
THE ARQUIVES

Annual Snapshot 2019



Board Message

As we are putting together this annual snapshot, we work in the dismal shadow of not only COVID-19, but also the horrific police murder of George Floyd, anti-Black police brutality, and everyday state violence against Black, Indigenous people and all people of colour. As we move into Pride Month, which celebrates our days of rage against police brutality against LGBTQ2+ people, we call on our community to protest current instances of state violence and anti-Black racism. We are reminded of the importance of gathering and preserving our queer and trans documentary culture, because it is only through doing so that future generations can know their past and draw from it to build resilience and change in the future. Thank you to all of our volunteers, staff, and donors for creating a usable past for a more just tomorrow.

In March 2019, The Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives changed its operating name to The ArQuives: Canada's LGBTQ2+ Archives. This change was deliberate to more accurately reflect the diversity of our communities (beyond gay and lesbians), that are already represented in our collection.

At the same time that we launched our new name, we launched our Online Collections Portal. This site allows the public to search our collection from anywhere in the world. As a direct result, the number of online research requests grew 40%. By sharing what collections we have, we can work with communities to further demonstrate the scope of Canadian LGBTQ2+ histories as well as enhance our outreach, and ability to develop relationships with potential future donors.



Years of fundraising came to fruition in January 2019 when our new lift became operational, rendering the archives further accessible to all members of the public.

June saw the opening of our new front entrance ramp, allowing access to the first and second floor of our house. These accessibility upgrades made it possible to host various meetings, exhibitions, and events.

The ArQuives partnered with Myseum to create *Legacies in Motion: Black Queer Toronto* curated by Courtnay McFarlane that was exhibited at Black Artists' Network Dialogue (BAND Gallery) and later at The ArQuives. The exhibit focussed on Black queer activism in Toronto in the 1980's and 1990's. The exhibition was a great success and was a highlight of 2019.

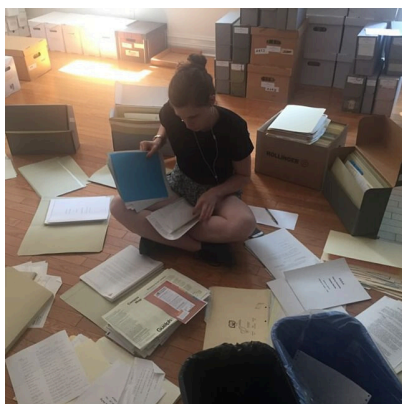
The ArQuives has continued its partnership with the LGBT Intergenerational Artist Residency. In late 2019 a retrospective exhibition was held at The ArQuives, curated by Syrus Marcus Ware.

The ArQuives also has continued to partner with Nuit Rose and is thankful for the support of Zohar Freeman. Nuit Rose highlights artworks of up and coming LGBTQ2+ artists from around Canada. The ArQuives knows it is important to showcase the work of younger folks as an introduction into understanding archives as well as for us to demonstrate that the work of younger and lesser-known artists are of value to Canadian LGBTQ2+ heritage and the community.



The ArQuives saw continued success with various grants, including the Documentary Heritage Communities Program and Young Canada Works, which allowed us to hire archival staff to assist with making the collection accessible to the public. Our multi-year grant from the Canadian History Fund allowed us to continue work with our book, *Out North* which was released in June 2020.

In 2019, we established the Relocation Committee. We have signed a contract with Colliers Realtors and engaged with agencies and individuals who have the skills to help us move actively towards finding a new home. This work will continue over the next few years as we work to keep our collections safely housed.



Our 2019 Kaleidoscope Gala was a lot of fun and great success! Thank you to everyone who volunteered and attended. We were able to raise over \$30,000 to help launch our Online Collection Portal and raise funds for our ongoing operations.



Many new important collections and accruals were added to the collection this year. These include (but are not limited to):

- *Anna Camilleri fonds*
- *Association for South Asian AIDS Prevention fonds*
- *Catherine Lake fonds*
- *David Rayside fonds*
- *James Diamond fonds*
- *Joseph Couture fonds (Project Guardian)*
- *LGBT Youth Line fonds*
- *Marnie Woodrow fonds*
- *Mirha Soleil-Ross fonds*
- *Pride and Remembrance fonds*
- *Queers Against Israeli Apartheid fonds*
- *Richard Fung fonds*
- *Ronald Rosenes fonds*
- *Toronto Centre for Lesbian and Gay Studies fonds*

Looking forward to 2020 we continue to work towards our goals of rendering The ArQuives an inclusive, safe, and equitable space for all those that visit and donate their records. Our Outreach (programming, partnerships, and donation solicitation) and Collection Processing (making archival collections accessible for the public) are our two central priorities. Through these paths we will continue to focus on diversifying our collections and engagement to truly represent Canadian LGBTQ2+ community heritage in all its fabulous vitality and complexity!

Quick Facts

REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022

Priority #1: Improved Public Profile

The ArQuives continues to work to ensure we are adequately serving LGBTQ2+ communities in Canada. We must also ensure our reputation and our branding accurately reflect this mission. To this end, we have done the following:

- Adopted a new name that will serve us well into the future, drawing on community consultations.
- Carried out a rebranding campaign aligned with the new name.
- Completed a needs assessment of users and non-users of The ArQuives and used this to inform our operations.
- Improved responsiveness, including wait times, to the communities we serve.

Priority #6: Sustainable and Diverse Funding

Diversified, steady, and secure funding is essential to achieving The ArQuives's ambitious 2018-2022 Strategic Plan and us continuing to collect, preserve, and share our stories. We continue to work on this by:

- Developing and executing a long-term Fundraising Plan that emphasizes the sustainability and diversity of funding sources. (Moderate)
- Improving our public profile to better facilitate fundraising. (Moderate)

Priority #5: The Right Space

As The ArQuives has grown and changed, our space requirements have changed. We need a new space with room to further change, grow, house future collections, offer flexible and accessible space for public engagement, staff and volunteer work, and research. We are continuing to work on achieving this goal by:

- Developing a plan to assess The ArQuives's current and future needs and to secure the right space. (Moderate)
- Launch a Capital Campaign to fund this space.



Priority #4: Improved Programming

Sharing our stories is essential to the mission of The ArQuives. We will continue developing dynamic, diverse, and exciting programming to engage the wider public and our diverse communities to increase The ArQuives's community profile. We will continue to do this by:

- Developing and executing a new Programming Plan for improved, more diverse, and inclusive programming. (Moderate)
- Developing and executing an Educational Programming Plan. (Moderate)
- Securing a grant to fund programming staff (Moderate)



Priority #2: Building our Collections through Building Relationships

There are ongoing efforts to build our collections to reflect the diversity of LGBTQ2+ people in Canada, and to maximize their use. The ArQuives will continue to develop and maintain relationships with a diverse set of community organizations and individuals. We continue to do this through:

- Developing and executing a Collection Development Plan. (Moderate)
- Develop mutually beneficial, ongoing collaborations with other not-for-profit organizations to ensure a more diverse set of collections. (Moderate)

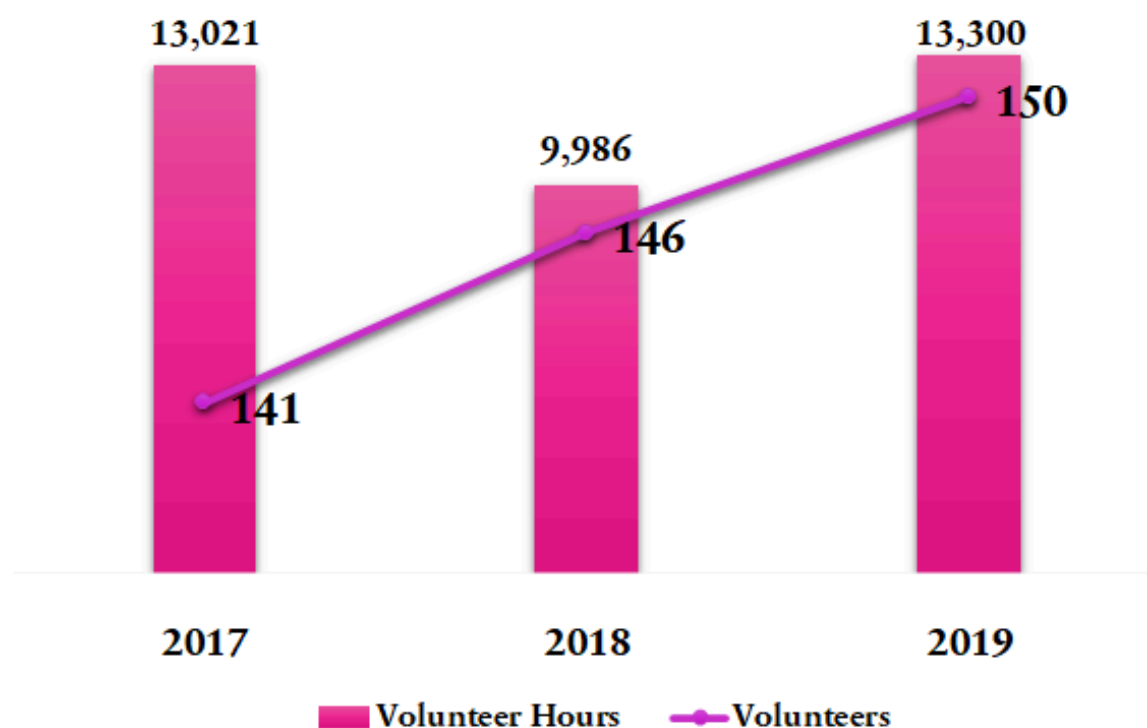
Priority #3: A Diverse and Vibrant Team

For The ArQuives to achieve any of our priorities, we need people. We continue to maintain and build a vibrant, diverse, effective organization that attracts and retains the best staff, volunteers, and donors (of both essential archival material and much-needed funds). We will continue to achieve this by:

- Improving the internal dynamics of The ArQuives in order to continue to be a caring, dedicated, and hard-working organization. (Moderate)
- Seeking input from similar organizations to address growing pains. (Moderate)
- Engaging more staff and volunteers from under-represented communities, with plans for retention, recruitment, and succession. (Moderate)

Quick Facts

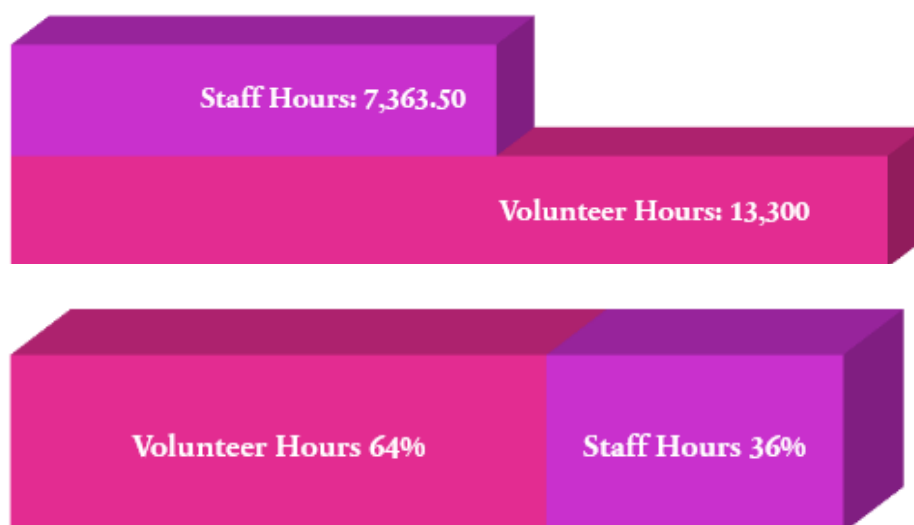
2019 showed an increase in both the number of volunteers and volunteer hours over the recent years.



9 Staff: 150 Volunteers

NOTE: AT SOME PERIODS WE HAD LESS THAN 9 STAFF MEMBERS DUE TO CONTRACT TERMS

The ArQuives is heavily supported by volunteers, their work nearly equates to 2/3 of our people power.

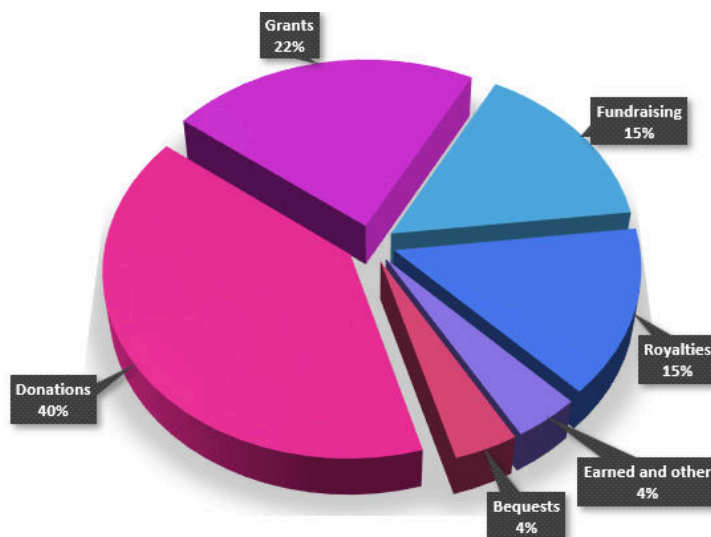


Financial Outlook

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

The ArQuives ended 2019 on a strong financial footing, underpinned by reserves of short and long term investments held primarily on a restricted basis and destined for a future new home for The ArQuives. Net income of the organization in 2019 showed a surplus of \$156,886 compared to a deficit of \$187,191 in the previous year. This year over year difference was largely due to the positive performance in our investment portfolio but also of note were the significant gains made in reducing the deficit from operations in 2019.

REVENUES BY SOURCE



OPERATIONS

REVENUES

Donations	241,123
Grants	134,268
Fundraising	92,749
Royalties	87,893
Earned and other	24,155
Bequests	23,400
TOTAL	603,588

\$54,722

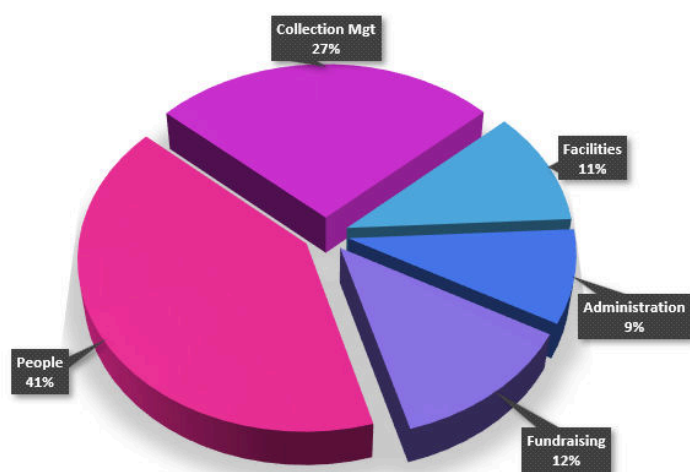
2019 DEFICIT FOR THE ARQUIVES

Our reserves are invested prudently for the long term with the Toronto Foundation, a diversified fund managed by professional investment managers. Established in 1981, Toronto Foundation is a registered charity and one of 191 Community Foundations in Canada. The Toronto Foundation comprises more than 500 individual, family and organizational funds and administers over \$400 million in assets. Year over year performance of these investments can be volatile as we have seen since our initial investments were made in early 2018. Investment income rebounded sharply in 2019 after a difficult performance in 2018. While we expect a positive net return over the long term, the performance of these investments can have a major impact on year to year net income. Accordingly, we are focused more on the results from operations before investment income and amortization.

Financial Outlook

...Continued

EXPENSES BY SOURCE



EXPENSES

People	269,579
Collection Mgt	176,663
Facilities	71,148
Administration	58,198
Fundraising	82,722
TOTAL	658,310

OPERATING DEFICIT

REVENUES

603,588

EXPENSES

658,310

Deficit -54,722

In 2019, the ArQuives made progress on one of its major financial objectives, which is to reduce its deficiency of revenues to expenses from operations. In 2019, this deficit was reduced to \$54,722 from \$81,853 in the previous year. One major factor was the return of our Gala in 2019 which successfully raised \$49,915 net, with these funds aimed at new programming and general operating deficit reduction. While major increases in revenues from corporate donations and government grants were welcome, they were generally directed towards new spending initiatives. In contrast, higher royalties and the development of new revenue sources such as fees and chargebacks had a major impact on the reduction of the deficit from operations. The organization needs to continue to make this goal a priority through the development of new and sustainable revenue sources.

\$27,131

DEFICIT REDUCTION

In 2019, this deficit was reduced to \$54,722 from \$81,853 in the previous year.

\$49,915

2019 GALA NET PROCEEDS

The Metamorphosis Gala was a major success.