

THE **ARQ**UIVES  S

Canada's LGBTQ2+ Archives

2024
ANNUAL
REPORT

Land Acknowledgement

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 & Mission

The ArQuives aspires to be a significant resource and catalyst for those who strive for a future world where 2SLGBTQIA+ people are accepted, valued, and celebrated.

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 2SLGBTQIA+ people, primarily produced in or concerning Canada
- Maintain a research library, international research files, and an international collection of 2SLGBTQIA+ periodicals

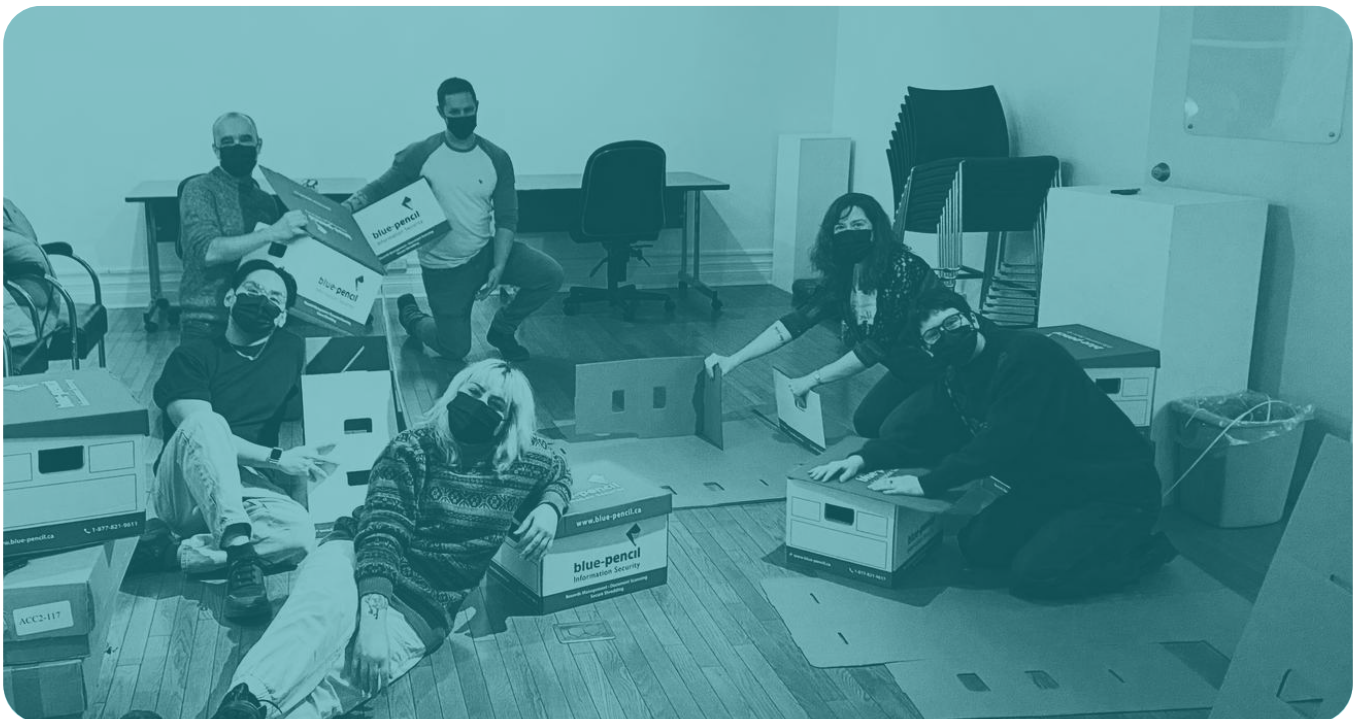


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Message from the President

Can you believe it? The ArQuives is fully half a century old. Somehow, putting it in those terms, for me at least, provides a real sense of the depth of this organization. Half a century of amazing archivists, volunteers, and donors working together to preserve 2SLGBTQIA+ history and experiences. And while celebrations and balloons are absolutely in order, so, too, is a little gravitas. We are already starting to witness the return of the closet as it may soon be the only way for our siblings in the United States to remain safe from legal, medical, and physical harm. While we are still protected in Canada, in the last year, we have seen people slowly turn away from our communities, whether it be the dissolving of sponsorship for Pride, greater tolerance of hate speech, or the legislative restraints on our youth. In the face of social oscillation, preserving our history for the next generations is more important than ever.

In the last year, we have said goodbye to some ArQuives stalwarts whose

contributions have helped to keep us on course. We owe them a debt of gratitude. We have also welcomed some new people who will help to chart our future and open our horizons. In particular, we have made progress towards expanding The ArQuives into a truly national organization, collaborating with our communities from coast to coast to coast.

This year has revealed some new directions for our amazing organization, one of the oldest and strongest 2SLGBTQIA+ collections in Canada and beyond. We must channel our optimism and our energy, our financial support, and our volunteer engagement to ensure that knowledge of our past is preserved for the future. So, let us muster all our energy and enthusiasm and commit to making the next half-century of The ArQuives inspiring and transformative.

Let's rock our past in 2025!

Jacqueline Murray
Chair, Board of Directors
(she/her)

Message from the Executive Director

What a year!

Moving into the second year of our five-year Strategic Plan, we have seen fantastic success with new workshops, programming, and ongoing curatorial work. As ever, our success this year is due to the tremendous support from our volunteers, staff, and donors, who work tirelessly to Keep Our Stories Alive.

Our Collection Development Plan continues to meet and, in many cases, surpass our goals. This is primarily due to the work done to build new relationships over the years. We are incredibly proud to say that this year, over 40% of our collections were from our High Priority groups, and 50% were new donors.

In 2024, we welcomed thousands of visitors to our programming, workshops, exhibitions, and tours. Over 24,530 visitors browsed our online digital exhibitions, over 14,520 researchers searched our collections online, and over 3,000 people visited our Toronto location in person for research, exhibition visits, tours, and workshops. More than ever, 2SLGBTQIA+ history and stories are critical to connecting communities and securing the legacy of the work being done for and with 2SLGBTQIA+ communities nationwide.

Our visibility continues to grow, attracting new collection donors, volunteers, researchers, and members of the community to events and tours. We welcome all the new faces around the house (and online), the additions to our collections,

and the exciting research being done by folks from around the world.

Looking back at the year, I'm proud of the work we accomplished and the opportunities ahead in the coming years through successful grants like our Women and Gender Equality funding that we announced in 2024. Community Ties aims to make The ArQuives more impactful, serving more people nationwide by deploying our vast collections and curatorial talents through expanded programming and services. 2025 will bring many opportunities to speak to community members and hear what you want to see from The ArQuives. We are grateful for this opportunity to spend some real time delving into community feedback and the WAGE grant for making it possible.

I look forward to our continued growth, to keeping our stories alive in new and exciting ways, to making our collection as accessible as possible to the communities that need it most, and to programming that challenges people's ideas about what libraries, museums, and archives can do to support communities.

Thank you to everyone who helped make 2024 successful. We look forward to continued growth and relationship building as we work towards more transparency, trust, openness to learning and change, and a continued commitment to equity.

Raegan Swanson
Executive Director
(she/her)

A photograph of two women standing behind a table at an outdoor event, with a red overlay. The woman on the left has curly blonde hair, wears sunglasses and a black choker, and holds a white folding fan with 'THE ARCHIVES' printed on it. The woman on the right has dark hair and wears a black t-shirt with a graphic. The table in front of them has various items: a clipboard with a form labeled 'EMAIL' and 'NAME', a book titled '2SLGBTQIA+ Stories', a map of 'GALLERIA SQUARE' and 'PARLIAM... OTTAWA', and other promotional materials. In the background, a rainbow flag and a sign with 'Pasties' are visible.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships

ARCHIVE / COUNTER ARCHIVE

In partnership with York University, the National Film Board of Canada, and MITACS, and supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Archive/Counter-Archive is collaborating on the upcoming film Parade.

DEFINING MOMENTS CANADA / MOMENTS DÉTERMINANTS CANADA (DMC)

A digital heritage and education organization dedicated to exploring Canada's history through innovative storytelling. DMC highlights lesser-known and often-excluded histories to nurture deeper engagement with the past.

INSIDE OUT FILM FESTIVAL

For more than 30 years, Inside Out has celebrated the best in queer cinema through annual festivals in Toronto and Ottawa, filmmaker initiatives, youth programs, and year-round screenings that challenge attitudes and create change.

COMMUNITY WEBS ARCHIVING PROJECT

Since 2021, The ArQuives has participated in the Community Webs Program, run by the Internet Archive, which supports cultural heritage institutions in collecting web-published materials to document local communities.

DIGITAL TRANSGENDER ARCHIVE (DTA)

Based at Northeastern University, the DTA is an international collaboration of over 60 institutions working to increase accessibility to transgender history through a centralized online hub of digitized and born-digital materials.

LGBTQ ORAL HISTORY DIGITAL COLLABORATORY

The largest LGBTQ oral history project in North America, this Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council-funded initiative at the University of Toronto connects archives across Canada and the U.S. to create a digital hub for queer and trans oral histories.



PRIDE AT WORK CANADA / FIERTÉ AU TRAVAIL CANADA

A national organization that helps Canadian employers promote 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion through education, dialogue, and thought leadership, providing institutional guidance to support diverse workplaces.

STORYTELLING TORONTO

Established in 1979, Storytelling Toronto strengthens the art of oral storytelling through workshops, programs, and the Toronto Storytelling Festival. It serves as a creative hub for storytellers of all backgrounds. The ArQuives continues to provide space for Storytelling Toronto's workshops.

THE TORONTO ANIMATION ARTS FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL (TAAFI)

TAAFI is the animation festival that welcomes a massive audience of talented professionals, students, studios and enthusiasts, year after year. TAAFI's mission is to showcase incredible animation and the creators behind it.

QUEER IN YOUR EARS

The ArQuives continues to provide space and support for Queer In Your Ears to conduct research and program events with Storytelling Toronto. Their stories will be preserved in our collections.

TORONTO QUEER FILM FESTIVAL (TQFF)

Since 2016, TQFF has showcased queer and trans film and video art, centering resistance, Indigiqueer/Trans/2-Spirit voices, and filmmakers of color over nationalism and assimilation.

THINKING THROUGH THE MUSEUM

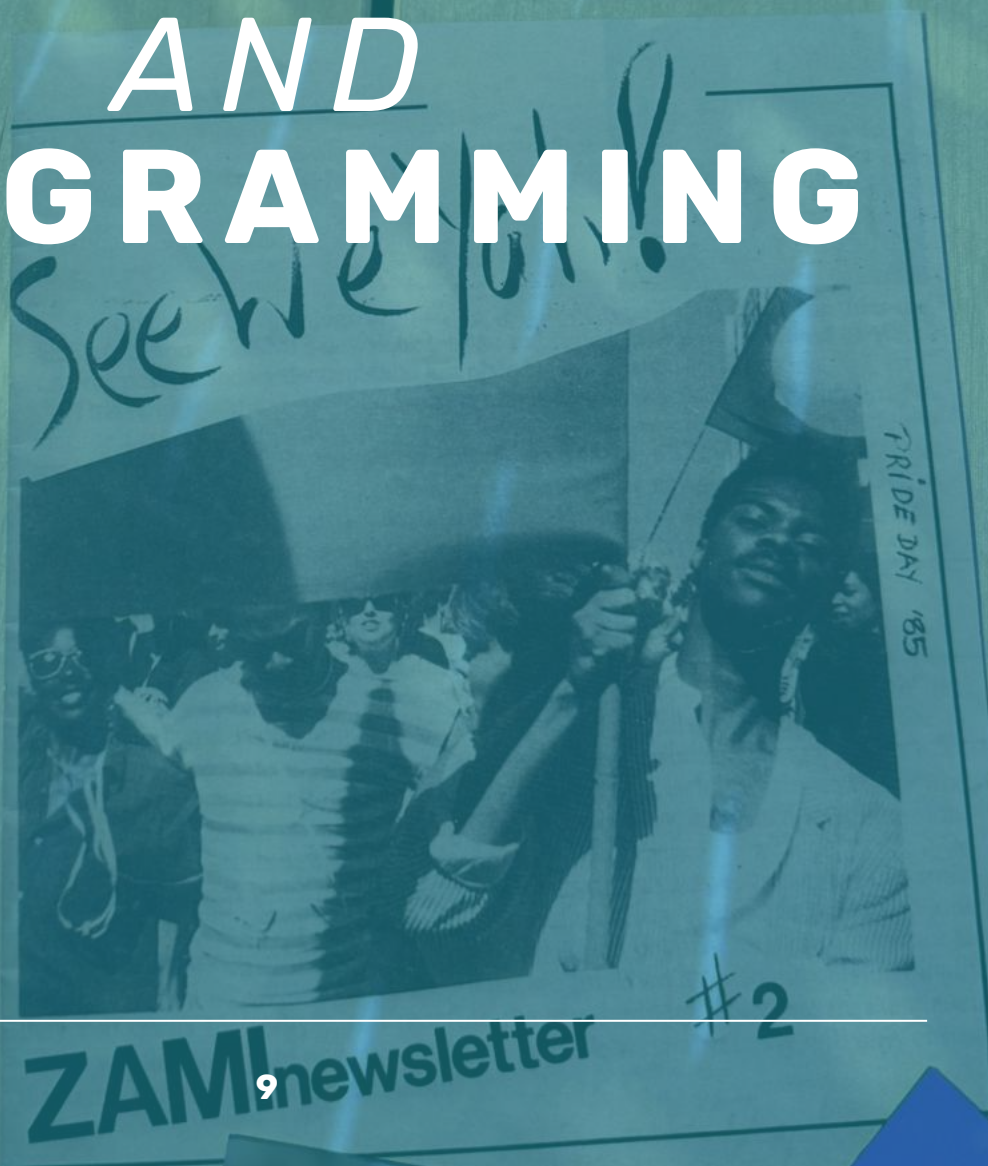
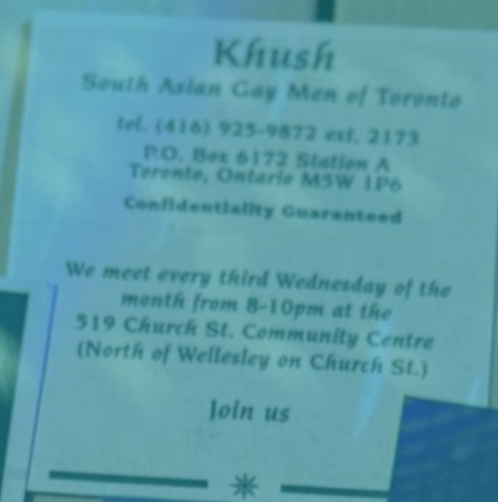
A Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council-funded initiative led by Concordia University and partners, focused on advancing inclusivity, equity, and anti-oppression in heritage institutions.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

A leading public research university in Toronto, founded in 1827, and home to multiple initiatives supporting 2SLGBTQ+ history and scholarship.



EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMMING





Exhibitions and Programming

Our Curatorial Committee was busy this year with several exciting exhibitions, including a Committee-led exhibition *Meet Me In Leather* during Pride month at The ArQuives. We are pleased to report that all 6 exhibitions fell within High Priority Groups.

With the support of interns, we also launched two digital exhibitions focusing on Ace and Bisexual communities. Over 24,500 visitors dived into our 32 digital exhibitions this year and we have so much more planned for next year.

Additionally, *Love Across Distance* was presented as an independent exhibition through Nuit Blanche, drawing 2000 participants in a single night to engage and interact with the installation at The ArQuives.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

3,000+

visitors to the archives

6

exhibitions in 2024

340

visitors to The ArQuives
on house tours

900+

trivia night attendees



DIGITAL EXHIBIT

Bisexual Activism in Toronto, 1980's - 2000's

This exhibition shares the evolution of bisexual activism and community-building in Toronto from the late 1980s to the 2000s. Featuring materials from support groups and advocacy initiatives, it highlights how bisexual activists challenged invisibility within the larger queer community and created affirming spaces for bisexual individuals.

Image: Ontario Bisexual Network contingent with a banner at Gay Pride in Toronto, July 1989.



DIGITAL EXHIBIT

Coming Up Aces: Asexual Voices in The Archives

This exhibition examines The ArQuives' collection on asexuality and asexual spectrum experiences, tracing their historical presence from the Progressive Era (1896-1920) feminist movement to contemporary asexual zines. It highlights queerplatonic relationships, shifting narratives, and the evolution of asexual discourse.

Image: Maisha, "Taking the Cake, page 2," The ArQuives Digital Exhibitions, <https://digitalexhibitions.arquives.ca/items/show/2807>.



PHYSICAL EXHIBIT

Liberation on the Dance Floor: *Reflective Nostalgia*

This exhibition showcased the impact of Toronto's Gay Community Dance Committee (GCDC), a volunteer-run organization that raised over \$250,000 for 2SLGBTQIA+ groups between 1981 and 1992. Through archival materials, it celebrated the 50+ dance events organized by the GCDC and highlighted the community groups that benefited, including The ArQuives, the AIDS Community of Toronto (ACT), Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Gay Asians of Toronto, the Gay Community Appeal, Gays and Lesbians of the First Nations, the Glad Day Defence Fund, Lesbian Mothers' Defence Fund, the Right to Privacy Committee, The Body Politic, Toronto Area Gays, ZAMI, and many more.



PHYSICAL EXHIBIT

LKDSB+

Inspired by a desire to document queer and trans histories within the Lambton-Kent District School Board (LKDSB), this exhibition presented student-submitted materials reflecting 2SLGBTQIA+ representation in schools. Throughout the 2022–23 school year, participating schools collected artifacts for their “Pride Mini-Museum” boxes, which were later donated to The ArQuives. This exhibit showcased a selection of work submitted by students.



DIGITAL EXHIBIT

Love Across Distance - Nuit Blanche

This interactive installation addressed long-distance relationships, particularly within 2SLGBTQIA+ communities in remote areas of Canada. Using sound and infrared technology, Love Across Distance invited audiences to reflect on love and intimacy in the digital age, questioning how trust and connection are built when physical presence is not possible. Featuring two interactive stations, the installation simulated a partner's presence in one of the heritage house's windows, offering an immersive experience of love beyond geography.



PHYSICAL EXHIBIT

Meet Me In Leather

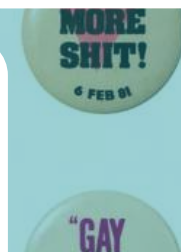
This exhibition examined the diverse and intersectional identities within leather culture, challenging the hypermasculine, white representation often associated with the queer leather community. Through a mix of archival and contemporary works, it highlighted leather as a space for pleasure, pain, community, and self-expression.

Image: Jim Keene.

PROGRAMMING

Button Workshops

Participants learned about the history of buttons in queer culture, examining their political, artistic, and community significance.



Church-Wellesley Village Tours

These tours shared 2SLGBTQIA+ history with a focus on Toronto's Church-Wellesley Village. We welcomed almost 200 people on tours in 2024.



Inside The ArQuives Zine Workshops

Participants learned about the history of zines and their role in DIY and queer culture, with examples from The ArQuives' collections.



The ArQuives House Tours

Visitors toured The ArQuives building and learned about the latest additions to our collections. We welcomed almost 340 people on house tours in 2024.



Queer Trivia Nights

The Community Engagement Committee hosted eight trivia nights in 2024, featuring themes such as Halloween, music, nature, Pride, comedy, and family. Over 900 people attended queer trivia nights in 2024.





PROGRAMMING

Leather Bound Stories in Archives

This discussion focused on the leather community and the archives that preserve its history. Three knowledgeable academics, Hannah Dickson, Patrizia Gentile, and Mel Leverich, explored the flexibility of what leather as a material can represent within a queer archive. Presented as part of the Meet Me In Leather exhibition.

Image: Rachel Britton.



PROGRAMMING

Let's Talk About Kink – A Workshop for Trans and Non-Binary Folks

Members of the Come As You Are Co-operative led discussions on the many ways people engaged in BDSM, whether in scenes, as a lifestyle, or in sex work. The workshop delved into safety issues, consent negotiations, and legal considerations related to kink and BDSM. Participants also had the opportunity to look at a variety of BDSM gear and related books. Presented in collaboration with Come As You Are Co-operative for the Meet Me In Leather exhibition.

Image: Jim Keene.

A photograph of two young women smiling and standing in front of a wall covered in handwritten notes and a large yellow star. The woman on the left is wearing a dark denim jacket over a colorful striped sweater. The woman on the right is wearing a light-colored cable-knit sweater over a dark shirt and has a name tag that says "Jill". The entire image has a red overlay.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENT

Criminalized Lives: HIV & Legal Violence Book Launch

We hosted the Toronto book launch of *Criminalized Lives: HIV and Legal Violence* from Rutgers University Press. The event featured a discussion with author Alexander McClelland, along with activist and author Robert Suttle (who wrote the foreword to the book), queer comic illustrator Eric Kostiuik Williams (who illustrated for the book), lawyer Ryan Peck of the HIV and AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO), activists and advocates Muluba and Colin Johnson of the Canadian Coalition to Reform HIV Criminalization, and Desmond Cole of the No Pride in Policing Coalition. Moderated by Colin Hastings (Canadian Coalition to Reform HIV Criminalization & University of Waterloo).



SPECIAL EVENT

Tattle Tales: Six Writers on Discovering, Recording, and Shaping Forgotten Stories

Curated by writer Elizabeth Ruth, this online panel brought together an eclectic group of writers (Bear Bergman, Erica N. Cardwell, Nancy Cooper, Robin Pacific, and Karleen Pendleton-Jimenez) to share insights on using archival and historical research to resurrect, amplify, and represent invisible or lost stories. Panelists discussed the role of legacy in creative work, how archival research intersects with social change, and the challenges of preserving queer histories that have often been overlooked or erased.



Special Events

- Canada Film Day screening with Inside Out Film Festival
- Desire Lines screening with Inside Out Film Festival
- John Waters Live! Queer Film Retrospective screening
- Joint Curatorial Tour: Indiscernible thresholds, escaped veillances; Mnemonic silences, disappearing acts with Dallas Fellini
- Maurice Vellekoop – I'm So Glad We Had This Time Together book launch
- Stratford Festival - The Body Politic: A History of Queer News in the Gay and Lesbian Liberation Era Panel
- Touch of Pink screening with SanghumFilm
- Toronto International Storytelling Festival - Queers in Your Years
- Viral Interventions conference and screening
- Voices Seldom Heard workshop

Art
Museum

Inside
Out

NATIONAL
CANADIAN
FILM DAY



Stratford
FESTIVAL

Viral Interventions



EDUCATION

Education

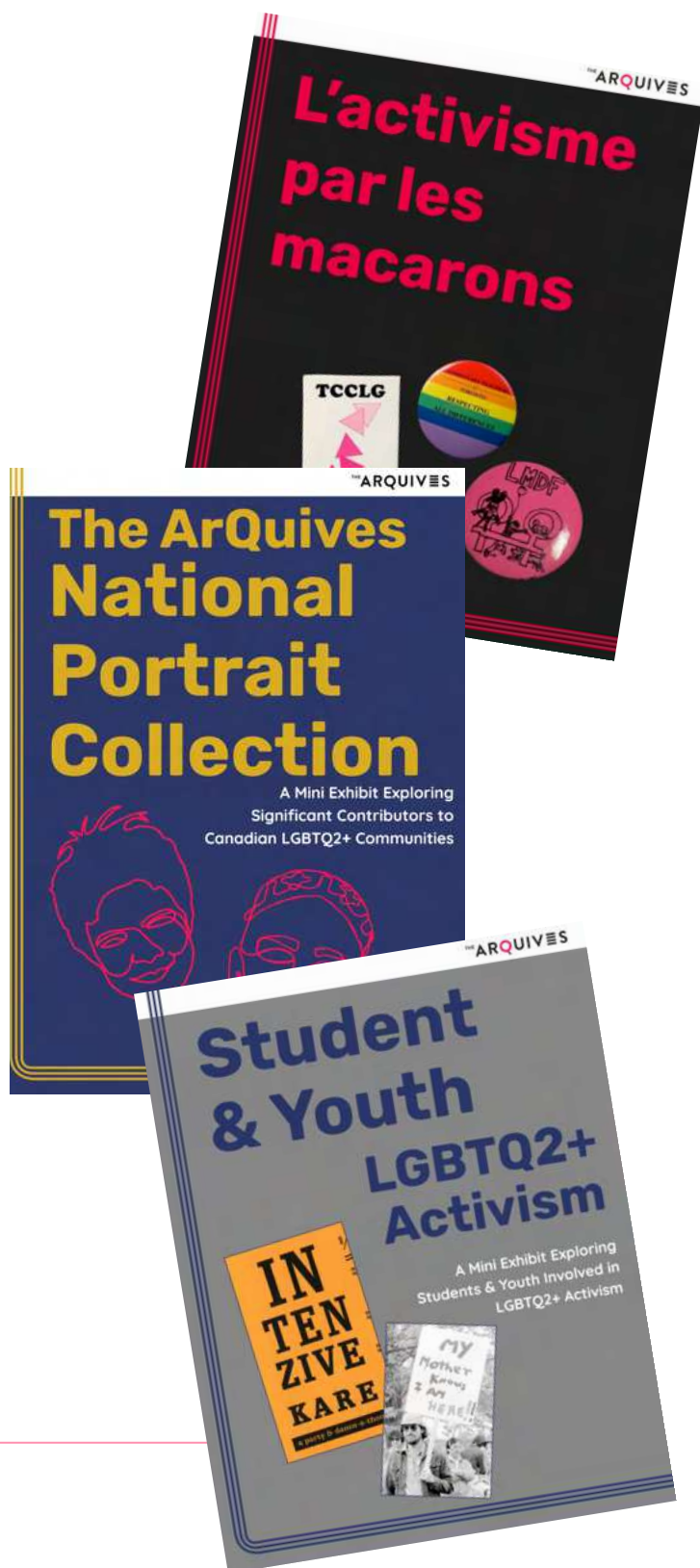
Schools Outreach

French Translation

The ArQuives continues its commitment to accessibility by expanding its French language educational resources. These translations ensure that educators across Canada have greater access to 2SLGBTQIA+ history materials, and we remain dedicated to further expanding these resources in the coming years.

Mini-Exhibits for schools

Recognizing the importance of bringing 2SLGBTQIA+ history directly into classrooms, we also began developing mini exhibits for schools. These carefully curated exhibits will showcase significant moments, figures, and movements in Canada's 2SLGBTQIA+ past, providing students with engaging, visually compelling materials that highlight the resilience, activism, and cultural contributions of the community. By integrating archival materials into educational spaces, we aim to spark curiosity, encourage critical discussion, and promote greater inclusivity within academic environments.



Presentations, Workshops, and Lectures

In addition to developing resources, The ArQuives continue to engage with the public through presentations, workshops, and lectures, reaching an impressive 920 people across Canada in 2024. Covering topics such as archival practices and 2SLGBTQIA+ history, these sessions were delivered both in person and online. From educators and students to researchers and community members, we were proud to share our expertise with broad and diverse audiences.

EDUCATION & SCHOOLS

Visitors to our education resources **1,600+**

Presentation attendees across Canada **900+**

Facing Our History & Ourselves

Facing History & Ourselves uses lessons of history to challenge teachers and their students to stand up to racism, antisemitism, and other forms of bigotry and hate. In May 2024, The ArQuives ran a workshop with 65 participants across Canada. The first part of the workshop focused on the Two-Spirit, Indigiqueer, and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ literature and filmmakers whose work focuses on history and personal storytelling. The second part of the workshop examined the power of photographic descriptions and assumptions that can be made when examining photographs in the classroom setting.

"Understanding the importance of stories and providing a safe space for students to explore and express their stories, but listen actively to others."

"I loved thinking about what is framed and the experiential nature of this workshop."

"This was one of the most nurturing professional learning experiences I have had. I will leave thinking about what I choose to frame. Thank you."

"I never really thought about the implications of assigning labels to photographs because there is so little information or discussion around this point. I appreciate the introduction of a more mindful practice in my own learning and pedagogy."



COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Group portrait of Gay Asian members, Pride March
in Toronto, 1981. Norman Taylor and Richard Fung.

Collections Development Plan

The ArQuives Collection Development Plan 2023-2027 outlines our collecting priorities for the next five years. This plan ensures that our acquisition decisions remain consistent, transparent, and aligned with our mission to enhance collections, strengthen programming, and address historical inequities within our organization.

A key objective of the plan is to provide clear guidance for staff and volunteers working with the collections while fostering accountability to our Strategic Plan and the broader community. The ArQuives holds an extraordinary collection of materials, and this plan is designed to make it more representative and accessible for all.

Collection Development Goals

Grow our collection

Our goal for 2024 was to grow the collections by bringing in donations from at least 10 High Priority Groups. We exceeded this goal nearly sixfold, securing 59 collections from high-priority communities. In total, almost 40% of all new donations came from these groups, showing the impact of years of relationship-building by our dedicated staff and volunteers.

Grow our programming

Our goal in 2024 was to host three digital exhibitions and events from High Priority Group. We surpassed this target by curating six exhibits (both physical and digital) centered on high-priority communities, along with two special events hosted by The ArQuives.

Grow our partnerships

Our goal for 2024 was to grow our new partnerships from High Priority Groups by at least three. The ArQuives met this goal with three new partnerships formed, expanding our network and collaborative impact. Additional steps to build relationships for future years was a high priority in 2024.

Grow our users

Our goal for 2024 was to grow our users. We saw an incredible 80% increase in online visitors to our Digital Exhibitions platform and a 59% increase in visits to our Digital Collections Database. The users in our physical space continue to hold steady based on our capacity to welcome researchers into the reading room during staffed hours.

Grow our visibility

Our goal for 2024 was to grow our visibility, and we made great strides. We gained over 3,000 new followers, saw a 14% increase in website visitors, and experienced a 21% boost in social media impressions.

Notable Donations

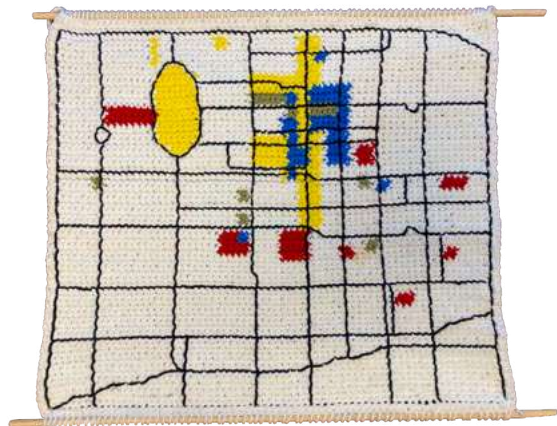


MICHELLE ROSS

A collection of photographs, videos, and dresses worn by Jamaican-Canadian Michelle Ross (1954-2021), a beloved figure in Toronto's drag scene. The photographs from this donation, spanning 1985 to 2021 and have been digitized.

AWARDS AND RECORDS OF KYLE SCANLON

Records and awards belonging to Kyle Scanlon (1971-2012), an activist, journalist, and community leader. Scanlon wrote for the Pink Triangle Press, Xtra and fab magazine, co-founded Trans Access at The 519, and contributed to Trans PULSE research. He served as Executive Director of Youthline, becoming the first openly transsexual man to lead a 2SLGBTQIA+ organization in Canada. The collection includes the 2013, Pride Toronto Trans Individual of the Year that was awarded posthumously.



CROCHET OF GAY VILLAGE

A crocheted map of Toronto's Gay Village created by a University of Toronto iSchool student for the Queer Art and Archives information workshop. The map represents the history of physical queer spaces in Toronto and resilience of the community, and how history can inspire art.



RUDI STEINBACH

A collection of photographs and artwork by Montreal-based artist Rudolph “Rudi” Steinbach (1957–2021). The collection includes sock monkeys, votive, jewelry, and other artistic pieces.

RESEARCH & COLLECTIONS

On-site research visits	154
Reference “queeries” via email	1,625
Donations to our collection	151

KATHERINE ARNUP

The personal and professional records of Katherine Arnup, historian, former professor Carleton University’s School of Canadian Studies, and life coach. Arnup edited *Lesbian Parenting: Living with Pride and Prejudice*, the first book on lesbian families in Canada. Her writings cover topics such as motherhood, lesbian and gay parenting, marriage, and diverse family structures.

DIGNITY TORONTO DIGNITÉ

Organizational records of Dignity Toronto Dignité, a national organization of 2SLGBTQIA+ Roman Catholics from the 1990’s such as newsletters, meeting minutes, brochures and conference materials.

ONLINE STATISTICS

New fans and followers	3,089
Newsletter subscribers	4,099
Social media impressions	417,810
Visitors to online collections	14,522
Visitors to digital exhibits	24,534
Website sessions	61,642



STRATEGIC PLAN

James Fraser wearing Canadian Gay Archives
(now The ArQuives) T-Shirt by Alan Miller, 1982.



Strategic Plan

The ArQuives' Strategic Plan (2023-2027), launched in January 2023, continues to guide our efforts in preserving and sharing 2SLGBTQIA+ histories. In 2024, we made significant progress with some major projects, particularly around the implementation of the Collection Development Plan and volunteer recruitment initiatives. We remain on track with many key projects and look forward to further advancements as we continue executing the plan in the coming years.

Strategic Plan Goals

1

Become a 2SLGBTQIA+ community destination:

Become the community destination for 2SLGBTQIA+ history and research in Canada



Actions In Progress

Increased awareness about The ArQuives through social media campaigns

Created new partnerships with various community and academic organizations



Actions Outstanding

Hiring a community outreach coordinator

2

Keep our Stories Alive:

Keep our stories alive by continuing to acquire, develop, and maintain diverse, publicly accessible and available collections by and about 2SLGBTQIA+ people



Actions In Progress

Implementation of Collection Development Plan 2023-2027



Actions Outstanding

Digital Strategies Initiatives

3

Support our actively engaged staff and volunteers:

Grow and support our actively engaged staff and volunteers



Actions Completed

Hired a volunteer coordinator



Actions In Progress

Equitable policies have been created, updated, and maintained

Staff Recruitment and Retention Plan

Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Plan

4

Build Community Connections:

Increase access to collections through investment in innovative digital media



Actions In Progress

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



Actions Outstanding

Access to digital collections

5

A sustainable future for The ArQuives:

Build the necessary components to sustain The ArQuives for the future



Actions In Progress

Community consultation around long term strategic planning



Actions Outstanding

Key roles staffed and funded
Creation of a capital campaign



COMMUNITY TIES: *OUR FUTURE TOGETHER* COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

You Make
The World

A
Brighter
Place.

Community Ties: *Our Future Together* Community Consultations

“Canada’s 2SLGBTQI+ history should be protected and shared at home and with the world. With this investment in The ArQuives, the Government of Canada is supporting the vital work of ensuring the stories of our 2SLGBTQI+ communities can be shared for generations to come, allowing a community organization to grow, and supporting Canadians dedicating their career to social justice.”

– *The Honourable Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth*

In late 2023, The ArQuives obtained grant funding from Women and Gender Equality Canada to support a new project aimed at protecting 2SLGBTQI+ heritage. In 2024, this funding helped us launch Community Ties: Our Future Together, a cross-country consultation to expand and deepen connections between The ArQuives and the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities we serve.

We’re at a pivotal moment for communities across Canada. With rising threats to queer and trans rights globally and locally, it’s more important than ever to protect, celebrate, and share our stories. The ArQuives is stepping up to meet this moment by imagining how we can better serve our communities in years to come.

As part of this work, in February and March 2025, we will be hosting community gatherings in 12 cities: Ottawa, Montreal, Calgary, Edmonton, Fredericton, Halifax, St. John’s, Vancouver, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Yellowknife, and Whitehorse.

Our aim is to learn more from every region across Canada how The ArQuives can help keep their 2SLGBTQIA+ stories alive and thriving for generations to come. We will be strengthening relationships and awareness among people, community organizations, and potential partners so that together, we can prepare for current and future challenges and provide greater support to our 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.

A photograph of a Labour union float at the Toronto Pride 2004 parade. The float is decorated with large blue and white flags, including one with 'LOCAL 195' and another with 'LOCAL 15'. There are several white balloons, some with 'CAW-TEA PRIDE!' printed on them. A man in a black tank top and yellow shorts is standing on the float. In the foreground, a woman is sitting on the float, looking down. A sign for 'Ted Mouradian' with the website 'www.electted.ca' and the NDP logo is visible. The background shows tall city buildings.

VOLUNTEERS

Labour union float at Toronto
Pride 2004. R.J. Martin.

Volunteers and Staff

For over 52 years, volunteers have been the driving force and heart of The ArQuives and everything we do.



In 2024, we welcomed 50 new volunteers and logged over 6,500 service hours—more than 1,000 hours above 2023 and 2,600 more than in 2022. As we continue to rebuild following the COVID-19 shutdown, the energy and dedication of our volunteers remain truly inspiring. Numbers and data represent only a small part of the whole picture. At the core of everything, The ArQuives community is unique, and the effort we put into keeping our stories alive is best demonstrated by some of the incredible things you have helped make happen.

VOLUNTEERS

100

Volunteers
in 2023

5,600

Volunteer
hours in 2023

150

Volunteers
in 2024

6,600

Volunteer
hours in 2024



The Community Engagement Committee organized an amazing 20 public tours, 17 private tours, and hosted some incredible Trivia Nights at Glad Day Bookshop in Toronto. Through these initiatives, they engaged with over 1,000 visitors, cultivating meaningful connections and celebrating queer and trans history in exciting ways.

The Curatorial Committee brought two major exhibitions to life in the gallery: *Meet Me In Leather* (curated by Hannah Dickson) and *Liberation on the Dance Floor* (curated by Craig Jennex), and assisted with the Nuit Blanche installation *Love Across Distance* (co-designed by Jordan King and Nathan Bruce). These exhibitions welcomed over 2,000 enthusiastic visitors! What a fantastic year for community engagement and celebration of creativity!

The Communications Committee was essential in promoting these exhibitions. They conducted interviews with artists and curators of *Meet Me In Leather*, *Liberation on the Dance Floor*, and *Love Across Distance*. They also documented several exciting exhibition opening nights, created a new trifold to showcase The ArQuives' activities, and wrote about collections such as Melissa Levin's, helping to Keep Our Stories Alive.

The Facilities Committee worked tirelessly to preserve and maintain our historic building. They continued to update safety measures, beautify our garden, and waged an epic battle against our most formidable foes... THE PIGEONS!

Finally, The Collections & Public Service Committee dedicated around 2,000 hours to processing and organizing donations, ensuring that new acquisitions were properly cataloged and accessible to the community. Their meticulous work preserved our history for future generations, reinforcing the importance of maintaining an inclusive and comprehensive collection.

From curating exhibitions to engaging the public and safeguarding our collections, our volunteers made 2024 a remarkable year. Their passion, commitment, and countless hours of dedication ensure that The ArQuives remains a vital and enduring resource for 2SLGBTQIA+ history. We are deeply grateful for their continued support and look forward to another year of growth and impact.



FINANCIAL OUTLOOK



Treasurer's Message

In 2024 The ArQuives is reporting a surplus of \$379,699 compared to a surplus of \$31,164 in the previous year. This larger surplus was primarily due to higher operating revenues in 2024. While our donation revenues were actually lower year over year, other operating revenues including royalties, grants and sales of the collection were significantly higher. Notably, an extraordinary payment of 2024 royalty revenues in the amount of \$140,203 was received unexpectedly in early 2025. While such extraordinary revenues are welcome they cannot be relied upon to support normal operating spending from year to year.

Certain operating expenses were also higher in 2024 compared to 2023. Higher salaries and wages along with additional fees for independent consultants were largely attributed to grants received to fund both small and large initiatives supported by our partners in the Government of Canada. Our largest project is a three year initiative supported by Women and Gender Equality

Canada (WAGE). A smaller example is regular annual grants we have received from Young Canada Works (YCW) that support the hiring of summer interns.

In summary, the organization is reporting a small operating surplus of \$21,321 in 2024 versus a significant operating deficit in 2023 of \$187,056. The ArQuives continues to be challenged to raise stable private donor funding that will support our annual operating budget. It is a key objective of the Board to reduce the structural deficits that have become a part of the annual budget.

Net other income in 2024 was again in a strong positive position due to solid gains in our Future Fund which is an investment portfolio managed by the Toronto Foundation. Our Future Fund is a restricted reserve that will support a future new home for The ArQuives and also other strategic initiatives approved by the Board. Net other income in 2024 was equal to \$358,378 compared to \$218,220 in 2023.

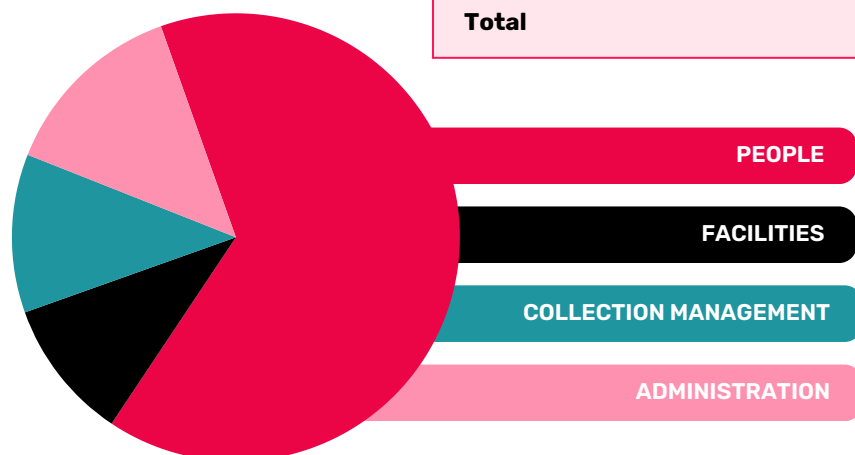
Operating Revenues

REVENUES	2024	2023
Fundraising - Private Sector	\$529,484	\$533,819
Fundraising - Public Sector	\$162,064	\$90,324
Earned revenues	\$281,059	\$73,566
Total	\$972,607	\$697,709



Operating Expenses

EXPENSES	2024	2023
People	\$616,441	\$544,761
Facilities	\$96,973	\$89,663
Collection Management	\$108,891	\$95,726
Administration	\$128,981	\$154,615
Total	\$951,286	\$884,765





DONOR RECOGNITION

Jim Egan and Jack Nesbit. Pride
Vancouver and Pride Toronto Honours.

Donor Recognition

We would like to express our immense gratitude to those who have lent their financial support to help The ArQuives in its work to collect, preserve, and share our communities' stories.

Champions

The ArQuives' Champions contribute \$10,000 or more annually and help support vital initiatives with lasting impact on 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.

Neil Betteridge

Estate of Alan Westbrook

Estate of Gerald Hannon*

Dennis Findlay

Richard Isaac and Brian Sambourne

Claude Jutras

Martha LA McCain

David Rayside and Gerald Hunt

** With thanks to Peter Kingstone*

Granting Partners



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada



Bank Financial Group

Guardians

Guardians of The ArQuives contribute \$1,500 or more each year to lend ongoing support for long-term sustainability.

\$2,500 - \$9,999

Greater Toronto Airports Authority

Aidan Grove-White and Chad Story

Michael Halleran

Don Haslam

JTMH Family Foundation

K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation

Newall Family Foundation Trust

Robert Sirman

Robert Wallace

\$1,500-\$2,499

Harold Averill

Timothy Banks

Geoffrey Chown and David Dunkley

John Clifford

Robert Coates and Dan McKay

Lionel Collier

Charles Hill

Edward Jackson

Barrie Martin

Richard McLellan

Michael D. Lipton Law Professional Corporation

John Montague and Alan Ray

Pearse Murray

Nancy Nicol

Francine Odette

Don Oravec

Gerry Oxford

Craig Patterson

Bill Vrantsidis

Friends

\$500 - \$1,499

1Password	Richard Fung and Tim McCaskell	R&M Lang Foundation
401 Games	George Hall and Gerald Sauders	Ken Settingington
Chris Ambidge	Tom Hooper	Jonathan Silin
Richard Archbold	David Hughes	Matt Soar
Neville Austin	Greg Kelner	Something Creative Events
Michael Bennett	John Lownsbrough	Brian Stearns
Hugh Brewster	John Lukasik	Mark Taylor
Robert Buckingham	Magnet Forensics	Ian Turner
Harold Chmara and Danny Hoy	Carole Marshall	United Way East Ontario
Viviana Comensoli	Duncan McLaren	Tom Warner
Jack Connell	Leslie Mobbs	Vincent Wheeler and Peter Cheng
Constance Crompton	J. Gary Myers	Whiskful Thinking Bakery
Gerald Crowell and Ken Aucoin	Rob Norquay	Bruce Williams
Christopher Field	Andrew Parker	Peter Zorzi and Charles Dobie
	Michael Petty	

Legacy Circle

The ArQuives gratefully acknowledges the following Legacy Circle donors for donations received in 2024. Their legacies will benefit our communities for years to come.

The Estate of Alan Westbrook

The Estate of Gerald Hannon

We also acknowledge the generosity and thoughtfulness of supporters who have included The ArQuives in their future estate plans.

Harold Averill	daniel martell
Lionel Collier	Barrie Martin
Robert Coates and Dan McKay	Richard McLellan
Andrew Cruikshank	Alan Miller
Scott Ferguson and Russell Mathew	John Montague and Alan Ray
Dennis Findlay	David Myers and Bill Houghton
Gary Fitzgibbon and Virgilio Rebelo	Don Oravec and Jim Harper
Michael Halleran	Paul Shepherd
Don Haslam	Della Stevens-Brain
Richard Isaac and Brian Sambourne	Robert Wallace
Ed Jackson	Tom Warner
Stephen Johnson	Arthur Wood
Claude Jutras and Gilles Provost	

Lesbian and Gay Pride March Toronto,
1981. Norman Taylor.



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The ArQuives is a registered charity with the Canada Revenue Agency
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