

Annual Report



2025



An Experiment by Katherine McKittrick, *A Smile Split by the Stars*, photo documentation by Darren Rigo at Gallery 44 (Toronto), 2025

Gallery 44
Centre for Contemporary Photography
Annual Report 2025

4	Board of Directors' Report
5	Executive Director's Report
7	Year in Review
10	Committee Reports
10	Exhibitions and Public Programs
14	Education and Community Outreach
17	Membership and Facilities
19	Special Events and Fundraising
21	Finance
24	Press and Testimonials
25	Founder Spotlight April Hickox
27	Board, Staff, Committees, Interns and Volunteers

Board of Directors' Report

In 2025 Gallery 44 made significant progress on its top three strategic priorities:

- Improving HR practices, including onboarding, policy, reviews, etc.
- Refining / improving process to respond to social justice calls, and
- Meeting membership demand, improving on boarding, retention and services.

As a result, the Board plans to update its strategic plan and priorities in 2026.

The Board would like to thank the hard-working team at Gallery 44; Alana, Heather, Leila, Maegan, Sameen and Jackson, who collectively, are responsible for these successes. We would also like to thank past and occasional staff—Paula, Miora, Simon and Benjamin—and the volunteers for their continued support and efforts in helping the gallery function to its highest ability.

Gallery 44 has a dedicated Board of Directors working on behalf of the gallery, membership and our broader community. This has been a year of transition for the Board and we thanked Gallery 44 members Gustavo Jabbaz, Zile Leipens and Grace Wang and community member Sanaz Manzinani for their contributions. As a result, we have focused on recruitment and are pleased to have elected Gallery member Sonya Filman and community member Katarina Veljovic to fill two of these recent vacancies. We are looking forward to welcoming new members following the 2026 Annual General Meeting.

Much of the work of the Board is conducted at the committee level. In addition to participating on Committees that also include member and community representation and have shared reports here, directors support a Governance and Nomination Committee and Human Resources Committee.

David Scriven
Board President



Reception for *Almanac* and *OUTREACH*, photo documentation by Celeste Ovita Cole, 2025



Jordan King, *Untitled Polaroid Series*, photo documentation by Toni Hafkenscheid at Queen Street West and Augusta Avenue during CONTACT Photography Festival (Toronto), 2025

Executive Director's Report

2025 was a year of remarkable challenges: escalating geopolitical tensions, widespread economic uncertainty, AI-driven disruption to creative fields and artistic agency, all compounded by a looming sense of political and social polarization.

Through a year shaped by shifting challenges and deepening divisiveness, Gallery 44 focused on remaining a responsive and accessible hub dedicated to the advancement of photographic and image-based practices—our enduring core mission. This focus meant strengthening our community connections, working collaboratively and building collective local leadership.

Thanks to the dedication of our staff, artists and community, over the year, G44:

- Joined 135 cultural organizations across Canada endorsing the **Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI)**;
- Collaborated with partners of many shapes and scales, from artist-run centres, to community-service organizations, to public galleries and academic institutions;
- Began the groundwork for a new coalition of Toronto artist-run centres with Gallery TPW, Mercer Union and Art Metropole.
- Presented 24 exhibitions, in the Main Gallery, Vitines, Members' and Production Galleries, and in the community at large;
- Delivered 27 workshops and welcomed 112 new members

One project I am particularly proud of was the publication of Nour Bishouty's artist book, *731.52 cm of land*, in collaboration with Art Metropole and the Liverpool Biennale. The book extends a body of work first presented at Gallery 44 and on G44 Digital, including a text by Writer-in-Residence, Heather Canlas-Rigg. We launched the publication during Gallery TPW's historic **Palestine All the Time**—a 24-hour program that brought together Palestinian artists, writers, filmmakers, scholars, and activists—supported by an incredible network of over 30 organizations. To me, this collaboration made tangible the kind of movements that are possible when driven by a truly united, values-aligned network of creative people.

Stewardship remained a core responsibility. With core funding from the Canada Council for the Arts, Toronto Arts Council and the Ontario Arts Council, we maintained our commitment to pay CARFAC artist fees and living wages for arts workers. We faced the pressures of increased operating costs across facilities and administration, and met those challenges with adjustments and new strategies, detailed later in this report.

None of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of our staff (Heather, Leila, Maegan, Sameen, Jackson and Paula) and the volunteerism of the board and committees, which together foster a sense of civic engagement among our members, partners and community participants.

As we look toward 2026, we carry the lessons and momentum of the past year with us. Guided by networked collaboration, we are focused on fiscal sustainability and building engaged audiences for all our programming, on a foundational culture of philanthropy. We remain hopeful, determined and deeply committed.

How can you help? Encourage a friend to become a **Community Supporter**. An individual can champion our work for only \$60/year—with the support of many, we can build a base that helps us continue to thrive, and pave the way for future generations of G44.

With gratitude,

Alana Traficante
Executive Director



Nour Bishouty, Zoe Imani Sharpe,
731.52 cm of land book launch

2025 Year in Review



Community

Gallery 44 serves a range of diverse communities, including:



Artists

Artists at all stages in their careers, including local emerging artists, mid-career and established artists working on a national and international scale.



Members

A member-base of 400+ Ontario photographers and lens-based artists (as well as out-of-province members).



Youth

Youth, with emphasis on equity-seeking groups throughout the GTA.



Students

Elementary to post-secondary students.



Local audiences

Local, arts-interested audiences that develop & evolve alongside our program offerings.

Values



Mutually
supporting
communities



Collaborating
with artists
professionally



Reflecting changing
demographics
in our artistic
and greater
communities



Deepening
public
engagement
with the arts



Being transparent,
accessible,
responsive &
equitable



m. nourbeSe philip, *Poetry Reading: A Smile Split by the Stars*, photo documentation by Camille Rojas at Gallery 44 (Toronto), 2025

Committee Report

Exhibitions and Public Programs

In 2024-25, Gallery 44 produced four exhibition cycles in the Main Gallery and Vitrines. Fall/winter exhibitions included *Grazing*, a collaborative research initiative of emerging artists Evelyn Austin and Meech Boakye. Using archived family photos, foraged grasses and herbs, raw wool and lullabies, the artists built an atmosphere of comfort within bucolic imagery, organic materials and ambient field recordings. In November, 2023 New Generation Photography Award winner Hannah Doucet presented *Exiting the Castle*, featuring a range of material approaches to film and photography, including textile-based sculpture and installations. The project extended Doucet's ongoing exploration of childhood illness, fantasy and wish fulfillment by returning to her own experience receiving a wish trip to Disney World as a child.

In spring, we debuted the innovative exhibition, *A Smile Split by the Stars*, which functioned as a collaborative narration of m. nourbeSe philip's poem, "Meditations on the Declension of Beauty by the Girl with the Flying Cheek-bones." This experiment, led by scholar and writer Katherine McKittrick and co-produced with the Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Modern Fuel,

Nasrin Himada and Cristian Ordóñez, debuted photographs of the poet's archive, an artist book and sound work with layered recitations by renowned writers, Juliane Okot Bitek, Trish Salah, Cora Gilroy-Ware and Chloé Savoie-Bernard. Public programs to accompany *A Smile Split by the Stars* included a two-part reading group on Sylvia Wynter, a panel discussion, and a poetry reading with m. nourbeSe philip, hosted in partnership with Images Festival. In this packed-house performance, philip's poetry, including new work, reverberated through an exhibition dedicated to her writing, expanding the relationship between text, sound and space.



Atanas Bozdarov, *Proof 31*

In June, *Proof 31*, featured the work of emerging artists Atanas Bozdarov, Geoffrey Lok-Fay Cheung and Kosar Movahedi, spotlighting their dynamic yet divergent practices, selected from a national call that solicited over 100 submissions.

Exhibitions included commissioned writing by Ashley Culver, Yan Wu, Kai Trotz-Motayne, Erica N. Cardwell, Muna Dahir, Paula McLean and Sameen Mahboubi.



Geoffrey Lok-Fay Cheung, Kosar Movahedi, *Proof 31*, documentation by Darren Rigo at Gallery 44 (Toronto), 2025

Throughout the year, the Vitrines featured projects by Jason Lujan, Rachel Beamer, Emily Guitar, Noah Scheinman, Emma Martin and Midyan Samson, exploring various sites of visual research, including family photographs, personal journals and institutional collections.

G44 launched *Field Trip 44*, a new off-site public program that connects exhibitions to the outside world to foster friendship, curiosity and fun—which was shortlisted for the GOG award for Public Program of the Year.



Hannah Doucet, Philip Leonard Ocampo, *Field Trip 44: Fantasy Fair*, photo documentation by Ajeuro Abala, 2024

In January, *Field Trip 44: Fantasy Fair* visited Ontario's largest indoor amusement park, inside Rexdale's Woodbine Mall, to animate Hannah Doucet's *Exiting the Castle*. The event sparked playful exploration, nostalgic wonder and meaningful dialogue, encouraging unexpected connections among participants. In June, *Field Trip 44: Beach Day* coincided with *Proof 31*, which visited Gibraltar Point to experience the evolving landscape over the course of a day, while engaging artist-led activities on topics of interior and exterior spatiality, access, memory and perception.

2025 Artist-in-Residence, Jordan King was incredibly active throughout the year, including: *Untitled Polaroid Series*, an offsite billboard at Queen and Augusta, presented in partnership with CONTACT Photography Festival; *Into The Night: Yonge Street Shorts (1975 - 1978)* a



Hannah Doucet, detail

screening and conversation with filmmaker Janis Cole, presented in partnership with VTape; and *Sleep*, a one-night performance which served as a prelude to *Double Negative*, King's exhibition in the Vitrines. G44 published its third book in the Writer-in-Residence series, *thinking alongside itself*, culminating the research between 2023-24 Writer-in-Residence, Weiwei Chang and 2023-24 Artists-in-Residence, Soft Turns. Together, they engaged in a practice of thinking-in-parallel, resulting in a collection of essays that constellate their common fields of research: ecology, contemporary environmental concerns, human/non-human ethics and their socioeconomic, political and cultural ramifications.



Emily Guitar, *Sex Work is Work*, photo documentation by Darren Rigo at Gallery 44 (Toronto), 2025

2026 Exhibitions

November 28, 2025 – January 31, 2026

Main Gallery | Christian Koun Alborz Oldham
Selections from the Photographic Archive of Kosen Ohtsubo

Vitrines | Jordan King, *Double Negative*

February 13–21, 2026

Main Gallery | *CameraLinks 2025: Everyday Magic*

February 13–March 14, 2026

Vitrines | Aleksandra Blazeovski, *A Mirror That Forgets, A Frame That Spirals*

Verant Richards Award 2025

March 4–14, 2026

Main Gallery | *Salon 44*, Co-Chaired by Solana Cain, Sayem Khan and Maegan Broadhurst

April 2 – May 23, 2026

Main Gallery | Alexis Nanibush, *Babygirl*

Vitrines | Jake Santos, *Cute Paranoias*

June 5 – July 4, 2026

Main Gallery | Zaynab Ghaïs-Mortada, Tommy Keith, Dion Smith-Dokkie, Parumveer Walia, Long Xi Vlessing, *Proof 32*

Vitrines | Immanuel Wood Lynes-Ford, *After They Leave*

July 17–August 1, 2026

Main Gallery | Annual Members' Exhibition

Vitrines | Community partnership with Whippersnapper Gallery



OUTREACH participants from The Remix Project, documentation by Celeste Ovita Cole, 2025

Committee Report

Education and Community Outreach

Gallery 44 continues to offer impactful and engaging educational programs that cater to diverse demographics—from youth to adult learners—in our facilities, in schools and in communities, highlighting the accessibility and creative possibilities of photography.

Adult Learning Workshops

In 2024–2025, over three seasons, Gallery 44’s workshops continued to expand in scope, depth and participation, delivering 27 workshops, including three members-only workshops and one members-only talk, and engaging a total of 219 participants. Of these, 15 workshops sold out, demonstrating the continued demand for accessible and skill-based photographic education. Member participation also remains strong, with 56% of members attending at least one workshop during the season.

Workshop programming included three thematic series: *Capture*, *Curate*, *Connect*, *Light & Layers: Exploring Cyanotype Processes*, and *How to Treat an Image*. Each series encouraged flexible engagement, allowing participants to build upon previous sessions or join individual workshops suited to their learning interests. The consistent popularity of these series underscores the value of structuring programming around cohesive themes that support both emerging and established practitioners.

In response to the growing interest in diverse and critical approaches to photography,



Midyan Samson, *Samson and Yirgalem*, documentation by Darren Rigo, 2025

Gallery 44 continues to expand educational offerings in 2025–2026 with several new initiatives. Our learning programs support Gallery 44’s commitment to accessible, critical, skill-building education that fosters artistic growth, community, and reflect the material and conceptual range of contemporary photographic practice.

OUTREACH

The OUTREACH Program provides immersive photography experiences for youth across Toronto, combining technical skill-building, creative exploration, and collaborative learning. In 2025, the program engaged 25 participants across four partner organizations—2 Spirited People of the 1st Nations, Nia Centre for the Arts, The Remix Project and The 519—concluding with the exhibition *movements*.

Each summer, alongside the culminating OUTREACH exhibition, we partner with a community organization to identify an emerging artist for a solo exhibition in the Vitrines. In 2025, we collaborated with Shoot for Peace to co-present the exhibition, *Samson and Yirgalem* by artist Midyan Samson.

School Programs

In 2025, Gallery 44 re-engaged CameraReach, its digital photography artist-in-the-classroom program, offering in-class instruction for the first time since 2020, at West Hill Public School in Scarborough.

We continue to work with TDSB to address gaps in analogue photography instruction in schools and to expand darkroom-focused programs at Gallery 44 and offsite in community schools. In 2025, we developed a suite of professional development workshops for teachers and launched a consultation service to facilitate the reactivation of darkrooms in city schools. We continue to work with teachers to ensure that G44’s school-based programs are sustainable and aligned with curricular needs.

The CameraLinks exhibition continues to provide an important platform for youth engagement. In 2025, *Hidden Worlds* was particularly successful, showcasing works by 269 students K-12 across the GTA—almost double the submissions received in 2024.



OUTREACH 2025: *movements*, documentation by Darren Rigo, 2025



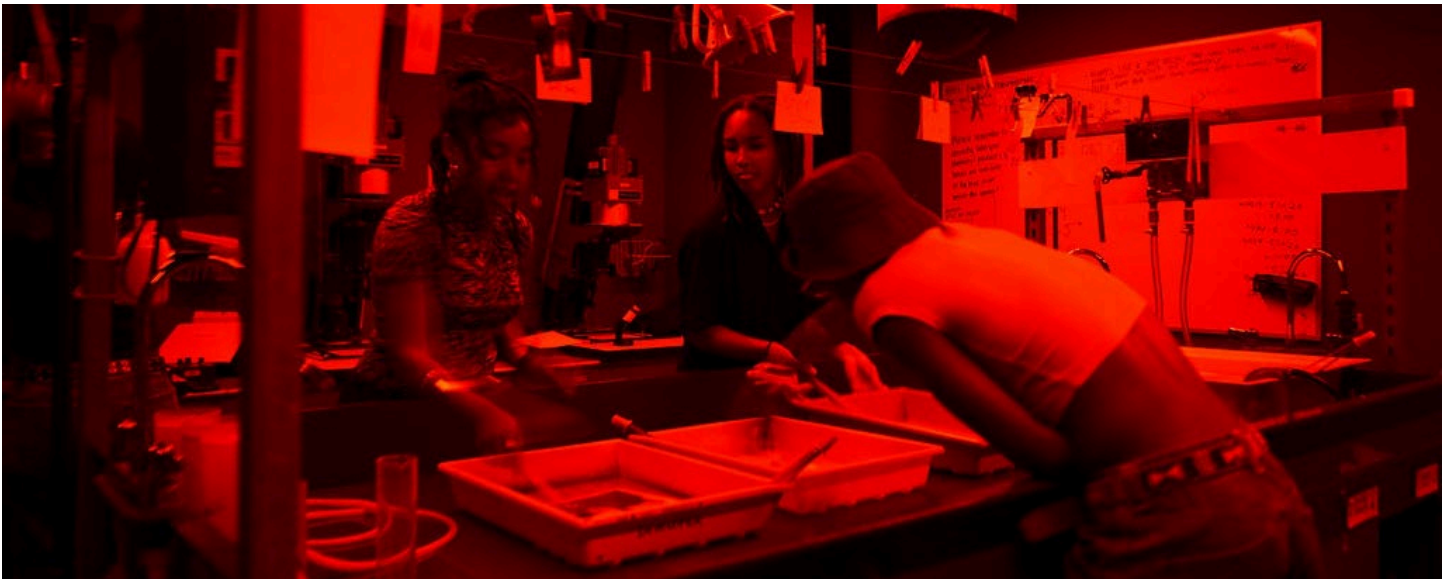
OUTREACH participants from The Remix Project, documentation by Celeste Ovita Cole, 2025

Darkroom Club & Photomagic

Our monthly Darkroom Club, a drop-in program for teens throughout the school year, and Photomagic, our summer camp for teens, led by wonderful instructors Tobi Asmoucha and Jackson Bailey (a former participant), providing consistent and engaging learning experiences for youth aged 13-19.

Educator-in-Residence

In 2026, Gallery 44 will pilot a new Educator-in-Residence program in partnership with York University. The inaugural Educator-in-Residence, Miranda McKee, will develop education programs in connection with our Spring 2026 exhibition featuring Alexis Nanibush, strengthening dialogue between education and exhibitions.



Darkroom facilities are fully equipped to accomadate archival and historical processes.

Committee Report

Membership and Facilities

The role of the Membership and Facilities Committee (MFC) is to create, develop, promote and implement member services, programs and member-based exhibitions according to Gallery 44’s mandate. Reach us at mfc@gallery44.org.

Membership Growth

Demand for our membership program remained consistently high throughout the year, remaining unchanged from the prior year. We continued our limited intake of around ten new members per month, ensuring that onboarding remained a supportive process for the 112 new members who joined us in 2025.

While we are motivated and grateful for the level of interest, G44 recognizes the importance of balancing growth and the ability to provide a positive and equitable member experience. As such, our approach in 2025 prioritized stability and responsiveness to support both new and existing members effectively while monitoring and assessing long-term sustainability.

Membership growth

AS OF OCT 1 OF EACH YEAR

2022	458
2023	533
2024	520
2025	530

Equipment and Facilities Usage Fees

At the start of the year, the Shooting Studio rental structure changed to 4-hour booking blocks—recommended by the MFC after a cost analysis evaluation—implemented to optimize the number of bookings made in a day.

We replaced a number of aging light modifiers available in our rental equipment. The new softboxes and octaboxes feature a quick-release design, eliminating assembly, saving time and minimizing wear and tear.



Ella Morton in the Members' Gallery



Shooting studio in production facility

In the Teaching Darkroom, a new system was piloted to help eliminate chemical contamination between silver gelatin and alternative process printing. The change was in response to a significant rise in alternative and historical process printing in our facilities. A collection of shared equipment, such as trays, mixing containers and clothespins, is now reserved solely for these processes, including items dedicated to cyanotype printing.

Almanac (Annual Member Show)

Displaying over 140 works, the annual non-juried members' exhibition returned, once again organized by Shaney Hermann and Heather Fulton. Each contributing member chose an image to represent the past year, presenting an array of analog and digital processes.

2026 Exhibitions

Members' Gallery

November 28, 2025 – January 31, 2026
Malik Dieleman

April 2 – May 23, 2026
Molly Steels (Member-in-Residence)

June 5 – July 4, 2026
Ana Šašić

Production Gallery

November 28, 2025 – February 22, 2026
Ethan Eisenberg

March 5 – June 22, 2026
Shared Chemistry, Trans & Gender
Expansive Darkroom Participants

July 17 – September 5, 2026
Low Res Participants

The 2026 Almanac call for submissions opens in April, with the exhibition in July.



Salon 44, photo documentation by Darren Rigo at Gallery 44 (Toronto), 2025

Committee Report

Special Events and Fundraising

Co-Chairs Solana Cain, Sayem Khan and Maegan Broadhurst hosted Gallery 44’s annual fundraising exhibition, *Salon 44*, on March 6–31, 2025. The exhibition included artworks and publications from 25 members and 29 invited artists. The event was well attended and bursting with the community energy that G44 is known for. Sales increased by 15.5% from the previous year—buyers purchased less at the opening reception, accounting for 32% of revenue (usually 60%+) and were more interested in purchasing after the opening, accounting for 68% of revenue (despite the lack of webstore)—with an average price point of artworks sold at \$485.81. Similar to last year, despite large community support and attendance, *Salon 44* remains a difficult fundraising initiative during increasingly financially precarious times.

In a shrinking philanthropic landscape, Gallery 44 and the arts sector at large continue to experience ongoing challenges to diversify revenue streams. Shared challenges affecting our sectoral sustainability include rising operating costs and competitive fundraising efforts. G44 is working toward deeper local collaboration with our ARC peers to envision collective fundraising campaigns and shared strategies, as a foundation for long-term resilience.

Gallery 44's community spirit is a rarity in the arts sector and the heart, soul and strength of the organization. Your support and comradeship play a direct role in maintaining operations and safeguarding the future. The **Pay it Forward Fund** harnesses the spirit of G44's mission to provide and sustain inclusive, accessible and community-forward programs, facilities and services. Based on a reciprocal commitment within the membership to prioritize equitable access to the arts for all, the fund provides responsive support for members during times of financial difficulty. Together, we can sustain meaningful programming and ensure services remain affordable for future generations of artists for years to come. We encourage members to pay it forward anytime throughout the year via **CanadaHelps**.



Beats by juicy (Jocelyn Reynolds)

Another way to support is by attending the opening reception of Salon 44 on Friday, March 6! Support can look like inviting a friend or two to the party, buying a drink, sharing your favourite artwork on socials or, if you have the means, purchasing a publication or artwork. You can also join the Special Events and Fundraising Committee and help host Gallery 44's biggest party of the year. We welcome everyone to join us in celebration of an incredible collection of image-based works.

Thank you to SEFC members Lisa Muzzin, Jill Smith, Zile Lepins and Ariel Thomas for their invaluable collaboration. The SEFC would like to thank the membership for their collective spirit. The dedication of G44's various communities fuels the success of our fundraisers—we could not do it without everyone's participation!



Opening reception for *Salon 44*, photo documentation by Celeste Ovita Coleo at Gallery 44 (Toronto), 2025

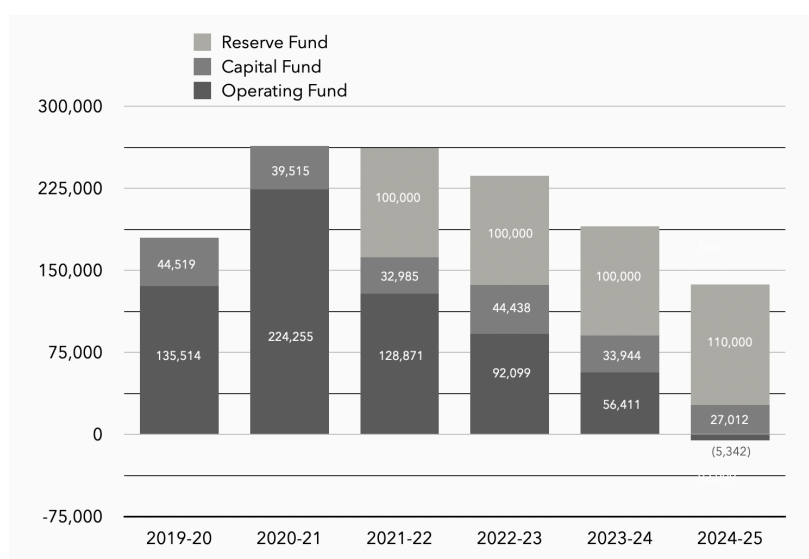
Committee Report

Finance

The Finance Committee works collaboratively with Management to support Gallery 44's financial stability and provide strategic financial recommendations to the Board. The Committee meets annually to review a draft operating budget prepared by the ED and recommend its approval to the Board, and then meets quarterly to review budget-to-actual revenue and expenses, reporting regularly to the Board on financial activities. In 2025, Kate Wivell served as Treasurer for the second year, working alongside committee members David Scriven (Board President), Ariel Thomas (Board Director) and Alana Traficante (Executive Director).

2024-2025 Financial Performance

The 2024-25 fiscal year was more financially challenging for Gallery 44. Total revenue decreased by approximately -\$18,000 compared to the previous year, resulting in a deficiency of revenue over expenses and a net loss of approximately -\$49,000. The Gallery's cash position remains positive, with funds still held in a restricted operating reserve.



The revenue shortfall over the previous year is attributed to two factors:

Earned Revenue:

Category includes: Membership Dues, pay-per-use fees for facilities and equipment, digital printing service, education fees (registration for paid workshops, adults and youth), Interest and other miscellaneous revenues like: publication sales, bar sales, darkroom chemistry and supplies, etc. With varying performance in all these streams, overall the Earned Revenue category underperformed by approximately -\$10,000 compared to the previous year.

Public Sector:

No new project grants were received in 2024–25. In the prior year, we fully recognized the remaining \$10,000 from a Canada Council project grant.

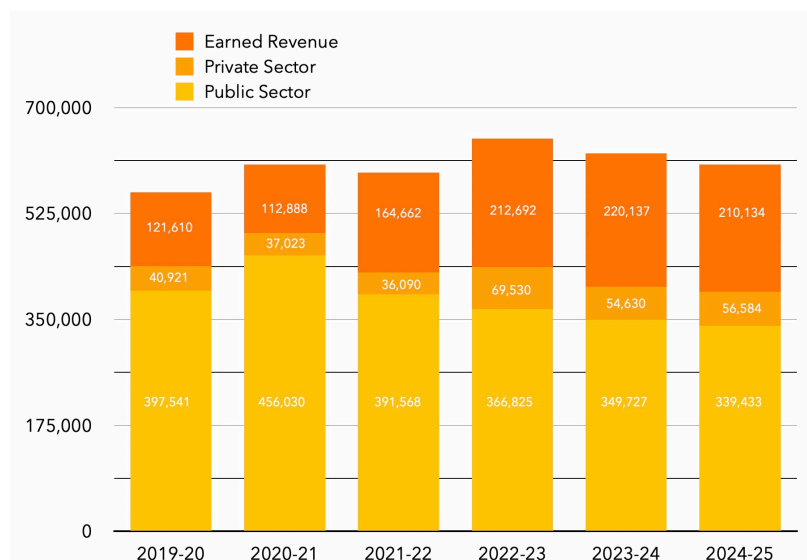
Project grants are not recurring and depend on activities that align with funders' eligibility criteria or strategic priorities. Because these grants are typically tied to specific programming expenses, their overall financial impact is generally revenue neutral.

The year ended with performance to budget as follows:

y/e revenue \$606,151 (93% of budget approved at \$650,000)

y/e expenses \$655,587 (97% of budget; approved at \$675,000)

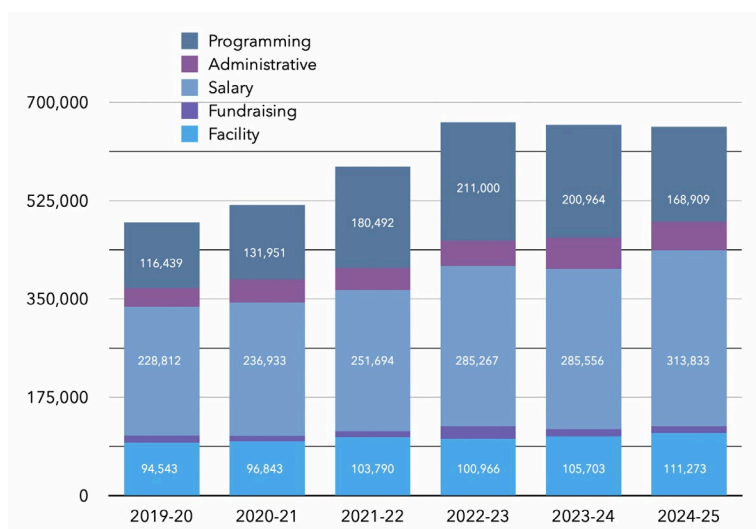
While we had planned for an operating deficit of \$25,000 to be offset by the unrestricted accumulated surplus, various revenue shortfalls resulted in a larger-than-anticipated operating deficit for the year. As a result, the unrestricted accumulated surplus was insufficient to fully absorb the shortfall, and the operating fund now reflects a deficit in the financial statements.



Financial Strategy and Planning

Since the pandemic, operational costs have been rising across multiple areas, including supplies and materials, insurance, rent and increased artist fees. The rising cost of living has posed challenges for many artists and organizations in Toronto, and Gallery 44 has worked to align compensation with increases in the Ontario Living Wage to properly support its employees.

We were pleased to receive increased operating grants from the Toronto Arts Council (effective 2025–26) and the Canada Council for the Arts (effective 2026–27), and we continue to advocate for additional support from these Councils whenever possible. At the same time, we are focused on balancing our budget by reducing administrative costs and increasing both Earned Revenue and Private Sector funding. This includes closely analyzing member fee-for-use services to ensure cost recovery and expanding fundraising efforts, such as the new Community Supporter campaign launched in 2024–25.



Operating Reserve Fund, Investments

In January, the Committee reviewed its investment policy and elected to transfer an additional \$10,000 from the accumulated surplus to the restricted Operating Reserve Fund to meet the policy’s reserve target minimum of 2 months’ expenses. This is reflected as an inter-fund transfer on the Audit Financial Statements. To ensure a beneficial return from the Operating Reserve Fund, the restricted reserve is partially invested in a GIC. Our first, \$50,000 investment came to maturity in August, and we decided to wait for results of a Canada Council Operating Grant application (for a four-year period) before reinvesting. (Results were received in December, with positive news of an increase). At year end, \$25,000 of the total \$110,000 reserve was invested at an interest Rate of 3.15%.

Audit

The Finance Committee oversights the process of an independent audit at the close of each fiscal year. At the 2025 AGM, the membership voted to appoint auditor VMD Professional Corporation for the second year. Working with VMD Professional Corporation was both efficient and thorough and the Audited Financial Statements, September 30 2025, were reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors on January 20, 2025. The statements are presented to members as an appendix to this report. Following positive results of this engagement the Board recommends that Members appoint VMD Professional Corporation as Gallery 44’s auditor for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026.

Discover Gallery 44: Toronto's Hub for Contemporary Photography



Press

"Discover Gallery 44: Toronto's Hub for Contemporary Photography." in FORMAT

"Part of doing the work is living it": in conversation with scholar/author Katherine McKittrick." in Public Parking

"A Smile Split by the Stars" with m. nourbeSe philip, Katherine McKittrick, Nasrin Himada, Juliane Okot Bitek, Trish Salah, Cora Gilroy-Ware, Chloé Savoie-Bernard, Yaniya Lee, Sameen Mahboubi, Aaliyah Strachan, Muna Dahir, Cristian Ordóñez, Roya DelSol." in C Magazine

"Go Back in Time to the Hidden World of 1970s Yonge Street with This Showcase of Short Films." in CBC

Testimonial

Throughout our time at G44, we have benefited from the gallery's resources and staff support in various ways, from their in-house printing to curatorial advice. G44's staff are a very energetic, knowledgeable and helpful bunch, composed of very unique individuals with diverse backgrounds and divergent approaches to technical and conceptual problems. We truly appreciate how intimate our relationships have become, how dedicated to their jobs the staff are, and how genuinely enthusiastic they have been in supporting us during this time. With access to such technical advice and feedback, our residency has driven us to push our practice out of our comfort zone into public spaces.

—Soft Turns (Sarah Jane Gorlitz and Wojciech Olejnik), **2023-2024 Artists-in-Residence**



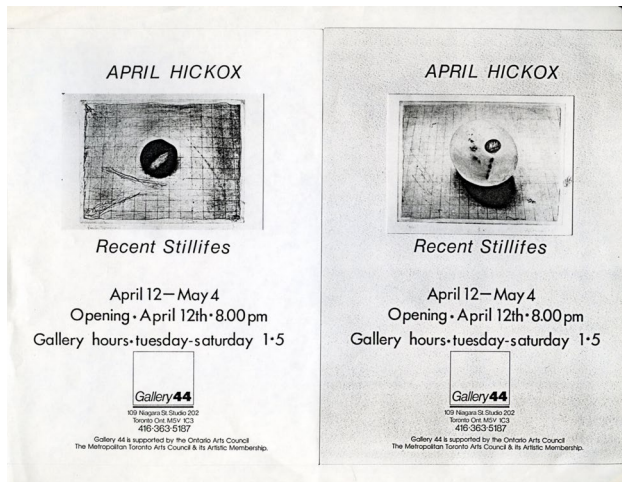
Founder Spotlight: April Hickox

In 2025, the Gallery 44 community joined artists in Toronto and beyond in mourning the loss of April Hickox, who passed away on August 15 after a long battle with cancer. April was Gallery 44's founding director, worked with the Gallery for over eight years, through two moves, and was also a long-time studio tenant at 401 Richmond. In 2020, she remarked that she was most pleased that Gallery 44's OUTREACH and education programs continued, and that programs guided by social and political thought endure within our operating structure and in the way we provide services. She also reminisced on a memorable exhibition, *A Small Dark Room* (1990), the first time Gallery 44 presented projections and installation. It reflected her broad vision of what photography is and how it connects to other forms of creativity, how different facets of photography can interweave with various media.

After her time at Gallery 44, April went on to be a founder of Tenth View Studios and Artscape. Many of our members and friends were fortunate to learn from April as a faculty member at OCAD U. In addition to teaching at OCAD for more than 30 years, April chaired the Photography program from 1998 to 2007. At the time of her passing, she was also a long-term artist-in-resident at the Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts. She was a long-time (if not lifetime) resident of the Toronto Islands.

We are blessed that April's beautiful video work, *Observance* (2022), continues to be on view in the 401 Richmond corridor, just outside our gallery doors. Speaking to her fluid understanding photography, film and video as confluent forms of image and memorial-making, April described the work:

"*Observance* is an ongoing series [exploring] our relationship to time and personal history in the context of our relationships with others, our shared experiences, and our response to the healing properties of nature. *Observance* recalls the AIDS crisis and a personal loss of many friends. As I age, I find myself in a new cycle of awareness and mourning as people who have made an impact on my life are also aging and reflecting on their lives ... Using still life as a metaphor for the ephemerality of time, each photograph and video recalls a person in my life."



Exhibition catalogue from April Hickox's exhibition *Recent Stilllives*

Hickox's family is organizing a Celebration of Life to coincide with the artist's April 24 birthday in 2026 on the Toronto Islands.



Staff

Alana Traficante | Executive Director
Sameen Mahboubi | Curator of Exhibitions
Leila Fatemi | Curator of Education and Community Outreach
Maegan Broadhurst | Head of Communications and Development
Heather Fulton | Head of Membership and Facilities
Jackson Bailey | Operations Assitant
Paula McLean | Operations Assitant (Past)

Technicians

Miora Wong | Digital Print Technician
Benjamin de Boer | Installation Technician
Simon Fuh | Installation Technician (Past)

Facilities Monitors

Brendan George Ko | Digital Facilities Monitor
Jackson Bailey | Darkroom Monitor

Committees

Exhibition Programming

Alana Traficante | Staff
Jessica Thalmann
Sanaz Mazinani | Board Representative
Sameen Mahboubi | Staff
Sonya Filman

Special Events and Fundraising

Jill Smith
Kate Wivell | Board Representative
Lisa Muzzin | Board Representative
Maegan Broadhurst | Staff
Ariel Thomas | Board Representative

Education

Celeste Cole
Christienne Cuevas
Ebti Nabag | Community Member
Eric Chengyang
Leila Fatemi | Staff
Lesia Miga
Marzieh Miri
Noam Hacker
Zile Liepins | Board Representative

Access and Inclusive Action

Alana Traficante | Staff
Fehn Foss
Grace Wang | Board Representative
Heather Canlas Rigg | Community Member
Leila Fatemi | Staff
Macy Siu | Community Member
Philip Leonard Ocampo | Community Member
Sameen Mahboubi | Staff
Sanaz Mazinani | Staff

Membership and Facilities

Chris Lashbrook
Eliza Moore
Grace Wang
Gustavo Jabbaz | Board Representative
Heather Fulton | Staff
Shaney Herrmann

Board of Directors

Ariel Thomas
David Scriven | President
Grace Wang
Kate Wivell | Treasurer
Lisa Muzzin | Secretary
Negar Pooya
Sanaz Mazinani
Zile Liepins

Board Committees

Finance

Alana Traficante
Ariel Thomas
David Scriven
Kate Wivell

Human Resources

Alana Traficante
David Scriven
Kate Wivell
Zile Liepins

Governance and Nominating

David Scriven
Grace Wang
Lisa Muzzin



Lesia Miga, *handheld handmade handoff*, photo documentation by Darren Rigo at Gallery 44 (Toronto), 2024



Ben Dickey, Colby Jones, *Frame of Absence*, photo documentation by Darren Rigo
at Gallery 44 (Toronto), 2025

Thank you to our funders



Canada Council Conseil des arts
for the Arts du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



FUNDED BY
THE CITY OF TORONTO
TORONTO
ARTS _ COUNCIL