

# ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 2024 - MARCH 31, 2025



The  
**WHYTE**

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

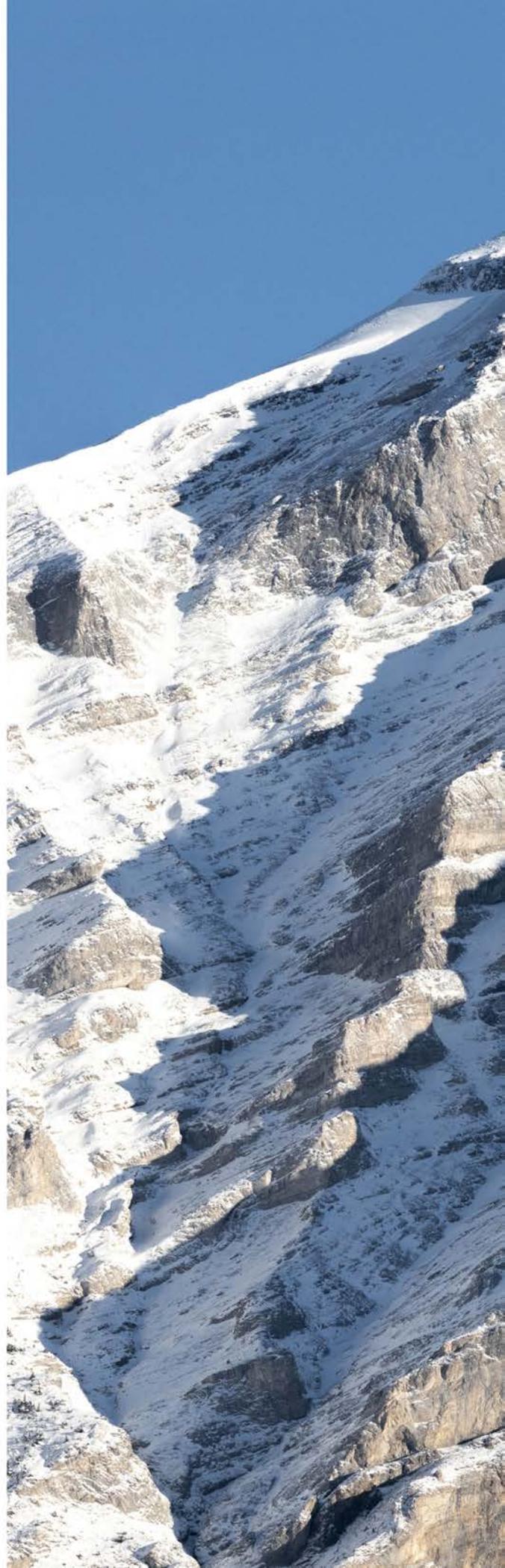
In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge that we work, live, and learn on the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples. This includes the Stoney Nations (Bears paw, Goodstoney, and Chiniki), the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani) and the Tsuut'ina, also traditionally, spirituality and culturally shared with Ktunaxa, Secwépemc, Mountain Cree, Inuit, and Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation of Alberta, District #4.

Banff is located on the traditional lands of Indigenous Peoples as stated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Article 26. We are dedicated to working in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and change.

The Whyte actively addresses the Truth and Reconciliation 94 Calls to Action, specifically number 62, 63, 67, 68, 69 and 70. This relationship to the land is further declared by the National Indian Brotherhood (now Assembly of First Nations), in a Declaration of the First Nations (1981) on collective rights. There is a long-standing connection to the Bow Valley around Banff National Park for many Indigenous communities, now known as Treaty 7 First Nations territory. Treaty 7 was signed on behalf of Queen Victoria in 1877 with the Stoney, Blackfoot and Tsuut'ina First Nations.

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**On the Cover:** David Garneau (Canadian, b. 1962), *The Burden of History*, 2023, acrylic on wood panel, 62.0 x 46.5 cm. Collection of The Whyte.





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# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



**Donald Watkins,**  
*Board Chair*



**David Cox,**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Welcome to The Whyte! Our exhibitions inspire curiosity, foster connection, and celebrate our rich cultural history. We are proud to be one of Western Canada's leading art and heritage museums.

As we approach our 60th anniversary in 2028, The Whyte is undergoing an exciting transformation, driven by our dedicated staff, the guidance of our board, and the support of the community. The vision of our founders continues to shape our path as we engage histories, contemporary issues, and diverse voices that deepen a sense of place. As stewards of one of the largest collections of art and artifacts in the Canadian Rockies, we are committed to preserving these histories with integrity and making them accessible for future generations.

Our aim is to offer a broad range of arts and cultural experiences that honour the past while embracing the present. We continue to explore new ways for audiences to engage with art, history, and place, while remaining steadfast in our commitment to the preservation of the region's cultural heritage. From supporting Indigenous artists and mentors with the Cave and Basin Mural Project to facilitating historical research through our Lillian Agnes Jones Scholarship, The Whyte remains a place of learning, creativity, and reflection.

Looking ahead, our transformation includes revitalized exhibition spaces, expanded programming, and renewed partnerships that strengthen our ability to engage diverse communities. These efforts will allow us to offer even greater inclusivity and showcase elevated artistry in our exhibitions, ensuring that The Whyte is a destination where all visitors can connect with art and history in meaningful ways.





Over the period covered in this Annual Report, The Whyte presented the following exhibitions:

- *Time: In the Mountains* featured distinguished painter, printmaker and naturalist, Ilana Manolson. The exhibit showcased her studio paintings constructed from memories of her visual experiences in the Rocky Mountains.
- *Menagerie of Disappearance* featured the works of Eva Brandl, Jude Griebel, Tamar Kostianovsky and Lorraine Simms. The exhibition confronted boundaries between life and death, presence and absence, by reimagining natural forms through sculpture, photography, and drawing.
- *Palettes of the Peaks: Artists Inspired by Lake O'Hara* was assembled from The Whyte's permanent collection. It featured work from several artists inspired by the Lake O'Hara region's natural beauty.
- *J.E.H. MacDonald: The O'Hara Era 1924 – 1932* offered a rare and comprehensive overview of J.E.H. MacDonald's paintings, created during his summer visits to the Lake O'Hara region. The exhibition retraced MacDonald's steps to his painting sites, thanks to two decades of research and exploration by geologists Patrica Cucman and the late Stanley Munn.
- *Carl Rungius: Big Game Painter* celebrated Carl Rungius' pivotal role in elevating big-game and landscape painting in the early 20th century.
- *Bison Legacy: The Artistic Vision of Dwayne Harty* showcased the paintings of bison by acclaimed wildlife and landscape painter, Dwayne Harty. It reflected years of immersive study, with Harty travelling to reserves, ranches and national parks across North America and Poland.
- *Meltdown: A Drop in Time* featured artists, Jim Elzinga and Roger Vernon, Leanne Allison and Tiffany Shaw, marking the grand opening of Canada's participation in the 2025 United Nations' International Year of Glaciers preservation.
- *Glen Crawford: Etched in Ice* featured photographer Glen Crawford's stark reminder of the rapid disappearance of glaciers in the Rocky Mountains of Western Canada.

This year, we also strengthened our collections. Acquisitions over the year included three Eddy Cobiness pieces: *Eagle, Two Geese and Man*, and *Bear and Eagle*, thanks to Robert Fulton; John Arthur Fraser's *Fishing Camp, Rocky Mountains*, thanks to Scott and Grit McCreath; and two Joseph Sanchez pieces, *Skull Man* and *Embracing Love*, thanks to the artist. With support from Rod Green and Hope Smith, The Whyte also acquired *Awwasukapi* by Adrian Stimson, and two pieces by David Garneau, *Stoney and Métis Meeting* and *The Burden of History*.

In addition, over the year, 300 researchers utilized the Archives' research services and approximately 700 archival image reproduction orders were processed by the Archives.

The Whyte is a place of memory and impact: honouring traditions, embracing contemporary practices, and presenting stories with honesty and respect. None of this work would be possible without the generosity of our members, donors, visitors, and partners.

We invite you to join us on our transformative journey.





**EXHIBITIONS**



## *Time: In the Mountains*

April 12, 2024 - June 2, 2024 | Ilana Manolson

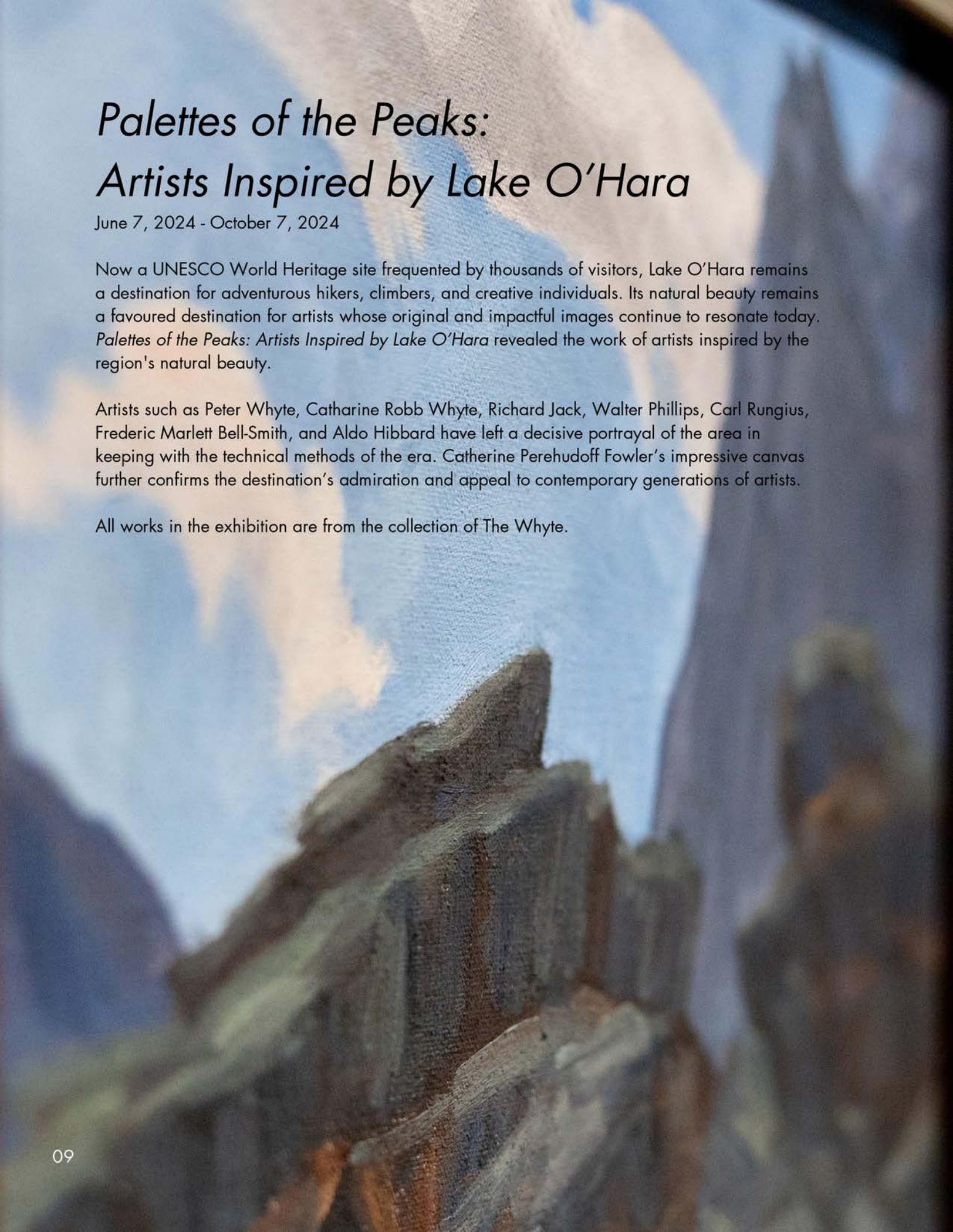
*Time: In the Mountains* strived to capture the different heartbeats of the earth over time as observed by Ilana Manolson while painting, hiking, and working in the Rocky Mountains. A frequent visitor to the Lake O'Hara region, her works are studio paintings constructed from memories of her visual experience there. A distinguished painter, printmaker, and naturalist, Manolson has been showcased in galleries across North America. She combines her talents to create visually expansive works that unfurl like rivers, trails, and scrolls.

# Menagerie of Disappearance

April 12, 2024 - June 2, 2024 | Eva Brandl, Jude Griebel, Tamara Kostianovsky, and Lorraine Simms

*Menagerie of Disappearance* explored the impacts of human consumption and the slow erasure of the natural world through works that emphasized decay, extinction, and transformation. The artists in this exhibition confronted the boundaries between life and death, presence and absence, by reimagining natural forms through sculpture, photography, and drawing. Through taxidermy, textiles, miniatures, and shadow renderings, each artist revealed how the lifeless can still pulse with meaning, memory, and caution.





# *Palettes of the Peaks: Artists Inspired by Lake O'Hara*

June 7, 2024 - October 7, 2024

Now a UNESCO World Heritage site frequented by thousands of visitors, Lake O'Hara remains a destination for adventurous hikers, climbers, and creative individuals. Its natural beauty remains a favoured destination for artists whose original and impactful images continue to resonate today. *Palettes of the Peaks: Artists Inspired by Lake O'Hara* revealed the work of artists inspired by the region's natural beauty.

Artists such as Peter Whyte, Catharine Robb Whyte, Richard Jack, Walter Phillips, Carl Rungius, Frederic Marlett Bell-Smith, and Aldo Hibbard have left a decisive portrayal of the area in keeping with the technical methods of the era. Catherine Perehudoff Fowler's impressive canvas further confirms the destination's admiration and appeal to contemporary generations of artists.

All works in the exhibition are from the collection of The Whyte.



## J.E.H. MacDonald: The O'Hara Era 1924-1932

June 7, 2024 - October 20, 2024

*J.E.H. MacDonald: The O'Hara Era 1924-1932* offered a rare and comprehensive look at the paintings of J.E.H. MacDonald, created during his summer visits to the Lake O'Hara region between 1924 and 1930. As a founding member of the Group of Seven, MacDonald played a pivotal role in shaping Canadian landscape painting. His works captured the rugged beauty of the Rocky Mountains with expressive brushwork and an emotional connection to place. Marking the centennial of his first visit to the area, The Whyte brought together artworks from both private and public collections across Canada, attracting over 18,000 visitors.

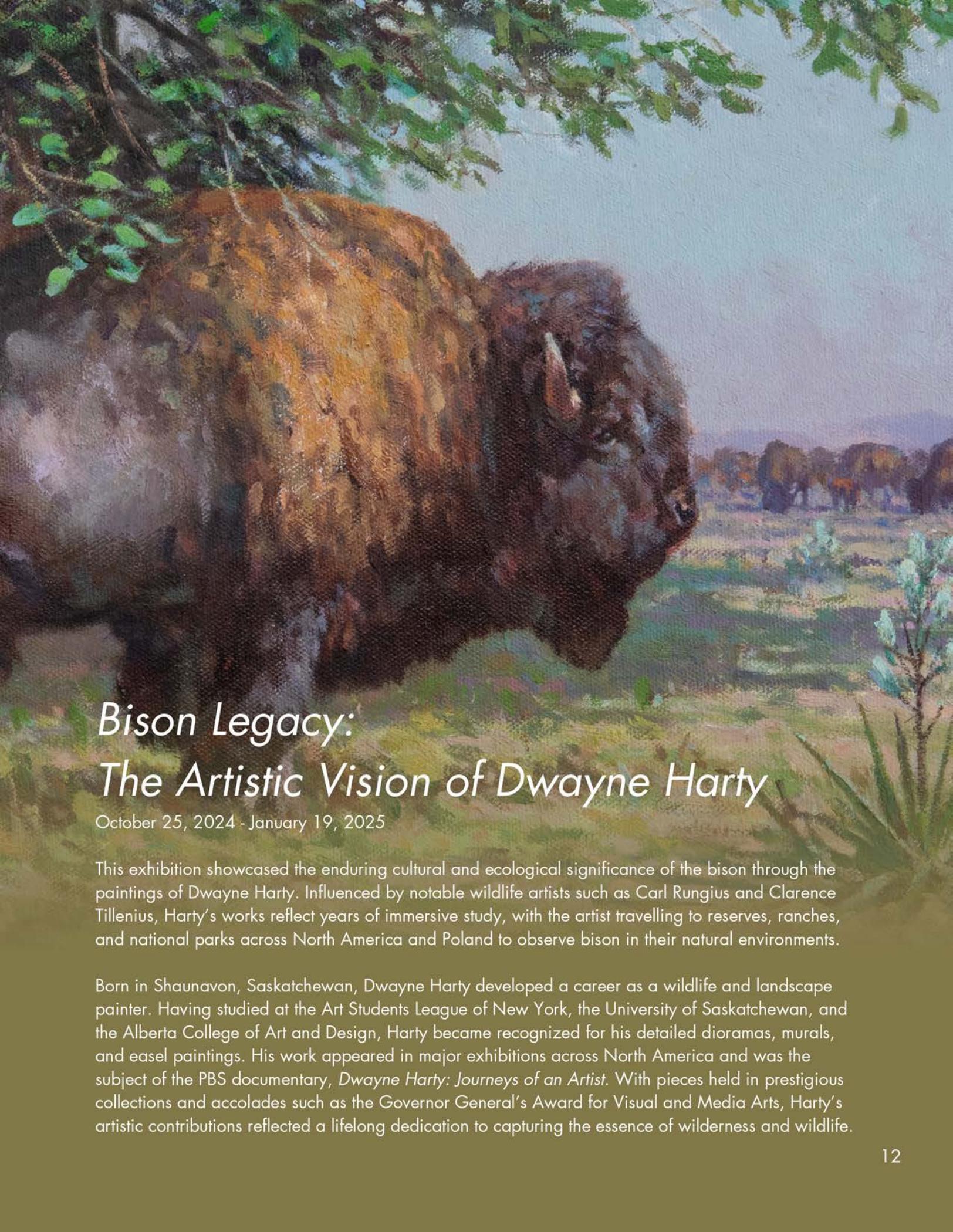
The exhibition was the result of two decades of research and exploration by geologists Stanley Munn and Patricia Cucman, who retraced MacDonald's steps to locate his painting sites. Their efforts unearthed historical artifacts, corrected geographical mislabeling, and revealed new insights into the artist's process. Contemporary photographs taken by Munn were displayed alongside MacDonald's paintings, offering a compelling dialogue between past and present. The accompanying publication, *To See What He Saw: J.E.H. MacDonald and the O'Hara Years, 1924-1932*, provided further depth to this story of art, place, and discovery.

# Carl Rungius: Big Game Painter

October 18, 2024 - January 12, 2025

This exhibit highlighted the life and legacy of Carl Rungius, one of North America's first career wildlife artists, whose detailed etchings and paintings were shaped by direct observation and a lifelong passion for the outdoors. Tracing his artistic evolution from early studies in Germany to his annual pilgrimages to the Canadian Rockies, this exhibition celebrated Rungius' pivotal role in elevating big-game and landscape painting in the early 20th century.





## *Bison Legacy: The Artistic Vision of Dwayne Harty*

October 25, 2024 - January 19, 2025

This exhibition showcased the enduring cultural and ecological significance of the bison through the paintings of Dwayne Harty. Influenced by notable wildlife artists such as Carl Rungius and Clarence Tillenius, Harty's works reflect years of immersive study, with the artist travelling to reserves, ranches, and national parks across North America and Poland to observe bison in their natural environments.

Born in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan, Dwayne Harty developed a career as a wildlife and landscape painter. Having studied at the Art Students League of New York, the University of Saskatchewan, and the Alberta College of Art and Design, Harty became recognized for his detailed dioramas, murals, and easel paintings. His work appeared in major exhibitions across North America and was the subject of the PBS documentary, *Dwayne Harty: Journeys of an Artist*. With pieces held in prestigious collections and accolades such as the Governor General's Award for Visual and Media Arts, Harty's artistic contributions reflected a lifelong dedication to capturing the essence of wilderness and wildlife.



## *Meltdown: A Drop in Time*

January 25, 2025 - April 13, 2025 | Leanne Allison | Jim Elzinga and Roger Vernon | Tiffany Shaw

In honour of the 2025 United Nations International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, *Meltdown* presented a powerful collection of artworks exploring glacial landscapes. Large format photographs by Elzinga and Vernon anchored the exhibition, drawing viewers deep into the heart of the Columbia Icefield for an unparalleled perspective on this vital environmental phenomenon. *Losing Blue*, by Leanne Allison, offered a cinematic poem reflecting on the impending disappearance of some of the most extraordinary hues on Earth—the otherworldly blues of ancient mountain lakes. Finally, Tiffany Shaw's glass works captured impressions of the Athabasca Glacier's surface, offering an intimate and detailed glimpse into the character of these colossal, enduring giants.

# Glen Crawford: Etched in Ice

January 25, 2025 - April 19, 2025

This exhibition explored the beauty and fragility of glaciers in the Rocky Mountains of Western Canada. Using drone photography, the artist Glen Crawford captured the patterns and textures formed by glacial melt, rockfall, and erosion. The images served as both a visual record and a stark reminder of the rapid disappearance of these ancient ice formations in a changing climate.



# NEW ACQUISITIONS

A close-up photograph of a tree trunk with various feathers and small objects scattered on its surface. The text 'NEW ACQUISITIONS' is overlaid in the top left corner.

**Donated by Amanda Arbuckle**

*Banff Winter Festival Coin*  
1977  
metal  
105.02.0170

**Donated by Donna Livingstone**

DEBORAH CAMERON  
(CANADIAN)  
*This is Where I Want to Be*  
2021  
digital composite image on  
chipboard  
CaB.18.01

MICHAEL CORNER (CANADIAN)  
*The Whyte Cabin*  
c. 2021  
pastel  
CoM.03.01

ALISON ROSSITER (1953 – ,  
AMERICAN)  
*Untitled*  
prior to 2021  
photography  
RoA.18.01

**Donated by Doub Robson**

*Golden Eagle*  
Taxidermy mount  
112.01.0041

**Donated by Joseph Sanchez**

JOSEPH M. SANCHEZ (1948 – ,  
AMERICAN)  
*Skull Man*  
1983  
pastel on paper  
SaN.03.01

JOSEPH M. SANCHEZ (1948 – ,  
AMERICAN)  
*Embracing Love*  
2015  
watercolour and pastel on paper  
SaN.05.01

**Donated by Patricia Cucman**

*Milk Bottle*  
ca. 1918 – 1930  
glass  
110.01.0313

**Donated by Robert Fulton**

EDDY COBINESS (1933 – 1996)  
*Eagle*  
1993  
watercolour on paper  
CbE.05.01

EDDY COBINESS (1933 – 1996)  
*Two Geese*  
1987  
acrylic on canvas  
CbE.12.01

EDDY COBINESS (1933 – 1996)  
*Man, Bear, and Eagle*  
1991  
acrylic on canvas  
CbE.12.02

CARL RAY (1943 – 1978,  
CANADIAN)  
*Bobcat in the Womb*  
1972  
ink and acrylic on paper  
RaC.12.01

CARL RAY (1943 – 1978,  
CANADIAN)  
*Wolverine*  
1978  
Acrylic on Card  
RaC.12

**Donated by Ross Hope**

ROBERT J. HOPE (1948 – 2023,  
CANADIAN)  
*Great Expectations*  
ink; watercolour on paper  
HoR.03.07

ROBERT J. HOPE (1948 – 2023,  
CANADIAN)  
*River Bank*  
ink; watercolour on paper  
HoR.03.08

**Donated by Scott and Grit  
McCreath**

JOHN ARTHUR FRASER (1838 –  
1898, ENGLISH)  
*Fishing Camp, Rocky Mountains*  
1886  
oil on canvas  
FsJ.02.01

**Purchased by The Whyte with  
support from Rod Green and  
Hope Smith**

ADRIAN STIMSON (1964 – ,  
CANADIAN)  
*Awwasukapi*  
2021  
acrylic, wood ash, oil, 24k gold  
leaf, found feathers on birchwood  
panel  
StD.12.01 a-c

DAVID GARNEAU (1962 – ,  
CANADIAN)  
*Stoney and Métis meeting*  
2019  
acrylic on panel  
GaD.12.01

DAVID GARNEAU (1962 – ,  
CANADIAN)  
*The Burden of History*  
2023  
acrylic on wood panel  
GaD.12.02

# ARCHIVES LIBRARY & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



# Archives and Special Collections

The Whyte Archives and Special Collections is an international repository and research centre, supporting the work of historians, academics, journalists, authors, environmentalists, scientists and the community alike. Home to three libraries, including the Archives Library, Art Library, and the Alpine Club of Canada, the Archives and Special Collections contains over 800 collections dating from the mid-19th century to the present day.

In 2024/2025, the Archives and Special Collections continued to strengthen community engagement and expand access to its collections through research initiatives, digital exhibitions, scholarships, and conferences. Ongoing access to the Archives and Special Collections enabled new relevance, fostered meaningful connections, and advanced The Whyte's commitment to knowledge sharing and cultural preservation.

## Research and Community Engagement

In 2024/2025, The Whyte's Archives and Special Collections received research inquiries from around the world, including Canada, the United States, England, Scotland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Switzerland, China, South Korea, and Australia. The Archives and Special Collections provided research support to nearly 300 researchers, reinforcing its role in strengthening connections between global audiences and The Whyte's extensive collections.

The Archives and Special Collections fulfilled over 160 reproduction photo orders, totalling more than 700 images for both personal and commercial use. Archival photographs featured in magazines, public broadcasters, and news media, including *Canadian Geographic*, *Canada's History*, CBC, APTN, PBS, *The Globe and Mail*, and the *Calgary Herald*. Images from the collections were used by Parks Canada for interpretative displays and featured in hospitality and commercial spaces across the region.

In addition, large-scale festival events, including the Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival and the Vancouver International Film Festival, featured The Whyte's archival materials. Film projects featuring The Whyte's archival collections included *Stories We Have Earned: The Stoney Nakoda Film Project*, directed by Cody Lefthand, and produced by Stoney Film Project Ltd and Gary Burns, *Wildflowers: A Documentary Film* by Trixie Pacis and Meghan J. Ward, and *Yamnuska: The Ragged Edge* by Sherpas Cinema.

## Conference Presentations

The Archives and Special Collections team participated in and led several conferences during 2024/2025, broadening The Whyte's reach and further showcasing its collections. In October 2024, The Whyte's Director of Archives and Special Collections, Elizabeth Kundert-Cameron, participated in a presentation alongside panellists Rudi Gertsch, Jon Colani Bezzola, and Joanne Sweeting on *125 Years of Swiss Guides in Western Canada*. In June 2024, the Archives and Special Collections team presented *A Million Mountain Stories: Alpine Hut Registers as an Emerging Tool in Archival Research* at the Association of Canadian Archivists 2024 Virtual Conference.

## Donations

In September 2024, the Archives and Special Collections implemented a temporary moratorium on new acquisitions to manage capacity following an above-average volume of donation requests in the previous year. Despite this limitation, The Whyte accepted 35 new donations during the 2024/2025 year. Notable acquisitions include original film reels and still photographs from "Ghostkeeper" (1981), filmed at Deer Lodge, produced and directed by Jim Makichuk and donated by his brother, Dave Makichuck; a hard drive from prominent Canadian Rockies naturalist, Ben Gadd, containing video footage of 145 bike trips throughout the Canadian Rockies and the United States; and a Swiss Guides logbook from Chateau Lake Louise, documenting the years 1930-1941, generously donated by an anonymous contributor.

The Archives and Special Collections team digitized 3,141 items from the Luxton family fonds, including 1,919 photographs and 1,222 pages of textual materials, as part of an ongoing partnership between the Eleanor Luxton Historical Foundation and The Whyte. Digitization efforts of the A.O. Wheeler Family Albums were continued.

The Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) backlog processing project, initiated in 2022, is nearing completion. The Archives and Special Collections team added 1,078 new database entries to the ACC descriptive catalogue, with 154 manuscript boxes of archival material fully processed. These records are accessible to the public through The Whyte's online database at [archives.whyte.org](https://archives.whyte.org).



## Online Exhibition

A Canadian Rockies naturalist, interpretative guide and speaker, Ben Gadd generously donated his digitized slide shows and original scripts to the Archives and Special Collections in 2024, adding to his previous professional records held in the archives. Gadd narrated a new recording of his classic presentation, *The Canadian Rockies in One Hour*, which can be found in an online exhibition, along with 14 additional presentations and scripts, available at [explore.whyte.org/ben-gadd](https://explore.whyte.org/ben-gadd).

## Lillian Agnes Jones Scholarship

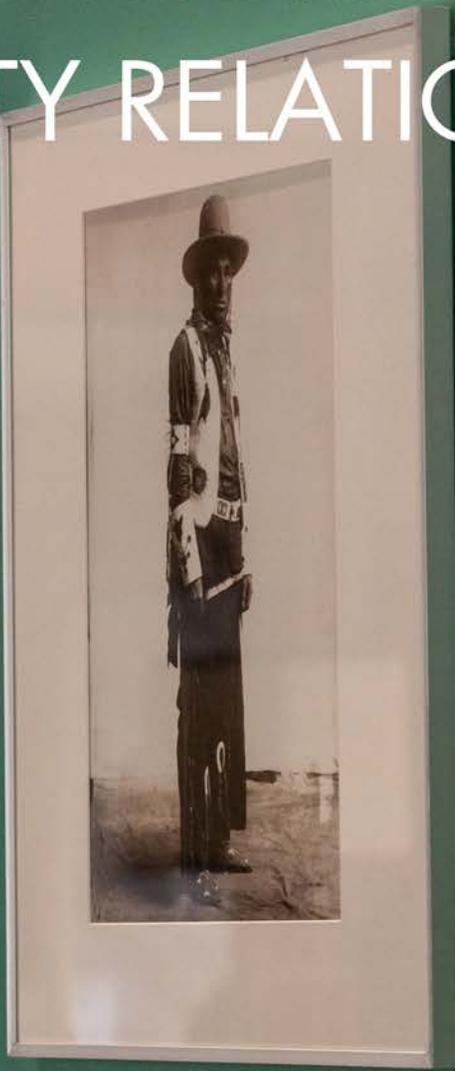
Recipients of the 2024/2025 Lillian Agnes Jones Scholarship were Dr. Ben Bradley, author of *Young People, the Great Outdoors, and the Culture of Nature in Banff, 1970-1985*, and Chris Chang-Yen Phillips, author of *Environmental Advocacy and Media in 1970s Alberta*. The Peter and Catharine Whyte Foundation received a bequest from the estate of Lillian Agnes Jones (1909-2000) in 2001. Jones' generous contribution established the Lillian Agnes Jones Scholarship, which supports research exploring the history and culture of Western Canada. The scholarship continues Jones' legacy and reveals The Whyte's ongoing commitment to advancing research initiatives in the Canadian Rockies.

## Indigenous Access Policy

Approved in 2024, the Indigenous Access Policy guides the ethical access to collections. The Curatorial team and the Archives and Special Collections team continued to collaborate on implementing procedures that respect Indigenous knowledge and access to collections.



# HOSTING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Small blue informational card with text.

Small blue informational card with text.

We were better people, but we were in pretty good luck with the Great Spirit, creator and ruler of all. You whites  
covered us over in anger. You didn't understand our prayers. You didn't try to understand. When we sang our prayers to  
the Sun or Moon or Wind, you said we were silly things. You said we were condemned as an evil race just  
because our form of praying was different from yours.  
-Tulipa Masi / Making Schools

Small blue informational card with text.





Since 2022, the Hosting Indigenous Community Relations (HICR) Archives team has supported Indigenous research access, policy implementation, and education. In 2024/2025, HICR engaged in key initiatives, including exhibitions, research, and public engagement.

### **Exhibitions**

The HICR Team created a photo exhibition, *Wanîgas Îyethka Wîchestabi Toîe*, regarding the exclusion and resilience of the Îyethka (Stoney) Nation. The exhibition was installed in the Reading Room of the Archives. In early 2024, HICR worked with the Bearspaw family to include their ancestor, Peggy Rider Bearspaw (Hûga Wîyâ), in the Women's section of the Heritage Gallery. In March 2025, HICR collaborated with curatorial staff and consulted with the Beaver/Hunter family to present the regalia of Nat and Gertrude Hunter in the telling of Banff Indian Days.

### **Îyethka Language Conference**

In November, 600 participants representing Nakoda/Lakota/Dakota language speakers gathered at the Banff Springs Hotel, travelling from Mîni Thni, Eden Valley, Big Horn, Alexis, Paul, Montana, and Saskatchewan. The HICR team assisted the conference coordinator in preparing a slideshow of archival images featured between sessions. Additionally, HICR supported community group *Mîni Hrpa* with a photographic display in the upper lobby of the hotel, adjacent to the conference. The HICR team was present for the entire conference, engaging with participants and encouraging photo orders from the *Recognizing Relations* collection, while also sharing information about The Whyte's various initiatives with Indigenous communities. During the conference, HICR Archives team members Travis Rider and Colleen Crawler created and delivered a 50-minute presentation, spoken in the Îyethka language and English. They discussed their work at The Whyte as well as Stoney's relationship to the land, people, heritage, and archival collections in Banff.

### **Research and Resources**

HICR attained further knowledge in the collections management of Indigenous related materials, including current ethical standards and alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The HICR Archives team members completed the six-week *Moved to Action* course offered by the Canadian Museums Association, as well as the University of Victoria continuing education course *Indigenous Cultural Stewardship*. This learning was complemented by travel to view and learn about other collections, including a visit to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. These experiences enriched The Whyte's collective knowledge.

### **Engagement**

The HICR Archives team engaged with researchers and groups from the Secwépemc, Siksika, Peigan, Métis Nation, and Stoney Nation, including two class groups from the Stoney Education Authority. The team supported tours and research visits by organizations such as HOWL, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Library and Archives Canada, and others. The HICR Archives team presented to participants at the *Common and Contested Pasts* history conference, as well as attended the event. The team also contributed to events celebrating the Bison Treaty and National Indigenous Peoples Day. The HICR team continues to collaborate with *Local Contexts*, a global initiative that supports Indigenous cultural authority and data sovereignty in archival and heritage collections. Through the use of digital Notices, the HICR Archives team invites community collaboration and prioritize Indigenous knowledge.

# VISITOR ENGAGEMENT





## Education and Interpretation

The Whyte's visitor experience team remains dedicated to providing engaging learning opportunities. Through new and ongoing school programs, guided and independent interpretive opportunities, and family-friendly engagement, The Whyte is dedicated to providing learning experiences for the entire family. In 2024/2025, The Whyte introduced new school programs and expanded its tour offerings to include exhibition-specific and Indigenous interpretative experiences.

### School Programs and Community Education

The Whyte's Education and Interpretation team provides enriching educational experiences through a range of programs designed to engage students, families, and educators alike. Throughout the 2024/2025 year, The Whyte continued to offer its long-standing programs, including *Arty the Mouse*, *Earth Meets the Sky Painting*, and *Edukit World Travels*, which together reached over 220 participants.

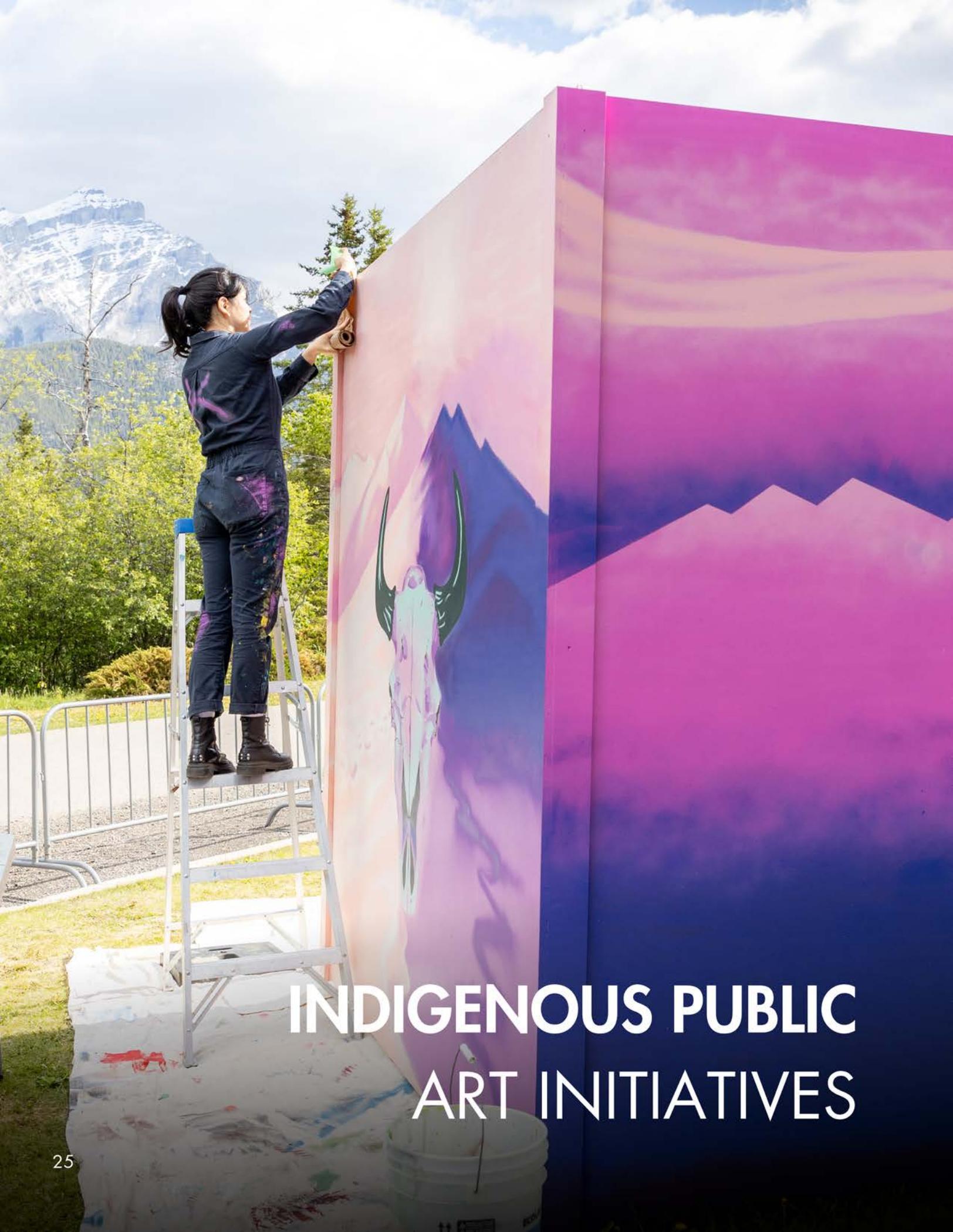
Building on its commitment to education, The Whyte introduced several new initiatives to support hands-on and arts-based learning. New initiatives include:

- Curator for a Day
- Landscape Art
- Wildflower Art

### Tours

Guided tours remained a key component of The Whyte's visitor engagement strategy during the 2024/2025 year, attracting a combined total of over 6000 participants across a variety of offerings. Signature programs, including the *Gateway of the Rockies*, *Heritage Homes*, and *To See What He Saw* tours continued to drive strong participation. Themed programs and independent options, including Walking Tours and *Women in the Rockies*, expanded audience reach and encouraged community education.

Indigenous-led tours were delivered to community stakeholders and Indigenous groups, further reinforcing The Whyte's commitment to inclusive, accessible, and culturally responsive learning experiences. Additionally, The Whyte delivered familiarization tours to the community, strengthening relationships with tourism and education stakeholders across the region.



# INDIGENOUS PUBLIC ART INITIATIVES



# Indigenous Public Art Initiatives

Guided by the expertise and leadership of Indigenous staff and through ongoing collaboration with Indigenous community groups, The Whyte aims to be a community leader within the Bow Valley region. Through new and ongoing public art initiatives, exhibitions, programs, policies and engagement efforts, The Whyte is committed to fostering and celebrating cultural resilience by strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities in the Bow Valley and beyond.

## Cave and Basin Mural Project

Returning for its third year, the Cave and Basin Mural Project celebrates the rich traditions of the Cave and Basin site. In partnership with Parks Canada and the Cave and Basin Historic Site, The Whyte contracted six Indigenous artists to create 8x8x8-foot mural boxes celebrating Indigenous culture and traditions. Participating artists included Cheyenne Bearspaw, Giona Smalleyes, Kyle Kaquitts, and Jarron Poucette from the Stoney Nakoda Nation, and Brendon Manybears and Kristy North Peigan from the Blackfoot Nation. Artists Joseph Sanchez, Bruno Canadien, AJA Louden, and Dawn Saunders Dahl provided mentorship in artistic development and cultural research during the project.

Under the theme *Stories of This Place*, the 2024/2025 mural boxes were displayed at the Cave and Basin alongside previous works by Ktunaxa, Secwépemc, and Métis artists (2023), as well as Stoney Nakoda, Blackfoot, and Tsuut'ina artists (2022).

## Ongoing Indigenous Public Art Initiatives

In addition to new public art projects, The Whyte continued to champion the efforts of previous initiatives. Ongoing initiatives in the 2024/2025 year included:

- **Painted Picnic Tables:** Designed in 2023 by artists Bruno Canadien (Dene) and Cheyenne Bearspaw (Iyârhe Nakoda/Stoney), the hand-painted picnic tables serve as a place of rest and inspiration. The vibrant designs draw inspiration from Dene beadwork and quilt patterns as well as the 2SLGBTQI+ community.
- **Bird Mural Box:** The collaborative mural box, created by artists Tiffany Wollman (Métis/Cree) and Haily Heavy Shield (Blackfoot), featuring wooden cutouts of local birds, continued to be exhibited on The Whyte's grounds. The mural boxes engaged visitors through local ecology and artistic expression.
- **Sitting Winds Mural Box:** Created by Kyle Kaquitts, Jarron Poucette, and Chris Morin in honour of their grandfather, Sitting Wind, the mural box was once again displayed at The Whyte. At the end of the exhibition period, The Whyte gifted the mural box to the family in recognition of their contributions and legacy.



# PUBLIC PROGRAMMING



In 2024/2025, The Whyte advanced its engagement strategy by delivering interdisciplinary learning opportunities and launching new programs aligned with the year's exhibitions. In addition to its annual signature events, The Whyte curated a diverse lineup of public programming focused on arts and culture, environmental stewardship, mountaineering, and bison. Offerings included book and artist talks, film screenings, panel discussions, and other interactive experiences that fostered deeper community connections and enhanced visitor engagement.

### **Artist Talks and Book Talks**

- September 5, 2024: Joseph Sanchez, *Breaking Boundaries: The Indigenous Group of Seven and Their Contributions to Canadian Art*
- September 21, 2024: Patricia Cucman, *To See What He Saw: J.E.H. MacDonald and the O'Hara Years, 1924-1932*
- October 27, 2024: Dwayne Harty, *Bison Legacy: The Artistic Vision of Dwayne Harty*

### **Film Screenings**

- April 22, 2024: Rita Leistner: *Forest for the Trees*
- October 29, 2024: Doamas Kaquitts, Harvey Kaquitts, and Rain Kootenay: *Nomad Warriors: Northstar*
- October 29, 2024: Nakoda AV Club: *Terhpi Thâkthâja: Stoney Nakoda, Catharine Whyte and her Museum*
- October 29, 2024: Cody Lefthand: short films

### **Annual Events**

- June 21, 2024: National Indigenous Peoples Day in partnership with the Town of Banff
- September 30, 2024: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in partnership with The Town of Banff and Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity
- December 7, 2024: Whyte Christmas
- February 4, 2025: Jon Whyte Spelling Bee hosted by Joel Hagen.

### **Public Presentations**

- April 9, 2024: Justin Bruised Head: *The Kainai linii Rematriation Project, Restoring the Plains Bison as an Ecological and Cultural Keystone*. Presented in partnership with Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y).
- October 28, 2024: *Mountain Voices and Echoes: Switzerland and Canada: Writing, Stories, and Archives Beyond Borders*
- December 14, 2024: *An Evening with the Calgary Mountain Club*, hosted by Chic Scott, Judy Sterner, and Andrew Brash



### Artist Workshops

Inspired by the painting traditions of its founders, Peter and Catharine Robb Whyte, The Whyte continued to champion *en plein air*.

- September 13-15, 2024: *En Plein Air Paint Out: Lake O'Hara*.

### Through the Lens

Between 1997 and 2017, The Whyte hosted a popular outreach program called *Through the Lens*. The program connected high school students from Morley, Canmore and Banff in the creative and technical process of traditional photography. Reviewed and reimaged in 2024, *Through the Lens* continues to support students with workshops led by Nicolas Latulippe and Soloman Chiniquay.



### **Bison Speakers Series**

New to The Whyte's programming in 2024/2025 was the Indigenous led *Bison Speaker Series*, a fall initiative that explored the cultural, ecological, and spiritual significance of the bison.

- November 14, 2024: *The Future of the Bison*: a panel discussion exploring the reintroduction of the bison. Moderated by Marie-Eve Marchand, panelists included Indigenous leaders Amythest First Rider, Leroy Little Bear, Diandra Bruised Head, Douglas Kootenay and the late Elder Philomene Stevens.
- November 14, 2024: *Bison Community Dinner* prepared by local Indigenous chefs Damian Liengme from Mountain Fire Foods and the late Philomene Stevens.
- November 28, 2024: *Spirit of the Bison*: a panel discussion with artists Joseph Sanchez, Faye Heavyshield, Nathan Meguinis, and Gordon Wesley gathered to share reflections on the spiritual significance of the bison within their communities and art practices.
- December 4, 2024: *Science of the Bison*: a presentation by bison specialist Wes Olson who shared insight into the technical and ecological aspects of bison rematriation efforts across North America, Europe, and Asia.

### **Fireside Chat**

Hosted by local historian, Chic Scott and videographer Glen Crawford, the Fireside Chat series added to the Archives and Special Collections oral history collection. The series continued to be a highly anticipated community event, with all four interviews selling out.

- April 25, 2024: Jerry Johnston, award-winning skier
- June 27, 2024: Patricia Cucman, author
- November 7, 2024: Sid Marty, author-musician
- December 5, 2024: Cori Brewster, singer-songwriter



# BOOKSTORE

As Banff's only independent bookstore, The Whyte Bookstore serves as a vibrant cultural hub and extension of the museum experience. Welcoming visitors from around the world, the bookstore offers a curated selection of literature focused on Canadian Rockies history, Indigenous culture, and regional art, alongside thoughtfully selected games, souvenirs, and artisan-crafted merchandise.

In 2024/2025, The Whyte Bookstore experienced its most successful year to date, marked by a significant increase in revenue. Merchandise aligned with exhibitions and programming enriched the visitor experience, encouraging deeper engagement and creativity beyond the gallery wall.



CENTRE

EFFIN BIRDS  
LARK REYNOLDS

The Sound of Nature

The Sound of Nature

EFFIN BIRDS

The Field Guide to  
Downy Birds  
of North America

Rocky Mountain  
Cooking

WHITewater COOKS  
with passion

WHITewater COOKS  
with passion

foraging



## Attendance and Membership

### Attendance

In 2024/2025, The Whyte welcomed 41,941 visitors, marking a significant increase in visitation from previous years. This growth reflects The Whyte's ongoing commitment to advancing excellence and innovation through programming, exhibitions, and engagement initiatives, as well as ongoing partnerships to engage broader audiences. Community partnerships and special admissions programs, including the Canoo Program, the Library Pass Program, the Ambassador Program, the Whyte/Buffalo Nations Passport, as well as wholesale admission options, continued to support visitor attendance.

### Membership

Membership at The Whyte remained strong, with 548 memberships purchased in 2024/2025 supporting a total of 808 members. Members continued to engage with The Whyte through complimentary admission, exclusive events, and private openings.

# SUPPORT

The Whyte graciously acknowledges the generous support of individuals, businesses, foundations, and government. Contributions ensure the ongoing care and continuation of the collections, archives, operations, public and educational programming. Ongoing partnerships are critical in advancing our mission.

This list recognizes all cash donations made between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025.

## GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Government of Canada, *Parks Canada: Cave and Basin Historical Site*  
Town of Banff  
Government of Canada, *Young Canada Works*

## FOUNDATION SUPPORT

The Peter and Catharine Whyte Foundation  
Rozsa Foundation  
Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation  
Alberta Foundation for the Arts  
Calgary Foundation

## COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY

### \$25,000+

Donald Watkins  
Masters Gallery Ltd.  
Norval Morrisseau Estate Ltd.  
Rimrock Banff

### \$10,000+

Banff Lake Louise Tourism  
Earl Campbell  
EA Studios (Jasper) Ltd.  
Joan McKonkey  
Leslie and Cliff Fryers, Gair Fryers  
Margaret and Wesley Twiss  
Rod Green  
Ryan Green  
Stephen Kennedy

### \$1,000+

Bearclaw Gallery  
Cori Brewster  
Crossway Community Thrift

### \$1,000+ continued

Don Beers  
Donna Livingstone  
Earl Boon  
Frontstreet Holdings Ltd.  
Glyn and Allison Edwards  
George Capel  
George and Rosalie Schwartz  
George Kvill  
Graham Bennett and Laurie Strapp  
Harold Whyte  
Katharine Mills  
Letha MacLachlan  
Nan Hughes Poole and Peter Poole  
Patricia Morgenstern  
Ray and Mona Seguin  
Robert Tedford  
Susan Poohkay  
Tina Loo

### \$500+

Alison Brewster  
Belinda Boleantu  
Bert Murray  
Diane Devonshire  
Eileen Mak  
Erin Sellers  
Gerry Goulet  
Grit McCreath  
Joan Booth  
Judith Kashul  
Leslie Sellers  
Mary Elizabeth Macrae  
Michael Ford  
Mike McIvor  
Paul Geddes  
Ramez Khawly  
Stephen Harrington  
Tristan and Damian Jones



# Board of Directors

Joan Booth *(June 2024)*

Allison Edwards

Gair Fryers

Rod Green

Steve Kennedy

Letha MacLachlan

Cherith Mark

Jim McLeod

Mirit Poznansky

George Schwarz

Leslie Sellers

Hope Smith *(June 2024)*

Don Watkins

# Staff Directory

## Executive Team

**David Cox**

Chief Executive Officer

**Chris Hughes**

Chief Operating Officer

**Donna Livingstone** - *(June 2024)*

Chief Executive Officer

# Staff Directory

## Administration

**Degju Suwal** - *(January 2024)*

Financial Advisor

**Amber Ward**

Executive Assistant and Board Administrator

**Mollie Riley** - *(January 2025)*

Manager, Business and Donor Records

**Maura Knox**

Finance and Administrative Assistant

## Archives and Special Collections

**Elizabeth Kundert-Cameron**

Director of Archives and Special Collections

**Kate Nielsen**

Senior Archivist

**Kate Riordon**

Reference and Collections Access Archivist

**Kayla Cazes** - *(July 2024)*

Librarian/Reference Archivist

**Nicole Ensing** - *(June 2024)*

Project Archivist

**Hannah Yuzwa**

Archives Assistant

**Tabitha McKechnie** - *(August 2024)*

Archives and Special Collections Assistant

**Brittany Staddon**

Digital Technician

## Hosting Indigenous Community Relations

**Dagny Dubois**

Archives Special Projects and Support for Indigenous Initiatives

**Travis Rider**

Indigenous Reference Service Associate

**Colleen Crawler**

Indigenous Reference Service Association

## Curation

**Christina Cuthbertson**

Director of Curatorial Initiatives

**Anne Ewen** - *(October 2024)*

Director and Chief Curator of Art and Heritage

**D.L. Cameron** - *(December 2024)*

Curator and Chief of Design

**Amie Lalonde**

Registrar and Curatorial Assistant

## Indigenous Relationships and Programs

**Dawn Saunders Dahl**

Director of Indigenous Programs and Relationship and Curator of Indigenous Initiatives

**Emma De Sousa**

Events and Indigenous Relations Coordinator

## Marketing and Communications

**Tera Swanson**

Marketing and Communications Manager

**Katie Goldie**

Design and Brand Manager

## Education

**Jennifer Royal** - *(March 2025)*

Manager of Education and Interpretation

**Samantha Palmer-Forrest** - *(March 2025)*

Education and Interpretation Coordinator

**Brendon Timmins**

Museum Interpreter

**Helen Belcher**

Museum Interpreter

**Gia Phillipone** - *(Summer 2024)*

Museum Interpreter

**Alisa Serebrianaia** - *(Summer 2024)*

Museum Interpreter

**John Fitzsimmons** - *(Summer 2024)*

Museum Interpreter

# Staff Directory

## Visitor Services

### **Gabi Wedin**

Director of Visitor Experience

### **Mabelle Carvajal**

Member, Donor and Visitor Experience  
Coordinator

### **Jenny Leighton**

Visitor Experience Associate

### **Jacqueline Dolan**

Visitor Experience Associate

### **Deborah Cameron**

Visitor Experience Associate

### **Wendy Lash**

Visitor Experience Associate

### **Erin O'Farrell**

Visitor Experience Associate

### **Ji Won Baxter**

Visitor Experience Associate

### **Denver Graling**

Visitor Experience Associate

## Maintenance

### **Ariel Manalaysay**

Manager of Maintenance

### **Jay Ocampo**

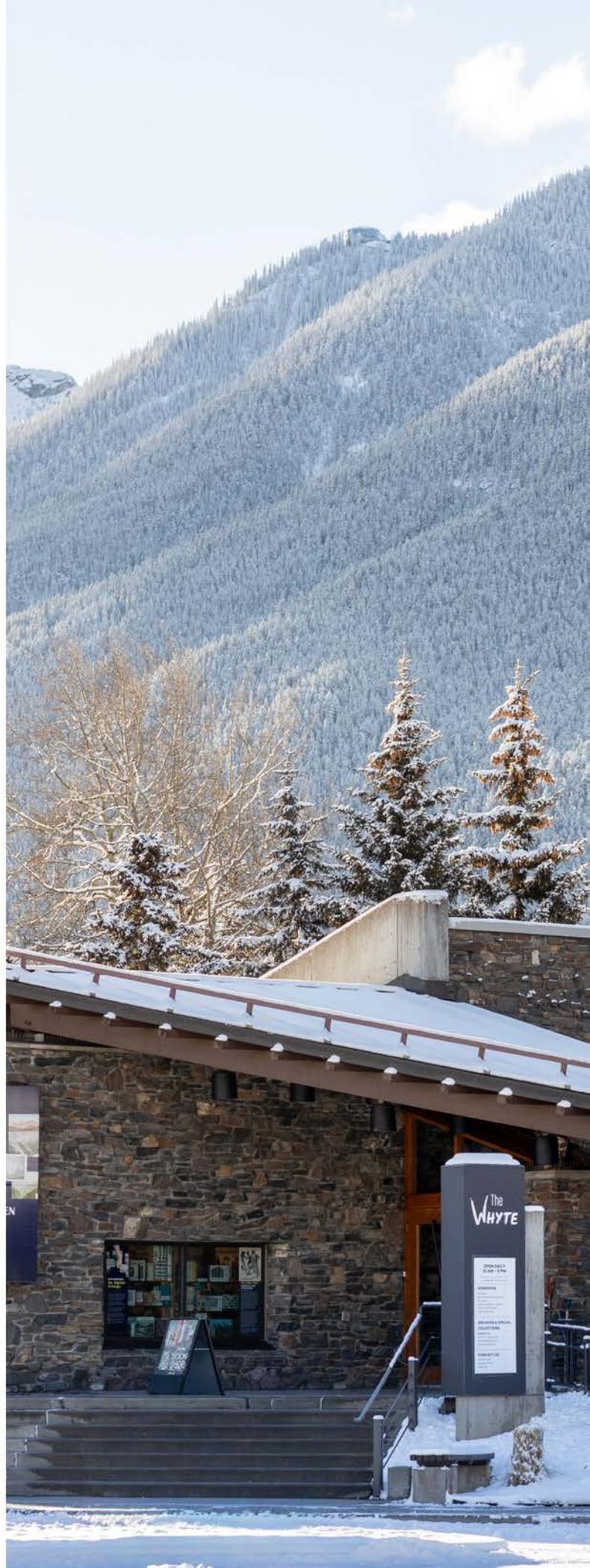
Manager of Maintenance

### **Andrew Ros**

Maintenance Assistant

### **Boyet Moquete**

Maintenance Assistant





**whyte.org**

403-762-2291

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The  
**WHYTE**

The Peter AND Catharine  
**WHYTE** Foundation

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