

LEIGHTON
ART CENTRE

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

www.leightoncentre.org



2018 was a year of experimentation and growth at Leighton Art Centre (LAC). We were able to offer our growing community of artists, students and visitors many exciting opportunities to explore, appreciate, and create.

The year was marked by a dynamic exhibition schedule that placed emphasis on current environmental issues. *Bison bison bison* celebrated the reintroduction of wild bison in Alberta, while *If Bees Are Few* investigated the plight of the honeybee, and *Ripple Effect* gave us the opportunity to reconnect to the animals with whom we share less and less of our world. The five other 2018 exhibitions featured a variety of subject matter, ranging from a portrait and figurative exhibition - *Bodies of Work* - to an emerging artist watercolour show - *Threaded Through Paint*. We were excited to feature not only local emerging artists but also established creators and curators from as far away as South Africa and the Canadian West Coast.

Keeping with our environmental theme for 2018, we were pleased to offer many programs that connected our community to the natural world. We hosted a multitude of nature talks and tours, and last spring launched a nest box initiative,

which will allow us to monitor the migratory populations of mountain bluebirds and tree swallows that seasonally call LAC home. This program not only benefits our native bird species, but has also enabled us to offer on-site birding workshops to local nature enthusiasts.



Bison bison bison in the Main Gallery
photo credit: Amanda MacKay



Exploring the wonder of winter in the Alberta Foothills
photo credit: Amanda MacKay

In September, we were thrilled to host renowned naturalist Brian Keating, who spoke about some of his most exciting experiences in the natural world to a sold-out audience on the opening night of *Ripple Effect*.

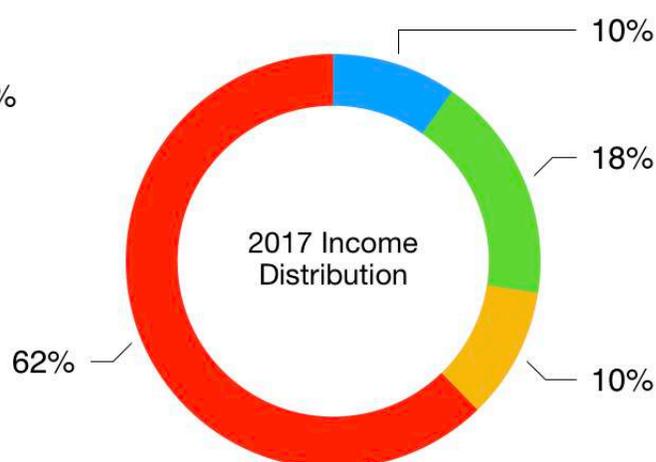
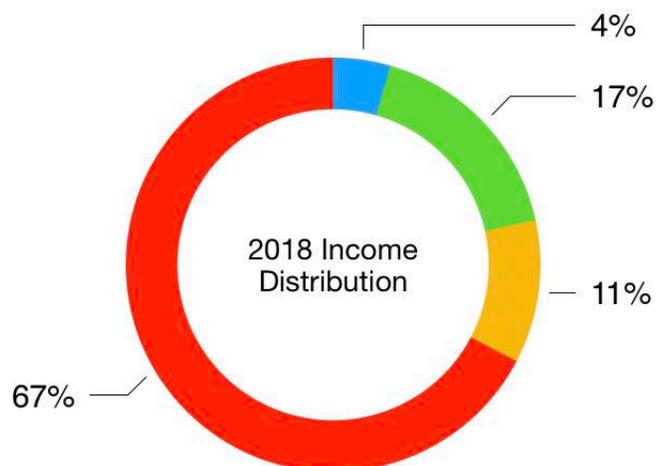
The children's programs at the LAC Education Centre were a hive of activity throughout the year. Our Art & Nature school program hosted almost 8,000 students, and we enjoyed a 56% increase in attendance in our summer camps over 2017 numbers; all 8 weeks of camps sold out. Thanks to the support of our community and significant contributions from the Linda Putnam Foundation, we were able

to sponsor 400 students from low-income or at-risk communities in Calgary to attend our educational programs throughout the year.

Also in 2018, we experimented with a new programming initiative, as we supported artists with developmental disabilities in bringing their practice out into nature. Thanks to funding from the Rozsa Foundation, we offered a landscape art residency to artists from Indefinite Arts Centre in Calgary. This pilot project was an incredibly enriching experience for both the LAC staff and the thirty artists who participated. The program culminated in a well received exhibition titled *Pushing Boundaries with Art, Nature & History*, and we hope to offer more residencies like this in the future.

The year was great success, not only from a programming perspective, but also financially. Total art sales in 2018 were up 4% from the previous year, and our Christmas in the Country Art Sale enjoyed a 40% increase in sales over 2017. We also saw a dramatic 125% increase in revenue generated by our workshops, as compared to 2017. The workshop programs offered ranged from nature tours to professional development for artists and visual arts training in fine art and craft.

Continuing with our sustainable financial model, approximately 67% of our Annual Budget came from earned revenue, which is derived from Art Sales, Membership Sales, Workshop Fees, and Field Trip and Summer Camp tuition.



All of us at the Leighton Art Centre are very proud of the work completed in 2018. We worked diligently to be an inclusive, open and inspiring space for artistic creation and experimentation, and to offer programming that benefited the entire community. We would not have been able to meet these objectives without the amazing community of supporters, volunteers and artists who also recognize the value in preserving A.C. Leighton's story for future generations, and in keeping Barbara Leighton's vision alive. We thank you all and look forward to another great year in 2019!



Stephanie Doll, Executive Director



Welcome to Leighton Art Centre
photo credit: Rachel Ellen Photography

www.leightoncentre.org
403-931-3633
282027 144 Street West. Foothills, AB T1S 0Y4