

Roedde House Museum 2025 Report



Prepared for 2026 Roedde House Preservation
Society Annual General Meeting
January - December 2025



Roedde House Museum Annual Report

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Mission

The Roedde House Preservation Society is dedicated to the preserving, maintaining and enhancing of the Roedde House Museum and to presenting heritage exhibits and programs reflecting the early history of Vancouver for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Since the Museum's official opening in May, 1990, the Roedde House Preservation Society has run Roedde House as a threefold facility:

- a museum with tours, including a schools program,
- a venue for music and other cultural entertainment,
- a rental facility for small receptions and artistic projects.

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Staff, Board & Volunteers

STAFF

Sara Hepper (Museum Manager), Joyce Cheung (Community Engagement Coordinator), Maria Diego Gordon (Programs and Collections Coordinator), Chase Nelson (Collections & Exhibitions Coordinator Jan-Mar 2025), Robert Carrusca (Programs and Collections Coordinator Mar-Sep 2025).
YCW / CMA Fall/Winter Student Abbie Collett Joseph Sparrow and Megan Gilbert!

BOARD

Alannah Berson, Amanda Alster, Anthony Norfolk, Chelsy Lee, James Gibson, Jemima Calma, Elizabeth Roach, Reham Cojuangco, & Woorim Kim .

INTERNS

UBC iSchool: Megan Gilbert and Joseph Sparrow
VCC Career Awareness Program Students: Oliver and Geo

VOLUNTEERS

45 Active Volunteers (Jan-Dec 2025)

MEMBERS

88 Active Members (Jan-Dec 2025)



Board Chair Message

James Gibson

In 2016, City Council authorised staff to execute an agreement with the Roedde Preservation Society to operate Roedde House as a museum. The terms was for ten years with options to renew for two additional ten-year-terms. Since this first term expires next October, we have given notice to renew for another ten-year term. Each year we are required to develop a maintenance and improvement plan, and we then must raise the necessary funds to carry out the plan. We have done this successfully throughout the term. The Roedde House Preservation Society would like to thank the GMR Foundation for their support, which has allowed us to make purchases from their grant towards badly needed laptops and desk space. This year, the Roedde House was able to install the parlour carpet on the first floor largely from donations. Looking forward into 2026, the dining room carpet will need replacing in a different style since the architectural style of the toom is different than the parlour. We are fortunate to have Anthony, our past-President and Board member, as our interior maintenance and restoration liaison guiding us through these situations. The giftshop in the front entrance has been rearranged and updated. Please check it out. The second-floor collections room exhibit currently holds a display, “Passionate but divergent examples from WWI” (August 2025-April 16, 2026). It features the seven woodcut prints of Käthe Kollwitz’s “Krieg” (War) series. The third display case in which Gustav A. Roedde is prominent, also emphasizes what Vancouver citizens of German origin had to contend with during WWI. Next on the list is Victorian corsets by Melanie for the month of May. Afterwards is “Victorian Sports” (June 3, 2026-September 28, 2026), to align with the 2026 FIFA World Cup from June 11-July 19, 2026. Archivists at the King George Secondary School on Barclay St. will be involved in the FIFA display.



Board Chair Message Continued

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To conclude this discussion about exhibits on the second floor, artist Mildred Valley Thornton (1890-1967) will be showcased for six months afterwards. Thornton championed Indigenous culture for over 50 years with paintings, writings, and lectures. In fact, Thornton acquired at least two Indigenous honorary titles and was an art critic for the Vancouver Sun for 15 years.

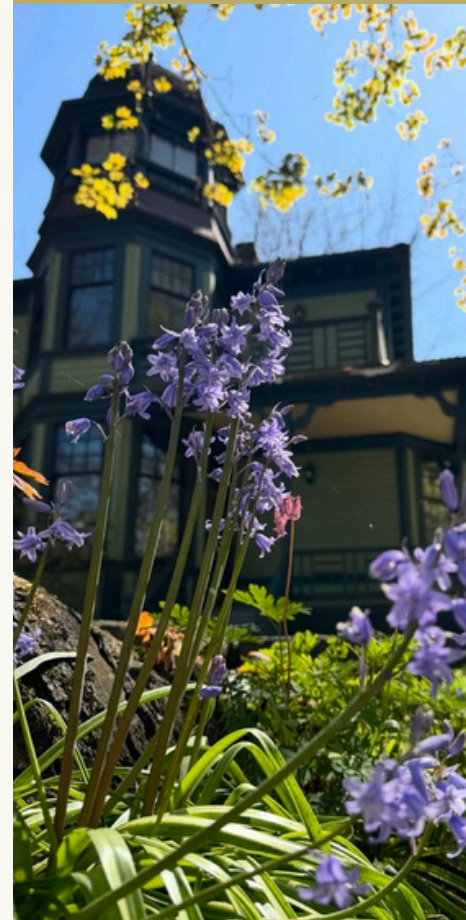
Regarding staff over the last couple of months, Abbie and Maria have added a welcome addition. Going forward and beyond in 2026, I believe the Roedde House Museum has an excellent staff core.

Event highlights closing out 2025 included the annual Tourism Challenge, and in May brought in 3,000 guests alone. Our two December immersive gatherings “Christmas with the Marches” and “A Christmas Carol” were rather successful. We thank volunteers for the many hours they contributed to make the event possible! Volunteers are held in high esteem giving tours to guests, attending events and providing clean-up services, and helping at the admission desk. In terms of two most recent examples of assistance, our table at Vancouver Heritage Foundation Community Fair on February 22, 2026 was staffed with volunteers. In addition, two volunteers and I produced an article on Gustav A. Roedde for the April 2026 edition of *Mitteldeutsches Magazin für Kultur und Zeitgeschichte* (Central German Magazine for Culture and Contemporary History).

In closing, I appreciate all the work done by the Roedde House Museum Board participants, and would welcome suggestions. With deepest thanks to volunteers, Board Members, and Staff.

My official email is: boardchair@roeddehouse.org

Regards,
Jim Gibson



Message from our Manager

Sara Hepper

Going into my seventh year with the museum, I'm proud to share that it continues to thrive as a vibrant hub of activity—an engaged participant in the Arts and Culture community, while remaining a vital heritage resource. This past year, we made progress in fulfilling our society's threefold vision: preserving Roedde House for future generations, connecting with new audiences and community members, and expanding our revenue streams to support the museum's continued growth.

We worked diligently to turn advocacy into action by working with the City to address key maintenance issues and by finalizing a renewed management agreement that ensures the continuation of our preservation efforts. We also explored new cultural programming in an effort to diversify our revenue and broaden our reach.

The highlight of the year, for me, was the opportunity to deepen connections with our community partners, neighbours, local artists and artisans, and fellow Arts and Culture organizations, all while seeing our delightful community of volunteers grow. I'm so grateful for the passion and time our dedicated volunteers contribute- they are truly the backbone of our operations, providing essential support to our staff team, who all work part-time hours. I'm equally thankful for the delightful staff I worked with and continue to work with, including Joyce (going on five years with us), Maria, Chase, Robert, and our interns Megan, Joseph, and Abbie. It never feels like work when I'm spoiled with such lovely company.

Reflecting on how our beloved 133-year-old museum hosted an array of events this last year (concerts, rentals, plays, markets, and more) only emphasizes how community support enables it to continue to thrive through the bustle. So please continue to share our events and initiatives and help us keep up the momentum of 2025 as we move into this next year. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Yours sincerely,
Sara Hepper

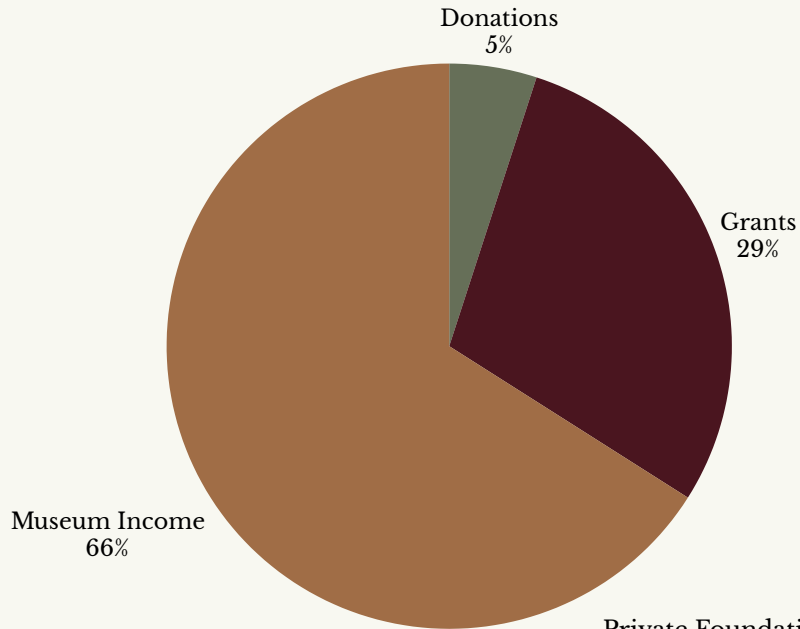
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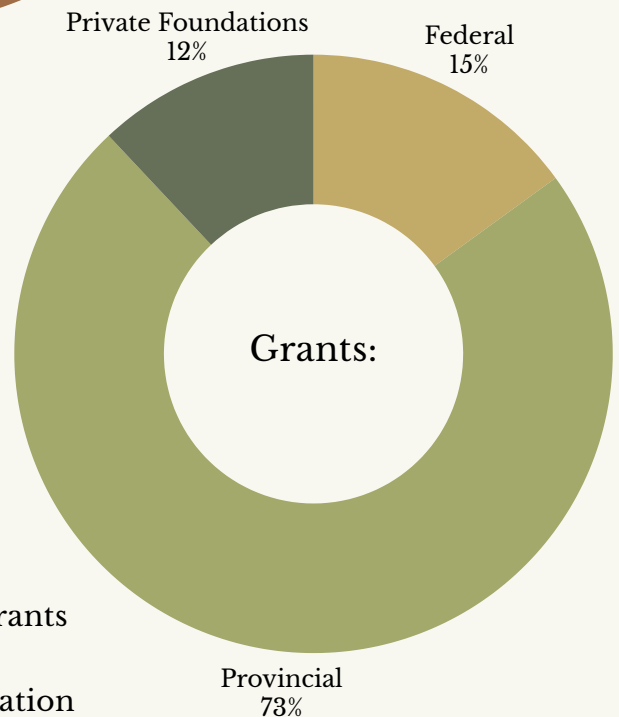


Grants and Donations

On behalf of everyone at the Roedde House Museum, we extend our deepest gratitude to all of our donors and grant providers. Your support is the cornerstone of our existence, enabling us to preserve and share the rich heritage and culture embodied within our walls. Together, we ensure that the legacy of Roedde House continues to inspire and enrich generations to come. Thank you!



Museum Income
66%



With thanks to:

- BC Community Gaming Grants
- The GMR Foundation
- Vancouver Heritage Foundation
- Robert Half
- McGrane Pearson
- Young Canada Works/ Canadian Museums Association
- The many private donors that continue to give and support us, we couldn't do it without you!

Visitor Statistics

In 2025 visitor attendance remained steady with increases from 2024. Special events in December bolstered our numbers for the year as well as participation in the Tourism Challenge. Visitor engagement continues to rise, prompting contemplation of more private tour availability for small groups.

We had **8,175 visitors** to the museum this year (up from 6,767 in 2024) made possible thanks to **2,467 volunteer hours!!**



Rentals

Beyond being an intimate and unique setting for private rentals such as weddings and meetings, the museum continued to be the perfect setting for creative projects, with photoshoots and music videos taking place once again in 2025. In total we had 16 rentals in 2025 (increased from 2024)!

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Programming

We have had another year of excellent and diverse programming including:

- Monthly Jazz concerts
- Curator Talks
- Intersection of Genius: Schoenberg & Kandinsky (concert/presentation)
- Woodblock Printing Workshop with Richard Tetrault
- Vancouver Inter-cultural Orchestra concerts
- “A Hint of Romance” Love Poetry Presentation
- Japanese Incense Ceremony Workshop
- Magic in the Moonlight Market
- “Steeped in time” A Tea History & Chinese Tea Ceremony
- “The Gay (18) Nineties” A Historical Fashion Show
- Strawberry Festival with West End Seniors Network
- Mystic Market
- Movies at the Museum
- Spirits of the Past Ghostly Tours
- WWI Christmas dinner recreation with VanHighlanders
- Book Talk & Tea with Mrs. Claus
- A Very Victorian Christmas Market
- Christmas with the Marches
- An Immersive Christmas Carol





Message from our Community Engagement Coordinator

Joyce Cheung

It has been a transformative 4 years so far for me at Roedde House. We have grown so much as a community since I started in the fall of 2021. Roedde House has been more than just a place of work for me - we have created a vibrant community of history lovers of all ages. I have made many meaningful friendships here and this wonderful little corner of the West End has become a second home for me and many of my volunteers. I'd like to thank everyone who has put so much of their time and dedication into our little museum and made it such a special place. All of this could not be possible without all of our volunteers, donors, and community partners who dedicate their time and resources to support the museum!

In the coming year, we hope to grow our community even more and provide a safe and welcoming space for all who pass our threshold. We hope to see you here in 2026!

Best Wishes,
Joyce Cheung

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School Program

At a glance:

- 292 Students
- 10 schools for 10 tours
- 7 subsidies thanks to McGrane Pearson and private donors
- A revised curriculum to better engage classes

Schools from the Vancouver District and beyond participated, and we are pleased to announce subsidies continue to be available thanks to McGrane Pearson's support.

Thank you to our wonderful School Program Docents for 2025:
Craig Boyle, Judy Finch, Larissa Higgins, Sheila Pepper, Christine Pilgrim, and Susan Stewart



Exhibitions

2025 was a busy year for the Exhibit Committee, as we made space to remember the people we've lost and the recent hardships our communities have gone through. The Exhibit Committee, headed by our interim President Jim, have continued to follow the Roedde House mandate and shown our history the respect, kindness, and compassion everyone deserves.

Exhibits:

In the Parlour:

- January - Continuation of Christmas Cards
- February - Valentine's Cards
- March - International Women's Day
- April - Easter Cards
- May - Continuation of Easter Cards
- June - Leonard James McKay Memorial
- July - Leonard James McKay Memorial
- August - Lapu Lapu Memorial
- September - Back to School
- October - Victorian Horror Novels
- November - Peter Koliwitz Memorial
- December - German Christmas Tradition

The Exhibit Committee would like to thank its members: Jim, Chelsy, Jem, Sophie, Yu-Shan, Juliet, and Ciara for all their hard work and dedication over the past year.



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Restoration & Preservation

The **2025 Maintenance and Improvement Projects** were very successful thanks to the donations we received from our members and a grant from the always supportive GMR Foundation. This enabled us to cover the original flooring in the parlour with a high-grade carpet, protecting the floor from all the wear and tear it was receiving as one of our busiest rooms. Grant funding and donations also enabled us to recarpet the back stairwell, replacing badly worn, threadbare carpeting, as well as protecting the floor in the den with matching carpet. We also had wallpaper touch-ups finished by Victoria Oglinski.

Great efforts were made by our volunteer-led maintenance committee, which took charge to make various much-needed improvements to the museum's displays while deep cleaning rooms. This committee, led by our volunteer Ian Clarke, went above and beyond and made a full reassessment of the exterior and interior of all the house's preservation and restoration needs. This was supplied to the City as part of our reevaluation of our operating agreement.

Planning for 2026 commenced in the fall of 2025, with fundraising commencing in November 2025. Projects do not proceed unless fully funded, and this coming year we continue the quest to protect the original Victorian floors of the house in our next busiest room, the Dining Room.

Thank you to our generous donors who make these restoration and preservation projects possible!



Message from our Programs & Collections Coordinator

Maria Diego Gordon

I was 30 years old when I first had the opportunity to work in a museum and it only took me a week to realize that it was the best job I have ever had. This is how I started the cover letter I sent to Sara last August, hoping to get the Programs and Collections Coordinator job. So much has happened since then: Long hours covered in dust, jazz concerts, movie nights, organization and reorganization of nooks, drawers, and random corners, artifact location, accession form digitization, school tours, immersive theatre plays and, most importantly, beautiful connections that I hope (and know) will grow into great friendships.

I am almost 35 years old now, and the last few months here at Roedde House Museum have only deepened what I experienced that week nearly five years ago: this is the job I was always meant to do. I want to thank all the wonderful volunteers (shout out to my dear school docents), the board members and especially the amazing staff for being the main reason why I feel this way.

Full of gratitude,
Maria Diego Gordon



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Message from our Intern

Abbie May Collett

As my time at Roedde House comes to an end, I reflect on my role as the programming and collections assistant and thank everyone I have met and worked with in developing my skills in a museum setting. From my position here, I have learnt about the mechanics of how a museum runs day-to-day, including archiving and digitizing artifacts and creating promotional materials, website posts, and newsletter designs. With these new skills, I have also met some amazing people along the way, all of whom have been so inviting and ready to help whenever I needed it. Thank you to the board members and volunteers for all your support over the past couple of months and for keeping the museum a fun and welcoming place to be in.

I would also like to say a special thank you to Sara, Joyce, and Maria for being amazing, fun, and kind people to work with. I have learnt so much from each of you and I know I'll be able to transfer these skills and lessons to wherever my life leads me next. Bisous.

All the best,
Abbie May Collett



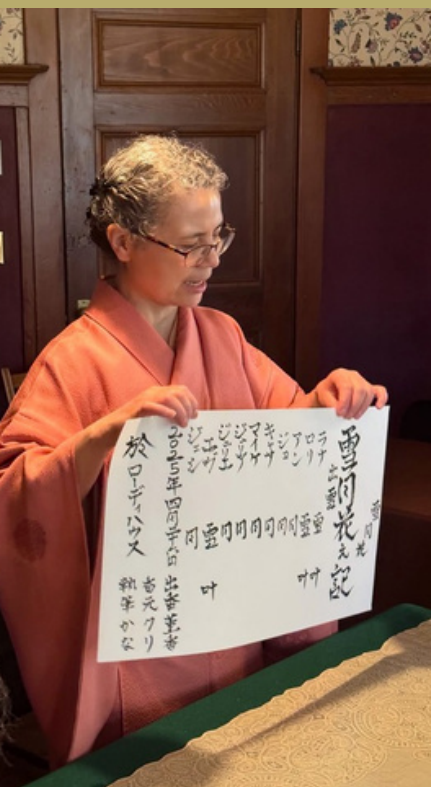
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Collaborations & Community Partnerships

We were fortunate to have opportunity to collaborate with many of our community members on various events at the museum this year, including:

- The King George Secondary Archive for exhibits and shared research
- The Vancouver Postcard Club for special events
- Famous Artists for A Hint of Romance theatrical reading
- SaBi Tea Arts for Kodo: Japanese incense ceremony
- Teakan for tea history and Chinese tea ceremony
- 5 Concerts with the Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra
- The West End Seniors' Network and Vancouver Friends for Life for outdoor summer events, including the annual Strawberry Festival, BC Seniors' Day, and Aging with Pride
- The Vancouver Heritage Foundation Places that Matter Fair & Pro D Day for Educators
- Conrad de Goya and our very own La Contessa for The Gay (18)Nineties fashion show
- Local paranormal investigators for an evening of paranormal tours
- Joel Grinke Experience Design and Bill Allman for An Immersive Christmas Carol
- Hidden Stages Productions for Christmas with the Marches
- Plus various local artists, artisans, and crafters as vendors for our three markets!





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Thank you for your support, trust,
encouragement and patronage!



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