

THE ARQUIVES ANNUAL REPORT

The ArQuives is a registered charity with the Canada Revenue Agency (Charitable 118832864RR00001)



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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The ArQuives is located on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabe and the Huron-Wendat. Today, Toronto is still home to many Indigenous people from across North America and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

VISION

The ArQuives aspires to be a significant resource and catalyst for those who strive for a future world where LGBTQ2+ people are accepted, valued, and celebrated.

MISSION

The ArQuives was established to aid in the recovery and preservation of our histories. Its mandate is to:

- Acquire, preserve, organize, and give public access to information and materials in any medium, by and about LGBTQ2+ people, primarily produced in or concerning Canada
- Maintain a research library, international research files, and an international collection of LGBTQ2+ periodicals

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHAIR OF THE BOARD

50 YEARS OF KEEPING OUR STORIES ALIVE

50 years ago, the Canadian Gay Liberation Movement Archives was founded. While we have had many names over the years, our mission and dedication to LGBTQ2+ community stories remain the same. We extend our gratitude to each and every one of you who has supported us throughout the years – we could not have done it without you.

2023 marked the beginning of our new strategic plan, and we are thrilled to share our progress with you.

As we reflect on our 50th year, our current challenges are similar to those the organization has struggled with throughout its lifespan. There is so much work to be done to keep LGBTQ2+ history from disappearing, and so little time and money to do that essential work. Storage and space constraints remain a primary and ongoing concern here at The ArQuives, and we continue to work towards moving into a more suitable building in the near future.

The path to recovering from the COVID standstill has been successful on many fronts, including increased volunteer participation as we learn new ways to work with volunteers remotely. Our board of directors has been working to put in place policies and processes to guide our board committees and to support the standardization of policies and practices to facilitate the work of our volunteer committees. We endeavour to create a governing body that attracts and retains folks with the skills, experience, and commitment to move The ArQuives forward.

We are supporting more researchers in person and online than ever, and we hope to continue to grow those numbers in the future.

2023 was the first year of our Collection Development Plan, and we are proud to say that we met all our first-year goals. The number of donations to the collections are returning to pre-COVID levels, and so are the number of volunteers who are processing those collections in-house.

Our online presence continues to grow, including on our social media platforms, allowing LGBTQ2+ communities from around the country to participate in events, online exhibitions, and even access the collections online.

Thank you to our amazing volunteers who continue to be the heart of the organization. Thank you for your time and dedication to The ArQuives. To our collection donors, thank you for entrusting us with your history and collections – we are proud to be a home for your materials. To our financial donors, thank you for making it possible to do this work year after year.

The ArQuives of the next 50 years will be very different from that of 1973. More and more collections are being created digitally, and how we collect and store material will soon look very different. Ensuring our collections are accessible is our top priority, and we look forward to all the ways new digital initiatives will make that possible. We will continue to work to ensure the collections, our volunteers, and our staff reflect the diversity within LGBTQ2+ communities with diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives at all levels.

As we work to make LGBTQ2+ histories more accessible to communities across the country, we invite you to join us in celebrating what we have already accomplished and acknowledge the work that has yet to happen. We encourage you to celebrate the stories that we have been able to collect and acknowledge and mourn those that we could not.

Thank you for standing with us on this incredible journey.

Courtnay McFarlane, President Raegan Swanson, Executive Director





PARTNERSHIPS

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ARCHIVE/COUNTER ARCHIVE

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council partnership with York University, National Film Board of Canada, and MITACS for the upcoming film, *Parade*.

COMMUNITY WEBS ARCHIVING PROJECT

Since 2021, The ArQuives has been participating in the Community Webs Program run by the Internet Archives. This program works to provide cultural heritage institutions resources to collect webpublished materials to document their local communities.

LGBTQ ORAL HISTORY DIGITAL COLLABORATORY

Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council partnership with the
University of Toronto. The largest
LGBTQ oral history project in North
America, the Collaboratory connects
archives across Canada and the USA to
produce a digital history hub for the
research and study of gay, lesbian,
queer, and trans oral histories.

MAGENTA

In 2020, The Magenta Foundation approached The ArQuives to partner on an exhibit and book, *Joy. Sorrow. Anger. Love. Pride: A Celebration of Toronto Pride, from 1970 to Present.*

SALAAM CANADA ORAL HISTORY PARTNERSHIP

Throughout 2021-2022 The ArQuives, in partnership with Salaam Canada, worked with volunteer Golshan Golriz to conduct outreach to LGBTQ+ Muslims across Canada to increase LGBTQ+ Muslim materials in The ArQuives. A digital exhibition was launched to celebrate this history, Salaam Canada: An Account of LGBTQ+ Muslims Living & Communing in Canada.

QUEERS IN YOUR EARS

We remain a partner with Queers in Your Ears providing space for them to conduct their research and program events with Storytelling Toronto. We look forward to being able to store and share their stories as they are added to the collections.

THINKING THROUGH THE MUSEUM

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council partnership with Concordia University and other partners, addressing inclusivity, equity, anti-oppression and anti-racism in heritage institutions and organizations.













thinking through — the museum

EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMMING

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We have had a very exciting year for exhibits and programming at The ArQuives.

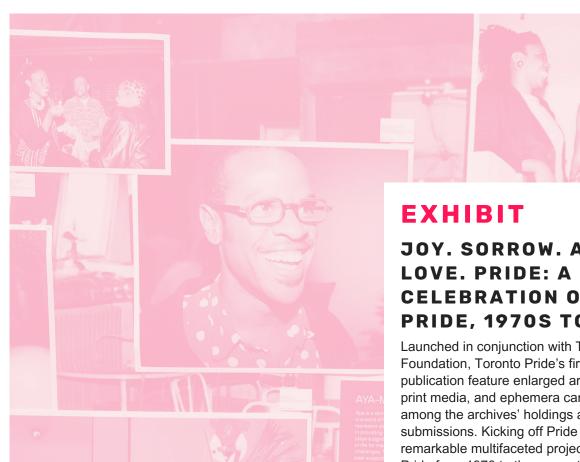
We were able to program four on-site exhibitions, three digital exhibitions, and two off-site exhibits, many of which focused on groups identified as high-priority in our Collections Development Plan.

More exhibitions were held in person this year than in recent years, so we saw a smaller increase in visits to our digital exhibitions. However, the number of users does continue to increase, with approximately 12,000 users across 16,000 individual sessions.

We are proud to showcase the exhibits and programming that took place:

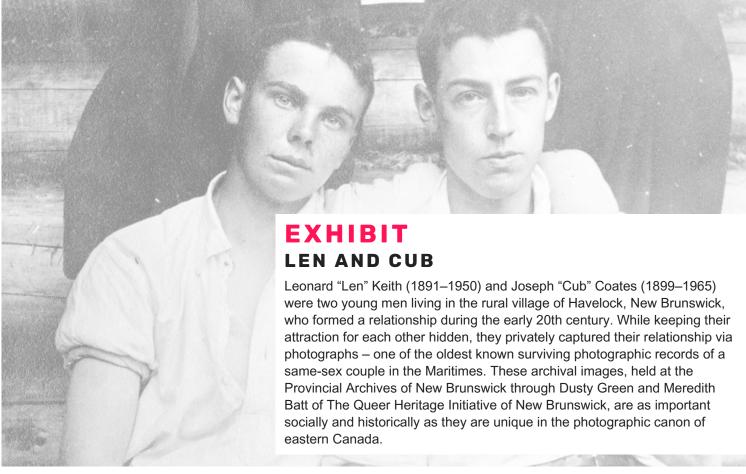
- Joy. Sorrow. Anger. Love. Pride: A Celebration of Toronto Pride, from 1970s to Present
- Len and Cub
- Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto
- Museum of Toronto (formally Myseum of Toronto)
- Onstage/Offstage
- pack un pack
- The Queer Home: Exploring Queer Architecture, Domesticity, and Gathering in Toronto
- Salaam Canada: An Account of LGBTQ+ Muslims Living & Communing in Canada





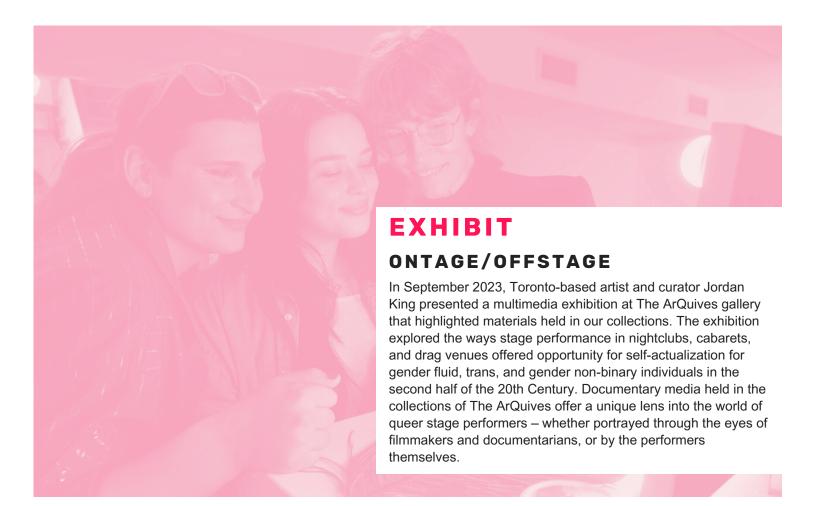
JOY. SORROW. ANGER. **CELEBRATION OF TORONTO** PRIDE, 1970S TO PRESENT

Launched in conjunction with The Magenta Foundation, Toronto Pride's first exhibition and publication feature enlarged archival photographs, print media, and ephemera carefully selected from among the archives' holdings and a public call for submissions. Kicking off Pride season, this remarkable multifaceted project focused on Toronto Pride from 1970 to the present day.





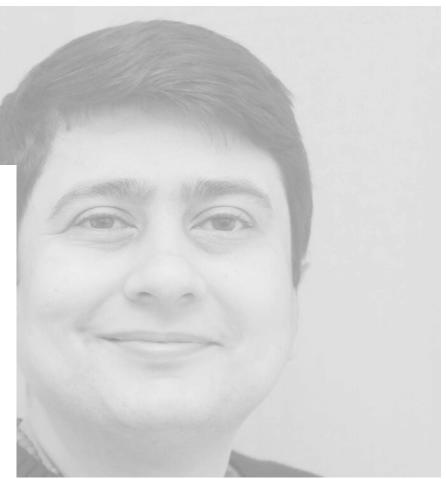




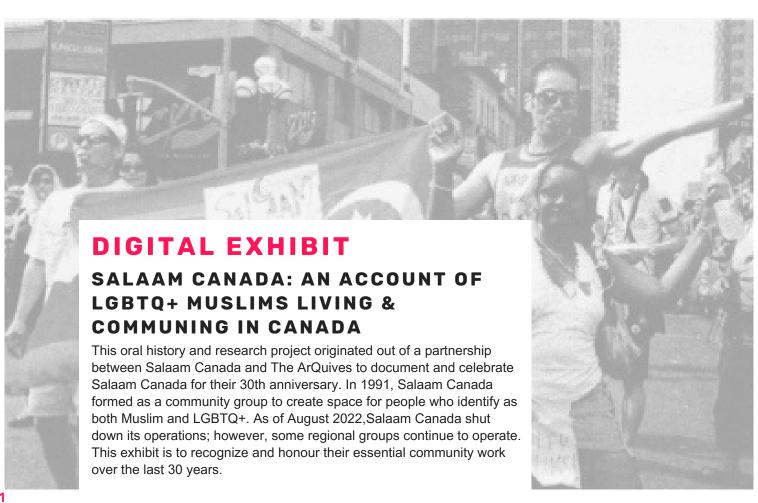
EXHIBIT

PACK UN PACK

The ArQuives hosted the reopening of the solo exhibition of artist and photographer Hamidah Hemani. The show titled pack un pack featured a series of large- and small-format photography, which provocatively explored the definitions and constructs of "home, space, and subculture" through a queer South Asian lens. According to Hemani, "Most queer people lose homes when they come out. Either that is being physically kicked out from their houses or at an inner level where a significant amount of comfort zone is compromised."







SPECIAL EVENTS



SPECIAL EVENTS

Community Engagement Events		
Trivia night attendees	432	
Trivia nights	9	
Village tours	12	
Village tour attendees	160	

VILLAGE TOURS

We have also been fortunate to have regular Church-Wellesley Village Tours covering LGBTQ2+ history in Toronto – reaching 160 people in 2023.

HOUSE TOURS

The Community Engagement Committee recently returned to providing tours of The ArQuives' building at 34 Isabella Street in Toronto and looks forward to continuing to provide two tours per month in 2024.

QUEER TRIVIA

The ArQuives has been fortunate to continue ongoing monthly queer trivia nights with a rotating theme each session. 432 people have attended the trivia nights; notable guests include Brad Fraser and Scott Thompson.

EDUCATION

EDUCATION

SCHOOLS OUTREACH

In 2023, we reached out to just shy of 1,000 schools with our online Educational Resources, a series of classroom resources for use in grade 9-12 English and History curricula. We also held a number of in-person events, including four professional development presentations where we shared information about the breadth and depth of our Educational Resources to 100 teachers across Canada.

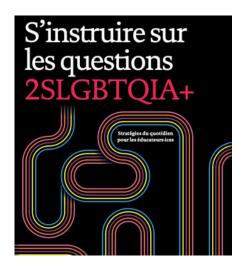
As a result of more capacity for school outreach amongst the team from July 2023, we have been able to attract more visitors to our website looking specifically for the Educational Resources. In the second half of 2023, 464 unique visitors came to read and download material about the Education Resources across 753 visits in total. This indicates an average of 1.62 visits per person, i.e. return visitors. Since early 2023 we have had more than 80 entries for follow-ups submitted through our website.

Our Educational Resources have been downloaded from around Canada, including British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and the Northwest Territories. We've also had downloads from around the world, including USA, Brazil, Czech Republic, and Germany.

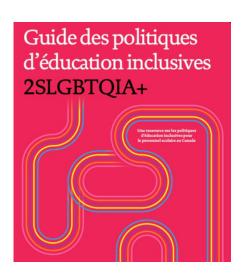
Education and Schools	
Schools reached across Canada	989
Education resource visitors since July 2023	753
Presentation attendees across Canada	752

FRENCH TRANSLATION

In 2023, we were pleased to be able to provide French translations of the Education Resources. We will continue to make our educational resources more accessible to educators across the country as we expand these documents.







PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS AND LECTURES

The ArQuives has reached more than 750 people through our presentations, workshops and lectures across Canada in 2023. Our presentations cover archival practices and LGBTQ2+ history, with a focus on Canada. We are proud to have been able to present to a wide array of people – both in person and online.







































COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN



COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The ArQuives Collection Development Plan 2023-2027 is a document that articulates the collecting priorities for the organization over the next five years. This plan will allow The ArQuives to make consistent and transparent decisions regarding new acquisitions that will enhance the collections, improve our programming, and work to address the systemic historical inequities within our organization.

The Collection Development Plan 2023-2027 has several goals, including supporting staff and volunteers working with the collections, and creating a transparent document to guide The ArQuives' decision-making process, so that we are accountable to ourselves, our Strategic Plan, and our community. The ArQuives holds an amazing collection of material and the aim of The Collection Development Plan is to actively work at making it more representative and accessible to the community.

1

Grow our Collection

Our goal for 2023 was to grow the collections by bringing in donations from at least 10 groups identified as high priority in the Plan. We are pleased to report that we received 21 high priority collections in 2023. In addition, we had 12,000 people visit our online collections.

2

Grow our Programming

Our goal in 2023 was to host three digital exhibitions and events from high priority groups. We have surpassed this goal through digital exhibitions such as Salaam, The Queer Home; physical exhibitions such as pack un pack, ActiVisions, Onstage/Offstage, and Len and Cub; and events such as University of Toronto - Porpora Marcasciano's lecture + documentary and Queer Cinema for Palestine: Palestine Solidarity, Cinema & The Archive.

3

Grow our Users

Our goal for 2023 was to grow our users. We are pleased to report that we have had more than 1,623 digital engagements with researchers, including 169 researchers and research groups come to our building to conduct research.

4

Grow our Partnerships

Our goal for 2023 was to grow our new partnerships from high priority groups by at least two. We far surpassed that goal with our partnerships, including with the Jewish Queer and Trans Vancouver **Oral History** Project, SSHRC: On Our Own Terms, SSHRC: Histories of HIV/AIDS and Dance, SSHRC: **Drawing Queer and** Trans Families, and SSHRC: Interrogating Canadian Identities/L'identité

s canadiennes --

une interrogation.

5

Grow our Visibility

Our goal for 2023 was to grow our visibility. We are pleased to report that in addition to growing our Facebook and Instagram followers by 2,557 and main newsletter subscribers by 399, we have reached more than 300,000 people across the world across our social media accounts (likes, comments, and reshares).

Researchers and Collections

On-site research visits

Reference "queeries" via email

Donations to our collection

97

New records added to database

20,000

Online Stats

fans and followers	2,557
sletter subscribers (main + triv	via) 3,695
s reached on social media	324,762
rs to our online collections	12,000
ber of main website sessions	128,000

NOTABLE DONATIONS

INSIDE OUT

Inside Out organizational records, including all film submissions: We were also fortunate enough to receive the organizational records of Inside Out, including all their festival film submissions from over the years.

PRUDE MAG / ZINE

We continue to receive donations from PRUDEmag. PRUDEmag is a Toronto-based zine for spinsters, rule-makers, asexuals, relationship anarchists, and all others refusing sex necessity. This is the second iteration of their zine PRUDE has donated to The ArQuives, and we're always happy to receive more ace content.

LESBIAN HELPERS

We received items from the estate of artist and activist Melissa Levin. A large portion of this material relates to her graduate Lesbian Helpers project, which had the mission of making kindness and lesbianism visible. If she helped someone carry their groceries, she'd hand them a business card inscribed with, "you have been assisted by a lesbian helper." The collection also contains t-shirts, vest, sashes, banners, buttons, patches, and emery boards that read "lesbian helpers, helping you through a rough spot," along with textual records relating to her work.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF TORONTO

MCC Toronto organizational records: The MCC Toronto fonds has been processed and stored offsite. The fonds consists of the organizational records of the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto from 1973 to 2023 and reflect their governance and administration, growth and development as a congregation, their programs and events, church services, political involvement in campaigns and alliances, and their involvement with the Eastern Canadian District and Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Records from Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes are included in the fonds, as his role as the senior pastor was deeply intertwined with the growth and development of the church. The fonds consists of 10.03 cm of textual records, 9,970 photographs, 46 graphic materials such as posters, 1843 sound recordings such as cassette tapes, 90 moving images, 260 computer disks, and 66 additional objects such as pins, t-shirts, and liturgical vestments. Processing this fond took approximately 10 months to complete.



Image: AIDS Quilt 1994-1995

STRATEGIC PLAN

STRATEGIC PLAN

The ArQuives launched their new Strategic Plan in January 2023, which will run through to December 2027. We made good strides in 2023 with some major projects, specifically the hiring of the volunteer coordinator. We are on track with many of the projects and look forward to the progress as we move forward with the Plan.

Become the community destination for LGBTQ2+ history and research in Canada

2

Keep our stories alive by continuing to acquire, develop, and maintain diverse, publicly accessible and available collections by and about LGBT02+ people

3

Grow and support our actively engaged staff and volunteers 4

Increase access to collections through investment in innovative digital media

5

Build the necessary components to sustain The ArOuives for the future



Increased awareness about The ArQuives through social media campaigns

Created new partnerships with various community and academic organizations



Hiring a community outreach coordinator



ACTIONS IN PROGRESS

Implementation of Collection Development Plan 2023-2027



ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Digital Strategies Initiatives



ACTIONS COMPLETED

Hired a volunteer coordinator



ACTIONS IN PROGRESS

Equitable policies have been created, updated, and maintained



ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Staff Recruitment and Retention Plan

Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Plan



ACTIONS IN PROGRESS

Creation of new in person and digital exhibitions from high priority groups



ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Access to digital collections



ACTIONS IN PROGRESS

Community consultation around long term strategic planning



ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Key roles staffed and funded

Creation of a capital campaign

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Volunteer Program has recently undergone significant changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many programs have had to adapt to new safety protocols, including social distancing measures and virtual formats. These changes have presented several challenges for volunteers and program coordinators alike, but despite the difficulties, many programs have continued to thrive and make a positive impact in the communities.

There has been a 72% decrease in volunteer engagement through hours reported at The ArQuives between the start of the pandemic and the organization beginning to re-open its doors to volunteers again in 2022. This is a significant drop, and the pandemic has played a substantial role in reducing volunteer participation. However, our volunteer engagement has increased significantly since 2022. Specifically, we have seen a 43% increase in volunteer engagement through reporting hours between 2022 and 2023. While there has been a recent increase in volunteer engagement between 2022 and 2023, we still face a 55% loss compared to the pre-COVID engagement levels reported in 2019.

FISCAL VALUE OF THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The ArQuives survives through community engagement, donors and volunteers contributing tirelessly to the collections' upkeep and providing access to the community. Applying a fiscal number to the decrease in volunteer engagement further illustrates how integral volunteers are to The ArQuives. Between 2019 and 2020, there was a \$195,452 loss in volunteer labour, and a comparison between 2019 and 2021 shows a \$232,400 loss. We have begun to close this gap; comparing 2019 and 2023, we lost approximately \$172,575 in volunteer labour. These fiscal numbers are based on Toronto's minimum living wage of \$25 per hour.

It is impossible to put a number on the value of volunteers' contributions, irreplaceable generational knowledge, and dedication. Nevertheless, this calculation highlights the significant loss of volunteer engagement we experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic and their integral contribution and commitment to the survival of The ArQuives. The losses of 2023 are calculated only by the hours reported to The ArQuives and may not represent the accurate amount of hours of volunteer contributions. The ArQuives has traditionally been a primarily in-person volunteer program, with volunteers reporting their hours by signing in and out of the building on a sheet provided in the front office.

Some committees were put on hiatus during COVID-19 lockdowns and all ongoing volunteer work was completed remotely. As such, in 2023, The ArQuives began to adapt the Volunteer Program to create accessible ways for volunteers to work remotely as a committee and report hours. The COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges and led to a 72% decrease in volunteer engagement through reported hours. However, with the return of in-person programming, adaptation to remote work, and a growing volunteer community, we expect continued growth in the program's recruitment, retention, and engagement in 2024.

Active volunteers in 2023 100

Volunteer hours 5,600

It is essential to celebrate the hard work of the volunteers throughout the pandemic and in 2023. Fewer hours does not necessarily mean less work.

The Community Engagement Committee continued to engage with the community and activate the collections. Zoom Trivia reached far and wide with participation from teams across the world. In 2023, Queer Trivia moved to Glad Day Bookstore in Toronto with equal success and participation from the community. Most nights, Glad Day is packed to the brim; space becomes a hot commodity whatever the Community Engagement Committee does. The Community Engagement Committee has also returned to running House and Walking Tours. Again, these tours fill up fast, maxing out almost every time. We look forward to helping support and ensure The Community Engagement Committee's continued success in 2024.

In addition, The Curatorial Committee returned in 2023 and supported two exhibitions. They developed programming with artists and curators and ran the gallery. The Exhibitions Committee worked with local community groups and has also prepared an exhibition and gallery programming calendar for 2024. With the support and guidance of the Marketing and Communications Coordinator, The Communications Committee has helped to develop articles for The ArQuives' newsletter and social media content, and designed merchandise for events such as *Len and Cub*.

We are pleased that the Collections Committee continues to prioritize cataloging and processing books, periodicals, archival collections, photographs, and artifacts. This work is visible on our Online Collections Portal and helps make our collections more accessible to LGBTQ2+ communities and the broader public.

Thank you to our volunteers! We couldn't do it without you!

















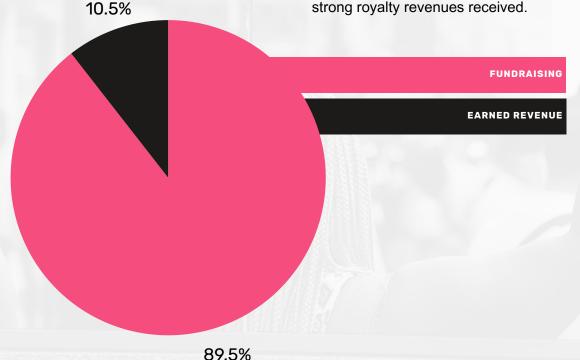
FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

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In 2023, we are pleased to report a small surplus of \$31,164 compared to a small deficit of \$17,609 in 2022. This year our results showed a large operating deficit of \$187,056, but this was offset by strong other net income due to a year of positive returns in our investment portfolio.

Our focus must continue to be on managing operating expenses and improving our fundraising and earned revenues to move towards a net positive operating balance for the organization. This is especially important as the organization is increasingly reliant on permanent full-time professional staff that is replacing a core of volunteers who supported The ArQuives for most of its first 50 years.

Operating revenues were more in line with typical years. Revenues from fundraising in 2023 returned to more normal levels compared to very strong fundraising results in 2022. Earned revenues, on the other hand, were higher than expected due to strong royalty revenues received.

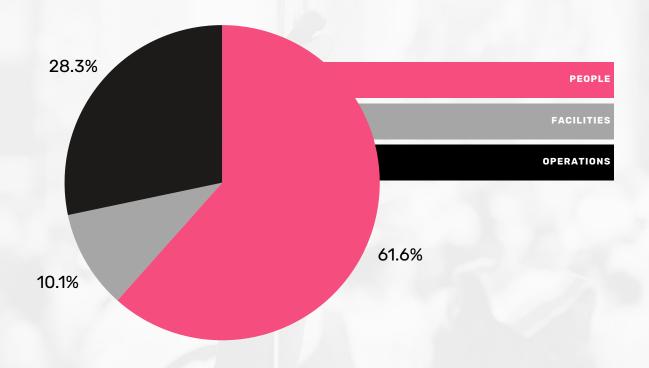


REVENUE	2023	2022	
Fundraising	\$ 624,143	\$ 814,736	
Earned revenue	\$73,566	\$39,632	
TOTAL	\$ 697,709	\$854,368	

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Operating expenses were higher in most areas in 2023, and were led by increased spending on people, administration, and programming as we continued to move towards higher post-pandemic activity and as we faced inflationary pressures in many areas, especially in professional services and insurance.

While The ArQuives is supported by strong financial reserves, much of our investment portfolio is restricted and set aside to be used in support of a future new home and other strategic initiatives. Accordingly, we aim to avoid relying on these reserves when establishing our annual operating budget and we report our investment results separately under net other income. Positive investment results were the main driver behind a net other income profit of \$218,220 in 2023 compared to a loss of \$126,909 in 2022. Such large swings in net income from our investment portfolio from year to year is not unusual due to volatility in the equity markets.



EXPENSES 2023	
\$ 544,761	\$ 478,654
\$ 89,663	\$ 84,748
\$250,341	\$181,667
\$ 884,765	\$ 745,069
	\$ 544,761 \$ 89,663 \$250,341

DONOR RECOGNITION

DONOR RECOGNITION

CHAMPIONS

The ArQuives' Champions contribute \$10,000 or more annually to support vital initiatives aimed at preserving and sharing our communities' stories.

Neil Betteridge *

Estate of John Duggan - with thanks to Peter Demski Estate of Gerald Hannon - with thanks to Peter Kingstone Estate of Norman Hatton - with thanks to Jeannette Maurer Dennis Findlay * Martha LA McCain * Gilles Provost and Claude Jutras * TD Bank Financial Group

GUARDIANS

Guardians of The ArQuives contribute \$1,500 or more to the ongoing well-being and long-term sustainability of The ArQuives.

\$2,500 - 9,999

Gary Bates * John Clifford * Michael Halleran * Don Haslam * Charlie Hill * Gerald Hunt and David Rayside * K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation * Metcalf Foundation * **Newall Family Foundation Trust** Pink Triangle Press * Robert Wallace *

\$1,500 - 2,499

Neville Austin *

Harold Averill * Timothy Banks and Farrell Macdonald * Border to Border Entertainment/Charlie Lubiniecki * **Hugh Brewster *** Robert Coates and Dan McKay * David Dunkley and Geoffrey Chown *

Aidan Grove-White and Chad Story *

Ed Jackson *

Barrie Martin *

Duncan McLaren *

Alan Miller *

John Montague and Alan Ray *

Pearse Murray *

Don Oravec and Jim Harper *

Gerald Oxford *

^{*} Denotes those who contributed to the 50th Anniversary Campaign

LEGACY CIRCLE

We gratefully acknowledge those supporters who have included The ArQuives in their will and estate plans. Their future gifts will serve as lasting legacies and will benefit LGBTQ2+ communities for years to come.

Harold Averill Robert Coates

Robert Coates and Dan McKay

Andrew Cruikshank

Scott Ferguson and Russell Mathew

Dennis Findlay

Gary Fitzgibbon and Virgilio Rebelo

Michael Halleran

Don Haslam

Richard Isaac and Brian Sambourne

Ed Jackson

Stephen Johnson

daniel martell

Richard McLellan

Alan Miller

John Montague and Alan Ray

David Myers and Bill Houghton

Don Oravec and Jim Harper

Gilles Provost and Claude Jutras

Paul Shepherd

Della Stevens-Brain

Robert Wallace

Tom Warner

GRANTING PARTNERS







