

MAY 2021

THE **ARQUIVES**  
2020 ANNUAL SNAPSHOT

**PREPARED BY**

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

# BOARD MESSAGE

**2020 was a tumultuous and unparalleled year in the history of The ArQuives. As a result of COVID-19, we shut down The ArQuives on March 13th and remained closed throughout 2020. Staff members and volunteers have worked from home doing what they can to complete projects under impossible conditions. In the face of the pandemic and the dramatic changes which it has brought to our lives and our organization, our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and donors have shown amazing resilience and adaptability.**

COVID-19 has impacted our finances in several ways, but we have managed to bounce back. Despite needing to cancel our annual Gala, we ended 2020 on a very positive note: our new Senior Development Officer Deanna Bickford led the charge in a December holiday fundraising effort, which was successful in addressing the shortfall we had experienced earlier in the year. The ArQuives also won several grants in 2020 including a Documentary Heritage Communities Grant to hire a full-time archivist for 2 years, 3 COVID-related grants from Red Cross, the CEWS program, the COVID-Emergency Support Fund for Heritage Organizations, and a second round of funding from TD Bank to support our online database through 2024.

2020 was also a significant year in addressing questions of systemic racism and inequity at The ArQuives. In the wake of George Floyd's murder on May 25th, a group of committed volunteers led The ArQuives to address organizational transparency and racism more explicitly. This work led to our 18 point Anti-Racism Plan, which continues to shape our work in making The ArQuives a more welcoming and inclusive space for all. In November, we embarked on a sustained and public consultative process to draft and finalize a statement on Historical Inequities at The ArQuives. We crafted a public statement situating our history within a larger context of colonialism and white supremacy, among other

structural inequities, recommitting us to address the archival silences regarding so many in our community.

Many thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and Board for rising to the challenge of keeping us alive and flourishing over the last challenging year. A special shout of thanks to Raegan Swanson, our Executive Director, and our amazing staff including Lucie, Ariana, Jordan, Jennifer, Matt, Subhanya, and Deanna, who have pivoted so skillfully from working on-site to mostly working from home. Thank you as well to our volunteers, who have taken to Zoom to continue the work of so many of our committees, as well as to our Board. Finally, we wish to thank all of our financial supporters, our Guardians of The ArQuives, and every single person who reached deep into their hearts and pockets and gave their support, be that contribution large or small.

*Dennis Findlay Elspeth H. Brown*

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**Dennis Findlay & Elspeth Brown**  
*Co-Presidents of the Board*

01.

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02.

# PROJECTS, EVENTS, & PARTNERSHIPS.

# PROJECTS, EVENTS, AND PARTNERSHIPS

Despite the pandemic, we participated in and facilitated several projects, partnerships, and events.

In March we began our ongoing **Queerantime Project** allowing folks to continue donating their digital materials relating to their experiences and creations during the pandemic (and in general).

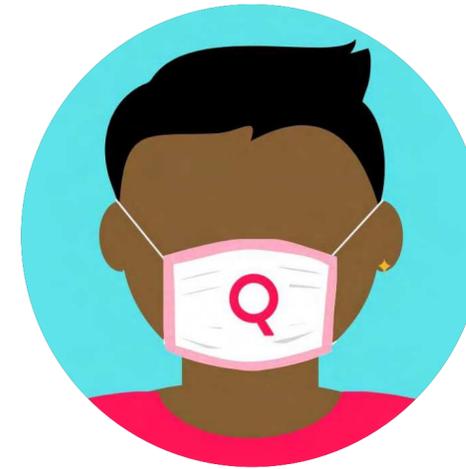
Our Community Engagement Committee has also continued to host informative and fun **Trivia Nights** with special guests of note including Syrus Marcus Ware, Richard Fung, and Carolyn Taylor.

In September we hosted an online panel with folks involved in the **Pussy Palace** raid which launched a new oral history collecting project about the party.

We also finished up **Roots and Rites/Routes and Writes** in partnership with the Royal Ontario Museum, a writing a workshop where South Asian youth shared and submitted their stories to the archives.

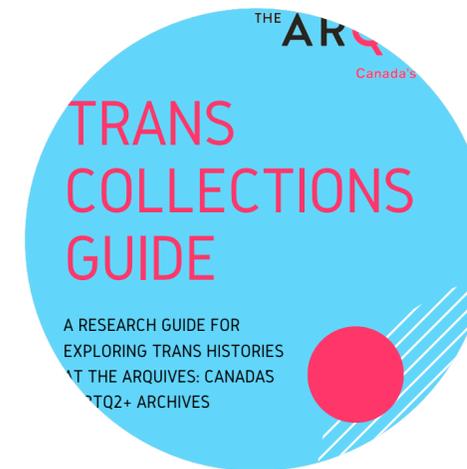
In November we launched the **Trans Collections Guide** in partnership with the SSHRC funded *LGBTQ Oral History Digital Collaboratory* (Elspeth Brown, PI), a guide years in the making.

The Launch included a roundtable discussion on the trans holdings of The ArQuives and the histories and futures of trans archival practices.



## QUEERANTIME PROJECT

The ArQuives continues to accept Queerantime stories via our website.



## TRANS COLLECTIONS GUIDE

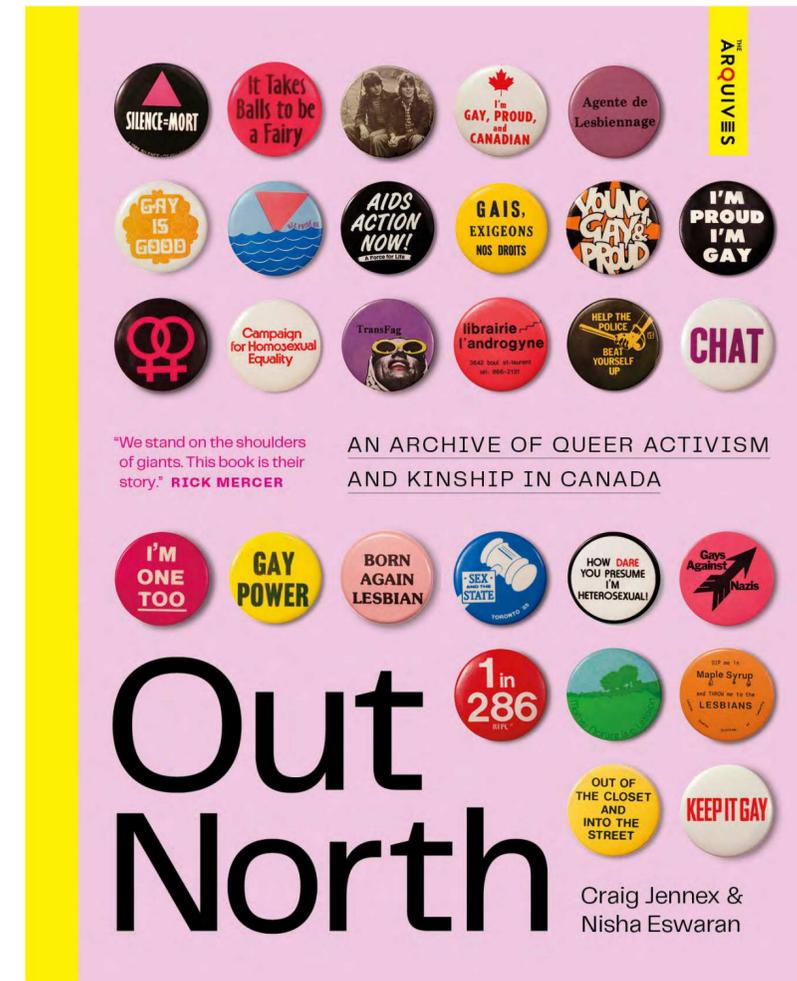
The Trans Collections Guide and the Video of the launch are available via our website.

# OUT NORTH: AN ARCHIVE OF QUEER ACTIVISM AND KINSHIP IN CANADA

By Craig Jennex and Nisha Eswaran,  
in collaboration with The ArQuives.

A fascinating and wide-ranging documentation of queer history, activism, and community that examines the vast collection of The ArQuives, the largest independent LGBTQ2+ archives in the world.

**Out North: An Archive of Queer Activism and Kinship in Canada** is a fascinating exploration and examination of one nation's queer history and activism, and Canada's definitive visual guide to LGBTQ2+ movements, struggles, and achievements.



## OUT NORTH

The book is available to purchase via The ArQuives website and at your local independent bookstore.

# EXHIBITIONS

One of the many ways that The ArQuives makes its collections accessible to the public is via our Digital Exhibitions site.

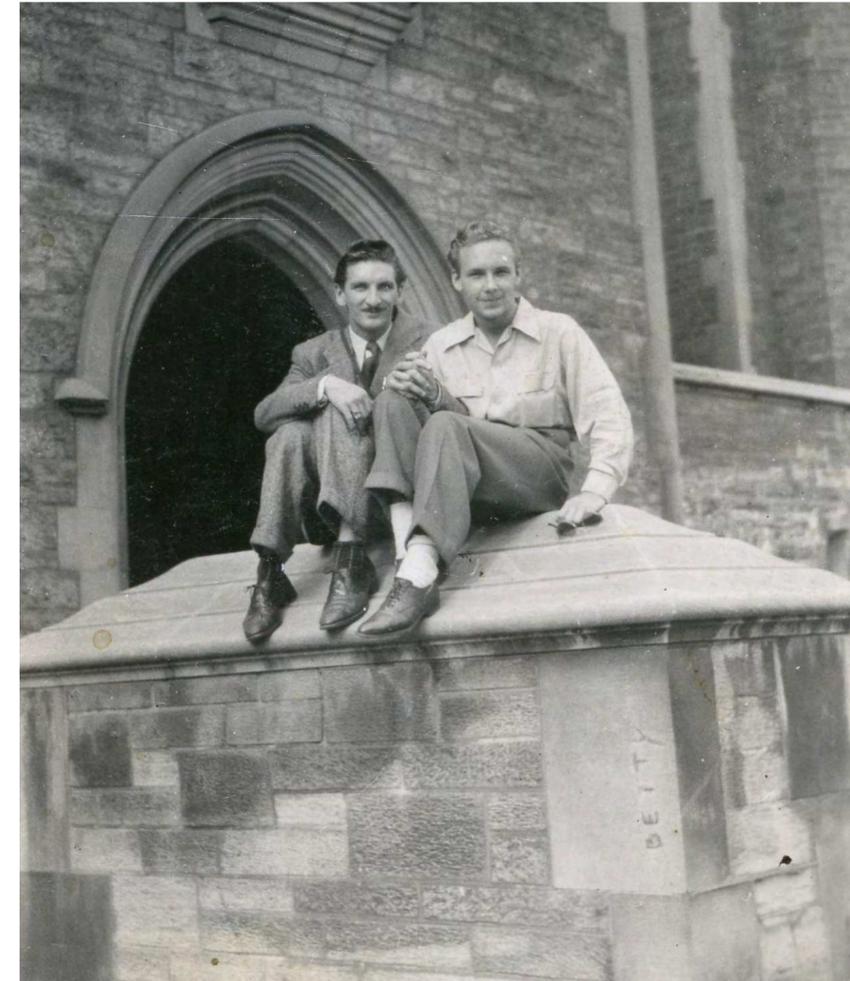
*Where the Shoreline Meets the Water: The Intergenerational LGBT Artist Residency Retrospective* (December 2019-January 2020) was a retrospective of works produced by alumni of The Intergenerational LGBT Artist Residency, which has been held each summer on Toronto Islands from 2013 to 2019. The works critically engaged landscapes, longing, and ecologies in Queer and decolonial ways.

*pack un pack* (March 2020) was a solo exhibition of artist and photographer Hamidah Hemani. The exhibit featured large and small format photography, which provocatively explored the definitions and constructs of “home, space, and subculture” through a queer South Asian lens.

This summer, thanks to a grant from Young Canada Works, we were able to create two new exhibitions:

*Jim Egan: Canada's First Public LGBTQ Activist 1971 We Demand March*

You can see all 20+ exhibits by visiting [digitalexhibitions.arquives.ca](http://digitalexhibitions.arquives.ca)



**JIM EGAN**

The 'Jim Egan: Canada's First Public LGBTQ Activist' Exhibition is available on the digital exhibitions section of our website.

03.

# REVIEW OF 2018-22 STRATEGIC PLAN.

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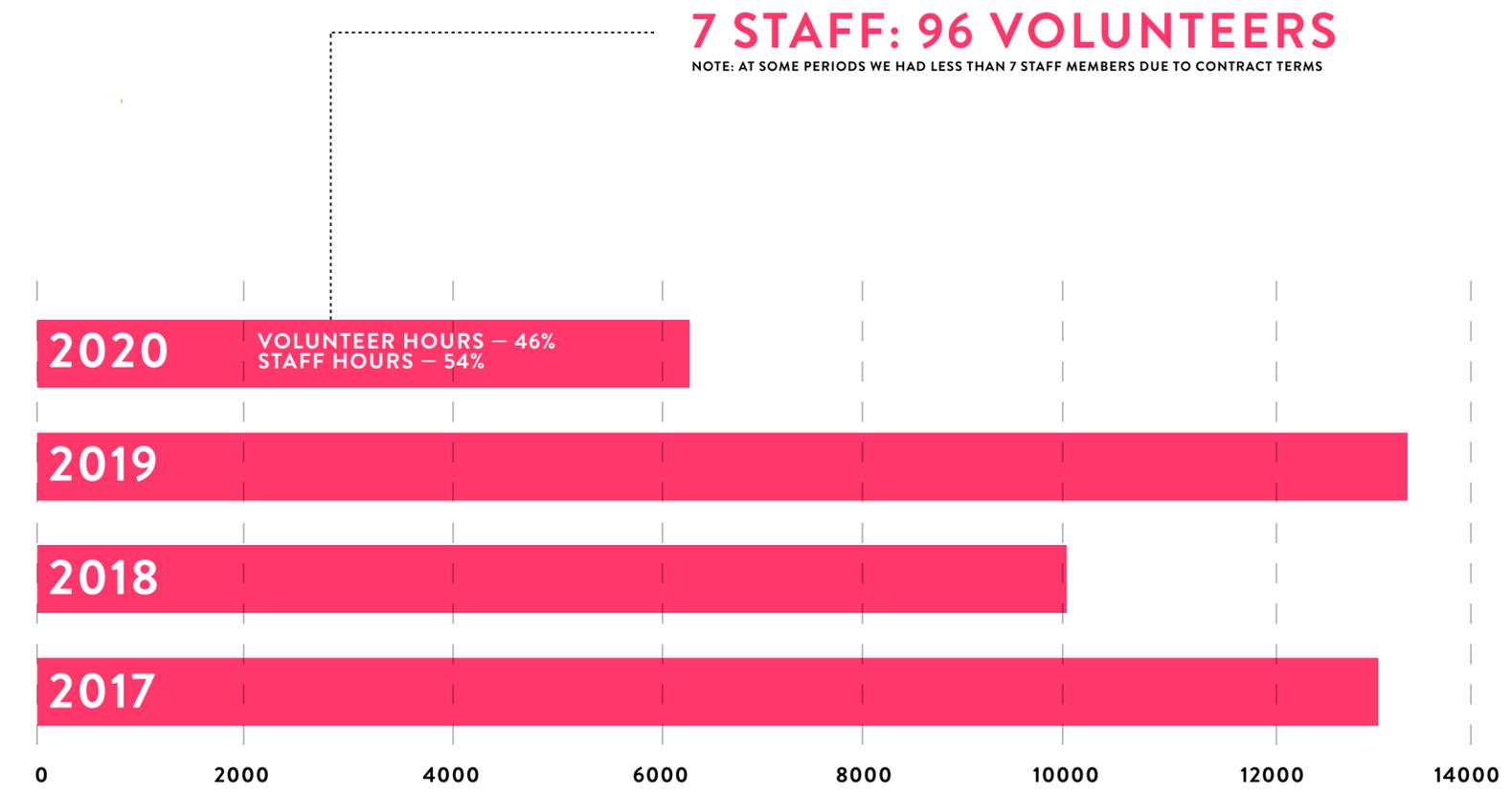
<h2>1 IMPROVED PUBLIC PROFILE</h2> <p>The ArQuives continues to work to ensure we are adequately serving LGBTQ2+ communities in Canada. We must also ensure our reputation and our branding accurately reflect this mission. To this end, we have done the following:</p>	<h2>2 BUILDING COLLECTIONS</h2> <p>There are ongoing efforts to build our collections to reflect the diversity of LGBTQ2+ people in Canada. The ArQuives will continue to develop relationships with community organizations and individuals. We continue to do this through:</p>	<h2>3 A DIVERSE AND VIBRANT TEAM</h2> <p>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 needed funds). We will continue to achieve this by:</p>	<h2>4 IMPROVED PROGRAMMING</h2> <p>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 to increase The ArQuives' community profile. We will continue to do this by:</p>	<h2>5 THE RIGHT SPACE</h2> <p>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:</p>	<h2>6 SUSTAINABLE AND DIVERSE FUNDING</h2> <p>Diversified, steady, and secure funding is essential to achieving The ArQuives' ambitious 2018-2022 Strategic Plan and us continuing to collect, preserve, and share our stories. We continue to work on this by:</p>
<p><b>ACTIONS TAKEN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopted a new name that will serve us well into the future, drawing on community consultations.</li> <li>Carried out a rebranding campaign aligned with the new name.</li> <li>Completed a needs assessment of users and non-users of The ArQuives and used this to inform our operations.</li> <li>Improved responsiveness, including wait times, to the communities we serve.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACTIONS TAKEN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing and executing a Collection Development Plan.</li> <li>Develop mutually beneficial, ongoing collaborations with other not-for-profit organizations to ensure a more diverse set of collections.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACTIONS TAKEN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeking input from similar organizations to address growing pains.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS IN PROGRESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving the internal dynamics of The ArQuives in order to continue to be a caring, dedicated, and hard-working organization.</li> <li>Engaging more staff and volunteers from under-represented communities, with plans for retention, recruitment, and succession.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACTIONS IN PROGRESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing and executing a new Programming Plan for improved, more diverse, and inclusive programming.</li> <li>Developing and executing an Educational Programming Plan.</li> <li>Securing a grant to fund programming staff.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACTIONS IN PROGRESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing a plan to assess The ArQuives' current and future needs and to secure the right space.</li> </ul> <p><b>OUTSTANDING ACTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch a Capital Campaign to fund this space.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACTIONS TAKEN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing and executing a long-term Fundraising Plan that emphasizes the sustainability and diversity of funding sources.</li> <li>Improving our public profile to better facilitate fundraising.</li> </ul>

04.

# VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF.

# VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

The number of volunteers and their hours worked was severely impacted by the closure of The ArQuives during our 2020 COVID-19 closure. We are grateful to all the volunteers who were able to continue their work from home and look forward to having folks back in the building.



### WORKING HOURS

Despite the pandemic and our closure we still had a tremendous amount of volunteer and staff support throughout the year.

05.

# FINANCIAL OUTLOOK.

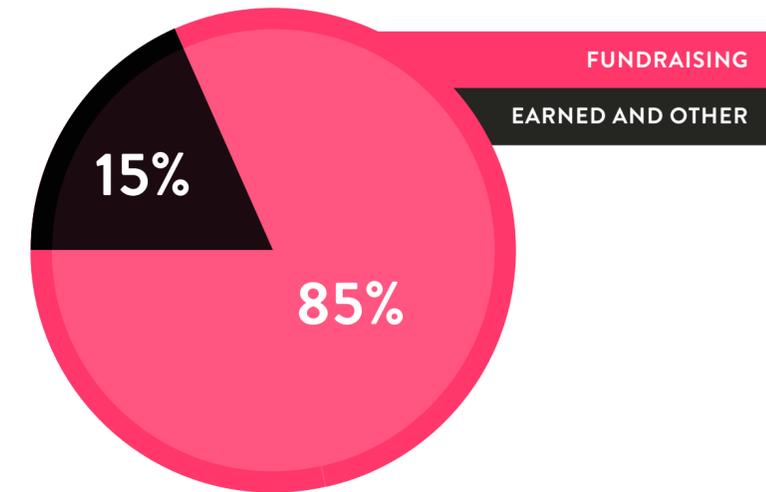
# TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Like many small charities and businesses, The ArQuives ended 2020 facing significant challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic and with uncertainty around when we will be able to return to normal operations.

In 2020, pressures from the pandemic increased our operating deficit to \$88,355, up from \$54,723 in 2019.

We are grateful for significant Federal COVID-19 assistance funds in the amount of \$98,737 which helped to offset this operating deficit. After accounting for investment gains and other non-operating income, we ended 2020 with a net surplus of revenues over expenses of \$51,203. While lower than 2019, we consider this surplus to be a very good result for what will be seen as an historically difficult year.

We began 2020 on an optimistic note. We had seen strong support from our individual and corporate donors in 2019. Our Gala was planned for March and we were looking forward to continuing to build new revenue streams to help eliminate our ongoing operating deficiency. As we all now know, by the end of March we were shuttered in lockdown, our Gala canceled, and we were facing significant uncertainty around our normal operating revenues. This state of affairs has continued as we now manage month to month with much more uncertainty than normal. We are thankful for the continued support from donors, including our individual donors, as well as corporate and foundation support. We will remain reliant on emergency government assistance programs to help offset operating deficits as long as the pandemic persists and we are unable to return to normal activities.



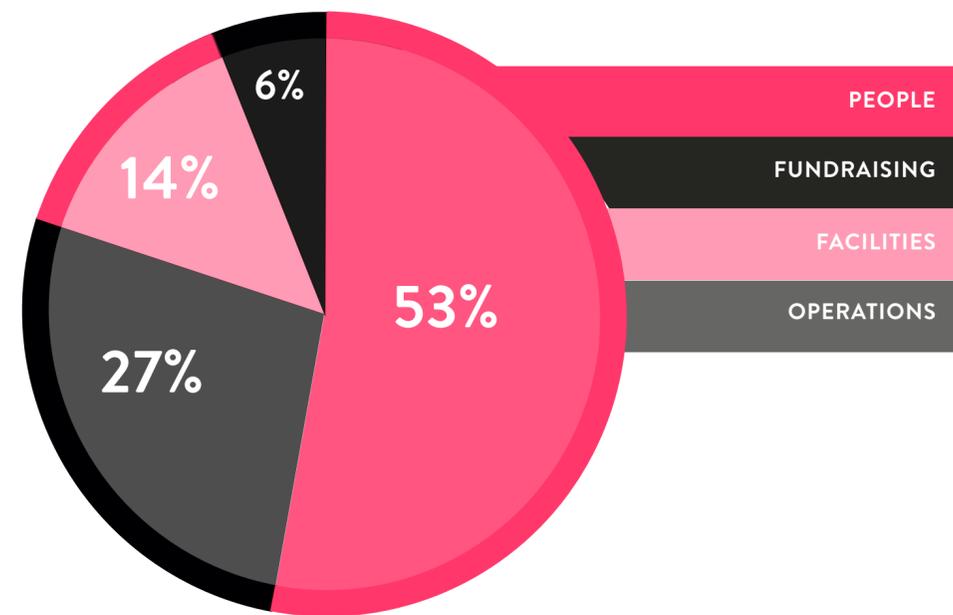
REVENUES	2020	2019
Fundraising	\$378,024	\$477,413
Earned Revenues	\$68,661	\$126,176
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$446,685</b>	<b>\$603,589</b>

### REVENUES BY SOURCE

Overview of The ArQuives revenue sources.

# FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

The ArQuives remains on a strong financial footing due to our significant reserves. During difficult times like we have experienced in 2020, we are fortunate to have the benefit of the financial flexibility our reserves afford us. However, it should be highlighted that the bulk of these reserves are held primarily on an internally restricted basis in our Facility and Strategic Initiatives fund to be available for a future new home for The ArQuives. At the end of 2020, our investments totaled \$2,884,162, up marginally from \$2,871,181 at the end of 2019. The majority of these funds are invested prudently for the long term with the Toronto Foundation.



REVENUES	2020	2019
People	\$285,514	\$269,579
Facilities	\$73,304	\$71,771
Operations	\$146,110	\$234,212
Fundraising	\$30,112	\$82,750
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$535,040</b>	<b>\$658,312</b>

### EXPENSES BY SOURCE

Overview of The ArQuives expenses by sources.

06.

# DONOR RECOGNITION.

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We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to the individuals, organizations, and community groups that supported our work through this incredibly challenging year with their thoughtful financial donations and involvement.

## CHAMPIONS \$10,000+

Dennis Findlay  
Kristine Hoszka  
TD Bank Financial Group  
The Estate of Alexander John Turner

## GUARDIANS \$5,000–9,999

The P. Austin Family Foundation  
Dr. Richard Isaac & Brian Sambourne  
Martha LA McCain  
Pink Triangle Press  
Gilles Provost & Claude Jutras

## GUARDIANS \$2,500–4,999

Rachel Lauren Clark & Carol-Ann Chapman  
Michael Halleran  
Charles Hill  
K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation  
Mark Pratt  
Norman Walsh Taylor  
Lary Willows

## GUARDIANS \$1,500–2,499

Harold Averill  
Aaron Cain  
Geoffrey Chown & David Dunkley  
Robert Coates  
William Craddock  
Colin Deinhardt  
David DesLauriers & Nicolas Burbano Diaz  
Ethical Associates  
Aidan Grove-White & Chad Story  
Gerald Hannon  
Don Haslam  
Norman Hatton  
Ed Jackson  
Patrick Keilty & Matthew Schuman  
LGBT Purge Fund  
Barrie Martin  
Duncan McLaren  
Donald McLeod  
Pearse Murray  
Francine Odette  
Openly  
Gerry Oxford  
Dr. David Rayside & Gerald Hunt  
The Estate of James D. Stewart  
Robert Wallace  
Tom Warner

# DONOR RECOGNITION

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## LEGACY CIRCLE

Dennis Findlay  
 Kristine Hoszka  
 TD Bank Financial Group  
 The Estate of Alexander John Turner

We sincerely thank those donors who have included The ArQuives in their will and estate plans. These gifts will leave a lasting legacy that will benefit our communities in years to come.

KEEPING  
OUR  
STORIES  
ALIVE.