

## VISION STATEMENT

Located on Treaty 7 territory, the traditional land of Niitsitapi (Blackfoot Confederacy), the University of Lethbridge Art Gallery is an accessible space that fosters visibility to the arts through diverse community engagement, supported by sustainable infrastructure, and founded on relationships, consultation, and education.

The University of Lethbridge Art Gallery wants to be the most accessible art gallery in Canada. We want to make a difference in people’s lives by providing access for a diversity of people to the art that we house in our collection and that we display. We embrace the Blackfoot teaching that those with knowledge have a responsibility to care for and to share that knowledge.

## ARTISTIC STATEMENT

The artistic vision driving the University of Lethbridge Art Gallery’s exhibitions and programs is to generate deeply meaningful engagement with art in order to spark contemplation, learning, and dialogue amongst a diverse group of people.

The three pillars guiding this vision are: 1. Art is relevant – art sparks curiosity, invites learning, and crosses barriers; 2. Art is research – the Art Gallery partners with scholars to study what is involved with effective public engagement and works with artists as long-term research partners; 3. Art is foundation – we can only achieve our goal with a strong foundation of staff, resources, infrastructure, and a well-managed art collection.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our public programs, events, and exhibitions connect diverse communities, contemporary artists, and art collections. Let us give you a place to talk, think, create, and learn. For a meaningful experience, come through our door.

VISIBILITY  
TO THE ARTS  
ACCESS  
TO THE ARTS  
STEWARD  
TO THE ARTS

ART IS  
RELEVANT  
ART IS  
RESEARCH  
ART IS  
FOUNDATION



Top Image: U of L Centre for Fine Arts entrance.

Bottom Image: Hess Gallery Main Entrance.

# HIGHLIGHTS

Total Attendance Overall: 27,456

The University of Lethbridge Art Gallery created our first stand alone strategic plan. Led by Don McIntyre, an Ojibwa artist and faculty member in the Dhillon School of Business, the inclusive process set the Gallery up to build on our recent successes, negotiate forthcoming challenges around budgets, and implement decolonization.

The Art Gallery partnered with Blackfoot Elders, artists and academics in Alberta and in England, and Principal Investigator Christine Clark, an Assistant Professor in the Department of New Media, on a successful Exploration Grant for \$250,000 from the Government of Canada’s New Frontiers in Research program. The grant funds the launch of the Blackfoot Digital project which involves creating high resolution digital imagery of historic Blackfoot objects in museums in England and connecting the knowledge from these objects with people on Blackfoot territory here in Southern Alberta.

Bekk Wells, an artist and uLethbridge Chemistry graduate, created Procession for the Sciences as part of the grand opening of the new Science Commons building in September 2019. Art and science students and faculty marched from the Art Gallery to the new building carrying colourful banners with scientific and mathematical equations for this performance that addressed relationships between people and ideas.

Under the banner of Pop-Up Studio, the Art Gallery experimented with turning the Hess gallery into a space for creation and interaction in September and October, 2019. The visiting artists from England involved with the Blackfoot Digital project ran workshops on 3D photography and presented work in progress. With Art Collection Show ‘n’ Tell, the Art Gallery collections staff demonstrated techniques involved with caring for the University’s art collection. The event proved so successful that we ran it a second time in the new year.

In October, we explored what happens when an artist and a curator work with a team of monkey scientists. In Borderline Human, Icelandic artist Gunnhildur Hauksdóttir turned the Hess Gallery into a set for play and research. There were opportunities to talk to the artist and PhD student Miranda Lucas about their research as well as time for visitors to come and play. For a final performance in the installation, the artist worked with Edmonton dancer Gianna Varcirca and students from Drama, Art, and Psychology to explore movement and non-verbal social interaction. The project was the culmination of 3 years of a research partnership with Hauksdóttir and Level 2: Lichen Lab (an art and science collaboration at uLethbridge) that included the artist traveling to the Barrett Henzi field site in South Africa to work with the Lichen Lab scientists as they study vervet monkeys in the wild.

The Covid-19 pandemic hit in March 2020 at the end of this reporting period. The Art Gallery was not able to install Stories for the British Museum, an exhibition by students in Jackson 2bears’ Indigenous Studio Course. The students had made art work in response to the Blackfoot Digital project. We hope to install the work in Fall 2020 in order to document the project and present the art works online.



Image: Pages from strategic plan workshop, February, 2019.



## EXHIBITIONS

Total Attendance: 24,280

### *FROM THE COLLECTION*

Works from the uLethbridge Art Collection.  
Curator: Kirstan Schamuhn, Museum Studies Intern  
March 1 - June 7, 2019

### *STORIES FOR THE COLLECTION*

Featuring student work from Indigenous Art Studio class.  
Curator: Jaylyn Potts, Museum Studies Intern with Josephine Mills and David Smith  
March 21 - June 6, 2019

### *COLLECTED BY DR. MARGARET (MARMIE) HESS: JOHN SNOW*

Works from the Marmie Hess Collection.  
Curator: David Smith  
June 13 - September 6, 2019

### *COLLECTED BY DR. MARGARET (MARMIE) HESS: ROLOFF BENY*

Works from the Marmie Hess Collection.  
Curator: David Smith  
June 13 - August 29, 2019

### *POP-UP STUDIO: OPEN GALLERY*

An open space where visitors explored whatever they choose.  
September 5 - 28, 2019

### *COLLECTED BY DR. MARGARET (MARMIE) HESS: ALFRED & BARBARA LEIGHTON*

Works from the Marmie Hess Collection.  
Curator: David Smith  
September 13 - October 18, 2019

2 CONTEMPORARY  
ARTIST  
EXHIBITIONS

6 UofL ART  
COLLECTION  
EXHIBITIONS

3 MUSEUM STUDIES  
INTERN  
EXHIBITIONS

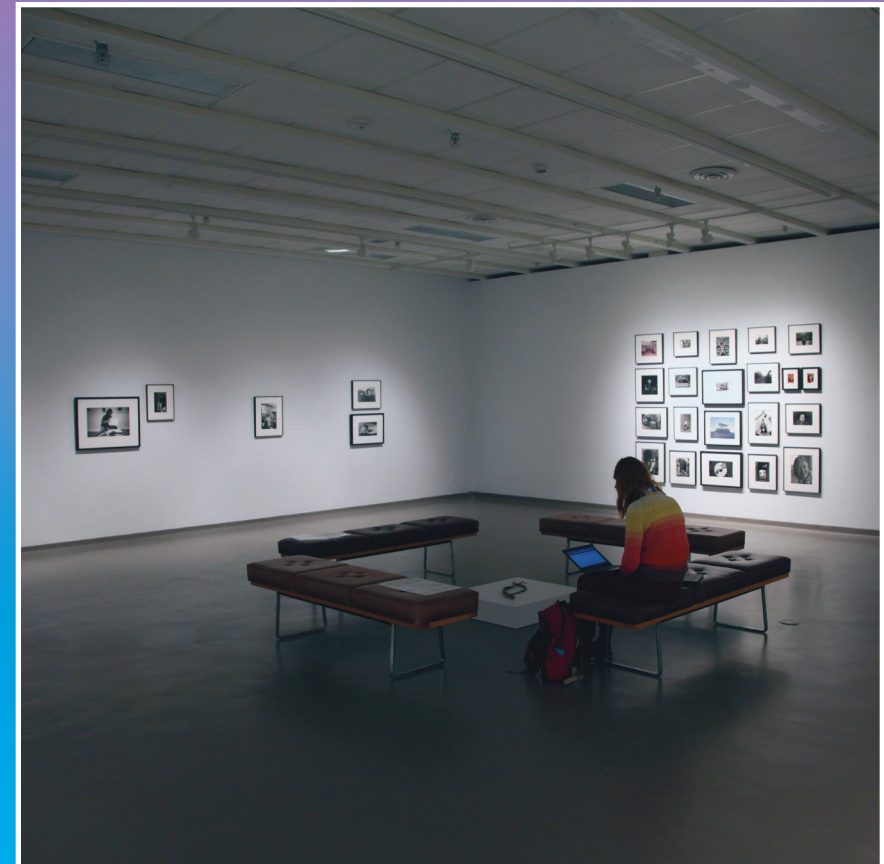
4 MARMIE HESS  
COLLECTION  
EXHIBITIONS

2 UofL FINE ARTS  
STUDENT  
EXHIBITIONS

1 TOURING  
EXHIBITION



Top Image: Gallery visitors interacting with Icelandic artist Gunnhildur Hauksdóttir's *Borderline Human*.



Bottom Image: Installation view of *#nofilterneeded Shining light on the Native Indian/Inuit Photographers' Association 1985-1992*.

EXHIBITIONS continued

*GUNNHILDUR HAUKSDÓTTIR:  
BORDERLINE HUMAN*

Artist: Gunnhildur Hauksdóttir  
Curator: Josie Mills  
October 10 - 18, 2019

*THE CANADIAN FEMININE*

Works from the uLethbridge collection.  
Curator: Summer Jennings, Museum Studies Intern  
October 25, 2019 - January 1, 2020

*CROSSING BOUNDARIES*

Works by uLethbridge Fine Arts Students in coordination with the Faculty of Fine Art's Crossing Boundaries Symposium.  
October 26, 2019

*#NOFILTERNEEDED SHINING LIGHT  
ON THE NATIVE INDIAN/INUIT  
PHOTOGRAPHERS' ASSOCIATION  
1985-1992*

*#NOFILTERNEEDED : LUMIÈRE  
SUR LA NATIVE INDIAN/INUIT  
PHOTOGRAPHERS' ASSOCIATION  
1985-1992*

McMaster Museum of Art Travelling Exhibition.  
Curator/Conservatrice invitée: Rhéanne Chartrand  
November 7, 2019 - January 10, 2020

*EN PLEIN AIR '19*

Community artists engage with the Coutts Centre property.  
November 29 - December 20, 2019

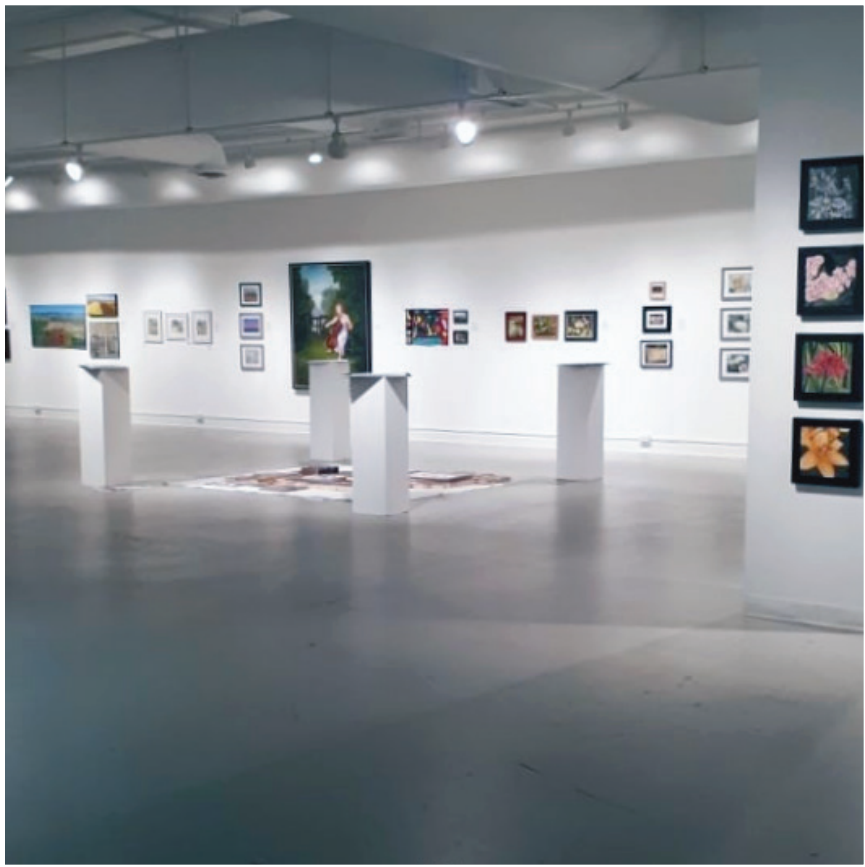
*UNIKKAUSIVUT: STORIES FROM THE NORTH*

Works from the Marmie Hess Collection.  
Curator: Jaylyn Potts, Museum Studies Intern  
January 16 - March 13, 2020

*KOHLRABI AND FOODS WITH  
STORIES TO SHARE*

Artist: Eric Dyck  
Curator: Josie Mills  
January 10 - February 28, 2020

1 COMMUNITY  
ARTIST  
EXHIBITION  
3 INDIGENOUS  
ART  
EXHIBITIONS  
1 EXPERIMENTAL  
OPEN STUDIO  
EXHIBITION



Top Image: Installation view of *Stories for the Collection*.

Bottom Image: Installation view of *En Plein Air '19* at the Dr. Foster James Penny Building.



PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Gallery public programmer Kirsten Meiszingger and student assistants Summer Jennings and Thea Sleight raised the Art Gallery’s social media activity to a whole new level. They engaged with works in the collection, ran exhibition-related programming, and responded to a range of timely events as well as running contests with excellent art making prizes. Our in-person art events built from the Pop-up Studio in the gallery and added opportunities for people to make their own art works. A welcome-back event in the first week of classes invited people to try a variety of art making approaches at their own pace: the Art Making & Chill Studio, was a resounding success and we will add the event to our regular schedule of programs. Local artist Eric Dyck returned by popular demand as a cartoonist-in-residence as he prepared for an exhibition later in 2020.

APRIL 2019

Culture Vulture  
The Drawing Bar  
Knitting At Noon  
New Canadian Youth Beading workshop

MAY 2019

Culture Vulture  
En Plein Air ‘19  
The Drawing Bar  
Knitting At Noon

JUNE 2019

Coffee’s On Launch: *Collected by Dr. Margaret (Marmie) Hess: Roloff Beny*  
Culture Vulture  
En Plein Air ‘19  
Knitting At Noon

JULY 2019

Art Camp (5 weeks)  
En Plein Air ‘19  
Knitting At Noon

AUGUST 2019

Art Camp (2 weeks)  
En Plein Air ‘19  
Kite Flying with Hokkai-Gakuen Students  
Knitting At Noon

SEPTEMBER 2019

Art Collection Show ‘n’ Tell: *Collection Studio*  
Art Making & Chill Studio  
Blackfoot Digital 3D Photography Studio  
Coffee’s On: *Welcome Back Coffee*  
Culture Vulture  
The Drawing Bar  
Knitting At Noon  
*Procession For the Sciences* Banner Procession with Artist Bekk Wells  
Word on the Street - Lethbridge Public Library

OCTOBER 2019

*Borderline Human* Workshop with Artist Gunnhildur Hauksdóttir  
The Drawing Bar  
Halloween in the Gallery  
Knitting At Noon

NOVEMBER 2019

Coffee’s On Launch: *#nofilterneeded Shining light on the Native Indian/Inuit Photographers’ Association 1985-1992*  
Culture Vulture  
The Drawing Bar  
Knitting At Noon

DECEMBER 2019

Knitting At Noon

2389 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS  
808 TOUR GUESTS  
555 ARTIST PRESENTATIONS  
67 GALLERY EVENTS  
21 GALLERY TOURS

JANUARY 2020

Cartoonist in Residence: Eric Dyck  
Coffee’s On: *Welcome Back Coffee*  
Coffee’s On Launch: *Unikkausivut: Stories from the North*  
Culture Vulture  
The Drawing Bar  
Knitting At Noon  
Yoga in the Gallery

FEBRUARY 2020

Art Collection Show ‘n’ Tell: *Conservation Studio*  
Culture Vulture  
The Drawing Bar  
Family Play Day  
Knitting At Noon  
Yoga in the Gallery

MARCH 2020

Culture Vulture  
The Drawing Bar  
Knitting At Noon  
Beadng at the Gallery with Melissa Shouting

## THE ART COLLECTION

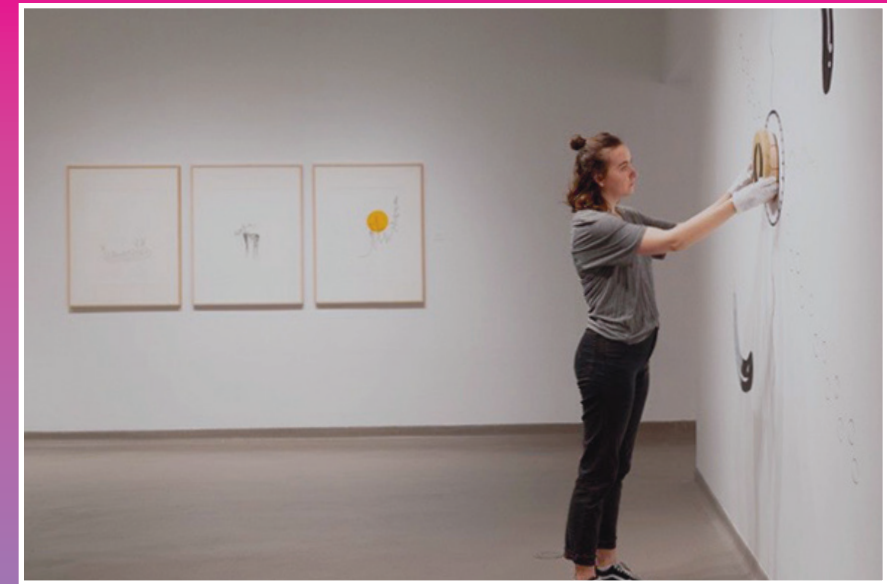
The gallery produced 10 exhibitions that included works from the permanent collection. 194 collection artworks by 92 different artists were shown in our two gallery spaces. Of those 194 artworks, 132 of them were from the Hess bequest. 57 FNMI artists produced 69 of the works that were displayed in these exhibitions, and 47 female artists created 76 of the artworks included in these exhibitions. 80 of the 92 artists were Canadian, and 10 of those were from Alberta.

The recent Hess bequest was featured this year in a number of exhibitions, including 1 made up of 40 Inuit prints, as well as exhibitions presenting the work of Alberta artists John Snow, and Alfred and Barbara Leighton. This year as well included 3 exhibitions curated by student interns.

Highlights from the Hess bequest made up a large part of an exhibition featuring Roloff Beny alongside masters including Joan Miró, Pablo Picasso, Georges Rouault, Rufino Tamayo, Salvador Dali, Alberto Giacometti, and others.

The gallery hosted 4 Museum Studies interns over the course of this past year: Summer Jennings, Jaylyn Potts, Thea Sleight and Emily Drummond who all did wonderful work with public programming, research and collections projects, as well as curating and installing exhibitions.

10 COLLECTION EXHIBITIONS  
194 COLLECTION ARTWORKS  
132 HESS COLLECTION  
92 DIFFERENT ARTISTS  
80 CANADIAN ARTISTS  
10 ALBERTAN ARTISTS  
57 FNMI ARTISTS  
47 FEMALE ARTISTS



Top Image: Jaylyn Potts, Museum Studies Intern installs her exhibition *Unikkausivut: Stories from the North*. Works from the Marmie Hess Collection.

Bottom Image: Installation view of *Collected by Dr. Margaret (Marmie) Hess: John Snow*.



# LOANS

Loans were made to six exhibitions from the ULAG collection of which three were multi-venue, exhibitions touring within Canada. In total, 16 artworks were loaned during the year and all were made by Canadian artists. Four of the artworks were created by Albertan artists, of whom two were female artists and one was a female FNMI artist.

Venue: Glenbow Museum  
Exhibition title: *Maxwell Bates: The In Crowd*  
Curator: Travis Lutley and Sarah Todd  
Dates: February 8 - September 30, 2020  
Loaned 1 work, “Cocktail Party” by Max Bates.

Venue: Art Gallery of Alberta  
Exhibition title: *Rebellious: Alberta Women Artists in the 1980s*  
Curator: Lindsay V. Sharman  
Dates: November 9, 2019 - February 17, 2020  
Loaned 3 works, “Summer Squash Numbers 1, 2 and 4” by Pauline McGeorge.

Venues: MacKenzie Art Gallery (organizer), Regina, SK, and Confederation Centre for the Arts, Charlottetown, PEI  
Exhibition Title: *Victor Cicansky: The Gardener’s Universe / L’univers d’un jardinier*  
Curator: Timothy Long and Julia Krueger  
Dates: June 8 - October 23, 2019 (Mackenzie), January 25 - September 6, 2020 (Confederation)  
Loaned 4 works by Victor Cicansky - “Shirt with Rose”, “Cabbage with Hailstones”, “Tuesday Afternoon”, and “A Windy Day”.

Venue: Sir Alexander Galt Museum and Archives  
Exhibition Title: *A Painter’s Paradise*  
Curator: Mary-Beth Laviolette  
Dates: January 24, 2020 - September 7, 2020  
Loaned 5 works: “Belly River from Cardston Road” by A. Y. Jackson, “Lethbridge, West End” by H. G. Glyde and “Jungle”, “28. Irrigation”, and “8. Burmis” by Michael Pisko.

Venues: Esplanade Art Galley Medicine Hat (organizer) and Moosejaw Museum and Art Gallery  
Exhibition Title: *A Prairie Vernacular*  
Curators: Jennifer McRorie and Joanne Marion  
Dates: May 31 - August 31, 2019 (Moosejaw), November 1, 2019 - January 18, 2020 (Esplanade)  
Loaned 2 works “Purple Fish” by Ivan Eyre, and “Faith of my Fathers” by William Kurelek.

Venues: Kenderdine Art Gallery, Thunder Bay Art Gallery, Esplanade Art Gallery  
Exhibition Title: *The Writing on the Wall: the Work of Dr Joane Cardinal-Schubert RCA*  
Curator: Lindsay V. Sharman  
Dates: February 1 - April 27, 2019 (Kenderdine), June 14 - September 8, 2019 (Thunder Bay), January 11 – May 20, 2020 (Esplanade)  
Loaned 1 work by “Where were you in July Hercules”, Joane Cardinal-Schubert.



Top Image: *Victor Cicansky: The Gardener’s Universe / L’univers d’un jardinier*, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina, SK, June 8 - October 23, 2019.

Bottom Image: William Kurelek, *Faith of my Fathers*, 1964.

16 LOANED  
WORKS  
10 BORROWING  
VENUES



## ACQUISITIONS

Summary: Total: 7 works by 2 international artists and 3 Canadian artists

Ian Dawson, Gunnhildur Hauksdóttir, Donald Lawrence and Rita McKeough are all artists who have worked with the uLethbridge Art Gallery, Ian Dawson most recently is one of the researchers involved with the Blackfoot Digital Project, and Gunnhildur Hauksdóttir was the creator of the Borderline Human exhibition last fall.

The pastel drawing by Nicholas de Grandmaison is a wonderful new complement to our holdings of over 200 works by this artist.

2019

1 multiple by Ian Dawson (British) “The Sculpture Souvenir Service”. Gift of the artist, 2019.

3 ink drawings on canvas by Gunnhildur Hauksdóttir (Icelandic) “Sisters Grooming”, “Bold has Cold Fingers” and “Kumquat Looking Down”. Gift of the artist, 2019.

1 pastel drawing by Nicholas de Grandmaison (Canadian) “Shot Both Sides”. Gift of Suzanne Colter, 2019.

2020

1 mixed media work by Rita McKeough (Canadian) “Works”. Purchase, 2020.

1 sculpture by Donald Lawrence (Canadian) “Grain Silo Camera Obscura”. Gift of the artist, 2020.

7 ACQUIRED  
WORKS  
3 CANADIAN  
ARTISTS  
2 INTERNATIONAL  
ARTISTS



Top Image: Donald Lawrence, *Grain Silo Camera Obscura*.

Bottom Image: Rita McKeough, *Works*.

## STAFF

Director/Curator: Josephine Mills

Administrative Manager: Jon Oxley

Registrar: Juliet Graham

Fine Arts Technician: Chad Patterson

Preparator/Assistant Curator: David Smith

Curatorial Assistant: Andrea Kremenik

Public Programmer: Kirsten Meiszingler

Casual Staff:

Jaylyn Potts

Summer Jennings

Olive Graham

Melissa Shouting

Rachel Nyberg

Louise Cameron

## GRANTS

The Art Gallery received multiple grants in 2019-2020. An internal uLethbridge SSHRC Exchange Grant for \$7,000 supported the installation costs for *Borderline Human*. A \$15,000 Exhibition Circulation grant from Museums Assistance Program, Department of Canadian Heritage, covered the shipping costs and artists' fees to bring in the exhibition *#nofilterneeded* from the McMaster Museum of Art. The Art Gallery received a \$42,000 Arts Across Canada grant from the Canada Council for the Arts for a tour of José Luis Torres' exhibition *The Everyday Future* to 4 art galleries across Canada. We received a Young Canada Works grant and a STEP grant to hire students Summer Jennings and Jaylyn Potts for the summer to work on collections projects and public programs.

45 DISTINCT VOLUNTEERS  
199 VOLUNTEER HOURS  
\$3,125 VOLUNTEER VALUE

\$7,000 SSHRC GRANT  
\$15,000 MAP GRANT  
\$42,000 CCA GRANT

Top Image: L to R, David Smith, Preparator/Assistant Curator; Kirsten Meiszingler, Public Programmer; Jon Oxley, Administrative Manager at work.

Bottom Image: Casual summer staff Jaylyn Potts and Olive Graham at work with art campers.





