



AP!RG

ANNUAL REPORT
2018/19

About Us



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

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 ACKNOWLEDGE
that social change is
achievable and see social
awareness as a valuable
facet of the public interest.

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

APIRG has three part-time staff positions. This year, we welcomed **Meara Kirwin** Outreach Coordinator position in February 2019. **Kyla Pascal** worked as APIRG's Office Coordinator and **Shima Robinson** as the Working Group and Programming Coordinator.

We also thank **Samantha Wesch** (Chief Returning Officer) for her hard work at APIRG in 2018/2019.

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.

- Haley Ehl**
- Jennifer Ha**
- Simone Halliday-Shaw**
- Meerna Rachid**
- James Wincott**
- John Hussein**
- Justine Sander**
- Quin Buck**
- Dustin McRorie**
- Mpoe Mogale**
(Students' Union Representative)

Thank you to the board and staff for their dedication and leadership this year!

Year in Review

Workshops & Popular Education

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

In 2018/2019, we facilitated for groups such as the **UAlberta Students' Union**, **The Gateway**, the **7th Annual Alberta GSA Conference**, the **UAlberta Sustainability Summit**, **Next Up Edmonton**, **Queer 2 Peer**, and the **UAlberta chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta**.

Events & Programming



A WEEK OF LIBERATION

AWOL

A Week of Liberation
Fall 2018

AWOL (A Week of Liberation) is our fall event series aimed at welcoming students and community to the new school year, and building community, knowledge and power in the public interest. AWOL 2018 featured four incredible events. We co-hosted **The Landing and Friends Welcoming BBQ**, a campus block party where folks braved the rain and danced in the street. The inaugural **Just(ice) for Laughs** comedy night brought a big crowd out for a night of revolutionary joy, with headliners Eman El Hussein and Tamara Appleton. **From the Jump: Origin Stories Remixed** featured three incredible local hip-hop acts - Dream Wakers, Sanderina, & Boiler Room Situation - dreaming up the Afro/Indigenous futurisms our communities need. Lastly, **The Good Fight** training conference brought antifacist and antiracist organizers, activists, scholars and community members together for a full weekend of learning, planning and networking for collective liberation. Huge thanks to the Good Fight organizing collective, and all who made AWOL 2018 such a community success!

AGM and Fall Mixer

October 30th, 2018

Our 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on October 30th at Dewey's campus bar and was followed by a community mixer. Thanks to all who attended!

Events & Programming

...continued

Winter Mixer

January 2019

APIRG staff, board, alumni and community members met up in January 2018 at the Good Earth Coffeehouse for a community building and networking event. APIRG mixers are a long-standing way of building community and continuity among our membership.



Intersections of Queer Symposium

March 9th, 2019

This year's IQS was co-hosted by the Landing, the Community Social Work Team, and APIRG, and was, we think, our best one yet! IQS is a day of workshops and panels creating spaces for critical engagement with the complexities of LGBTQ2S+ experiences, bodies, identities and communities. Our workshops this year featured speakers on BIPOC queer experience, intergenerational LGBTQ2S+ mentorship, Edmonton's drag scene, and more. We also hosted Be Steadwell, a queer singer songwriter and filmmaker from Washington, D.C., for a songwriting workshop and concert.

Event/Project/Research Funding

The Event/Project/Research Funding line received 52 applications in 2018/2019 and funded 27 events, projects, and research initiatives up to \$2000 each.

Fall 2018

Griffin Poetry Reading Extravaganza

Centre for Autism Services
Alberta Student Group:
Annual Autism Symposium

Black and Brown Voices in
Treaty Six Metis Territory
Literary Arts Performance

Arts Based Resilience of
Transmasculine Youth
Research Project

Last Days on Krypton
Comedy Show

Hip Hop In the Park:
The Space Program -
Earth as a Second Language

Arterial
Documentary Project

Salve
Poetry, Hip-hop and Jazz Recording Project

Remix the Ritual
Hip-hop Based Theatre Workshops

Hate Free YEG Campaign

Representation of Blackness
in the Arts
Research-creation Project

Next Up: Sustainable Leadership
in Urgent Times

Migrante: The Right to Exist

Organize BC: Canvassing for Change
Edmonton Training

Winter 2018

Muslim Students' Association:
Salam Week 2019

Underrepresented Genders
in Philosophy: Queer Philosophy Panel

La Connexional: Afro/Latinx
Music Festival

Somali Students' Association:
Blackout Gala

Queer 2 Peer
Queer Youth Peer Support Program
in Collaboration with AHS

4th Annual Edmonton
Natural Hair Show

YEGTheComeUp: Melanin Narratives IV

Beyond Medications
Pharmacist Peer Education Project

Climate Justice Edmonton
Activist Training Series

Imagination Miscellany #11:
"What You Said About Us"

Centre for Autism Services
Alberta Students' Association:
Discovering Autism Conference

The Sort Line Documentary

Exploring Identity Through
Graphic Novels
Queer Muslim Graphic Novel Project

Event/Project/Research Grant Recipient Highlights

The Representation of Blackness in Edmonton's Arts

This research creation project was an incredible demonstration of the power of community- and arts-based collective research.

In the words of lead researcher, University of Alberta undergraduate student, dancer, and multidisciplinary artist and activist Mpoe Mogale, **“the project was an examination of how Black Edmontonian artists find Blackness represented in their artforms as well as in the broader Edmonton art community. The project included a multi-media performance through which the artists involved in the project showcased their responses to the research question of ‘How is Blackness represented in Edmonton’s art community?’**

The artistic responses were used as both data and dissemination of the research project. Through the latter **we were able to relay the findings of the research and engage community members in this dialogue around erasure, misrepresentation, etc.”**

The performance night, April 20th, was community-oriented and pay-what-you-can, following the research team’s commitment to accessibility in the arts. **Performances featured artists Merlin Uwalaka, Lebogang Disele, Raneece Buddan, Brandon Wint and Mpoe Mogale.** Audience conversation followed, providing, “vital proof of the success of [Mogale’s] methodology in channeling the creative expression of the team members and providing an important link to wider audiences, including other arts practitioners, in Edmonton.” (Fiona Nicoll, Co-supervisor). We can’t wait to see what further art and activism is inspired by Mogale’s bold and successful project!



Daliso Mwanza And Kate-Kosinski
Mpoe Mogale



Last Days on Krypton

Last Days on Krypton was a one-person comedy show **created and performed by Mav Adecer, directed and managed by Linh Lu**, presented as part of the 2019 Edmonton Fringe Theatre Festival. The show explored the climate crisis, and the collective and very personal anxiety it produces, through children's cartoons and other pop culture figures. The show was a community effort to create, with Mav testing out the show at friends' houses, community centers and open mic nights for months before the Fringe. The work paid off. The production was a resounding success, bringing a no-name comedian from the "lonely task of crafting jokes within a swirling vortex of racism" to a near full house and a hold-over at the Grindstone. Joy and laughter are critical to surviving climate anxiety and the crisis itself, and Last Days on Krypton delivered.



Blackout

Blackout, a Black History Month Gala, was a collaboration between the **Somali Students' Association (SSA), Nigerian Students Association (NSA), Black Students Association (BSA) and Eritrean and Ethiopian Students Association (EESA)**, with sponsorship from APIRG and the Africa Centre. The event, held on February 22, 2019, featured food, performances from local Black artists, a dance tutorial from La Connexional, a fashion show, and speeches from local Black political candidates running in the upcoming municipal and federal elections. **The gala was an incredible event, offering Black artists and politicians new audiences and support, empowering attendees to engage in politics, art, fashion and community organizing, and allowing the SSA and its partners to build community among Black youth across and beyond University of Alberta campus.**

Microgrant Funding

Through our microgrant funding stream, 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:

AWAKEN Workshop Series at Black Arts Matter festival

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 2018/19, APIRG SUPPORTED THE FOLLOWING WORKING GROUPS:

Black Lives Matter YEG

Working Group Since: Winter 2017

Black Lives Matter – Edmonton & Area is a coalition of Black Edmontonians & allies working for the validity of Black life. We are working to (re)build the Black liberation movement. We are a chapter that is part of the Black Lives Matter movement started in the USA. Our chapter is inclusive and we work hard to make sure everyone has a voice.

Our executives were elected by members/ the community, and all their decisions will be informed by community wishes. They handle the specific focus areas listed below, and the focus areas were also decided by group consensus at a town hall meeting.

Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy – Edmonton

Working Group Since: Fall 2018

Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy is a grassroots network comprised of youth and students who are concerned about the negative impact our drug policies have on individuals and communities. We consider problematic drug use in society primarily a health issue rather than a criminal justice issue, and we advocate for appropriate responses to reduce and prevent harm from drug use. We mobilize our members to participate in the political process at all levels, pushing for sensible policies to achieve a safer and more just future, while combating counterproductive drug policies, particularly those that directly harm young people. CSSDP works alongside other organizations and campaigns to support harm reduction, evidence-based legislation, and drug policy reform on local, national and international levels. (Description taken from the CSSDP website.)

Future Librarians for Intellectual Freedom (FLIF)

Working Group Since: Winter 2011

We are a group of Library and Information Studies students who are interested in promoting intellectual freedom and social responsibility. We believe that issues concerning censorship, freedom of expression, and social justice go hand-in-hand, and hope that through information updates and direct action, we will be able to emphasize the importance of intellectual freedom and social responsibility in the personal and professional lives of our readers and our communities.

Edmonton Organic Growers Guild (EOGG)

Working Group Since: Winter 2010

The Edmonton Organic Grower's Guild (EOGG) loves to grow stuff together. We grow organic produce and encourage learning and eating. We charge no fees and welcome folks from all walks of life.

Eritrean and Ethiopian Students' Association

Working Group Since: Fall 2018

The Eritrean and Ethiopian Students' Association is established for the expressed goal of carrying out activities that create and strengthen the unity of Eritrean and Ethiopian students on campus and equally increase awareness about Eritrea and Ethiopia in the larger Edmonton community. We aim to further progress the community by events promoting education and unifying one another thus, leading to a friendly environment as well as increasing success within our community.

Land Based Research Group

Working Group Since: Winter 2019

The Land Based Research Group is focused on amplifying Indigenous ways of knowing and being by creating art that represents experiences of Indigenous people in Edmonton on the topic of connecting with the land. They are currently working on an art exhibition for Edmonton communities.

Migrante Alberta Youth

Working Group since: Winter 2015

Through RWAC, we receive complaints, issues of migrants and immigrant Filipinos in Alberta. We provide various assistances from filling up forms, filing complaints and helping migrants in distress

EDUCATION and RESEARCH

We have an education module called "Paaralang Migrante" or migrant school.

It includes Know Your Rights training, History of Filipino Migration, Step-by-Step Organizing, Leadership and Collective Building. Our members also have access to UFCW's web based skill courses.

CAMPAIGN and ADVOCACY

We bring public attention to the plight of migrants and precarious workers through different avenues with the aim of getting broad public support and pro-migrant public awareness that has a vision for change.

NETWORK and LOBBYING

We continue to build relationships and broad network of advocates to promote strong support for all migrant workers. Our allies include labour unions, grassroots migrant organizations, women organizations and workers organizations. We also conduct dialogue and seek audience with concerned government agencies (both in Canada and in the Philippines) to discuss migrant policies and legislations.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Through our umbrella organization, we uphold harmonious cooperation among migrant association around the world. Migrante is an active member of the International Migrants Alliance (IMA) as well as the International League of People's Struggles (ILPS).

Palestine Solidarity Network (PSN)

Working Group Since: Fall 2009

The Palestine Solidarity Network is a non-profit, grassroots collective aimed at advocating for and upholding the human rights of Palestinians in the face of ongoing oppression, occupation, racism, and discrimination, both in occupied Palestine and in the diaspora. We maintain groups at both the community level, the Palestine Solidarity Network – Edmonton, and on the University of Alberta campus, the Palestine Solidarity Network – U of A.

**Prairie Youth Radical
Organizing School**
Working Group Since: Winter 2019

The Prairie Youth Radical Organizing School (PYROS) is a coalition of social justice, labour, and faith-based organizations that provides young people on the prairies with the tools to challenge injustice in their schools and communities through collective action. The Queer Scout program hosts an annual summer camp for LGBTQ2S+ youth between the ages of 14-24 in late July, and launched it's cohort leadership program in the Fall of 2018.

Self-Advocacy Federation
Working Group Since: Winter 2019

The Self-Advocacy Federation is an organization comprised of people with disabilities and their allies who get together to discuss the issues facing people with disabilities. We are the leaders of today and tomorrow. We are proud to be who we are. We are an organization that helps people understand their rights and show them how to stand up for themselves.

We speak up for others and support each other, and solve problems. We also get together to talk and learn from each other, as well as from PDD or guest speakers. We help out in our communities by volunteering and working at jobs. We partner with other groups in the community as well. We choose our own allies. We take any chance we can to educate people about people with Disabilities.

We are using APIRG Working Group funding to support our short film-making projects.

Shades of Colour
Working Group Since: Fall 2018

Shades of Colour is a group co-run and facilitated by Rohan, Nicole and Victoria. We host meet-ups (roughly) every two weeks at various locations and cafes around the city for QTBIPOCs (Queer and Trans, Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour) and we ask that this remains a closed space for this community.

We are QTIBPOCs making spaces for other QTIBPOCs who need this safe spaces to breathe. We hope that this will help to fill the gaps within community that affirm our experiences and identity and move towards strengthening healthy multi-generational relationships that are needed.

We strive to provide ongoing support for individuals who are struggling with their experiences and identities, and facilitate open and honest discussions.

Somali Students' Association
Working Group Since: Fall 2016

The SSA hopes to create a productive atmosphere in which Somali students at the University can come together and work towards social advancement within the broader Somali community. We aim to further the progress of Edmonton's Somali community through events that promote both education and unity. We hope that through this work, the Somali community will have a firmer, more solid foundation within Edmonton's broader community that will inevitably lead to progress.



Financial Statement

	2019 BUDGET	2019 ACTUAL	2018 ACTUAL
REVENUE			
Student Fees	185,585	199,932	185,215
Student Fees (Recovery)	-	(10,406)	-
Community and Events Revenue	100	8,370	-
Interest Revenue	315	564	340
Office and Retail Revenue	500	489	402
Other Revenue	-	345	718
TOTAL REVENUE	186,500	199,294	186,75
EXPENDITURES			
Board Expenses	6,100	5,154	3,293
Contract Work	1,587	1,477	1,050
Direct Grants	43,500	27,381	31,107
Elections	1,500	1,112	384
Insurance	2,245	2,272	2,245
Library	600	489	303
Office	7,654	5,901	4,543
Professional Fees	6,300	6,332	6,227
Programming	13,000	19,754	6,834
Promotion and Outreach	5,320	4,732	3,223
Rent	14,189	15,076	14,189
Telecommunications	3,946	3,759	4,079
Wages and Employee Benefits	112,911	110,827	96,662
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	218,852	204,266	174,139
EXCESS (LOSS) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	(32,252)	(4,972)	12,536

	2019 \$	2018 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	164,080	180,772
Accounts Receivable	19,932	-
Prepaid Expenses	2,373	1,365
TOTAL ASSETS	186,385	182,137
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	18,072	10,887
Source Deductions Payable	2,035	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	204,266	174,139
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net Assets	139,201	157,750
Internally Restricted Net Assets	26,987	13,500
TOTAL NET ASSETS	166,278	182,137

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 2018/2019 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.



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