



AP!RG

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ANNUAL REPORT  
2017/2018



# About Us

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**APIRG (The Alberta Public Interest Research Group) is an incredible resource based at the University of Alberta.**

### **We Support**

We support student and community-based research, education and social activism.

### **We Provide**


We provide the administrative, informational and technological resources to help student working groups to transform social concern into effective action.



# Our Mandate

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**APIRG is a student-run, student-funded, non-profit organization dedicated to research, education, advocacy, and action in the public interest. APIRG exists to provide students with resources to be active citizens.**



**We recognize and respect  
that systems of oppression  
interact in different ways and  
affect each person differently.**

## **Statement of Values**

APIRG considers an equitable environment to be a part of positive social change.

We acknowledge that social change is achievable and see social awareness as a valuable facet of the public interest. We see anti-oppression as a process that acknowledges the existence of systemic oppression (including, but not limited to, racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, and ableism).

Through practices and policies, we seek to actively identify, challenge and address oppression wherever it exists, in all its various forms, and to actively encourage opportunities for social awareness and change. Further, we recognize and respect that systems of oppression interact in different ways and affect each person differently.

## Staff

This year, we welcomed **Shima Robinson** to the Working Group & Programming Coordinator position in February 2017.

**Kyla Pascal** worked as APIRG's Office Coordinator and **Laura Kruse** as Outreach Coordinator.

We also thank **Thomas Trombetta** (Working Group Coordinator) and **Evan MacDonald** (Chief Returning Officer) for their hard work at APIRG in 2017/2018.

## 2017/2018

### Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors consists of up to 9 elected undergraduate positions, and up to 2 continuity appointments. If elected positions are not filled, the Board may choose to appoint community members to fill the remaining seats.

**Akanksha Bhatnagar**

**Haley Ehl**

**Meerna Rachid**

**Jonah Dunch**

**Simone Halliday-Shaw**

**John N Hussein**

**Nathan Spasiuk**

**Ethan Dorward**

**Nathan Sunday**  
(Students' Union Representative)



**Thank you to these fantastic  
people for their hard work and  
dedication to APIRG!**



# Year in Review

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## Workshops & Popular Education

**The APIRG staff offer free workshops on anti-oppression, consensus-based decision-making, and other topics tailored to group needs.**

In 2017/2018, we facilitated for over 400 participants for groups such as **The University of Alberta Students' Union, Residence Life, Student Group Services, Eureka, Totally OUTright, and The Women's Law Forum.**

We were invited to deliver keynotes and presentations for **The Inclusive Health Conference** and the **Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations.**



## Events & Programming

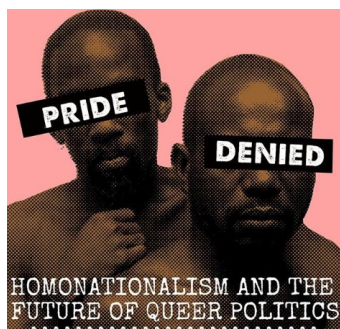


### AWOL

*A Week of Liberation*

September 11th - 15th, 2017

In collaboration with the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services, we hosted the First Annual AWOL (A Week of Liberation)! 18 events which took place over a week, including documentary screenings, a decolonial campus tour, academic talks, a block party, and much more!

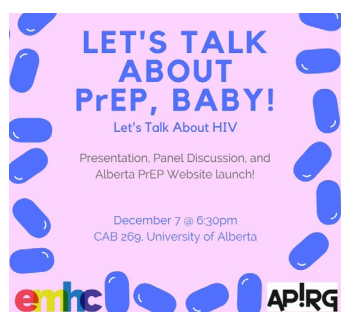


### Pride Denied

*Homonationalism and the Future of Queer Politics*

October 24th, 2017

In collaboration with the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services, The Faculty of Native Studies, and EDI (Equity Diversity & Inclusion) at UAlberta and APIRG, presented a screening of the documentary *Pride Denied* with a panel featuring the director, Kami Chisholm.



### Let's Talk about PrEP!

January 30th, 2018

APIRG and the Edmonton Men's Health Collective presented an informational workshop and panel discussion on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis. During the event, there was an introductory presentation on what PrEP is and how it works to decrease the risk of HIV Infection by 90% or more, launched EMHC's PrEP website, and explored complexities around PrEP use and distribution with a panel discussion featuring health care providers, and people who take PrEP.

## Events & Programming

*...continued*



### Daniel Arizola:

*Activism*

February 1, 2018

In collaboration with International Week at the University of Alberta, we brought artist and activist Daniel Arizola to share his knowledge with the UAlberta community. Daniel Arizola is an artist and activist utilizing art to debunk stereotypes about and raise awareness of important issues in the LGBTQ community through his art project, No Soy Tu Chiste (or in English, I'm Not A Joke). It was the first viral campaign against homophobia in Venezuela and the 50 posters he created for the initiative were translated into 20 different languages. The series features striking and evocative illustrations combined with powerful and resonant messages that address complex issues like gender identity, abuse, civil rights and discrimination.



### Intersections of Queer Symposium

March 16th, 2018

Each year, APIRG teams up with our friends at the Landing to present the Intersections of Queer Symposium, a day of workshops and panels creating spaces for critical engagement with the complexities of LGBTQ+ experiences, bodies, identities and communities. Our workshops featured speakers on rad narratives, faith and spirituality, an all-body movement workshop, discussions on language, and Indigenous perspectives on burlesque.

## Event/Project/ Research Funding

**The Event/Project/  
Research Funding  
line received 30  
applications in  
2017/2018 and funded  
16 events, projects,  
and research initiatives  
up to \$2000 each.**

## Fall 2017

Theatre YES' Gravity

Imagination Miscellany

Native Studies Students'  
Association Film Screening  
& Filmmaking Workshop

RARICA Now! "A Long Road to  
Peace" Documentary Production  
& Screening

Shades of Colour: QTPOC Group

Somali Women's Empowerment  
Support Group

## Winter 2018

Birth of a Family Documentary  
Screening

Black History Month Concert

Black Women United YEG

Congolese Society

CRIPSiE's Pajama Jam

GROW (Gradual Rising of Women)  
Speaker Series

The Muslim Students' Association's  
Islam Awareness Week

Victoria Guzman, Latinx Art

Queerflex for Young Adults

YEG The Come Up Melanin  
Narratives III

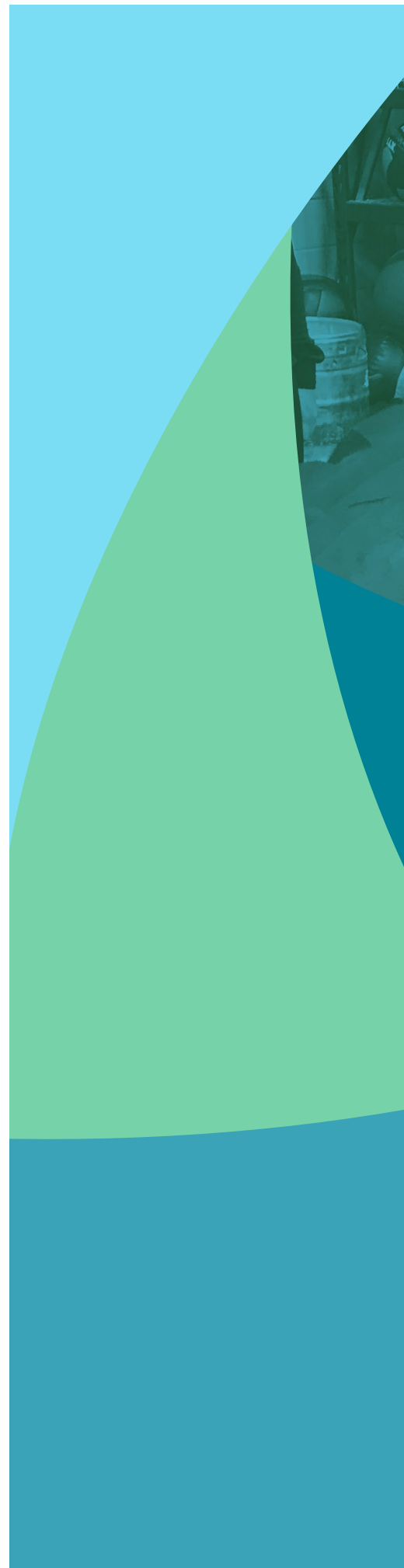
## Event/Project/Research Grant Recipient Highlights

### QUEERFLEX

**QUEERFLEX is Canada's first non-profit gym centred on creating safer space for queer, trans, and non-binary people in the fitness world through personal training, public education and direct advocacy.**

**QUEERFLEX is about addressing fitness accessibility** - physical, mental, emotional, and financial. They are about honouring the intersections of identity and trauma that exist in our LGBTQIA2S+ communities, and is a tool in becoming stronger and more sustainable, individually and together, so we can keep doing the work we need to thrive.

Queerflex teamed up with the Alberta Health Services Young Adult Program to create a new fitness program to optimize positive mental health and wellness for LGBTQ2S+ young adults (under 25) who struggle with mental health and addiction.







**“I loved so much of it. I think the balance of discussion and exercise was awesome. But for me, my favourite part was the times we actually exercised because although it often brought up intense emotions I felt safe, not judged, and accepted while feeling what I was feeling in the moment.”**

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**“[I learned that] I don’t have to be at a certain place physically or mentally in order to love myself or to allow myself to be loved.”**

## YEGTheComeUp

### Melanin Narratives III

**Existing since September of 2013, the youth collective of the Africa Centre seeks to encourage individual and collective empowerment from within our communities.**



Their projects, events, and overall program are led by young people of African and Caribbean backgrounds, aged 15 - 30. Their vision aims to **establish an African and Caribbean youth collective**, which serves as **a support centre for young people** through recognizing various background while working towards breaking systemic barriers and addressing stereotypes.



On Saturday, February 19th, 2018, YEG The Come Up hosted a community screening on the opening weekend of the hotly anticipated Marvel film *Black Panther*. This was a groundbreaking film for its joyful representation of multiple Black narratives in a major blockbuster picture. Black Lives Matter YEG approached the organizers with the hope of raising funds to send 50 Black youth to the screening. They surpassed their fundraising goal in one day and extended their donation to over 100 youth! The *Black Panther* screening, which featured an in-theatre catered meal, was followed by a panel discussion covering topics such as colonization, feminism, history, identity, and media depictions of Africa, and finally an afterparty at the South Common Rec Room. This event was a huge, sold-out success!



**“We wanted our generation to know that they were here long before and exist in positive ways. Through this creation, we want our generation to be encouraged in learning and loving themselves and their histories, be proud and confident, and in result, stand taller.”**

**—The Come Up**



**All My Relations: Community  
Healing Circle and Banquet**

## Microgrant Funding

**This year, APIRG introduced a new type of funding - the microgrant.**

We provide up to \$100 on a rolling basis to small-scale events and projects undertaken exclusively by undergraduate students at the University of Alberta.

### **MICROGRANT FUNDING RECIPIENTS:**

**Poverty on Campus Initiative:  
Hygiene & Menstrual Product Drive**

**All My Relations: Community  
Healing Circle and Banquet**

**Women's Law Forum Anti-Oppression  
Workshop Catering**

**International Solidarity  
Movement for Palestine**



## Working Groups

**Working Groups are collectives of students and community members who work together on an issue.**

Working Groups may focus on research, events, action, publications, and other diverse activities.

**IN 2017/2018, APIRG SUPPORTED THE FOLLOWING WORKING GROUPS:**

### Future Librarians for Intellectual Freedom

#### Islamic Relief

A community group focused on the offering of education and support to students and community members in accordance with the faith teachings of Islam.

#### Migrante Alberta

A youth group run by Migrante that provides opportunities for education, engagement, and community building in the Philippine community of migrant workers in Edmonton and beyond.

#### African Students Association

A student group of African students at the University of Alberta who organize for community engagement and community building among their membership as well education of the undergraduate student body.

#### Black Lives Matter YEG

Organizes community engagement and events in partnership with other community groups to further the cause of human rights for *all* Black people, especially those of Black Queers.



#### Edmonton Organic Growers' Guild

Grows organic produce in the Edmonton Area in partnership with the University of Alberta, which they distribute, by donation, to Food banks and their membership.

#### LGBTQ+ Newcomer and Refugee

Creates supportive safer community for LGBTQ newcomer and refugee youth in Edmonton.

#### Palestinian Solidarity Network

Educates and advocates for the rights and liberty of Palestinians.

#### Somali Students' Association

A student group that focuses on community building and engagement of Somali students at the University of Alberta.

#### Writing Revolution in Place

A grassroots reading and writing group that collaborates with Humanities 101 at the University of Alberta.

## Working Groups continued...

### **Most notable achievements of our working groups include the following successes:**

LGBTQ Newcomers and Refugees held weekly meetings to create community among Queer newcomers and refugees hosting activities such as: art making; cooking; yoga; movie nights; karaoke; and presentations from community organizations. APIRG assisted with the funding of bus tickets, meals and general activities.

Writing Revolution in Place (WRIP) took a research trip to the Edmonton Waste Management Facility. They organized to prepare food for three months worth of meetings held at the Abbottsfield Recreation Centre. WRIP also hosted a knowledge sharing table at the Humanities 101 Conference in May 2017, displaying research in the form of a slideshow, as well as producing a chapbook and an archive of 8 years worth of their collective writing.

Edmonton Organic Growers Guild (EOGG): governed by a board of directors, EOGG pulled in yet another bountiful harvest using greenhouse space provided by the Devonian Gardens where they grew peppers, tomatillos, leeks, celery, tomatoes, zucchini, and squash.

Palestinian Solidarity Network (PSN) hosted public presentations/workshops with Wata Ghnaim and Feryal Abbasi-Ghnaim on the Palestinian art of tatreez: a style of embroidery practised by Palestinian women as a way of telling and preserving their stories. They also hosted Debbie Hubbard and Dean Reidt to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1917 Balfour Declaration and the International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People. PSN hosted Gaza born Palestinian author and journalist Ramzy Baroud for the Edmonton launch of his book on the people's history of Palestine, *The Last Earth: A Palestinian Story*. They also organized an event with the Political Science Graduate Students' Association and the Imam Hussein Islamic Society. PSN is also a member organization of the BDS Coalition. Active on a range of campaigns in support of the Palestinian-led campaign for boycott divestments and sanctions (BDS) Palestinian human rights, freedom for Palestinian political prisoners, an international-law focused Canadian foreign policy and free speech.

Migrante Youth hosted an event called “Roots, Rhymes and Resistance” which featured education on Philippine history and history of migration, as well as, training, song writing, poetry and theatre workshops. Migrante’s conference on caregivers “Global Migration and Caregivers in Canada” in response to immigration Canada decision to end the Caregiver Program, including a caregiver only caucus. Migrante also hosted “Paint Against Racism”, their first arts project. Participants included students, community members, and migrant workers. Migrante hosted Philippine Indigenous Peoples Solidarity which featured a group of Indigenous people who spoke on the human rights violations committed against the Indigenous peoples including violations committed by the Canadian mining corporations in their ancestral land. Finally, Migrante also produced “The Movement of the People & The People’s Movement” a cultural sharing and report resulting from a Migrante volunteer who went to a cultural immersion

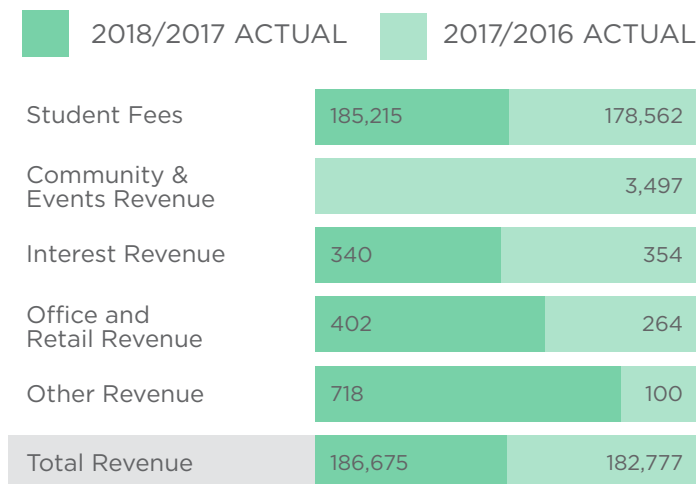
program in the Philippines for four months. Where she spent time with workers peasants and Indigenous communities in Luzon and Mindanao, as well as 3 weeks in Hong Kong with domestic workers planning to come to Canada. It also documented their sharing of experiences of family separation and work in isolation as caregivers in Canada.

# Financial Statement

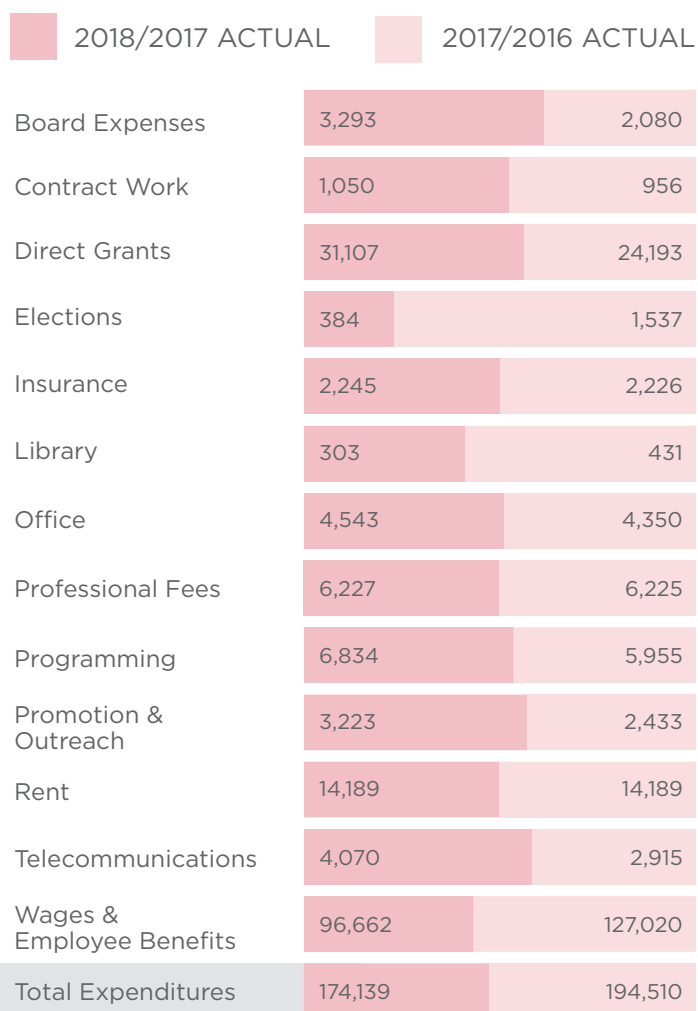
	2017/2018 BUDGET	2018/2017 ACTUAL	2017/2016 ACTUAL
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Student Fees	188,684	185,215	178,562
Community and Events Revenue	100	0	3,497
Interest Revenue	315	340	354
Office and Retail Revenue	500	402	264
Other Revenue	0	718	100
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>189,599</b>	<b>186,675</b>	<b>182,777</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Board Expenses	4,050	3,293	2,080
Contract Work	1,588	1,050	956
Direct Grants	34,500	31,107	24,193
Elections	1,325	384	1,537
Insurance	2,225	2,245	2,226
Library	600	303	431
Office	6,459	4,543	4,350
Professional Fees	6,300	6,227	6,225
Programming	7,000	6,834	5,955
Promotion and Outreach	4,320	3,223	2,433
Rent	14,189	14,189	14,189
Telecommunications	3,946	4,079	2,915
Wages and Employee Benefits	118,871	96,662	127,020
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>205,373</b>	<b>174,139</b>	<b>194,510</b>
<b>EXCESS (LOSS) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>(15,774)</b>	<b>12,536</b>	<b>(11,733)</b>



## 2018/2017 VS 2017/2016 REVENUE BREAKDOWN



## 2017 VS 2018 EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



*As required by our agreement with the Students' Union to have our financial statements audited annually, APIRG had the financial statements audited by Doyle & Company chartered accounting firm. The 2017/2018 audit verified that our financial statements are in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting practices.*

If you have any questions about APIRG's finances that go beyond the scope of this report, you are welcome to make an appointment with APIRG's Financial Portfolio and Office Coordinator.

## Cover Design by Elsa Robinson

The colours of the design were taken from the colours on the Alberta flag - blue, green, gold, red and black. The pink rose is based on the Alberta Wild Rose - the symbol for the province.

The symbol at the top of the image originates from traditional Brazilian culture. It is called the Cuatro Flores (Four Flowers) and it represents the Four Directions; the Four Winds; the Flow of Life. As such it is a symbol of Transformation.

The use of 'four' also resonates with the cultures of the First Peoples of Edmonton who also use four directions and colours in their Medicine Wheel. Selecting a symbol from a different culture also speaks to the cultural diversity that exists in Alberta as well as to the similarities that we all share.

The lines extending from the symbol represent the influence of positive transformation that APIRG brings to the Alberta community.

[elsarobinson.com](http://elsarobinson.com)

