

**Nina  
Haggerty  
Centre for  
the Arts**

**THE NINA NEWS IS PUBLISHED  
6 TIMES A YEAR  
BRINGING NEWS TO MEMBERS  
AND FRIENDS**

# Nina News

## Birthday Edition

**February 2012  
Volume 8 - Issue 1**

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#### Blowing Minds... and Glass; Join us on Bridge

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#### In the Gallery: *Aiming High*; Remembering Louis

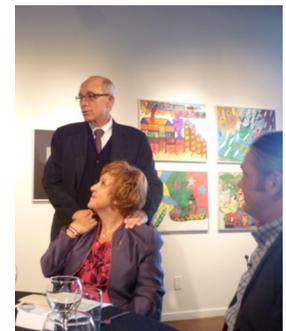
#### STAFF/BOARD LIST

- Lead Artists: Sherri Chaba, Brenda Kim Christianson, Tim Grieco, David Janzen, Cynthia Sentara, Lisa Rezsansoff, Susan Seright
- Artistic Director: Paul Freeman
- Board Members: Jeni Adler, Paul Bellemare, Yvonne DuBourdieu, Curtis Gillespie, Ailien Holdis, Kristina Kowalski, Connie Moores, Roberta Moro, Svetlana Pavlenko, Harold Pearse, Kristine Penner, Heidi Veluw
- Admin Staff: Marta Beranek, Jaye Benoit
- Executive Director, Wendy Hollo (whollo@telus.net)

## Aiming High & On Target

### Nina Celebrates 9th Birthday with Launch of Capital Campaign

Minister Klimchuk tossed aside her prepared remarks to speak from the heart after touring the busy Nina studios with Mayor Mandel. The province and City were recognized during Nina's birthday celebrations for their key roles in securing a permanent home for the Centre. Both called on community to now show its support as they helped to launch the Nina Haggerty capital campaign. The Centre hopes to raise the \$1.5 million needed to pay of its facility loan. In presenting Mayor Mandel with a cheque for \$25,000, this year's loan payment, Board Chair Curtis Gillespie looked ahead. "Next year, we plan to celebrate our 10th birthday by making one final payment." The Centre must make a lump sum payment of \$550,000 in 2013 to meet loan repayment terms.



Mayor Mandel and Minister Klimchuk, Jazz & classical stylings. Special guests.



## Marian Allen Kitchen Gallery

### Significant support recognized at Birthday Gala

Two years ago, the Nina Haggerty Centre faced its biggest challenge and the first real threat to continued operation. A change to a monthly pay-on-invoice system from up-front annual funding by a major funding partner created a cash crunch in the Centre's first fiscal quarter. Staff took voluntary cuts and unpaid time off and belts were tightened, with the only option remaining a cut to programs. The Centre turned to all available sources for one-time emergency support. Aware of the Centre's plight, Marian Allen, (who is Artist Director Paul Freeman's mother), used her line of credit to make a critically timed donation to sustain operations. Her incredibly brave act inspired the Stollery Charitable Foundation to match the donation, and these, together with a one-time grant from the Allard Foundation, averted the crisis. The Centre was proud to use the occasion of its 9th birthday to name the Kitchen Gallery in her honour. As in every home, the Nina kitchen is at the heart of daily life.



Marian Allen, with husband Laurie, were special guests at Nina Haggerty's 9th birthday luncheon celebration.

# Blowing Glass..and Minds

## AFA-funded Project Takes Nina artists in a brave new direction

The Nina Haggerty Centre and Keith Walker of Blow-in-the Dark Glassworks were thrilled to be approved for an Alberta Foundation for the Arts project grant in support of an ambitious attempt to introduce artists from the Nina Haggerty Collective to the world of glass blowing.

This medium is highly specialized, requiring a fully equipped studio, hands on instruction and close attention to safety, as artists work with hot glass in a demanding environment. The results, however, can be intricate and beautiful. The Centre is very pleased to be working with Keith in his newly opened Studio. To see some of his work, visit [www.blowinthedark.ca](http://www.blowinthedark.ca).

The project begins this month and extends to July, with two intensive 8 to 10 week sessions planned. During each session, one lead artist and two artists from the Collective will work with Keith in his studio. Paul Freeman takes on the first session, with Sherri Chaba supporting the next phase of the project.

To expand the experience of working with glass to the Collective (now more than 150 artists), the project includes purchase of a specialized kiln for fusing and slumping glass. This art form is highly accessible and will be offered to all interested artists. The Centre also plans to expand its community outreach programming to include glass workshops. Watch for an exhibition in July.



Keith Walker is a talented glass blower. His studio, Blow in the Dark Glassworks is located near the Centre.

## Tell Journal Readers Your “Nina” Story

The Edmonton Journal recently launched a new community blog, the Bridge. Intended as an interactive forum to share news that may not get reported in the print version of the newspaper, the Bridge is a great place to post updates and stories that may catch readers’ attention.

The Nina Haggerty Centre was thrilled to have a friend of Nina post an assignment on the Bridge, asking readers to cover the story. “Tell us about the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts” is an open ended assignment, allowing “reporters” to file a range of stories.

Following the ninth birthday celebrations, the Centre got the ball rolling with coverage of the luncheon with Minister Klimchuk and Mayor Mandel. You can go to the Edmonton Journal site and click on The Bridge to view the story. You will find it by expanding the Open Assignment segment (click right arrow).

The story is open until March 7, but to ensure that it remains alive, new postings are needed. To cover the assignment with your own Nina story, you simply need to register with your email address and file your comment and/or photo. Perhaps you had an exhibition in our gallery or a family member is involved with Collective. Whatever your story, we would be thrilled if you would share it on the Bridge!

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### Tell us about the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts

Assignment closes **March 8, 2012** • 1 reports • Tag: [Nina Haggerty](#) • On Twitter: [#yegarts](#)

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Located in Edmonton's vibrant and burgeoning arts community of 118th Avenue, the Centre provides a supportive place where people with developmental disabilities can become practicing artists and is home to a collective of over 150 artists, all adults with developmental disabilities. On Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012, the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts celebrates its ninth birthday.

To respond to this assignment, please click on "Cover This"

[Cover This](#)

*It's easy to join this conversation on The Bridge - if you have a story to tell, we would love to hear about it.*

## Weir & Butler Family Foundation Gifts

Donations will support continued exploration of photography

Recent generous (and unexpected!) donations from the Butler and Weir Family Foundations will support Nina artists in further exploration of photography.

In 2009-2010, artists worked with professional artists Wenda Salomons and Candace Makowichuk, exploring their areas of specialty, pinhole photography and diazo type and cyano type print making. This Lee Fund sponsored project extended over several months, culminating in an exhibition aptly named *Rangefinders*.

In addition to providing new media, the project gave artists in the Nina Haggerty Collective a great opportunity to explore their new neighbourhood.

Artists went out into the community with pinhole cameras they made in the studio to explore their surroundings. Some, like Faye Frick (right) turned the camera on themselves. They also searched parks and walkways to find materials for use with low tech print making processes.

Now, thanks to these new donations, the artists can continue their exploration this time using digital/SLR camera bodies. Funds will be used to purchase an additional camera body and contract Wenda Salomons to structure a new project. She will work closely with Paul Freeman, Artistic Director, to ensure that photography becomes part of regular programming at the Centre.



## Cake Walk 2012 Visits Vegas

Event celebrates glamorous Rat Pack era Vegas with Cakes and Crooners

In prior years, the Nina Haggerty Cake Walk fund raiser has gone country with a *Cakes and Cash* tribute to Johnny Cash, went *Ga Ga* with a *Guys in Disguise* tribute to the divas of popular music and celebrated the Beatles with *All You Need is Cake*. This year, its Vegas Baby! The eighth annual event, sponsored by World Stone Inc. and MLT Lawyers, will take on the crooner era of glamorous Rat Pack Las Vegas with *Cakes and Crooners*.

Working with singer/songwriter Colleen Rae, the planning committee is currently finalizing details for this year's event. The World Stone Inc. Cake Walk is the most important night of the year for the Nina Haggerty Centre which relies on money raised during the evening to fund the entire year's supply of art materials and equipment. It literally keeps our paint jars full and studio doors open. Watch for details in the next Nina News, but in the meantime, visit Colleen's website at [www.Colleen-Rae.com](http://www.Colleen-Rae.com) (but don't be fooled by her country roots). She and her band promise they can croon with the best!



Last year, the event went Country with performance by Brett Kissel and band, with Kira Hladun in a tribute to Johnny Cash.



Hosts Sheri Somerville and Josh Classen stole the show • Singer/songwriter Kira Hladun • Brett Kissel & Band rocked the house with Cash Classics • Winners of the Cake competition, Annie Dam of Cake Couture poses with member of the judging panel, Jeffrey KinCaellan of Sugar Craft.

Yes, that is a cake! Cake Couture took top prize for their interpretation of "I've Been Everywhere" for Latium Fleet Management



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## NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

"Creativity lies within all people and  
can be powerfully expressed  
through the arts."

[www.ninahaggertyart.ca](http://www.ninahaggertyart.ca)

# IN THE GALLERY

## Aiming High and on Target

This month's exhibition in the Stollery Gallery was mounted as part of the Centre's ninth birthday celebrations, creating a snap shot of work currently being created in the studios by artists in the Nina Haggerty Centre artists' Collective. Now 150+ strong, long-time and new artists are creating work that is highly ambitious, creative and rooted in their own personal experience of the world. Work in the show includes experimental work using the Centre's new SAORI weaving looms, clay and fabric art, painting and mixed media.



### Gallery Hours:

Mon-Fri: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Thursdays: 4:30 - 8:00 pm  
Saturdays: 1 - 3 pm

### For more information:

Call 474-7611 or visit  
[www.ninahaggertyart.ca](http://www.ninahaggertyart.ca)

## Remembering Louis O'Coffey

In July 2011, Board vice-chair and visual artist Harold Pearce assumed Curator role to mount a retrospective of artwork by Louis O'Coffey prophetically titled *Kingdom Come*. (Left) At the opening reception, Louis posed in front of an ambitious project he hoped would help children learn the alphabet. Bright paintings represent real and sometimes imagined animals for each letter of the alphabet.

We had no idea that this would also be his last showing. On Christmas day, Louis passed away, two days shy of his 75th birthday. He leaves behind a wonderful legacy of artwork, often inspired by imaginary travel, transportation, animals and images from magazines.

Winner of the 2008 Jane Cameron Award, a national award that recognizes the talents of artists with Down Syndrome, Louis received a \$500 cash award and a medal designed by Canadian artist Jeff deBoer. Louis exhibited work regularly in the Stollery Gallery and had work accepted to several other public galleries, including Vancouver's Gallery Gachet where he met then-Mayor Sam Sullivan. He also appears in the 2004 documentary, *Through the Eyes of Artists*.



Louis was twice accepted to the AFA's TREX (Travelling Exhibition) Program, had work shown at the Art Gallery of Alberta, Profiles Gallery in St. Albert and currently has work in an exhibition in Scotland that focuses on transportation.

Exposed to his first art classes at his home in Dickenson Extended Care facility, Louis worked in the Nina Haggerty studios regularly since the Centre first opened in 2003. His presence is very much missed.



(Top left) Louis poses in front of his ambitious alphabet project for Edmonton Journal photographer. (Bottom Left) Jane Cameron Award winning painting, *Warthog*. (Right) Louis as photographed for Edmonton Community Foundation Annual Report.