



AP!RG

ANNUAL REPORT
2020/2021



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About APIRG

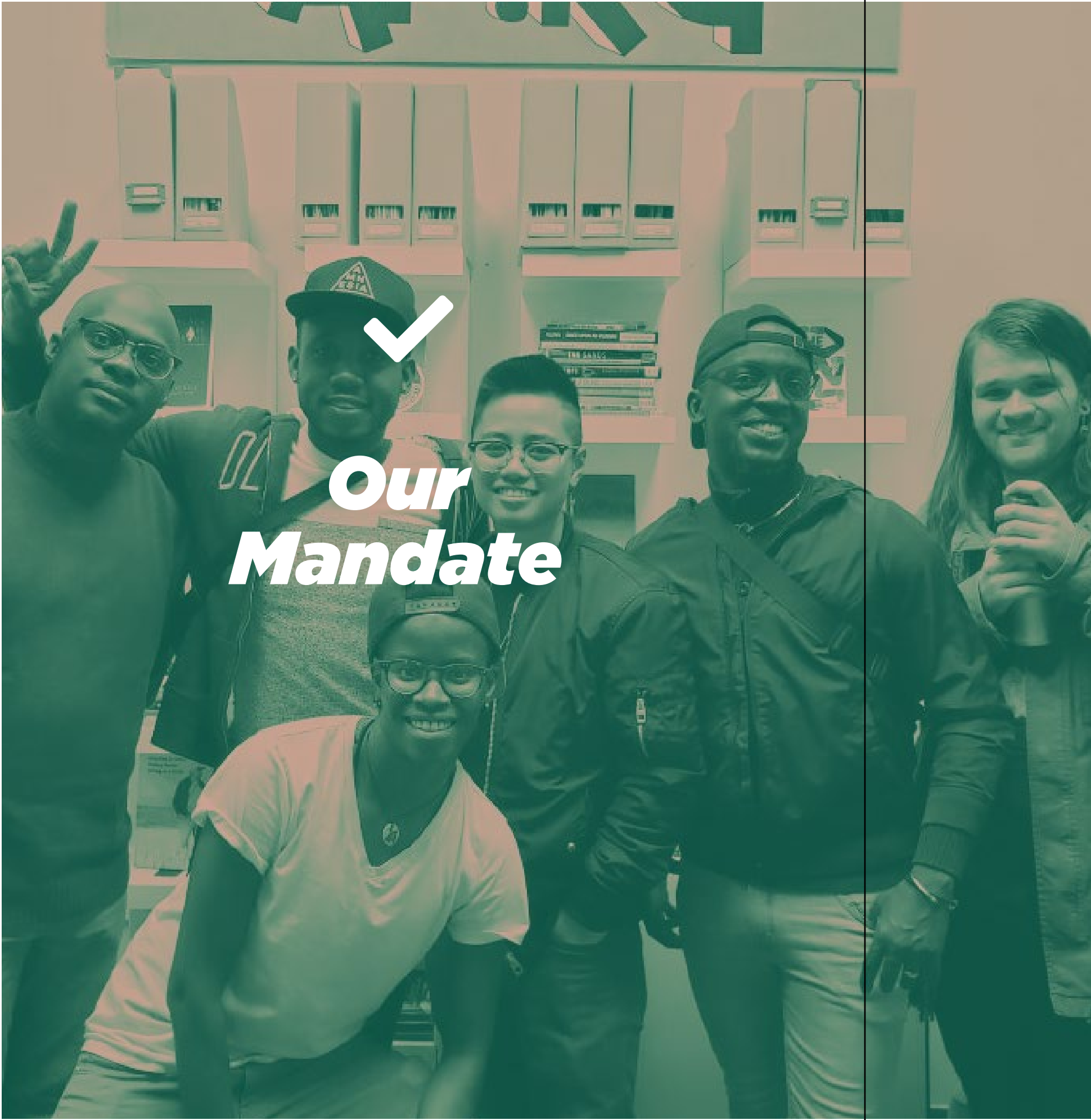
APIRG (The Alberta Public Interest Research Group) is a valuable resource based at the University of Alberta.

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 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.

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.

* **Our Team**

STAFF

APIRG has three part-time staff positions. This year, we welcomed Sarah Alemu to the Outreach Coordinator position in April 2020. Tristan Turner worked as APIRG’s Office Coordinator and Shima Robinson as the Working Group and Programming Coordinator. A warm goodbye and best of luck to Meara Kirwin who left her role as Outreach Coordinator this year!

Our Board of Directors consists of University of Alberta students, alumni, and community members. Board Members are chosen via application based on their demonstrated commitment to consensus-based decision-making, positive social change, and anti-oppression. Board membership is an excellent opportunity for students and young people to develop principled leadership skills and learn to navigate both nonprofit and grassroots organizing spaces.

2020/2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Abigail Isaac
- Darcy Bemister
- Erin O’Neil
- Giovanna Rosal
- Haley Ehl
- Luthfia Friskie
- Merna Rachid
- Parul Singh Kanwar
- Xinxin Zhang
- Simran Dhillon
(Students’ Union Representative)





Year in Review

Projects

APIRG ALMANAC

In 2020-2021 we created the second edition of the APIRG ALMANAC. The ALMANAC is a dayplanner for folks who care about local art, community organizing, and social justice. The project was organized by our volunteer APIRG ALMANAC Creation Collective. The ALMANAC carried on the legacy of the first ALMANAC, which was created by Ryanna Brattlan and Joy Olagoke, and included community resources guides for both on and off campus, creative content from students and local artists, anti-oppressive horoscopes and more! We distributed 200 copies through public pick-up points at community spaces including The Nook Cafe and Intent Coffee, as well as through home delivery and mail.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

This year our volunteer-based Library Committee guided and maintained our library activities. The committee grew to 11 members this year, who actively guided the aspects of the library's activities - including book intake, cataloguing, distribution, library policy and outreach! Additionally, this year the Library Committee started researching and creating policy for the APIRG Archive.

MEME COMMITTEE

Meme Committee Members submit, discuss and vote on memes to post on the APIRG instagram page, deepening their understanding of political issues and digital popular education through a fun and familiar medium!

WORKSHOPS & POPULAR EDUCATION

The APIRG staff offer free workshops on anti-oppression, consensus-based decision-making, accessible event planning and other topics tailored to group needs. In 2020/2021, we facilitated workshops for groups such as UASU Student Group Services, Fringe Theatre Adventures, and the Parkland Institute!



Events

AWOL 2020

AWOL (A Week of Liberation) is our annual fall event series aimed at welcoming students and community to the new school year, and building community, knowledge and power for the futures we want and need. In September 2020 we hosted a mini, virtual AWOL featuring two rad events – Just(ice) for Laughs, our annual comedy show, and Why Reconciliation Died, a talk with Veronica Fuentes about Indigenous and Black land justice and sovereignty movements on the prairies. Thank you to everyone involved!

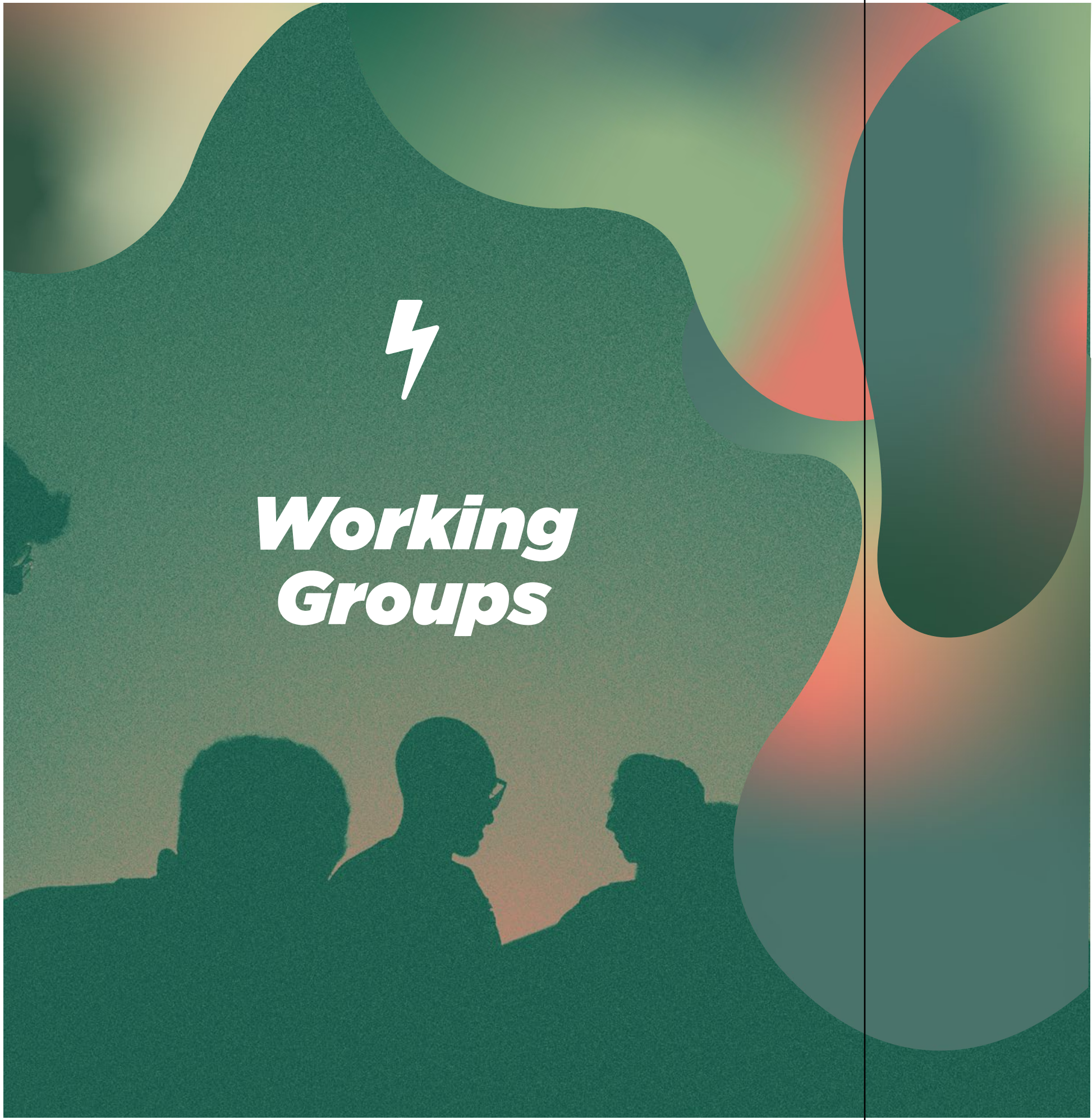
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held online on November 19th, 2020 through Zoom. This was the first time we held the AGM online and it was well attended!

INTERSECTIONS OF QUEER SERIES 2020

In 2020, the annual Intersections of Queer Symposium transformed into the Intersections of Queer Series. Together with the Landing, the Community Social Work Team and Rainbow Alliance for Youth Edmonton, we transformed IQS into its new form of an online workshop series. IQS brings 2SLGBTQ+ communities together in amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton) to share knowledge and build connections through programming that is grounded in accessibility and community needs and desires.

In 2020 we hosted three Intersections of Queer Series events online. In June Gabe Castilloux and Pilar Roqueni kicked off IQS with a fantastic Grant Writing workshop, personalized to projects and needs of attendees. In August Kai Bureau joined IQS to share about the history of the term “Two Spirit” as it relates to Treaty 6 and surrounding areas through the Two Spirit Identities and Resurgence workshop. And in December London Blackwood, Freya Selander, Michelle Kennedy, Jason Garcia, and Cheyenne Mihko Kihêw shared conversation on resilience and creating a sense of radical belonging through the Queer & Fat Voices: Resilience and Radical Belonging panel.



Working Groups are autonomous collectives of U of A students and community members who come to us with their ideas and passion for change.

One of the main focuses of APIRG is to provide funding and support for Working Groups.

They work together on an issue that falls within the APIRG mandate, with a focus on research, events, actions, publications, or other diverse activities. Working Groups represent the diversity of our membership and often introduce people to the organization. Check out our website or the 2020-2021 APIRG ALMANAC for more information on the groups listed below!

In 2020-2021, APIRG supported the following Working Groups:

CANADIAN STUDENTS FOR SENSIBLE DRUG POLICY - EDMONTON

Working Group since Fall 2018

Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy is a grassroots network 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.

EMAIL	INSTAGRAM
edmonton@cssdp.org	@cssdpedmonton

CHINESE DIASPORA SHARING CIRCLES

Working Group since Fall 2019

Chinese Diaspora Sharing Circle is an open and inclusive dialogue for overseas Chinese people to safely share their opinions regarding cultural identity, social issues and their life in Canada. Our group aims to engage and give Chinese youth ready to speak up and talk about the oppression and traumas faced by and to our Chinese community in Canada.

EMAIL
Shawn at tse.shawn@gmail.com

FUTURE LIBRARIANS FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

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.

INDIGENOUS MEDICAL AND DENTAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Working Group since Fall 2019

The Indigenous Medical and Dental Students' Association (IMDSA) is a group of Indigenous students at the University of Alberta in the medical and dental programs from a variety of backgrounds who are passionate about our culture and Indigenous health. The IMDSA was founded in 2018 and is the first of its kind in Canada. All Indigenous medical and dental students accepted to the University of Alberta are automatically members of the IMDSA and hold the responsibilities associated with membership.

Our mission is to represent, encourage, and advocate for future Indigenous health care providers while staying grounded in our traditions and teachings. Through a positive narrative, we will promote an Indigenous presence in health professions through mentorship and support with career transitions.

Working Groups Continued

EDMONTON ORGANIC GROWERS GUILD

Working Group from Winter 2010 – Winter 2019 and since Winter 2021

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Edmonton Organic Growers Guild (EOGG) is a local volunteer-run urban farming initiative. They grow organic produce, encourage learning and eating, and provide food from their harvest to member volunteers and local food banks. We charge no fees and welcome folks from all walks of life.

WEBSITE: eogg.org
EMAIL: edmontonorganic@gmail.com

THE HUE

Working Group since Winter 2020

The Hue is your QTBIPOC+ Community Hub. Building community and advocating for QTBIPOC+ inclusion, accessibility, and safety in Edmonton. We host events and workshops, and maintain a community calendar of events by and for QTBIPOC in Edmonton!

WEBSITE: thehueyeg.com
EMAIL: thehueyeg@gmail.com

FACEBOOK: The Hue YEG
INSTAGRAM: @thehueyeg

THE CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

Working Group since Winter 2021

The Creative Writing Club (CrW) is creating a safe social space and community for student writers at the University of Alberta to explore their shared passion for writing and to uplift student voices. The CrW holds regular meetings, workshops and speaker sessions to promote accountability, learning, and collaboration. The CrW also publish a yearly anthology of stories from across campus.

WEBSITE: thecrw.club
EMAIL: thecrw@ualberta.ca

ROOTUP

Working Group since Winter 2021

RootUp is a group of students in Edmonton committed to bringing cultures together and creating a community that helps newcomers, such as immigrants and refugees, feel at home in a new environment while sharing their unique cultural identities with Edmonton’s mosaic.

WEBSITE: rootup.org
EMAIL: amn1@ualberta.ca

Working Groups Continued

EDMONTON NATURAL HAIR SHOW

Working Group since Winter 2020

The Edmonton Natural Hair Show (ENHS) inspires people of all ages to embrace their natural hair as part of what makes them uniquely beautiful -- a hair type that society often frowns upon. The show builds and strengthens the natural hair community in Edmonton and surrounding areas through events and activities. We provide tools and resources for women, girls, and men to care for their coily kinky curly loose or loc'd hair from businesses and individuals in the industry, such as natural hair specialists, salons, independent hair stylists, and natural hair bloggers/enthusiasts/DIY-ers/ social media influencers. Everyone is welcome to our events and activities regardless of their racial background!

WEBSITE

edmontonnaturalhairshow.com

EMAIL

EdmontonNaturalHairShow@gmail.com

FACEBOOK

Edmonton Natural Hair Show

INSTAGRAM

@edmonton_naturalhairshow

YARD SHARE YEG

Working Group since Winter 2021

Yard Share YEG's program aims to reduce barriers, empower communities, and increase food security through sharing yard space as a unique alternative to community gardens! Yard hosts and gardeners are matched through an online platform and are provided supplies for continuous support. Gardeners grow food in the host's yard while sharing a small portion of their harvest with the host as an exchange. This collaboration provides the opportunity for those who are food insecure to share space in which to grow food!

WEBSITE

yardshareyeg.com

EMAIL

goodwormgardens@gmail.com

FACEBOOK

yardshare.yeg

INSTAGRAM

@yardshareyeg



\$ Funding Recipients

The Event/Project/Research Funding line received 29 applications in 2020/2021 and funded 23 events, projects, and research initiatives up to \$2000 each.

FALL 2020

Getting Involved in Research & Writing
101 Webinars by STEM Fellowship
UAlberta

Black Graduate Students' Association
Conference 2021

Non-binary Albertans Apeak on the
Introduction of X Gender Markers
[research project]

Hungry: A food zine

Evergreen Edmonton: City Community
Clean-Ups

Youreka Edmonton Symposium

GRadio.ca

WINTER 2021

Diverse Perspectives on Gender
Inequality in Healthcare

Beat and Belonging

Virtual Exhibition: A Glance at the
Repercussions

Science FUNweek

No Cops on Campus

La Tandao: A La Connexional
Community Application

Pole Dance & Movement As Somatic
Therapy

History Stonewall Magazine by
RaricaNow

Feminist Health Research Conference
by Medical Herstory

Low Interest Podcast

PIRATE

Jay's Virtual Circus Magic Show

Arodan Journal

Weaving to Reclaim: A Kaffiyah Study
(Research Phase)

Coffee to the People

YEG, Inked

Microgrant Funding Recipients

Through our microgrant funding stream,
we provide up to \$150 on a rolling basis to
small-scale events and projects undertaken
exclusively by undergraduate students at the
University of Alberta.

Radiation Therapy Student's Association
Blood Drive

Radiation Therapy Student's Association
Welcome Packages

Helping Hands For Homeless Youth package

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUNDING RECIPIENTS

In May of 2020, the COVID-19
Emergency Response Funding
stream was launched in response
to the unprecedented impacts of
the pandemic. This grant stream
provided one-time funding to
support direct action, mutual
aid, and advocacy projects led by
students, working groups, and
community members in response
to the COVID-19 pandemic. The
COVID-19 Emergency Response
Funding stream funded 7 events and
projects up to \$3000 each.

Treaty 6 Community Outreach

Linking Arms Against Covid19 by Migrante
Alberta

Fatties of YEG Responds - Covid-19

COVID-19: Ways to be Empowered During
the Pandemic by South Sudanese Youth of
Edmonton

SPECTRA by The Hue

Food Not Bombs Covid Response

Spoken Voices Digital Diaries by UBUNTU
Central Alberta

COVID

APIRG programming and day-to-day operations have continued to change in response to changing circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic. During the 2020-2021 year, we closed our office and moved to remote work, continued holding meetings online, and adopted our programming to online delivery.

Financial Statement

	2021 BUDGET	2021 ACTUAL	2020 ACTUAL
REVENUE			
Student Fees	212,403	204,353	195,173
Student fees (hold-back from 2019-2020)	-	10,406	-
Community and Events Revenue	650	1,400	150
Interest Revenue	504	239	711
Office and Retail Revenue	112	-	112
Other Revenue	1,405	430	1,615
Wage subsidy	2,000	1,544	1,490
TOTAL REVENUE	217,074	218,372	199,251
EXPENDITURES			
Board Expenses	5,925	1,862	4,757
Contract Work	1,750	3,000	1,630
Direct Grants	72,500	40,371	28,098
Insurance	2,694	2,444	2,348
Library	1,480	818	1,836
Office	7,654	2,105	6,966
Professional Fees	6,300	6,405	6,438
Programming	12,000	3,154	12,975
Promotion and Outreach	9,362	4,622	9,056
Rent	10,700	-	14,226
Telecommunications	3,750	1,804	4,644
Wages and Employee Benefits	141,639	146,064	125,609
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	275,754	212,649	218,583
EXCESS (LOSS) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	(58,680)	5,723	(19,332)

	2021 \$	2020 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	209,263	152,547
Accounts Receivable	14,759	13,173
Prepaid Expenses	2,463	2,414
TOTAL ASSETS	226,485	168,134
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	10,150	19,487
Source Deductions Payable	3,666	1,701
SUB-TOTAL	13,816	21,188
Long-term Debt	60,000	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	73,816	21,188
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net Assets	117,399	112,837
Internally Restricted Net Assets	35,270	34,109
TOTAL NET ASSETS	152,669	146,946

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 2020/2021 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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PHONE

(780) 492.0614

WEBSITE

apirg.org

AP!RG

FACEBOOK

[alberta.pirg](https://www.facebook.com/alberta.pirg)

TWITTER

[apirg](https://twitter.com/apirg)

INSTAGRAM

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