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Gordon Miller



54-40 plays in Shipyard Park.

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Message from the CEO

The 2025–2026 season was one of the busiest and most exciting years we've had at the Yukon Arts Centre (YAC). From large scale productions and outdoor concerts to community partnerships and major events, this season really showed how much arts and culture continue to grow across the Yukon.

A major highlight was *Tosca*, an ambitious opera production that brought together local artists, national partners, orchestra, chorus, and creative teams for a truly unforgettable experience. It was exciting to see this level of work happening right here in the Yukon and it speaks to how much artistic capacity continues to grow in the territory.

We were also thrilled to support Atlantis with Ramshackle Theatre, a bold new work that reflected the creativity and originality of Yukon artists. Supporting the creation of new Northern work continues to be an important part of what we do.

The outdoor stage had a huge summer, helping bring concerts and community events to audiences across the territory. Performances by *Our Lady Peace* and *54•40* were standout moments, and the *Stageline* mobile stage continues to open up exciting new opportunities for outdoor programming and partnerships.

We were proud to continue our involvement with the Dawson City Music Festival and to welcome audiences to a wide range of programming throughout the year including *Anastasia*, *Frozen*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, the *Barra MacNeils*, and *Tyler Shaw* as part of the Chamber of Commerce audience appreciation event.

Beyond performances, YAC was also home to important gatherings like the *Arctic Winter Games*, *Arctic Summit*, and *Yukon Presenter Summit*, reinforcing the role the building plays as a community hub for the territory.

This year also marks the departure of Mike Thomas after eight years as our Marketing Coordinator. Mike helped shape how the Yukon Arts Centre tells its story through photography, social media, sponsorship

Casey Prescott
CEO



work, and two major website rebuilds. His creativity, energy, and eye for capturing moments will be greatly missed by both staff and audiences alike. While we know he won't miss putting together another annual report, we certainly will miss having him behind the camera and around the office.

As always, none of this work happens without the support of artists, staff, volunteers, sponsors, partners, and audiences across the Yukon. Thank you for continuing to support the arts and helping make this such a memorable season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Casey". The signature is stylized and fluid. It is positioned above a large, faint, yellow circular graphic that resembles a stylized sun or a large letter 'Q'.

Message from the Chairs

The Yukon Arts Centre has had an amazing year thanks to the excellent work of the staff and their commitment to bring the arts to Yukoners. The Yukon Art Centre Board supports staff in achieving the goals set out in the Strategic Plan (available on the Yukon Arts Centre website). We also want to inspire Yukoners to take part and enjoy all art forms.

This year, we are proud to say that we were able to bring artists and shows to all Yukon communities. We recognize that not everyone can come to Whitehorse to see and experience the arts, so we are committed to reach Yukoners where they live and play.

We recognize and embrace the beautiful reality that all of our communities are diverse and unique. We – strive to be inclusive, supportive and respectful of that diversity, and we understand our role in supporting and encouraging these vibrant cultures.

The purchase of the portable stage has been a ‘game changer’, enabling many opportunities for us to support local festivals and events. The expertise needed to set up and operate the stage continues to create opportunities to develop capacity in communities. Mentoring and teaching are part of what the Yukon Arts Centre staff does.

The Yukon Arts Centre organized the Arts Summit held in February, 2026 for the Yukon arts community. The goal of the Summit was to foster discussions on issues facing the arts sector, build bridges and look to the future of the arts in the Yukon. We continue to work and partner with other arts organizations.

Collaboration with our stakeholders is important for our success. We seek out and support opportunities to create relationships between artists, audiences and communities in the Yukon, and we work to strengthen and empower those connections.



The Caribou Art Project by Lianne Charlie and Nicolas Hyatt.

The Yukon Art Centre Board hopes to continue to bring joy through the arts to all Yukoners, young and old, and from all walks of life.

Line Gagnon and Dan Palezcny
Co-Chairs Yukon Arts Centre Board

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision Statement

An inclusive, vibrant, creative North.

Mission Statement

The Yukon Arts Centre Corporation engages the Yukon by supporting arts and culture through development, presentation and conversation.

Values

We recognize and embrace the beautiful reality that all the communities we serve are diverse and unique.

We work continuously to be inclusive, supportive and respectful of the vibrant diversity of communities and cultures in the territory.

We know that collaboration with all of our stakeholders will always be the foundation of our success.

We seek out and support every opportunity to create relationships between artists, audiences and every community in the Yukon, and we work to strengthen and empower those connections.

We are fiercely committed to supporting and demonstrating open, humble and accountable leadership.

We lead by example, with courage, integrity, wisdom, adaptability and open minds, and we empower others to do the same.

We have fun and celebrate generosity of spirit.

We are always welcoming, and we engage with joy and humility to support innovative and creative spirits. We know laughter comes from a deep place.



The Way of the Wind by the Celeste et al. Collective.

We seek out and support every opportunity to create relationships between artists, audiences and every community in the Yukon, and we work to strengthen and empower those connections.



The free evening concert by Our Lady Peace for Lotteries Yukon's 50th anniversary celebrations.



Dawson City Music Festival

Going mobile

The Yukon Arts Centre's mobile stage played a vital role in bringing arts and culture directly into Yukon communities last summer, through funding by Lotteries Yukon to celebrate its 50th anniversary. The stage created accessible outdoor gathering spaces for live music, and celebrations in Whitehorse and the communities. It ensured that high-quality cultural experiences could reach communities beyond traditional venues.



Haa usteey Celebration in Carcross.

Partnerships

Collaboration between the Yukon Arts Centre and cultural organizations across the territory is essential to building a strong and connected arts sector. Working alongside Indigenous groups, community organizations and arts groups allows YAC to expand opportunities for artists, and strengthen cultural sharing that reflects the diversity of Yukon communities. These partnerships help remove barriers to participation, support emerging and established talent, while keeping arts and culture accessible and meaningful throughout the Yukon.

Shad performs at the Dawson City Music Festival

Edmonton Opera
National Arts Centre
The Guild Hall
Klondike Institute of Arts and Culture
Music Yukon
Canadian Filipino Association of Yukon
Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council
Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle
Dawson City Music Festival
Yukon Theatre for Young People
Queer Yukon
Yukon University
Yukon Wildlife Viewing
Yukon Prize for Visual Arts
Arctic Institute of North America
Kluane Lake Research Station
Yukon Film Society
Teegatha'Oh Zheh
New Works Dance Company
Art House Carcross



Rhoda Merkel during her Swan Haven Artist Residency.



Alyssa Bunce during her *Our Lady of the Home* performance.



Choir! Choir! Choir!



Josh Ritter

Programming



Boolesque burlesque show



Electric Lemonade

“

What a year we had on many stages, parks, schools, rehearsal halls and venues around the Yukon. I think we had it all! From large Outside rock bands like Our Lady Peace and 54-40's performances at Shipyards Park to clowns from Quebec in school gym, to local performer John from Dawson opening for Shad at DCMF to opera in Faro and Watson Lake. And for the first time ever, a full-scale opera performance of Tosca last Fall. Much thanks from all of us to our community partners and organizations and the thousands of audience members who came out to support live performance throughout the Yukon. It was a great year!

Michele Emslie

Director of Programming

Klondike Karaoke finals

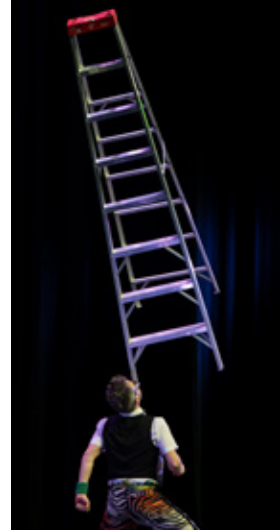


26 Performances

Opera
Yukon performers
Theatre
Comedy
Children's shows
Dance
Speaker Series



Our Lady Peace.



Mr. Turf.



*Melissa McClelland of
Whitehorse.*



*Mysteries of the Keyhole House.
Chris Colbourne photo.*



Major Funk Orchestra's Halloween bash.



Night of Comedy with Mary Walsh.

Touring Community Schools

With funding from the Northwestel Hanging Sky Tour YAC was able to bring With funding from the Northwestel Hanging Sky Tour, Power Corporation Canada and TD Foundation YAC was able to bring programming to many schools across the territory. Singer Gordie Tentrees spent time in Beaver Creek, Destruction Bay and Old Crow teaching music to students, while entertainers Kif Kif Sisters and Mr. Turf entertained and gave clowning workshops. City Improv and Candy Bones Theatre thrilled the kids with their wacky antics.



Kif Kif Sisters of Montreal perform in Carcross. Mark Kelly photo.



Kif Kif Sisters of Montreal perform in Carcross. Mark Kelly photo.



Mr. Turf entertains schoolchildren.

Community Outreach

The Yukon Arts Centre delivers a wide range of programming that strengthens its connection to communities across the territory and contributes significantly to Yukon’s cultural landscape. Through performances, exhibitions, educational activities, and community partnerships, YAC creates opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with the arts.



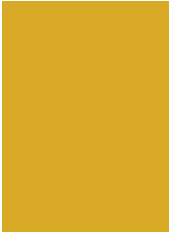
Midnight Sun Moppets Children's Festival



Art workshop led by artist Ernest Chua.



Dance work





Workshop for Teegatha'Oh Zheh, a non-profit that provides services for Yukoners with intellectual disabilities.



Santa Parade downtown Whitehorse.



Claire Ness promotes programming in Shipyards Park.



Our annual snow sculpture.

Other outreach projects were Red Dress Day, art tours for schools, comedy workshop for adults, singing workshops and a summit for Yukon arts presenters



Visual arts

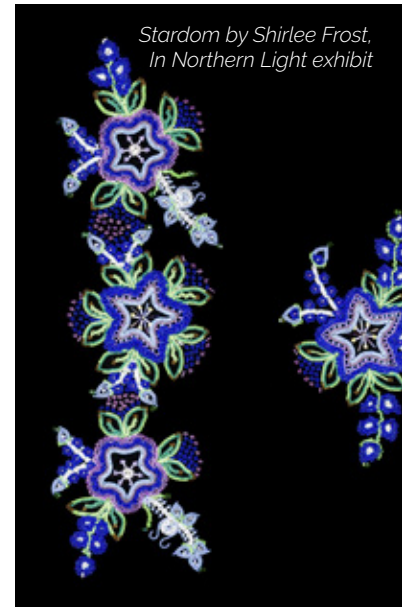
Meshell Melvin, Yukon Prize 2025

“

This year demonstrated how art can carry Yukon stories far beyond our borders while deepening connections here at home. Through international presentations of Yukon Indigenous culture, celebrations of Yukon artists, artistic excellence, and residency programs that connect artists and communities with the northern landscape, we continued to witness the important role art plays to connect people across generations, geographies, and perspectives.

Mary Bradshaw

Director of Visual Arts

*Superbloom exhibit in the community gallery.**Kids art workshop.**Stardom by Shirlee Frost, In Northern Light exhibit*



Aleocharinae: An Entomologist and an Artist.



In Northern Light exhibit.



Aubyn O'Grady, Yukon Prize 2025

Gallery Exhibitions

March 6 – May 23, 2025

Aleocharinae: An Entomologist and an Artist

Showcases the extraordinary collaboration between Benoit Godin and Luann Baker-Johnson. This unique exhibition bridges art and science through stunning blown glass sculptures inspired by the intricate genitalia of obscure rove beetles (Aleocharinae). These unexpected creations reveal the hidden wonders of the forest floor, encouraging us to see the natural world in a new and thought-provoking way.

Field Notes from Kluane

Field Notes from Kluane showcases new works by Christine Koch, the 2023 Kluane National Park Artist in Residence. Newfoundland-based printmaker, Koch is known for linking

Arctic research with art-making. This exhibition features a series of large-scale drypoint monoprints inspired by her time in Kluane, immersing viewers in the vast landscapes of the Yukon.

June 5 – August 29, 2025

In Northern Light

In Northern Light brings together a selection of works from the Yukon Arts Centre's Permanent Art Collection that celebrate the distinct and transformative light of the North. From the endless glow of summer's midnight sun to the shimmer of winter stars, this exhibition explores how artists have responded to our ever-shifting light.

Without Saying: Colin Dorward/ Ernest Chua

Without Saying brings together the richly layered paintings of Ernest Chua and Colin Dorward, two Yukon-based artists who communicate through a shared visual language rather than

words. Though their paths differ: Chua is a near non-verbal, autistic, self-taught artist, and Dorward is a neurotypical, academically trained painter, their work resonates in its complexity, density, and refusal to conform to easy interpretation. This exhibition challenges the need for labels like "insider" or "outsider," instead emphasizing the clarity and power of artistic vision.

September 12 - November 15

Yukon Prize 2025

The Yukon Prize Finalists Exhibition brings together the work of six outstanding contemporary artists shortlisted for the 2025 Yukon Prize for Visual Arts. Showcasing diverse practices, perspectives, and media, the exhibition highlights the strength and vibrancy of art being created in the Yukon. Visitors are invited to experience the vision and creativity of the finalists, each offering a powerful lens on the world around us. Jeneen



Emerging Indigenous Curator Teagyn Vallevand.



Jeneen Njootli in the Caribou Art Project exhibit.



Basia Barb Hinton during her Inner Space – Outer Space exhibit.

Frei Njootli will be demonstrating a sound-based performance in the gallery.

November 27, 2025 – February 20, 2026

David Garneau – Dark Chapters

The subject matter of Garneau's still life paintings include everyday objects combined with powerful symbols of his Indigenous heritage, such as a Métis sash and burning sweetgrass. As with traditional still life, the relationship of the objects provides the context, however Garneau adds another profound layer of meaning through the naming of the pieces, with titles like Future Portrait of the Artist (a skull on a plinth) and Visiting a Relative in the National Gallery (a large display case covered in white cloth). The works are laden with possible interpretations.

Shared Territories

At the heart of Shared Territories are the 2023 YVR Art Foundation

Emerging Artist Scholarship recipients, a cohort of seven Indigenous artists whose works were exhibited at the Vancouver International Airport over the past year. Of these seven artists, four are Yukon First Nations. Their stories were carried from the North to the coast, and now home once more as we are honoured to share these works with the Territory.

March 5 – May 22, 2026

The Caribou Art Project

The Caribou Art Project, envisioned by Lianne Marie Leda Charlie (Tagé Cho Hudän, Northern Tutchone-speaking people of the Yukon) and co-led with Nic Hyatt, brings together contributions from ten other artists. Featuring 30 life-sized caribou and an immersive soundscape of stories and experiences, the installation invites visitors to walk among the herd. Voices of Elders, sounds of the land, and the presence of these sculptural

caribou connect our shared circumpolar landscapes through art, memory, and movement.

Inner Space – Outer Space: The Fabric of the Universe

Basia Barb Hinton explores the interconnectedness between humans, the cosmos, and the earth on macro and micro scales through paintings, installations, and soundscapes. The imagery references sound and light waves, medicinal plants, ancestral connection, and human figures that serve as conduits between the earth and the sky.



School tour in the main gallery.



Honouring Our Future: Yukon First Nations Graduation Regalia

A touring version of the *Honouring Our Future: Yukon First Nations Graduation Regalia* exhibition, developed in collaboration with the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, travelled to Zurich, Switzerland, April – September 2025, then moved to the Canadian embassy in Washington, D.C., in January 2026. The exhibit features 15 sets of graduation regalia created by Yukon First Nations families and artists. The exhibition was accompanied by beading workshops.

Supported by Canada Council for the Arts and the Yukon Government, this international tour celebrated the cultural richness, intergenerational knowledge, and artistic excellence of Yukon First Nations communities.



Alyssa Bunce.



Anastasia by Yukon Theatre for Young People.



Yukon Theatre for Young People's production of Frozen.



Ramshackle Theatre's Atlantis.



Open Pit Theatre's Radio Silence.

Residencies

YAC offers a wide variety of residencies for visual and performing artists:

- @YAC Residency
- Jenni House Artist Residency
- Tombstone Park Artist Residency
- Kluane Park Artist Residency
- Swan Haven Artist Residency

Our partners:

Yukon Film Society, Jazz Yukon, Music Yukon, City of Whitehorse, Yukon Parks, Friends of Dempster Country, Parks Canada Yukon, Arctic Institute of North America, Yukon Wildlife Viewing.



Jenni House Artist Residency.

Old Fire Hall

The historical building is a cultural and community hall in downtown Whitehorse, that caters to a wide variety of community groups, including commercial renters.

Events and users during 2025-26

- Child Development Centre
- Jazz Yukon
- Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce
- YG Finance
- Yukon Status of Women
- French Services
- Selkirk First Nation
- Wayne Tuck
- City of Whitehorse
- CGC Zumba
- Nicole Murdoch Celebration
- Arctic Winter Games Society
- Yukon First Nations Education Dept.
- Federal Government National Managers Community
- Birthday celebration
- Yukon Artists @ Work
- Yukon Film Society
- Nakai Theatre

- Yukon Craft Society
- Yukon Latin Dance
- Shaun Devlin Dance
- Whitney Hartigan
- Pivot Festival
- Yukon Early Music
- Yukon Geological Survey

- Comedy improv workshop
- Electric Lemonade concert
- Cryptozoologists concert
- Edmonton Opera performance
- Singing workshops by Edmonton Opera
- Bachfest by Early Music Yukon



Singing workshops for Yukon Community Choirs.



The Cryptozoologists perform their new album release

Yukon Opera Development Program

YAC continued with its Yukon Opera Development, sending Edmonton Opera singers to schools in the communities and Whitehorse. They also held singing workshops for members of Yukon Theatre for Young People, furthering their skills. Opera performances were also held for the public in Whitehorse. In partnership with the National Arts Centre and Edmonton Opera, YAC presented the production of Puccini's *Tosca*. This full-scale performance was the first of its kind in Whitehorse since the late 1960s. Performing in the opera were local organizations Problematic Orchestra and Yukon Community Choirs. Both groups also received professional training from the National Arts Centre. There was more demand than there were tickets available, so YAC opened the dress rehearsal to the public too.



*National Arts Centre conductor rehearsing with Problematic Orchestra for *Tosca* production.*



Coffee Cantata during Bachfest

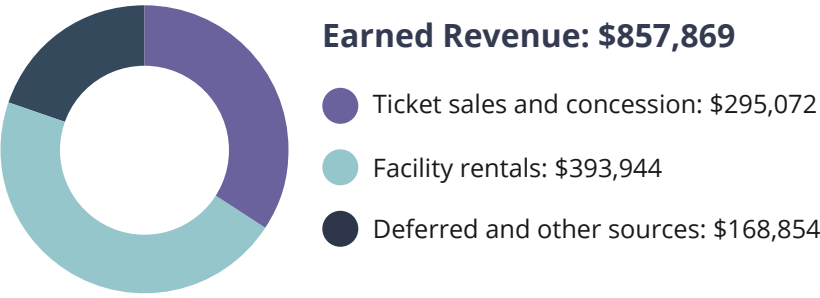
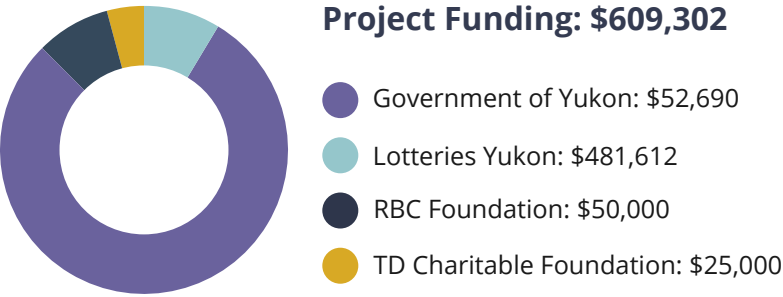
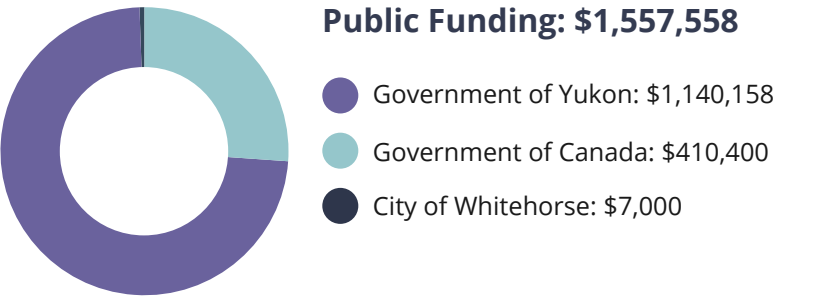


**Tosca* opera performance.*

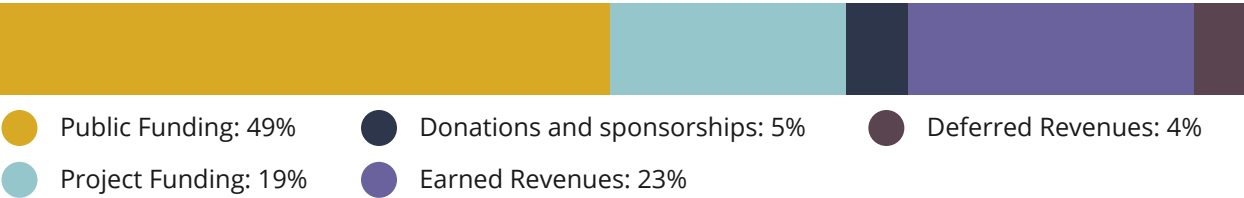


Edmonton Opera visits Christ the King Elementary.

Revenue Sources for 2025/26

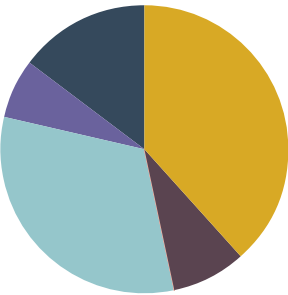


Percentage of Total Revenues:



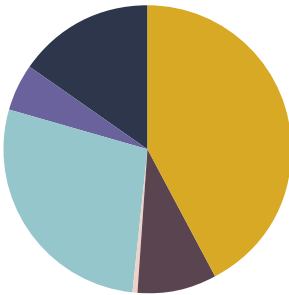
Summary of Operations

Revenues: \$3,178,185



- Administration: \$1,223,445
- Gallery: \$261,004
- Marketing: \$2,970
- Programming: \$1,012,702
- Old Firehall: \$216,453
- Special Projects: \$461,612

Expenditures: \$3,101,316



- Administration: \$1,265,932
- Gallery: \$273,617
- Marketing: \$117,167
- Programming: \$835,250
- Old Firehall: \$155,409
- Special Projects: \$453,941

Statement of Financial Position

Assets: \$2,894,934



- Cash: \$1,419,299
- GST Receivable: \$14,903
- Prepaid Expenses: \$140,191
- Art Collection: \$635,672
- Accounts Receivable: \$68,603
- Inventories: \$1,143
- Capital Assets: \$615,123

Liabilities: \$816,502



- Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities: \$332,429
- Unearned Revenue & Deferred Contributions: \$179,096
- Deferred Capital Contributions (Grants): \$304,977

Net Assets: \$2,078,432



- Invested in capital assets: \$814,078
- Board Restricted Reserves: \$800,000
- Unrestricted: \$464,354

General Statistics

Renters/Residencies
Attendance
25,481

YAC Presentations
Attendance
8,903



Total Galleries Attendance
29,494



Visitors to
Honouring Our Future
Exhibit at Nordamerika
Native Museum in
Zurich, Switzerland
5,800



Sponsors

Canada



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada

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NVD



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And a big thanks to all the individual patrons who donated.



The audience joins Elisapie for the last song of the show.



Yukon Arts Centre

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yukonartscentre.com



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