

## Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts



NINA HAGGERTY  
CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION  
OF THE NINA NEWS!

Here are some of  
the features you  
can expect in  
future editions:

In The Gallery

What's New

Featured Artist

Your Questions  
Questions

Did You Know...?

### STAFF LIST

- Lead Artists:  
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# Nina News

April 2005  
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## Welcome to the Nina Haggerty Centre What's it all about?

The Nina Haggerty Centre opened its doors in late January 2003 with one artist, Judy Billard, in the studio alongside Lead Artist Paul Freeman.

A lot has happened since then! Now at least 150 artists have joined the collective, coming to make art in the studio at least one day each week.

The Nina Haggerty Centre is a bright, well-equipped place where artists with developmental disabilities can focus on art making, and be taken seriously as artists.

Artists take responsibility for as much of the art making process as they can. They find their own materials, make all the decisions about their artwork, and ensure that it is safely

stored at the end of the day. While in the studio, artists manage their own time, taking breaks and lunch when they wish. For many, it provides the opportunity to learn to work alongside others who share common interests. This includes learning to share materials, ideas, and limited space. Everyone also does their part to keep the Centre clean and organized.



Judy at work in the studio

This last part (clean and organized) is a big challenge for the Centre as it is a busy place (every week about 300 people use the Centre) and there is no budget for a cleaning service.

Besides the daily studio hours, the Centre is used during the evenings and on weekends by community groups who do everything from making art or crafts to holding meetings or taking Tai Chi.

One third of the Centre is reserved for the on-site Stollery Gallery. Since June 2003 and the Genesis exhibit, the Gallery has hosted 15 exhibitions. Many of these have featured the work of the studio artists, but the Gallery also exhibits the work of other "outsider artists."

## Who was Nina Haggerty?

Nina Haggerty was born in Alberta in 1916, a year after her sister Rita. Early in life both girls contracted polio, and "the sky fell in". The next blow came when their mother, widowed during the Great War, married a man who was an alcoholic, and abusive when drinking. To protect the girls, their mother placed them in an

Institution where they remained for over 50 years.

But there is a happy ending. Nina and Rita were able to achieve their dream, though late in life, of living together once again in their own home. It was during this last decade of her life, living in Edmonton, that Nina was introduced to art. She loved to paint and showed

great talent for it. One can only imagine what she might have been able to contribute through her art had she been given the opportunity earlier in life. It is only fitting that the Centre be named in her honour. Their story is published in a book titled **Someone Like That**, by Curtis Gillespie. Copies are available for purchase through the Centre.



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CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

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## NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

"Creativity lies within all people and  
is best expressed through the arts."

We're on the web!  
[www.ninahaggertyart.ca](http://www.ninahaggertyart.ca)

This is the most common question people have about the Nina Haggerty Centre. Where does the money come from?

For the past two years, all activities at the Centre have been offered at no cost to participants. This includes the studio hours on weekdays, the art nights that are open to community, and those who use the space for special projects and meeting space.

So who pays? The answer to most of that question is GRANTS! The Centre has been fortunate to receive generous grants from the Clifford E. Lee Foundation, Stollery Charitable Foundation, Edmonton Community Foundation, and the Community Initiatives Program. Project grants have also been received through the Human Rights, Citizenship & Multiculturalism Education Fund and the Edmonton Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) Community Board.

The rest of the answer includes donations, sale of art, some smaller grants and most importantly SKILLS Society, It was the SKILLS Board of Directors that made the Centre possible, signing

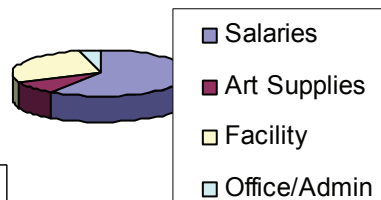
a 5 year lease for the building before any grants were approved. They believed in the concept and took a leap of faith that it would all work out. Since its inception, SKILLS has made significant financial and in-kind contributions, keeping the Centre afloat as it finds its way in the world. However, the vision for the Centre has always been to see it separate from SKILLS and stand alone as an independent society, so this support will soon begin to be phased out.

For the 2005-2006 fiscal year that started April 1, the Centre has commitments for funding to pay for about

87% of projected operating costs (\$270,000).

The final 13% has (about \$35,000) has to be raised through fundraising, sales and donations. About 60% of the money needed for the following year

Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts  
Projected Annual Budget  
2005 - 2006



(2006-2007) has been committed so far.

**So is there enough?** Not really! But we have a good start on it and lots of ideas to pursue. It definitely remains the Centre's biggest challenge.

Your suggestions (and donations) are always welcome!

## Please take time to fill out a survey

For the next few weeks, the Centre is conducting a short survey for artists who are members of the collective (anyone who comes at least one day a week to make art during the day). By completing a survey, you are helping out in several important ways. First of all, it gives us some feedback so we know what you like and what you would like to see changed. It also provides the evaluation component required by the people who fund the Centre. This feedback, and any stories you might be willing to share about the role art or the Centre play in your life, could be very helpful in obtaining or maintaining financial support. Family members or staff of studio artists are encouraged to contribute their perspectives as well. Deadline is **April 25**. Watch the next edition (June 2005) for results. Thank you!

## Where does the money come from? And is there enough?

Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts  
Projected Revenue  
2005 - 2006

