

**HELPING
SHARE
ALBERTA'S
STORIES**

**20
22**

**REPORT
TO THE
COMMUNITY**


FRAMS
FRIENDS OF ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As with the prior fiscal year, 2021-22 continued the pandemic rollercoaster ride of closures and reopenings. We continued to engage our members by partnering with the museum to host a number of virtual Indigenous artists' discussions, a virtual presentation with author Adrianna Davies about her book *From Sojourners to Citizens: Alberta's Italian History* and a virtual show and tell with photographer Joe Chowaniec about his book, *Abandoned Alberta*.

One of our key virtual presentations was *Unsettled*, a roundtable discussion on Indigenous representation in colonial institutions moderated by the Royal Alberta Museum's (RAMs) curator of Indigenous studies, Elaine Alexie. We were thrilled to have such distinguished panelists such as Dr. Paul Gareau from the University of Alberta, Dr. Meranda Roberts from the Field Museum in Chicago and Felicia Garcia from the Indian Art's Research Centre in Sante Fe, New Mexico. This event was well attended with more than 90 audience members from across North America and Australia.

We were proud to help facilitate and bring the *Breathe* exhibit to the museum from July 14 to October 11, 2021. This was an exhibit of handcrafted masks and their unique stories developed by artists from around the world. The exhibit was extremely popular and was the keystone exhibit for RAMs reopening to the public. In September, we held a private tour of the Natural and Human History Galleries, and the *Breathe* exhibit for the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Salma Lakhani. We would like to extend our thanks to Julia Petrov and Alwynne Beaudin from the RAM for leading the tour as well as the RAMs new executive director, Meaghan Patterson, for helping to facilitate the tour.

For the second year we had to put the *Go!* program on hold. This was unfortunate as we did have a number of social agencies reach out to us about the program; however, the capacity restrictions in place at the museum posed logistical challenges for *Go!* Our hope is to relaunch the *Go!* program in the summer of 2022. Our Indigenous Student Museum Internship (ISMI) program continued and we are pleased to announce that Peace Hills Insurance came on board with a four-year partial sponsorship commitment. We had two fantastic interns this year, Sage Wigger joined the archaeology department and Coral Madge joined the Indigenous Studies team.

After a lengthy process and many challenges, FRAMS published its first book, *Alberta Quiltmakers and their Quilts*, written by Lucie Heins, acting curator of Daily Life and Leisure at the RAM. This book was a passion project for Lucie, which she has worked on for six years and we at FRAMS are delighted that we could bring this project to fruition. We launched book sales in January 2022, and worked with Canada Book Distributors to get the book into retail stores. To date, we have sold 697 copies and 284 copies have been placed in various retail outlets.

As we moved into 2022 and saw the release of COVID-19 restrictions, FRAMS decided to test the waters and relaunch our Dining with Friends program. However, we decided to add a little twist and combine the dinner with a book reading from a noted author. As we had already done a virtual presentation with author Adrianna Davies, it was decided we would organize a dinner where Dr. Davies could do selected readings from her book, *From Sojourners to Citizens: Alberta's Italian History*. With the help of Sorrentino's restaurant, we hosted our inaugural Dining with Authors event. The event was a remarkable success with a turnout of 78

people. Our plan is to not only continue on with the Dining with Authors event, but also look at relaunching our Dining with Friends. We hope to have more news on this soon.

As with previous years, our members and donors went above and beyond in our annual giving campaign helping us surpass our targeted total demonstrating the passion, commitment and spirit of generosity that our members and donors share. As we plan for the future, the financial operating stability of the society is paramount. To that end, we have established an endowment with the Edmonton Community Foundation.

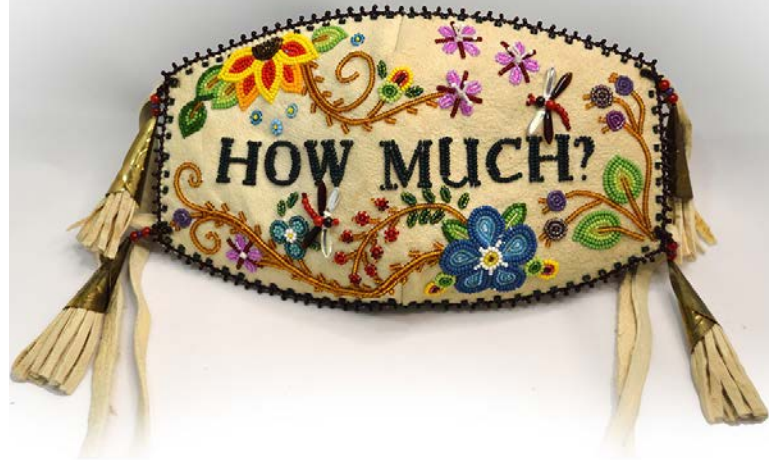
June 28 will be the start of our 40th anniversary year. We are planning a series of events during the coming months that will encompass our fiscal year. We will have more information coming soon, but some events we can share with you include a series of museum back of house tours with a curator and a series of Edmonton heritage field trip tours.

With the relaxing of restrictions we look forward to getting back to some sort of consistent normalcy with our exclusive event planning for our membership.



Ravi Rupnarain
President, FRAMS Board of Directors

Above image: *How Much* by Lisa Shepherd. Mask from *Breathe* exhibit. Photo credit: Nathalie Bertin.



TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society (FRAMS) respectfully acknowledges the province of Alberta is located on treaty six, seven and eight territory, a traditional meeting ground and home for many Indigenous people. The FRAMS office is located on treaty six territory, a traditional and ancestral gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Inuit and many others. We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit who have lived on and cared for these lands for generations. We make this acknowledgement as an act of reconciliation and gratitude to those whose territory we reside on or we are visiting. Acknowledging traditional territory is one part of recognizing and moving beyond colonization and strengthening our relationships. We honour and respect the history, languages, ceremonies and culture of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit who call this territory home.

MESSAGE FROM RAM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I joined the RAM halfway through the fiscal year and within the first two weeks I had my first meeting with Ravi, FRAMS President, and quickly became familiar with the level of passion and investment FRAMS' Board and membership has in the museum. The Board's clear desire to help the museum excel encourages me to look at the opportunities we have to work together in the coming years to ensure RAM is a vibrant and welcoming place for all Albertans.

Once again, over this past year FRAMS has thought creatively about how to reach its membership and amplify some of the great work happening at RAM, particularly in light of the museum's restrained financial situation and periodic closures due to the pandemic. From working with our Indigenous Studies team to partnering with us to pilot a great event with Travel Alberta to continuing to support the ISMI Program, FRAMS' support truly allows us to reach new audiences, foster new relationships, and showcase what the museum has to offer.

I look forward to continuing to work with the FRAMS Board of Directors during their 40th anniversary year to showcase and celebrate the history of the Society's support for the important work we do at RAM. I'm excited by the possibilities that lie in front of us to make new connections and bring new experiences to FRAMS members and Albertans alike as we continue to welcome people back to the museum.

Meaghan Patterson
Executive Director, RAM

FRAMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2021 & 2022)

Ravi Rupnarain, president

Drew Delbaere,
vice-president

Karen Gibson, treasurer
& acting secretary

Michael Gaian, director

Janada Hawthorne, director
(joined Feb 2022)

Renee Ignacio, director
(joined Oct 2021)

Heather Kitteringham,
director

David Lardner, director

Chris Radojewski,
past-president (non-voting)

PAST DIRECTORS

Trisha Carleton, secretary

Haiqa Cheema, secretary

Ray Marshall, director

Allison Read, director

STAFF

Jessica Telford, marketing
& external relationship
coordinator

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2021: THE HIGHLIGHT REEL

BREATHE EXHIBIT

With FRAMS' support, the traveling exhibit *Breathe* was at the RAM from July 14 to October 11, 2021. FRAMS provided financial support for the exhibit and the proceeds of our summer 2021 fundraiser went to the exhibit. Together, our members, donors and friends gifted a total of \$6,816.

From June to October of 2021, we also partnered with Indigenous Studies at RAM on a series of virtual talks featuring Alberta artists in the exhibit and we partnered on a virtual opening for *Breathe* at RAM. You can learn more about the *Breathe* exhibit on our website.

UNSETTLED ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

In July of 2021, we presented a roundtable discussion called *Unsettled: Indigenous Representation in Colonial Institutions*, which explored the role and responsibilities cultural and post-secondary institutions have in the telling of Indigenous peoples' stories.

VISIT FROM LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

On September 27, we were paid a special visit by FRAMS' honorary patron, the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta. Her Honour, the Honourable Salma Lakhani and His Honour, Dr Zaheer Lakhani, explored the RAM and were treated to a tour of the Human History Hall including the *Breathe* exhibit, led by Julia Petrov, acting director of History and curator of Daily Life and Leisure. They were also treated to a tour of the Natural History Hall led by Alwynne Beaudoin, director of Natural History.

WINNING FUNDING FOR GO! PROGRAM

The *Go!* program's pandemic pause continued throughout 2021. However, on November 30, FRAMS was among five local charities that made live pitches to take home Edmonton's NextGen and RBCs Holiday MEAET grand prize to support local charities. After the pitches, the audience members got to vote on the winner. Thanks to Drew Delbaere's awesome pitch, we took home the top \$2,500 prize!

"This donation will enable FRAMS to resume the *Go!* program at a time when it's most needed by the under-served populations the program serves," explained Drew. "This prize will allow us to bring back the *Go!* program in 2022, and provide admission for up to 400 visitors to the Royal Alberta Museum."

INTRODUCTION OF DINING WITH AUTHORS

On March 29, 2022, we joined author and doctor, Adriana A. Davies, who shared highlights and insights from her book *From Sojourners to Citizens: Alberta's Italian History*, while enjoying a specially curated dinner at Sorrentino's Downtown.

When our Dining with Friends programming was paused during the pandemic, we pivoted the idea and presented this Dining with Authors event—combining food and cultural communities with a literary focus. This is a new and exciting page for Dining with Friends, but we still plan to continue offering traditional Dining with Friends events in the future.

INDIGENOUS STUDENT MUSEUM INTERNSHIP (ISMI) PROGRAM

Thanks to a generous four-year funding commitment from Peace Hills Insurance, we are able to continue with our ISMI program. Our two ISMI students in 2021 were Coral Madge and Sage Wiggers. For nearly 25 years now, almost 60 students have completed the program and many have continued on in the museum field.

2020 ISMI PROGRAM STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Our 2020 ISMI program students, Maria Nelson and Skye Haggerty, presented virtual talks in the spring of 2021 on their experiences during their time with the RAM. Maria talked about her Métis identity and archeology and Skye presented on Métis culture and community.

For me, I think that museums have a chance to really impact, not only how people see themselves, but also how people see them. Because they have a chance to work with communities and to tell the stories how they're meant to be told. Because, when I can go into a museum and see all of the things that my people have done and know that their stories are being told properly, it really empowers me to feel pride in who I am.

– Maria Nelson

ABOUT OUR 2021 ISMI STUDENTS

Coral Madge is a Two Spirit Deh'cho Dene and Woodland Cree artist with Métis ancestry. They recently graduated with honours from Portage College with an Aboriginal Arts and Culture certificate and an Artisan Entrepreneurship Diploma. Coral's passion for Indigenous arts and artifacts is generational and started with their great grandmother and past Dene and Cree artist Emily Villeneuve. As a Two Spirit artist, they uphold their responsibility to their community by teaching the traditional art forms from Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 lands, including how to make moccasin patterns, and passing them on to other community members and the next generation. They know that when we do what our ancestors did, it creates connection and a path for generational healing.

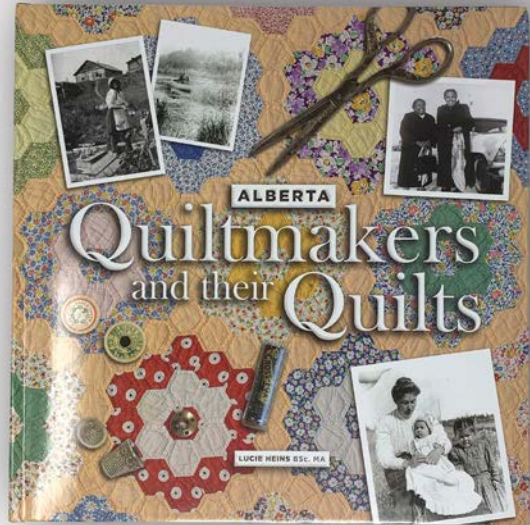
Sage Wiggers is from the Saddle Lake Cree Nation and now lives in Edmonton. He recently completed his third year in the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta from which, eventually, he plans on moving into the field of archaeology. Sage hopes to work with First Nations communities across Canada through archaeological projects to play an important role in bridging an understanding between Indigenous culture with non-Indigenous peoples.

2021-22 in review

ALBERTA QUILTMAKERS AND THEIR QUILTS BOOK RELEASE

After years in the making, pre-sales opened on November 4, 2021, for Lucie Heins' book, *Alberta Quilmakers and their Quilts*. 250 copies of the book were ordered as pre-sales from our online shop, coming from every corner of the province and beyond, including British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. The book became widely available upon its January 27, 2022 release date.

This book is the result of more than six years of scholarly research dedicated to the history of Alberta quilts and the people who created them, and is an important contribution to the history of quilts in not only Alberta, but Canada. From the fascinating stories of quilts made by Alberta's black and white settlers, Francophone communities, Metis, and Indigenous communities, to the contributions quiltmakers have made toward rural community building and Canada's wartime efforts, these are the often untold stories of Alberta's proud heritage.



VIRTUAL BOOK LAUNCH AND BED-TURNING WITH LUCIE

On Thursday, March 3, 2022, we celebrated the release of the book with a special conversation with Lucie, followed by a live audience question and answer period.

During the last weekend of March, we brought a quilt bed-turning event to the museum—as we saw the return of our Talk & Tours series. Wondering what a bed-turning is? Historically, quilt bed-turnings were much-anticipated social events. Quilters would bring their finished works to a social gathering hosted at a quilter's home where the quilts were placed on a bed, one on top of the other. The top quilt would be discussed by the group, then folded down to reveal the next quilt and so on. During our event, Lucie shared the stories of a number of quilts from the RAM collection vault in a bed-turning manner.



Attendees viewing a historic quilt at the March 2022 bed-turning event with Lucie Heins. Photo credit: Peggi Ferguson-Pell

BUILDING A BRIGHT TOMORROW

As FRAMS nears its 40th year, our board has taken an important step in creating a stable future for our Society. In 2022, FRAMS partnered with the Edmonton Community Foundation to create The Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society Fund. This new fund is to maintain operational stability for FRAMS for years to come.

By contributing, you help us continue our work serving as a dynamic link between the museum and the community through programs and events.

ADD TO THE FUND

frams.ca/endowment

YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

\$34,333 in donations made by our members and friends, visit frams.ca/support for a listing of donors

156 active FRAMS members as of March 31, 2022

697 copies sold of *Alberta Quitmakers and their Quilts*

\$26,542 in gross sales of *Alberta Quitmakers and their Quilts*

** Donations, books sold and gross sales are from the period of April 1, 2021 - June 1, 2022*



Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society

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