



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



61 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, MB
204-943-2935

info@dalnavertmuseum.ca

Our Mission

The Friends of Dalnavert Museum are committed to:



Preserving



Presenting



Developing

Chair's Message



As I reflect on my inaugural year as Board Chair, I am gratified by our resilient response to a changing world. Dalnavert Museum has negotiated the challenges of recent years and adapted to our “new normal” thanks to the dedication, expertise, and hard work of our volunteers and staff, maintaining a vibrant atmosphere at 61 Carlton Street, particularly in our splendid gardens!

The Board's ability to meet in-person this year was a blessing! These gatherings and my opportunities to connect with volunteers and members have enriched my experience. Your knowledge, passion, and contributions - from delivering tours and programs, growing and protecting our collection, and promoting our museum to all who will listen – have been invaluable, and underscore Dalnavert's essence.

This year also marked the first of our five-year strategic plan. The goals we set in motion have resulted in some terrific developments over the year, creating a sense of anticipation for what lies ahead. Among the initiatives worth highlighting is the creation of our "Accessibility Toolkit". This tool empowers visitors to pre-plan their visit and to enhance their Dalnavert journey, guaranteeing a meaningful museum experience for each guest. Outstanding work!

I look forward to the coming year. It will no doubt have triumphs and challenges. But I am confident that whatever comes our way, together we will continue to offer the gift of Dalnavert to all.

I extend heartfelt gratitude to all volunteers, patrons, sponsors, donors, members, The Winnipeg Foundation, City of Winnipeg, Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada. Your choice to support Dalnavert Museum honours our shared appreciation for history. May we continue to be edified by history!

Jennifer Janzen, Chair

Our Staff 2022-23

Mark Traynor, *Executive Director*

Charlene Van Buekenhout, *Director of Programming and Marketing**

Ayda Loewen-Clarke, *Museum Operations and Development Manager***

Pat Scott, *Accountant*

Dyna Sanderson, *Museum Coordinator*

Tyler Biard, *Communications and Community Engagement Assistant*

Drew Mittermayr, *YCW Collections and Curatorial Intern*

Samantha Machado, *YCW Creative Programming and Digital Media Intern*

Our Board 2022-23

Jennifer Janzen, *Chair*

Inés Bonacossa

Penny McMillan, *Past Chair*

Drew Cruikshank

Bruce Wedderburn, *Treasurer***

Vivi Dabee

Vanessa Warne, *Secretary*

Calla Lofvendahl**

Susan Ainley

James Skinner

*stepped down 2022

**stepped down 2023

Executive Director's Message



As your Executive Director, I'm pleased to reflect upon a year that, despite challenges, has seen us advance our mission while expanding our reach within our community.

Despite ongoing pandemic restrictions and the reduction of funding supports, we welcomed over 30% more visitors to Dalnavert Museum compared to last year (p. 7)! This steady increase in visitor engagement attests to our team's dedication and the public's continued interest in our work and the expansion of our offerings.

One of our primary focuses this year has been the expansion and development of our staff capacity. Despite rising labour costs and a limited payroll budget, we introduced some important structural changes during the year. This included the creation of a new permanent role, Operations & Development Manager, and changes to our short-term contract model. Sadly, we also said goodbye to our talented Director of Programming and Marketing, Charlene Van Buekenhout, at the end of 2022. Her contributions to Dalnavert over the years have been significant and will leave a sustained legacy at our museum.

Throughout the year and under the guidance of our Strategic Plan 2022-27, our commitment to providing enriching experiences led us to develop and pilot several exciting new programming and lifelong learning initiatives (pp. 6-7). This work has drawn upon the skills and talents of the students and graduates who enrich our community each year. Thank you to Drew, Samantha and Tyler for their contributions this year, and a special thanks to Dyna Sanderson, a talented historian who has brought an inspiring energy to how we "do history" at Dalnavert.

Even with these successes, it's important to acknowledge the challenges we have faced. The unpredictable operating environment made it difficult to rely on some of our traditional revenue streams (p. 3), and rising operating expenses have put pressure not only on Dalnavert but the wider team of staff and volunteers who keep our doors open to visitors. Thank you to all who have prevailed through these challenges and for your ongoing commitment to our museum. With your dedication and support, we are confident that Dalnavert Museum will continue to thrive and inspire!

Thank you for all that you do.

Mark Traynor, *Executive Director*

Finance Review 2022-23



Executive Summary

On April 7, 2015 the Friends of Dalnavert Museum Inc. (FDM), incorporated under the Manitoba Corporations Act as a not-for-profit organization. Since then the FDM has positioned the Museum with a sustainable and balanced operating plan that includes support from The Winnipeg Foundation, the City of Winnipeg, provincial and federal grants, in addition to earned revenue, donations, sponsorships, memberships, programming and fundraising events.

However, the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Dalnavert's operations remained a factor during this period. This included the continuation of some public health restrictions, a decline in pandemic-related funding supports, and a trading environment that presented opportunities for the organization but that remained, on the whole, unpredictable.

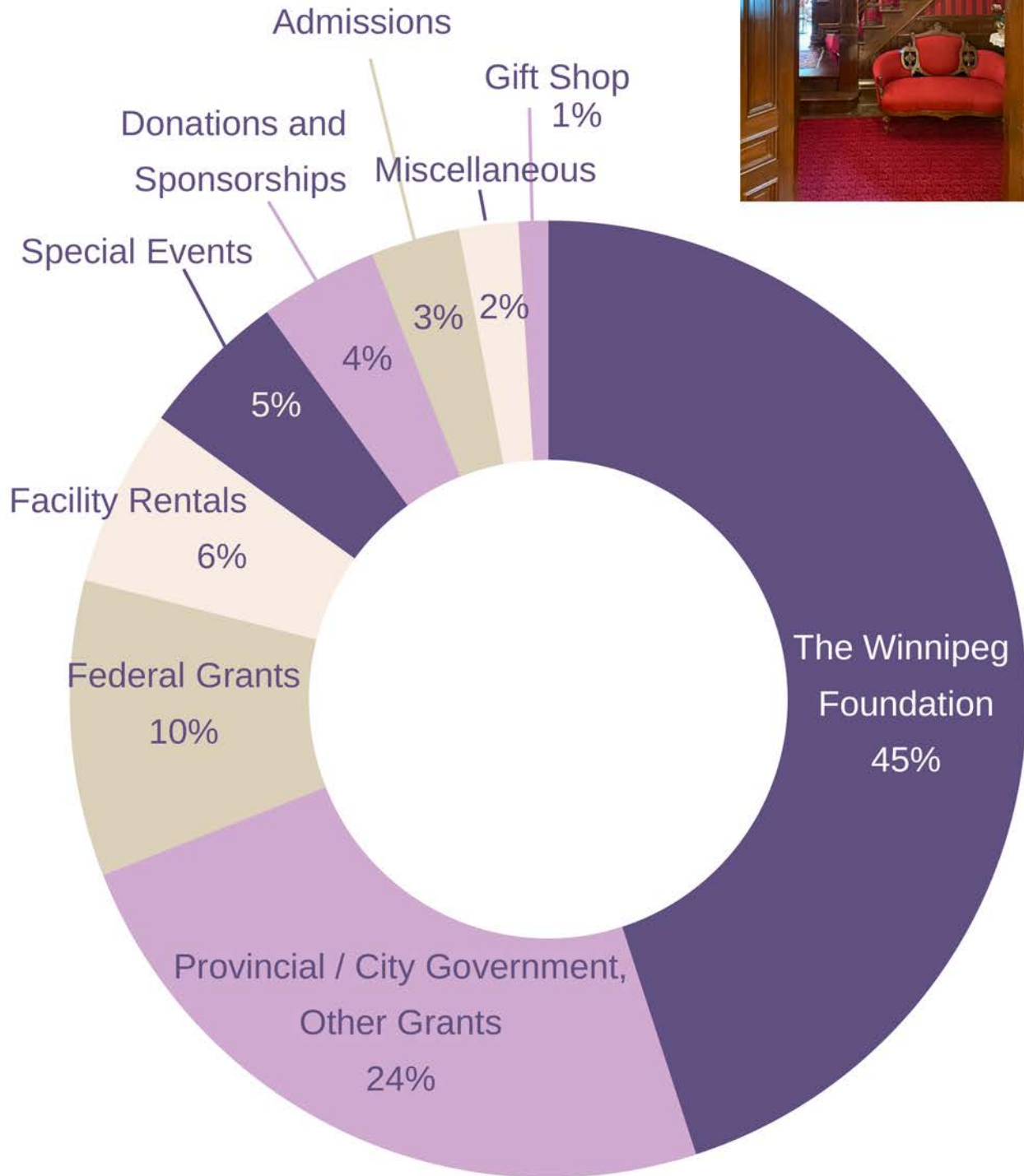
Revenue for the year ending March 31, 2023 reached \$354,321. Importantly, we recorded increases in most areas of earned revenue during the year which is reflective of consistent, steady recovery as well as reflecting the investments and improvements that were made to museum operations and systems in recent years. Of particular note are healthy revenues recorded for general admissions and programming, both of which exceeded budget projections and helped us return to historic norms.

Our operating expenses increased by 15% against the previous year to a total of \$348,948, which reflects the context of rising inflation, supply chain disruptions, and the pressures of a fluctuating labour market. As the trading environment remained unpredictable, we continued to be diligent in managing our overheads and many key areas, such as payroll, were delivered within or under budget. However, the rising cost of labour and materials, as well as rising insurance premiums, pushed our expenditure up in areas like facility maintenance, replacement of aging infrastructure and equipment, and restoration projects.

As a result of these challenges and the deferral of revenue from project-specific funding sources that were extended into the 2022-23 year, FDM recorded a small year-end deficit of \$3,392 after amortization. This deficit is also reflective of the decision to defer a \$10,000 reserve intended to support capacity growth into the 2022-23 as management determined it prudent to carry this reserve forward as payroll costs rise. This was also informed by FDM's ability to absorb the deficit from the \$215,000 surplus generated in the last two years. Additionally, the retention of this fund will support rising payroll costs in 2023-24 as we introduce overdue wage and benefit increases across the organization in response to the ongoing hiring and retention obstacles noted above. Note: FDM's Executive Director has elected to exempt himself from this wage initiative and will continue to forgo increases in support of capacity development at Dalnavert Museum.

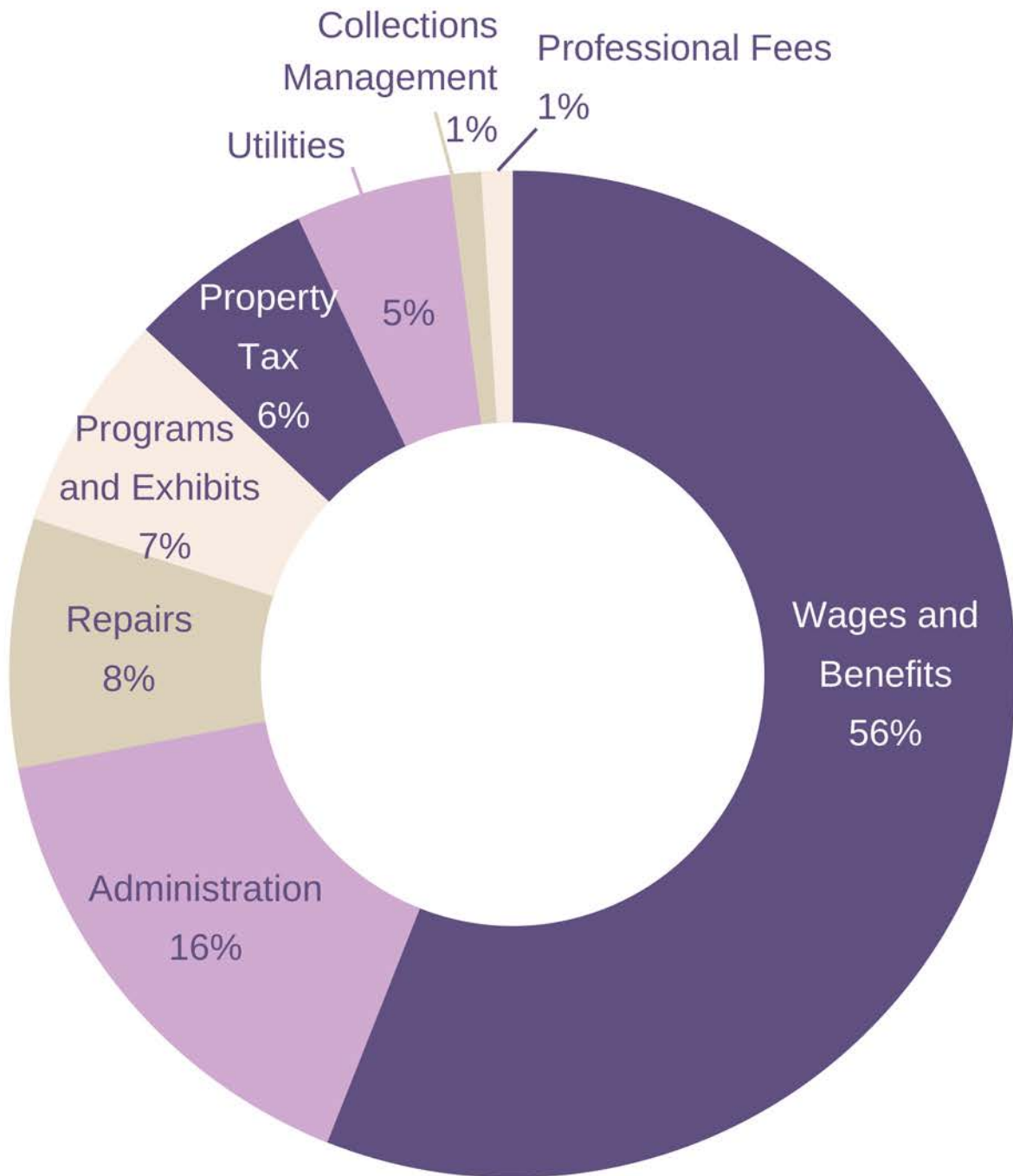
We would like to thank staff and volunteers, along with past and continuing Board members, for their support of Dalnavert Museum through what was another challenging but exciting year!

Revenue





Expenses



Programming Highlights

2022-23 marked the museum's gradual return to 'normal' pre-pandemic operations. In addition to bringing back some of our classic programming in full force, we were excited to welcome visitors to new in-person events like our Halloween 'escape house.' Partnering with local organizations, our programming saw Dalnavert's audience grow to encompass more of Winnipeg's vibrant communities. With special thanks to Charlene Van Buekenhout, our former Director of Programming and Marketing, who was supported by Tyler Biard and Samantha Machado. Check out some of our 2022-23 highlights!



Partnering with ArtsJunktion, the Green Victorians Spring Workshop Series taught mending, paper-making, and dyeing with kitchen scraps. May 2022 saw the post-pandemic return of Doors Open, winning Dalnavert the "Best Architecture" award. Looking beyond the house, we launched the Homeland of the Métis Nation Downtown Winnipeg Walking Tour. Paint 'n' Sip mornings brought guests into the garden to try watercolouring. For Ye Olde Click & Print, Leif Norman used 19th-century processes to create stunning salt print portraits. The veranda was alive with music for Jazz Winnipeg's Garden Parties and the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra's Fiddlers on the Loose!



This Halloween, the Victorian Vampire tour took visitors through the house in honour of Dracula's 125th anniversary. Our new escape house, Escape from Dalnavert, was a hit, continuing on until early November to meet demand. We also offered kid-friendly Haunted House Halloween Tea Parties during the day.

In December, our Victorian Parlour Portraits fundraiser brought guests into the museum for beautiful photos. We enjoyed old favourites like *A Christmas Carol* with Ron Robinson and helped families forge new traditions with our Teddy Bear Tea Parties. The Winnipeg Early Music Society returned to showcase early medieval music and Christmas classics, and, with our Expert Christmas Tours, our knowledgeable community shared insights into holiday traditions. Visitors young and old enjoyed the house decked out in all its festive glory.



In 2023, we launched a new lecture series with our collections registrar, Inés Bonacossa: *The Language of Dalnavert*. Attendees learned about fortune telling, superstition, and beauty practices. We celebrated Valentine's Day with Victorian-inspired crafts and then brought guests on an Irish history tour for Saint Patrick's Day.



In 2022-23, we welcomed **3,001 visitors** to Dalnavert Museum, a 32% increase from the previous year

Visitor Numbers



Collection Highlights

Museum collection rooms are not often thought of as places of wild excitement, but Dalnavert's often is! From exquisite gowns to practical domestic tools, we were honoured to take possession of so many beautiful and fascinating objects this year. Just as each object helps to shed light on what life was like in Winnipeg in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, the provenance of every donation often brings with it a rich story or family history. We treasure these stories as much as the objects themselves, and we are grateful to all who entrusted their pieces to our care. With special thanks to our fabulous Collections Registrar, Inés Bonacossa, who was supported in her work by the equally wonderful Dyna Sanderson and Drew Mittermayr.



Coffee Service Set

This beautiful late 19th-century coffee set is potentially in RS Prussia style. Each piece is white and blue with gold, yellow, and pink floral designs and gold highlights, ornate handles and spouts.

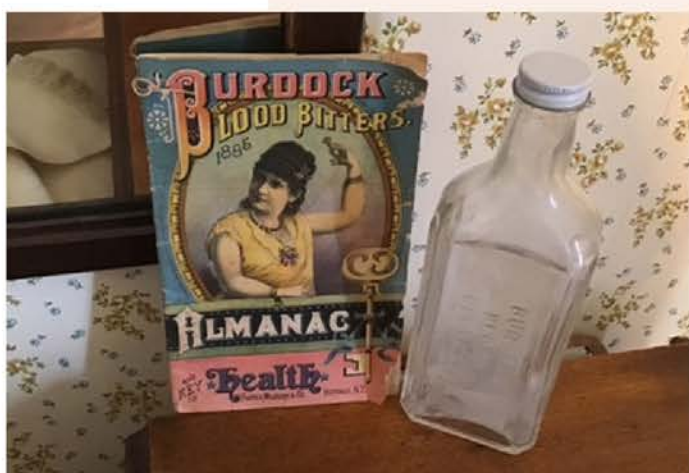
Wedding Dress

An Edwardian cream-coloured silk and satin wedding gown. This dress was created in Winnipeg by Misses Dysart, and worn in 1910.



Charcoal Iron

A brass sad iron with ornate decorations. The base has relief decorations with roses and leaves. The lid has a large sawtooth decoration along each side.



Booklet

A 19th-century American booklet titled "Burdock Blood Bitters." It features information on several home remedies, such as "Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry." It includes 32 pages and a monthly calendar.

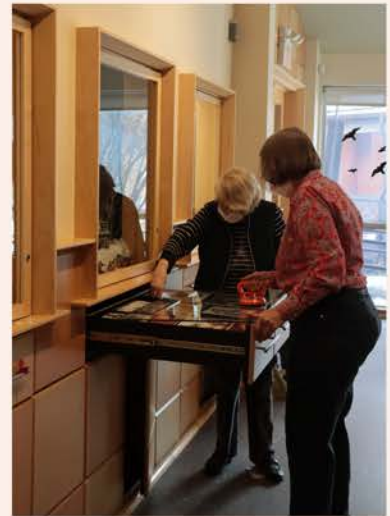
Dressing Gown

An early 20th-century peach-coloured satin dressing gown. The straight sleeves are kimono style. It has a panel that is fastened with five snap buttons, and another directly at the throat. The dress has Asian-inspired embroidery designs in black, gold, and different shades of green.



Thank you to our volunteers!

Dalnavert Museum and Visitors' Centre is only able to flourish with the hard work, knowledge, and care our dedicated volunteer community brings. These individuals go above and beyond to bring the museum to life and ensure sustainable future operations. We would also like to give a special thanks to Calla Lofvendhal and Bruce Wedderburn for volunteering their time with our Board of Directors.



From daily operations and delivering talks to decorating for Christmas and scaring escape room visitors, our volunteers do a little bit of everything

Volunteers contributed over
2,900 hours
of their time this past year

Their work is invaluable —
but at a living wage, that's
worth approximately
\$50,000
per year



Thank you

Dalnavert volunteers are the heart of the museum, greeting visitors and delivering programs



Did you know our volunteers spend over 80 hours each year decorating Dalnavert for Christmas?

Our small but mighty garden team put in over 170 hours beautifying the grounds



Our 2022-2023 Volunteers

Susan Ainley

Michelle Augert

Donna August

Inés Bonacossa

Jean Boyes

Giles Bugailiskis

Brock Capell

Lucy Cristopher

Drew Cruikshank

Vivi Dabee

Michelle Desoudry

Mary Lynn Duckworth

Lorraine Ender

Melodie Eshoo

Jane Fudge

Emily Gartner

Marion Harrison

Jennifer Janzen

Virginia Lockett

Calla Lofvendahl

Paul Longtin

Scott MacKenzie

Arla Marshall

Barb McEwen

Gary McEwen

Douglas McKechnie

Penny McMillan

Susan Moffatt

Val Mollison

Heather Mousseau

Ron Robinson

Stephen Rozniatowski

Deb Riel

Linda Rigaux

Joanne Roache

James Skinner

Eleanor Stardom

Mary Steinhoff

George Tacik

Phillip Veness

Vanessa Warne

Bruce Wedderburn

Tylene Wright



Thank you to our sponsors and partners



