the Galt Museum & Archives and Fort Whoop-Up. Before we delve into the future, let’s take a moment to reflect on 2023, which was an exceptional year for our organization marked by tremendous achievements, growth, and transformation.

In this report, our team members have shared texts and images that showcase the remarkable innovation, risk-taking, reflection, and experimentation that took place last year. At the core of our enterprise remains our unwavering commitment to our strategic plan and community impact statements. Our priorities include redefining the museum, promoting reconciliation, creating a gathering place, and establishing a platform for inclusion. These four pillars are responsible for the ongoing evolution of the Museum and Fort and how we work with the community to better serve our ever-changing constituency.

Our visitorship is growing, our engagements with tourists and program participants are deepening, our education programs are connecting with a greater number of classrooms, and our exhibition program are expanding to reach new audiences. I am incredibly proud of our team and what they have accomplished during my brief tenure at the Galt. They are an inspiration to me, epitomizing quality community service and dedication to their respective craft.

They are all innovators and true professionals, always questioning, always changing, and always receptive to developing new solutions to complex problems.

Leading this team out of the COVID-19 pandemic and charting a new course is one of the greatest achievements of my 30+ year career in this industry. Setting a course for our organization to flourish in a new, different world was challenging. Wrestling with the unknown and projecting a vision for a community-centred organization takes courage. I am confident that we can achieve our goals. The Board of Directors’ unequivocal support of me, my leadership, and the programs and services provided by team members has been a true gift. I could not ask for a better way to end my career as CEO/ Executive Director of the Galt Museum & Archives and Fort Whoop-Up – a remarkable institution with gifted team members and an exceptionally bright future.

As we secure a new leader for our organization, I am confident that the wheels of change will continue to roll on. While there may be challenges and setbacks along the way, the resiliency of our team members and their dedication to excellence will continue under the watchful eyes of our committed Board of Directors.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve this institution and community over the past four years. I am confident that the Galt and Fort will continue to achieve great things in the years to come.

Darrin J Martens (Aaká óóhkotoki, Many Rocks), CEO/Executive Director

BY THE NUMBERS

1.2%

THE GALT'S PORTION OF CITY OF LETHBRIDGE 2022 NET TAXES*

22,977

GALT VISITATION

+8.9%

CHANGE FROM 2022

5,905

FORT VISITATION

+19.2%

CHANGE FROM 2022

433

NEW/RENEWED
MEMBERSHIP

+1.2%

CHANGE FROM 2022

* 2022 Annual Report, City of Lethbridge.

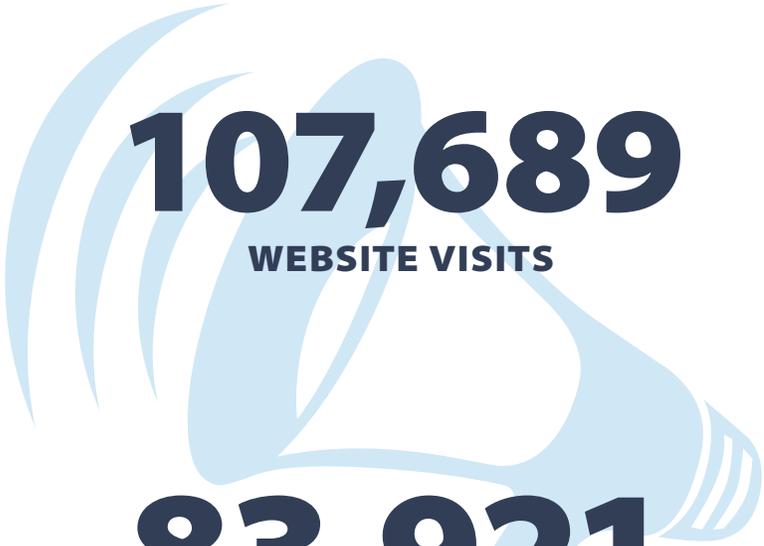


\$118,314

VALUE OF VOLUNTEERISM**

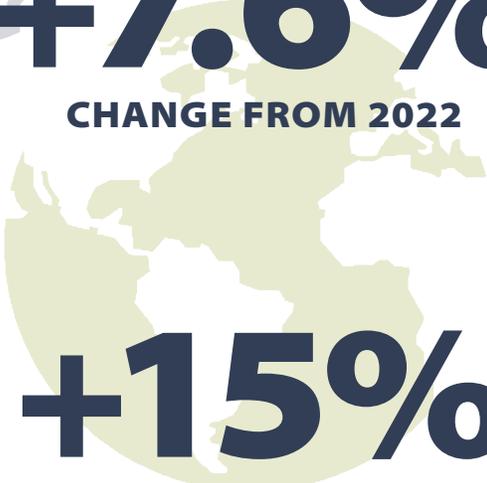
+7.6%

CHANGE FROM 2022



107,689

WEBSITE VISITS



+15%

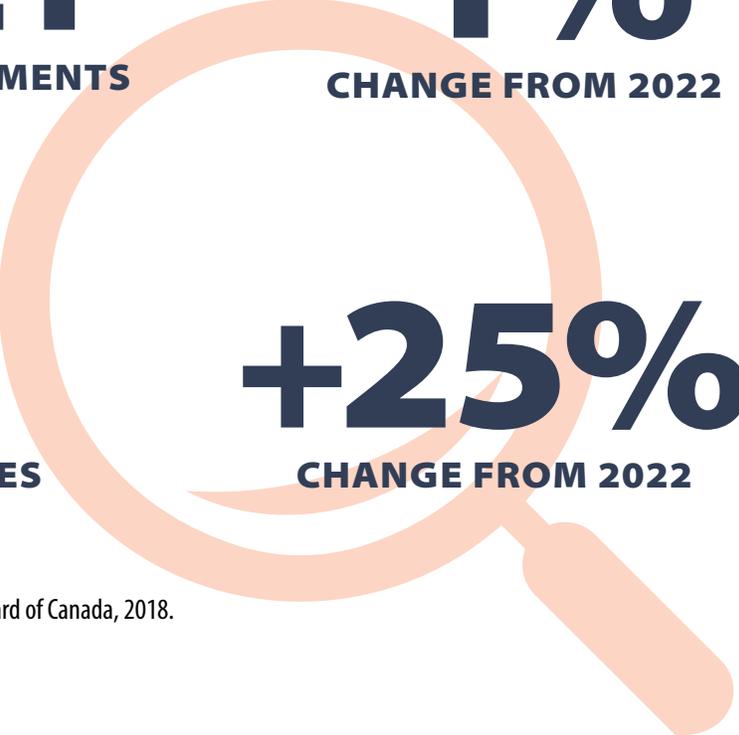
CHANGE FROM 2022

83,921

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

-1%

CHANGE FROM 2022



780

RESEARCH INQUIRIES

+25%

CHANGE FROM 2022

** *The Value of Volunteering*, The Conference Board of Canada, 2018.

BUFFALO HARVEST

Harvesting a Buffalo is something that is very sacred and significant and has always been a community event because it takes a lot of planning and organizing. We are grateful to the Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community members who assisted us with a successful Buffalo harvest in July of 2023. It was important to us that proper ceremonial protocol was followed and that every part of the Buffalo was used. Harvesting a Buffalo is an empowering event because it not only provides food security to those involved, but it also provides spiritual and ceremonial security as well.

The meat, organs and bones were shared in the Kainai community and distributed in camp during Ako'kaatsin. Blackfoot heritage is a lived experience, it is the songs, language, and ceremonies; Blackfoot heritage is living. In order to protect, and preserve, that heritage we must practice it. Harvesting a Buffalo is one way to protect and preserve that heritage.

The Buffalo harvest that took place in July unknowingly started us off on the path of Buffalo consciousness. Shortly thereafter, we were introduced to the International Buffalo Relations Institute (IBRI), an entity whose sole purpose is introducing and implementing the Buffalo Treaty. The Galt Museum and Archives has been working with members of IBRI to create an exhibit for Spring 2024 titled, Buffalo Treaty: Keystone to Wellness. In working with the IBRI team it became apparent that the Museum is already undertaking initiatives which align with and support articles of the Buffalo Treaty. With this realization, the Galt Museum has been working diligently to incorporate articles of the Treaty into the museum's strategic planning goals.

Strength is required for the Buffalo harvest.





Buffalo in a fence on harvest day.

INDIVIDUAL BLACKFOOT NAMES

In 2023, one of the Galt team members was gifted with Blackfoot name from Niitsitapi Elders. This followed a similar honour in 2022 for other team members. Each name is unique. The names come from the heart of the Elders and signify the spirit of the individual.

- Kristin Krein (Piitaipoit'taki, Eagle in Flight Woman)

Galt staff past and present with the outgoing CEO/Executive Director, Darrin Martens



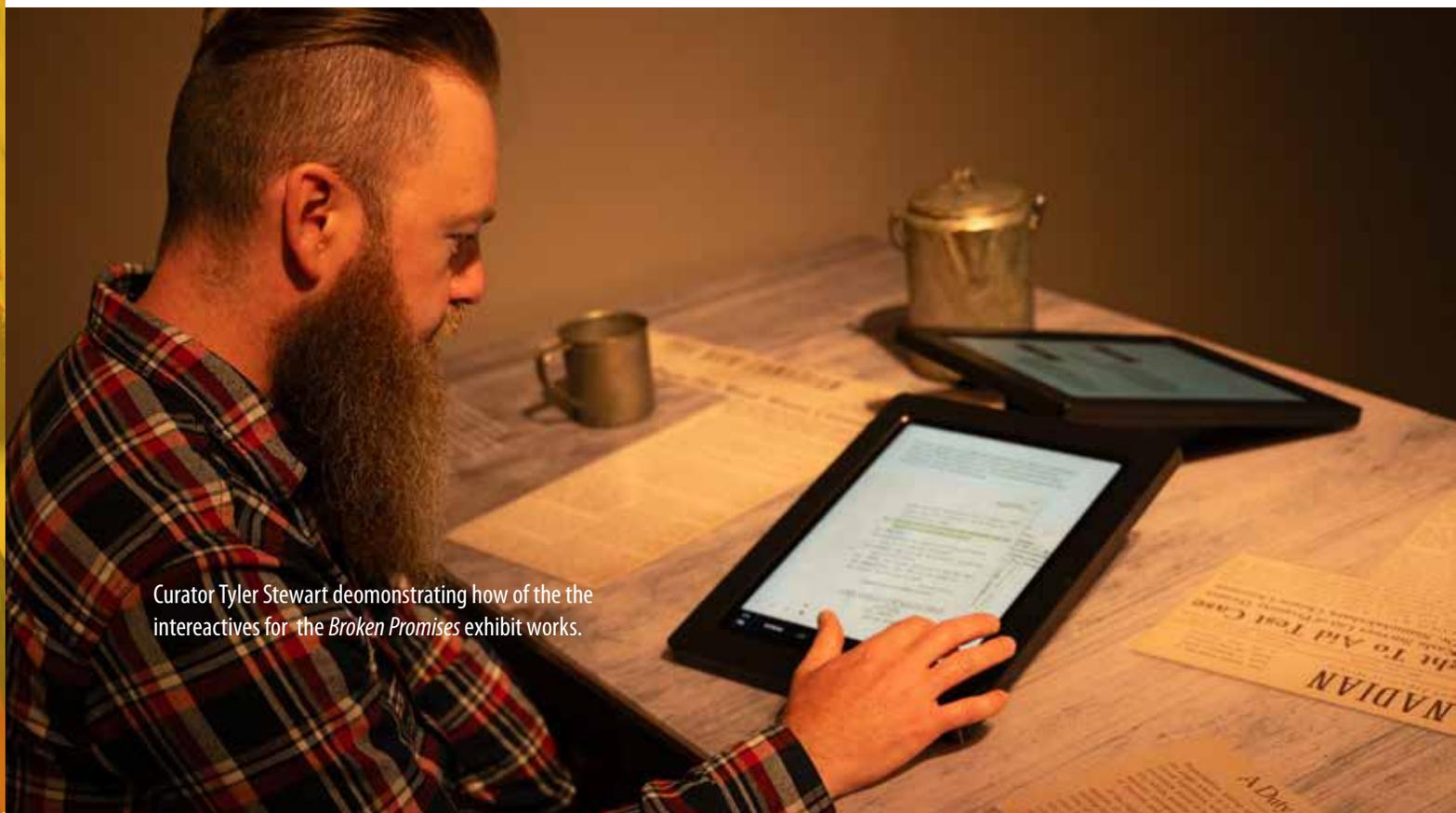
CURATORIAL

THE CURATORIAL TEAM

- Is responsible for researching, exhibiting, and preserving the museum's collection of materials and information.
- They centre traditional and modern Indigenous and Métis knowledge, stories, experiences, and voices as they bring the diverse stories of southwestern Alberta to life through inclusive exhibitions and programs.
- They build respectful relationships with people and groups across our region to gather, conserve, and reflect a broad range of stories, objects, and perspectives.

PROJECTS OF NOTE

- Updates in Discovery Hall included the installation of the large-scale artwork *Sikookkotok* by Marjie Crop Eared Wolf, to better acknowledge Blackfoot Territory within the gallery space.
- The redeveloped Niitsitapii Gallery at Fort Whoop-Up opened in May for school visits, seeing a total of 2422 visitors with the public grand opening on June 21 (National Indigenous Peoples Day).
- Fort Whoop-Up hosted -tzinglan "the world's first postcolonial theme park," by artist Dr. Miguelztina Solis, which also featured artworks by 10 students from the University of Lethbridge LandMarks course.
- The first phase of the Battle of the Belly River project was completed, with a two-day group engagement of Elders in conversation at Fort Whoop-Up.
- The curatorial team hosted three Museums Studies interns in 2023, all of whom were involved in planning and development for both temporary and permanent exhibit projects.
- The museum hosted its first buffalo harvest in August, which has led to an ongoing partnership with the International Buffalo Relations Institute.



Curator Tyler Stewart demonstrating how of the the interactivities for the *Broken Promises* exhibit works.

STATISTICS

6,515

**TOTAL MAIN GALLERY EXHIBIT
ATTENDEES**



19

**TRAVELLING
EXHIBIT DISPLAYS**

10,157

TRAVELLING EXHIBIT ATTENDEES

13,850

ONLINE EXHIBIT VIEWS

EXHIBITIONS LIST

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS



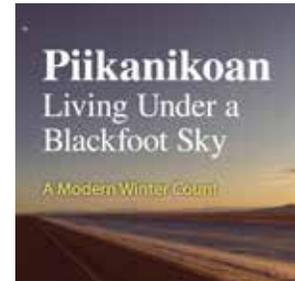
ARCHIVES EXHIBITIONS



HALLWAY EXHIBITIONS



CIRCULATED TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS



Note:

Out of the 19 traveling exhibit displays in 2023, 13 were permanent copies of *Nitsitapii Landscapes Part 1* purchased by schools in Lethbridge School District No. 51.



Visitor explores the *Stolen Kainai Children* exhibit.

COLLECTIONS

THE COLLECTIONS TEAM

- Is responsible for receiving, processing, researching, and sustainably caring for donations of material culture and the crucial perspectives, stories, and communities those objects represent.
- Their community-centred approach deepens the feeling of connection within our communities by making donors the official voices of the objects in the collection.
- They work with diverse groups and communities to solicit objects that tell important stories about the ongoing history of the people in our region.

PROJECTS OF NOTE

- For a second year running, the Galt's Collections partnered with the University of Lethbridge's Museum Studies program in 2023 to offer a Person of Colour (POC) internship position. Intern, Dinah Gaston was selected to undertake this internship in the Fall of 2023.
- The ICOM-affiliated 'Best in Heritage' conference honored 27 award-winning cultural sites, including the Galt, as "Projects of Influence"; Collections Technician Kevin MacLean served as a competition jury member, interviewing representatives from seven sites ranging from Egypt and China to Glasgow and Portugal, and offering valuable support in selecting top programs.
- The Galt's Collections Management policy was substantially revised to address harmful colonial practices and systemic racism; special recognition is given to Museum Curator, Camina Weasel Moccasin, and former Galt Collections Assistant, Kirstan Schamuhn, for their dedicated work in policy generation.
- The Galt's Collections management staff actively engaged with the Blackfoot community, hosting Kainai Elder Niina Piiksii's class, participating in cultural ceremonies like Ako-katssinn and Iniskim Harvest Ceremony, and attending events to strengthen relationships.southern Alberta.
- In 2023, annual projects like the re-housing, deaccession, and cataloguing initiatives did not secure grant support or funding, leading to a decline in accomplishments compared to prior years.

Flying "U" branding iron, used on local cattle ranch operated by the late Barney Gwatkin, c. 1927 - 1970



STATISTICS



Nine artifacts from the community were carefully examined by the Acquisition Committee on November 27, 2023 before making recommendations for them to be accessioned.

26

OBJECTS ACCESSIONED

202

RESEARCH REQUESTS

0

IMAGES ADDED

18

STORIES COLLECTED

0

OBJECTS DE-ACCESSIONED

ARCHIVES

THE ARCHIVES TEAM

- Is responsible for collecting and preserving documents, images, recordings, and information about the history of the people living in southwestern Alberta.
- They receive, research, document, and digitize incoming donations.
- They facilitate access to resources and assist with community and professional research requests, sharing the stories from our community with the public.

PROJECTS OF NOTE

- The Province of Alberta provided funding for the 1000 Faces Project, which aimed to uncover the identities of many Indigenous individuals captured in archival photographs.
- The Archival Summer School for Ukraine was held in Budapest and arranged in collaboration with The Friends of the Galt Society, offering an unparalleled educational experience for Archivist professionals.
- Archives completed a “hat trick” winning three grants in one year – a provincial grant (HPPP), a federal grant (YCW) and an international grant (ICA).
- Thirteen schools within the Lethbridge Public and the Holy Cross Catholic school divisions, purchased copies of the Niisitapi Landscapes exhibit. This achievement marks an unprecedented success in fostering community engagement with the museum.

STATISTICS



Niisitapi Landscapes Part 2 exhibit installed in the archives section of the museum.





Students visit the fort for a school program.

EDUCATION

THE EDUCATION TEAM

- ▶ Is responsible for providing school groups with curriculum-based lessons about local and regional history.
- ▶ They use documents, images, and artifacts to bring the stories of our communities to students through activities, games, and presentations that include topics like reconciliation, citizenship, and diversity.
- ▶ They work with teachers, Elders, knowledge keepers, and community members to build engaging and educational programs for students of all ages.

PROJECTS OF NOTE

- ▶ Tanis Crosschild and Deserae Tailfeathers were hired as Indigenous Museum Attendants for the summer. Grant funding from Community Futures Treaty Seven, and Young Canada Works helped to fund these positions.
- ▶ Experienced staff trained Museum Attendants to provide additional support to school program delivery and development.
- ▶ This year witnessed improvements in The Galt's school programs and student experiences through various development processes. These processes included the use of evaluation forms to evaluate curriculum outcomes and incorporating teacher feedback to drive improvements.
- ▶ Education Coordinator, Janae Redgrave, attended the Southwestern Alberta Teachers' Convention to network with teachers and promote the Galt's school programs.

STATISTICS

300

EDUCATION PROGRAMS DELIVERED

7,576

TOTAL PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING



Participants enjoying Carnival activities and games at the Galt Viewing Gallery!

THE COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING TEAM

- Is responsible for providing a diverse range of programming options suitable for a variety of ages and audiences for visitors.
- They plan programs, events, tours, and experiences throughout the year that complement and explore the stories, communities, and themes featured in special exhibitions.
- They work with artists, academics, professionals, local experts and interest groups to provide engaging presentations or hands-on activities.

PROJECTS OF NOTE

- In 2023, Kristin Krein, Museum Community Program Coordinator successfully launched a distinctive Land-based Learning program, Flora Foundations which facilitated immersive exploration of botany and Niitsitapi science under the guidance of facilitators, Api'soomaahka (Running Coyote) – William Singer III and Jenny Burke.
- Community Program Coordinator Kristin Krein, and Indigenous Assistant, Blair Many Fingers developed a walking tour called Niitsitapi Tree Burials: Cottonwoods Tour of Indian Battle Park. This unique tour sold out, with attendees travelling from Amskapi Piikani and Calgary to attend.
- The Galt Community Program Coordinator implemented a bi-monthly afterschool initiative running from September 2023 to January 2024 in collaboration with Woods Homes and Youth Shelter. This art program providing a platform for youth art creation, guest artist sessions, and a final youth art exhibition event scheduled on January 27, 2024.

STATISTICS

182

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

5,387

COMMUNITY PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

6

ARCHIVES PROGRAMS

164

ARCHIVES PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



Kainai Elder Ninna Piiksii and Dr. Sheila McManus from the University of Lethbridge discussing Blackfoot relationship with the borderlands of southern Alberta.

OPERATIONS

THE OPERATIONS TEAM

- Is responsible for making sure the organization runs smoothly and that staff and volunteers have the resources needed to provide excellent experiences for all visitors.
- They manage finances, upkeep, maintenance, and internal systems that ensure the museum and fort are beautiful, safe, and comfortable gathering places.
- They work with contractors, renters, and service providers to improve the accessibility and function of the buildings.
- They provide administrative support to the CEO/Executive Director and Board, as well as provide research and coordination to other organizational projects.

PROJECTS OF NOTE

- Launched *Allyship at Work* program in alignment with our organizational values, promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility through staff engagement.
- Ensured clean, comfortable, and welcoming facilities at Galt Museum & Archives and Fort Whoop-Up, overseeing cleaning and maintenance both indoors and outdoors.
- Collaborated with City encampment response teams for visitor and staff safety, treating homeless community members with respect and dignity.
- Implemented green bin organics program in compliance with Waste Bylaw 6145 for sustainability.

STATISTICS

113

RENTALS

-13.1%

CHANGE FROM 2022

\$122,000

GROSS SALES, MUSEUM STORE

+48.3%

CHANGE FROM 2022

\$61,532

GROSS SALES, FORT STORE

+4.3%

CHANGE FROM 2022

\$15,376

GROSS SALES, E-COMMERCE*

-24%

CHANGE FROM 2022

Note: This figure is included in the gross sales for the Galt and Fort.

VISITOR SERVICES

THE VISITOR SERVICES TEAM

- Is responsible for welcoming and assisting visitors with admission, memberships, purchases, and information.
- They answer questions about exhibitions and programs, set up public spaces for events and rentals, and manage the operation of the stores. They ensure that the museum remains a safe, caring, respectful and inclusive environment for all visitors.
- They work with publishers, authors, researchers, distributors, and artists to provide for sale a broad range of quality objects, art, books, and materials that are representative of the communities, peoples, and histories found in southwestern Alberta.

PROJECTS OF NOTE

- Had a very successful Night at the Museum shopping event in November with over 200 visitors.
- Diversified product selection and increased the amount of locally sourced products, leading to 40% sales increase in the gift shop.
- The Galt supported community fundraising with annual memberships, gift baskets, and admission coupons to local community charitable organizations.

STATISTICS

\$164,574

GROSS SALES, TOTAL

226,006

TOTAL ENGAGEMENTS

433

NEW/RENEWED MEMBERSHIP

The annual Night at the Museum holiday shopping event.



FACILITY RENTALS

PROJECTS OF NOTE

- The Galt continues to be one of the preferred premiere event venues in the City of Lethbridge and surrounding areas for weddings and other celebrations, business meetings, workshops, and corporate holiday gatherings.
- The acquisition of a new projector and sound system significantly enhanced facility rentals at The Galt in 2023 allowing renters to use PowerPoint presentations even during bright daytime hours.
- The 2023 decision to permit all approved caterers into the building allowed renters more choices for their event.

STATISTICS

113

RENTALS

\$76,805

GENERATED IN RENTAL INCOME

7,734

PEOPLE ATTENDED RENTAL FUNCTIONS

A wedding set up in the museum's Viewing Gallery.



FORT WHOOP-UP

THE FORT TEAM

- Is responsible for telling visitors the complex story of the buffalo robe and illegal whisky trade, with a focus on Indigenous and Métis narratives and histories.
- They provide guided tours and hands-on experiences that allow visitors to experience aspects of late 1800s life in southwestern Alberta.
- They work with Indigenous and Métis Elders, knowledge keepers, experts, and leaders to tell stories of Indigenous history guided by Indigenous voices and leadership.

PROJECTS OF NOTE

- 2023 was Connor Kenney's first year as Fort Whoop-Up's Coordinator.
- The Fort provided a new food experience in 2023: Picnic Packages provided by Homestyle Charcuterie & Hickory Street Restaurant were sold as an enhancement to visitor's experiences.
- The new Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) Gallery was launched at the Fort in 2023.
- The Fort partnered with Milkman Milk Bar, to provide a new Saskatoon berry Ice-cream.
- The Fort launched a new music festival in partnership with the First Nation Arts Alliance and Franciscan & Friends to promote the arts to at-risk youth.
- Blanche Bruisedhead hosted regular Niitsitapi Story Time sessions at Fort Whoop-Up.
- The Fort hosted a University of Lethbridge Art Show in Spring 2023, called tzintlán. The show aimed to explore the concept of what the world's first post-colonial theme park would look like.
- The Fort's hosted its first haunted house Halloween event in 2023 with 309 visitors exploring the event over two days.
- The Fort hosted an Indigenous Craft Market in November 2023 with 259 visitors enjoying the market over two days.
- A Christmas at the Fort event was presented this year. 456 Visitors attended the event over 4 days.

STATISTICS

5,905

FORT VISITATION

32

FORT EXPERIENCES

46

EXPERIENCE PARTICIPANTS

VOLUNTEERS

THE VOLUNTEER TEAM

- Is responsible for attracting volunteers and matching their interests and skills with projects and tasks.
- They are essential to staffing projects and programs throughout the organization like facilitating hands-on community programming, transcribing oral history interviews, welcoming visitors to the museum, installing exhibitions, and more.
- The volunteers who generously donate their time and talent to the organization help make the museum and fort the heart of Lethbridge.

PROJECTS OF NOTE

- Worked closely with local volunteer recruiting agencies to recruit new volunteers, especially for large events at the Galt and Fort.
- Strengthened relationships with not-for-profit organizations like Ability Resource Council, Bluefox Association, and Lethbridge Family Services.
- Laying groundwork for Galt's Volunteer Database transition, improving accessibility for sign-in and hour recording.



Volunteers assemble materials for mailing.

STATISTICS

150
VOLUNTEERS

+3.4%
CHANGE FROM 2022

4,382
HOURS VOLUNTEERED

+7.6%
CHANGE FROM 2022

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

THE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

- Is responsible for building diversified and sustainable revenue streams to support the organization's operations.
- They acquire funds that help increase staff capacity, improve services, and sustain operations.
- They work with potential sponsors, donors, and granting organizations to fund strategic initiatives that progress the mission of the organization.

PROJECTS OF NOTE

- The Galt Museum & Archives and Fort Whoop-Up's 2023 Annual Giving campaign focused on raising \$25,000 for a new semi-permanent exhibition highlighting the Sir Alexander Galt Hospital. This campaign closed in the fall and raised \$34,500 for this initiative.
- Chris Roedler, Fund Development / Volunteer Coordinator had successful discussions with multiple sponsors and donors and will continue to cultivate these important relationships as the Galt moves into a Capital Campaign.
- Through the Friends of the Galt Society, the Museum and Fort received \$300,000 in grants from federal, provincial and institutional sources to support projects such as new language booklets for Blackfoot, Cree and Métis, a new Lethbridge OnScreen Festival, additional staffing, and improvements at Fort Whoop-Up.
- A new electronic Donor Wall was installed to showcase monetary and in-kind donors and sponsors of the Galt's Collections and Archives.

STATISTICS

\$34,500

ANNUAL GIVING



MARKETING

THE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

- Is responsible for managing the public understanding and perception of the organization.
- They attract visitors to programs, exhibitions, information, and resources made available to the public through the work of talented staff and dedicated volunteers.
- They strengthen relationships with other heritage, culture, and tourism organizations to centre the museum as the heart of Lethbridge.

PROJECTS OF NOTE

- Peter Tah was hired full-time as the new Marketing and Communications Officer and has since worked to support all the functional areas with their marketing needs.
- Supported the inaugural edition of the Lethbridge OnScreen Film Festival through design work, media relations and advertising.
- Assisted with the launch of the Community Connections event, aimed at fostering interaction with the community and enhanced knowledge about the Museum through design work and advertising.
- Implemented the consolidated visitor feedback survey initiative with two new Apple iPads acquired and installed at the Galt and the Fort.

STATISTICS

 **107,689**
TOTAL WEBSITE VISITS

+15%
CHANGE FROM 2022

 **83,921**
TOTAL SOCIAL MEDIA
ENGAGEMENTS

-1%
CHANGE FROM 2022

The Galt goes electric for new programming cargo van.



FRIENDS OF THE GALT

THE FRIENDS OF THE GALT

- Are responsible for hosting fundraising events, receiving donations, and co-managing the Friends of the Galt Endowment Fund.
- They support the work of museum staff and volunteers by applying for grants that will fund strategic initiatives, build capacity, and sustain the operations of the organization.
- They work with staff and prospective donors to ensure the museum remains a space for learning, research, reconciliation, and connection far into the future.

PROJECTS OF NOTE

- Facilitated multiple successful grant applications to benefit the Galt's programming.
- Provided financial support for a Museum Archivist summer school program in Budapest, Hungary.
- Committed to providing financial assistance to the "The Mary Oordt Educational Bursary Fund" for the next ten years. The late Friends' Director, Mary Oordt, was recognized for her valuable contributions by the Friends of The Galt. The Friends of The Galt decided to rename the Friends Board Room at the Galt in her honour.
- Acquired much-needed image retrieval software (Archippanion AI model) for the Galt Archives.
- Organized a fundraiser event featuring naturalist, Brian Keating with proceeds supporting the Galt Museum & Archives.



The Friends of the Galt hosted a successful fundraiser and speaking event with Brian Keating, an adventurer, pilot, naturalist, scuba diver, mountaineer, children's author, and wildlife tour guide.

LETHBRIDGE ONSCREEN FILM FESTIVAL 2023

The inaugural festival held during Alberta Culture Days and attracted a diverse audience across all ages and demographics.

OVERVIEW

- Coordinated and programmed by Tess Mitchell, a seasoned industry professional with over 20 years of experience.
- Featured works from emerging and mid-career artists, historians, and cultural practitioners, attracting 367 attendees over two days.
- Screenings held at on September 23 and 30, 2023, at the exciting new outdoor screen at the Galt Museum & Archives and The Movie Mill cinema; indoor backup plan executed due to rainfall.
- Films included world premieres, Alberta premieres, 2022 TIFF selections, NFB spotlights, and local artist commissions.

PROMOTION AND BRANDING

- Partnered with Strudel Brand for coverage; new branding developed with logo, graphics, and program.
- 60 posters and 300 programs distributed across the city; extensive media coverage secured.
- Active social media promotion and cross-promotion from other local arts and culture spaces with StrudelBrand being the main partner.

Festival Coordinator, Tess Mitchell speaking during the opening ceremony at the Galt.



PROGRAMMING AND EVENT DELIVERY

- Featured diverse lineup, including kids' shorts, documentaries, animations, and live performances.
- Cast and crew present for premieres, creating a festival atmosphere; Indigenous films screened on Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30th.
- Mental health support provided during triggering screenings; local food truck added to enhance the experience.

CLOSING PREMIERE

- "Love me to the River," a commissioned love story film by Nehiyaw artist Kylie Fineday, accompanied by Old Agency Drum Circle.
- Fusion of silent film collage and live music created a unique, unforgettable experience.

NEXT STEPS

- Inaugural year's success signals promising future; plans for expansion and growth in subsequent years are already in place.



Festival film screening at The Movie Mill cinema.

Festival attendees were treated to a red carpet experience at both the Galt and the Movie Mill.



DONORS AND GRANTS

The Galt Museum & Archives and Fort Whoop-Up express profound gratitude for the unwavering support of our community. We extend heartfelt thanks to the organizations, foundations, donors, members, staff, and volunteers who believe in the work that we do to continue to keep history vibrant and alive.

HUMANITARIAN (\$100,000–\$249,999)

- Travel Alberta Tourism Growth Program

FOUNDER (\$50,000–\$99,999)

- Community Services Recovery Fund

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A rare sunrise at the Museum.



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