

Ribbon Rouge Foundation

# 2024/2025 Annual Report

Advancing health equity for African, Caribbean, and Black communities through the transformative power of art, storytelling, and research.



## Table of Contents

- Who We Are
- Acknowledgement & Leadership
- Activities at a Glance: 2024–2025
- Community Reach: 2024–2025
- Program Focus Areas
- Advancing Equity: 2024 Key Projects
- Advancing Equity: 2025 Key Projects
- 2026: Building Momentum for Greater Impact
  - Board Members
  - Meet Our Team
  - Moments In 2024/2025
  - Statement of Financial Position 2024/2025
  - Our Partners

ABOUT US

# Who We Are

A grassroots not-for-profit focused on **health equity** and **social justice through the arts**. We facilitate storytelling, community-engaged arts, and meaningful conversations to change perceptions and create positive social change.

## Our Vision

Health equity for African, Caribbean, and Black communities.

## Our Focus

Gender and race issues through a social justice lens.

## Our Belief

The liberating power of the arts to foster community building.

# Acknowledgement & Leadership

## Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land upon which our organization operates. We honor the heritage, culture, and ongoing contributions of the **First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples** who have lived in harmony with these lands for thousands of years.

Ribbon Rouge Foundation remains committed to learning, understanding, and respecting the histories, languages, and cultures of all Indigenous Peoples — actively contributing to healing and building a more inclusive and equitable society.

# Message from the Board Chair

As Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Ribbon Rouge Foundation, I am honored to share reflections on our journey and aspirations as we close these past few years (2024–2025).

These past years have reaffirmed our commitment to advancing health equity for African, Caribbean, and Black communities through the transformative power of art, storytelling, and research. Our mission remains clear: to challenge systemic inequities, amplify marginalized voices, and foster spaces where creativity drives social change.

Ribbon Rouge continues to stand as a catalyst for dialogue and action—bridging art and advocacy to influence policy, inspire communities, and promote justice. We are proud of the progress made and the partnerships strengthened, all of which position us to deepen our impact in the years ahead.

Looking forward, our focus is on innovation, collaboration, and sustainability. We aim to expand our reach, strengthen community-based research, and create platforms that empower voices and shape healthier futures. These priorities guide our strategic direction and reflect our unwavering belief that equity is achievable when communities unite with purpose.

On behalf of the Board, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our supporters, partners, and team members. Your trust and engagement fuel our vision and make this work possible. Together, we will continue to build a world where health equity is not an aspiration but a reality.

## **Adaku Uju**

Board Chair, Ribbon Rouge Foundation

"Equity is not a distant goal — it is achievable when communities unite with purpose. Ribbon Rouge Foundation stands committed to bridging art and advocacy, ensuring that every voice is heard and every community is empowered to thrive".

**-Adaku Uju**

# Message from the Executive Director

This past year has been one of transition, reflection, and intentional rebuilding for the Ribbon Rouge Foundation. Despite challenges, it reaffirmed the importance of our mission: centering the arts as a powerful tool for social engagement, cultural dialogue, and community well-being. We strengthened our internal systems, governance, and operational processes, ensuring greater accountability and long-term sustainability.

My deepest gratitude goes to our Board of Directors for their guidance, and to our dedicated staff, artists, facilitators, volunteers, funders, donors, and community partners whose commitment brings our mission to life. Looking ahead, we are focused on deepening community impact, strengthening partnerships, and expanding opportunities for artistic and cultural engagement, moving forward with renewed energy and purpose.

## **Gbemi (FT) Adepeko**

Executive Director, Ribbon Rouge Foundation

"The arts are not a luxury — they are a necessity for inclusive and equitable communities. At Ribbon Rouge Foundation, creativity drives healing, advocacy, and systemic change, empowering every African, Caribbean, and Black community we serve".- **Gbemi (FT) Adepeko**

# Activities at a Glance: 2024–2025

## 2024–2025 – Black Equity in Alberta Rainforest (B.E.A.R) Initiative

Holistic initiative addressing justice for people living with HIV, Black data governance, sexual health awareness, and mental health support for Black youth navigating health and justice systems.

## May 2024 – Jabulani Arts Festival

Theatre, poetry, dance, storytelling, music, and visual art.

## Oct 2024 – NCAE Fun Day & RISE Awards

Youth workshops for 80+ participants; Funke Olokude won Community Champion Award.

## May–Aug 2025 – Jabulani Festival & Afya Hub 3

Two-day symposium on research and creativity.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

## Feb 2024 – Touch of Culture & Black History Month (BHM)

ACB HIV Awareness Day and Black History Month (BHM) performances at NorQuest, U of A, and MacEwan.

## Jun 2024 – Afya Equity Hub 2

ACB health inequity policy symposium at NorQuest College.

## Feb–Mar 2025 – Tales & Mocktails / Jabulani Prelaunch

Storytelling and Afrobeats; introduced festival theme to 100+ attendees.

# Community Reach: 2024–2025

**1500+**

## People Impacted

Across events, workshops, research projects, clinical training, and community outreach

**100+**

## Prelaunch Attendees

Engaged at the 2025 Jabulani Prelaunch.

**6**

## Communities of Practice established

From the Community Action Fund (CAF) Project — ACB community networks across Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, and Brooks delivering culturally responsive sexual health education.

**80+**

## Youth Reached

Children and youth at NCAE Fun Day and workshops.

**3**

## Symposiums Hosted

Afya Equity Hub events bridging policy, research, and advocacy.

**20**

## STBBI (Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections) Workshops Hosted

Delivered to ACB community members and service providers to strengthen culturally responsive care across Alberta.

**7+**

## Community Consultations & Outreaches

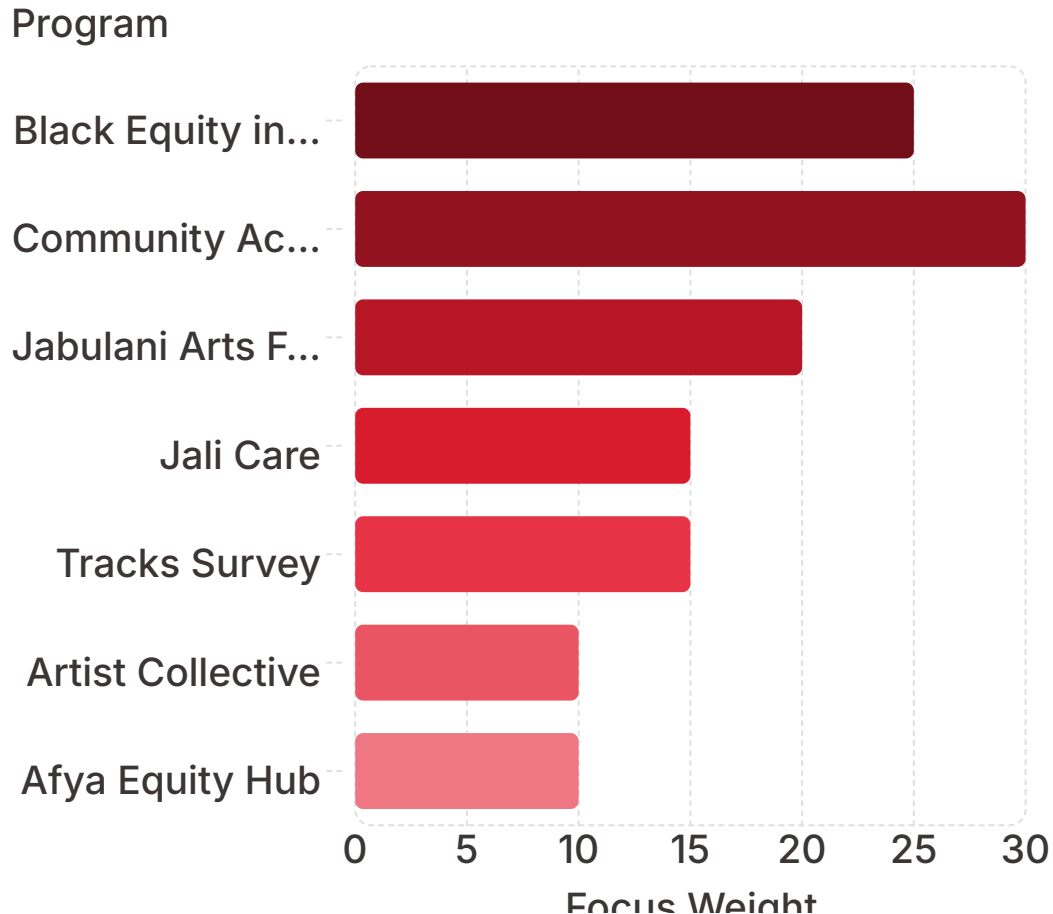
Conducted across African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) communities to inform programming and strengthen community connections.

**13**

## Interdisciplinary Research Reports

Produced through the B.E.A.R initiative to understand racial disparities and align resources across Alberta institutions.

# Program Focus Areas



A side-by-side comparison of major program investments across 2024–2025. The **Community Action Fund** and **B.E.A.R Initiative** stand out as major priorities, with B.E.A.R serving as a research-driven initiative alongside our commitment to health equity at scale.

# Advancing Equity: 2024 Key Projects

## **1** Black Equity in Alberta Rainforest (B.E.A.R) Initiative

Comprehensive initiative generating 13 research reports through 9 subprojects focused on justice for people living with HIV, Black data governance, sexual health education, and mental health support for Black youth.

## **2** Community Action Fund Project

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)-funded initiative improving access to culturally responsive sexual health services through Communities of Practice.

## **3** Jabulani Arts Festival

Interactive theatre, poetry, dance, storytelling, music, and visual art with 2,000+ participants.

## **4** Afya Equity Hub 2

Policy symposium on ACB Health Inequity, co-organized with NorQuest College.

## **5** Artist Collective & Events

BHMM performances at NorQuest, U of A, MacEwan, plus NCAE Fun Day and Paint & Mocktails.

## **6** RISE Award Nomination

Nominated for Equity in Action Award; Funke Olokude received Community Champion Award.

# Advancing Equity: 2025 Key Projects

1

## Black Equity in Alberta Rainforest (B.E.A.R)

Research-driven initiative advancing Black health equity through data governance, HIV justice, sexual health awareness, and mental health support for Black youth navigating health and justice systems.

2

## Community Action Fund

Five-year Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) initiative with 6 Communities of Practice and a Provincial STBBI Working Group.

3

## Jali Care

City of Edmonton program equipping providers with cultural awareness to support Black 2SLGBTQIA+ youth.

4

## Tracks Survey

Partnership with Concordia University and Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) collecting data on HIV/STI prevalence and stigma among Black communities.

5

## Artist Collective

Arts-based advocacy translating research into creative expressions for Black History Creation and Afya Equity Hub.

LOOKING AHEAD

## 2026: Building Momentum for Greater Impact



### Community Action Fund

Expand theatre-based outreach and online STBBI training; strengthen cross-sector partnerships.



### Jali Care Expansion

Offer modules in English and French; track measurable changes in practice for Black 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.



### Research Integration

Integrate Tracks Survey findings to inform program design and policy advocacy for health equity.

# Board Members

## Adaku Uju

Board Chair

## Henry K Aidoo

Vice Chair

## Jackie Foord

Secretary

## Emmanuel Alade

Director

## Thomas Bankole

Director

## Ima Anugom

Board Member until October 2025

# Meet Our Team

## Gbemi (FT)Adepeko

**Executive Director** — 10+ years in public health, non-profit management, and community advocacy.

## Tiffany Brown

**Community & Social Services Worker** — Leads the Jali Care initiative funded by the City of Edmonton.

## Abiola Abdullah

**Health Promotion Manager** — Leads the Community Action Fund and Tracks Survey projects.

## Daniella Fomah

**Executive Assistant & Social Media Manager** — Supports operations and digital outreach.

## Field Agents

- Carine Ouedraogo — Survey Coordinator
- Kemisola Faleti — Interviewer
- William Ngezi — Interviewer

## Consultants

- Jeremy Fuellbrandt — Accountant
- Rex Efruwhe — Payroll
- Ahmad Saani — Tech Consultant
- Pei San Chan - Auditor

## Community Research Associates (CAF Project)

- Beshel Francis - Edmonton
- Mark Audu - Calgary
- Divine Ezeh — Lethbridge

## Past Staff (2024-2025)

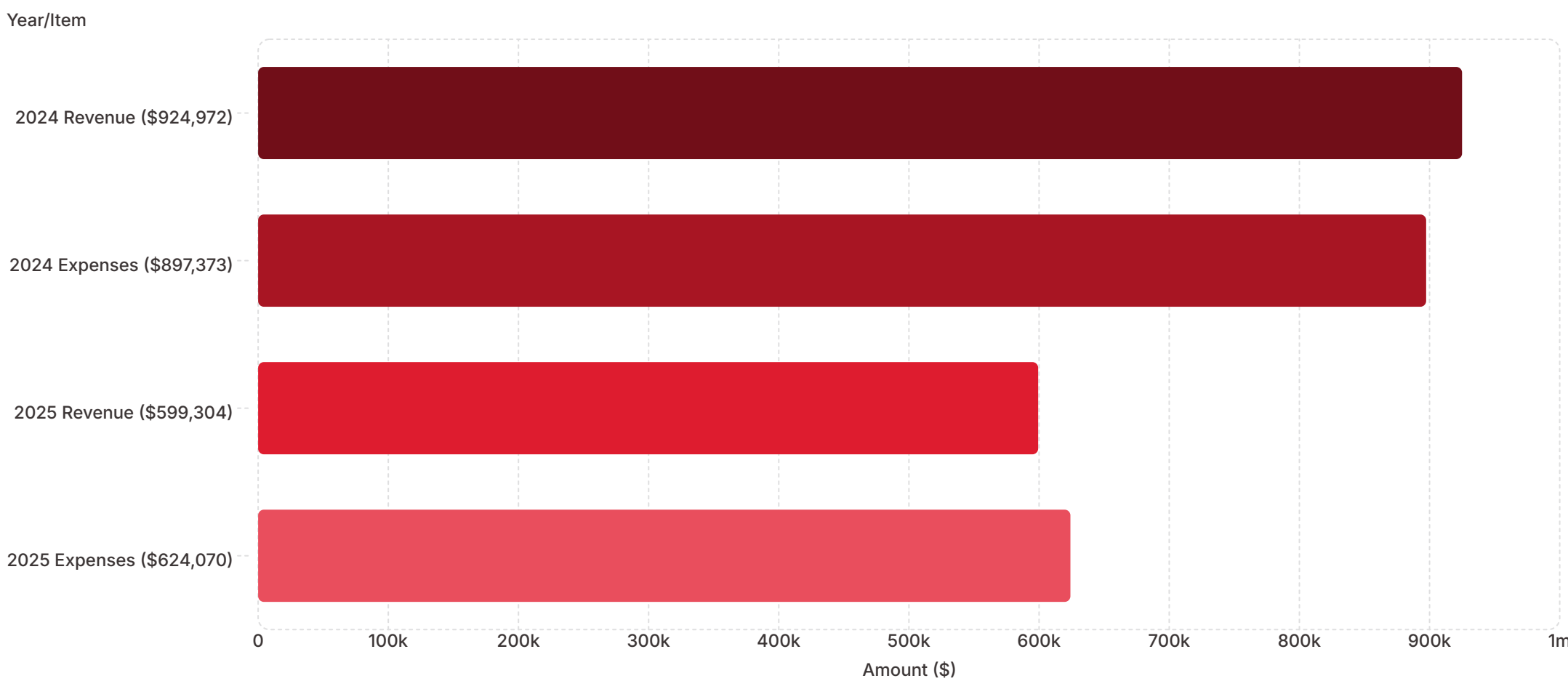
- Olu Afolabi
- Helen Chilisa
- Seyi Awokan
- Albertina Kaso
- Funke Olokude (Consultant)
- Dorcas Ndlovu (Community Research Associate, Edmonton)
- Ponsiano Niyonzima (Community Research Associate, Brooks)
- Michelle Muchetu

# Moments In 2024/2025



A glimpse into some of the vibrant moments from 2024 and 2025 — from the Jabulani Arts Festival and arts performances to community gatherings, health equity workshops, and symposiums that brought our mission to life across Alberta.

# Statement of Financial Position 2024/2025



## Year-over-Year Comparison

Item	2024	2025
Grant Income	\$894,353	\$587,134
Donations	\$19,381	\$9,032
Interest Income	\$243	\$330
Other Income	\$10,995	\$2,808
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$924,972</b>	<b>\$599,304</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$897,373</b>	<b>\$624,070</b>
<b>Net Assets Change</b>	<b>+\$27,599</b>	<b>-\$24,766</b>

## Summarized Balance Sheet: 2024 vs 2025

### 2024

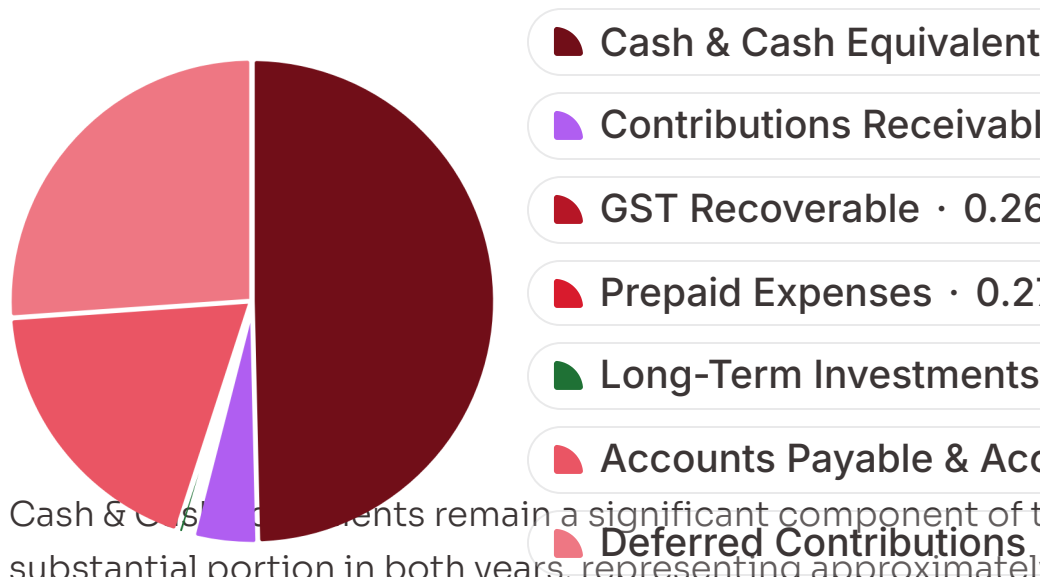
Item	Amount
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$506,039
Contributions Receivable	\$43,928
GST Recoverable	\$2,684
Prepaid Expenses	\$2,731
<i>Total Current Assets</i>	<i>\$555,382</i>
Long-Term Investments	\$5,413
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$560,795</b>
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	\$192,383
Deferred Contributions	\$266,299
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$458,681</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$102,144</b>

### 2025

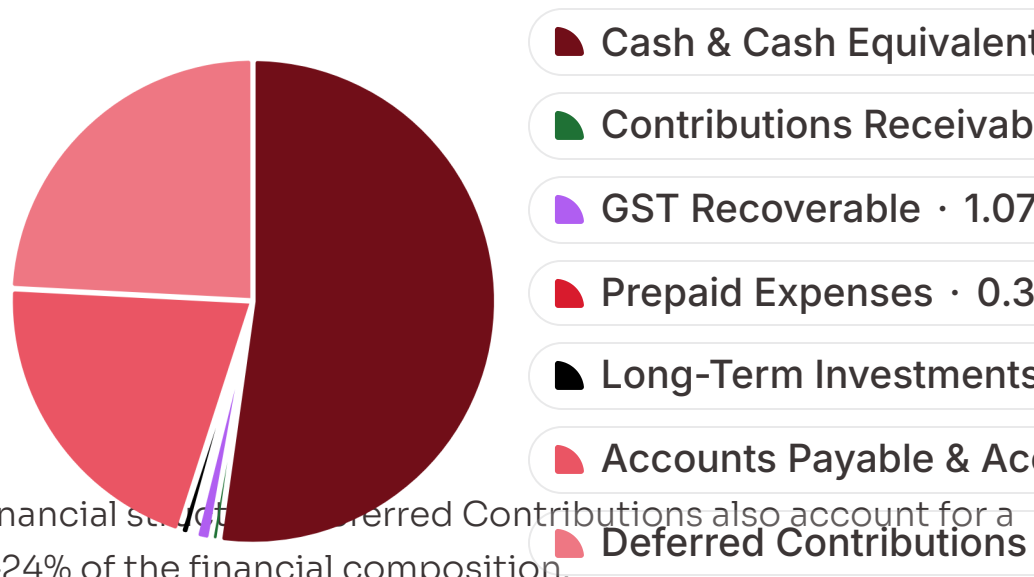
Item	Amount
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$406,378
Contributions Receivable	\$4,566
GST Recoverable	\$8,306
Prepaid Expenses	\$3,002
<i>Total Current Assets</i>	<i>\$422,252</i>
Long-Term Investments	\$5,651
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$427,803</b>
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	\$162,278
Deferred Contributions	\$188,177
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$350,455</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$77,348</b>

## Asset Composition: 2024 vs 2025

### 2024



### 2025



# Our Partners and Sponsors

We are grateful for the organizations that support and collaborate with us to advance health equity and cultural advocacy.

- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Africa Centre
- Alberta Foundation for the Arts
- The City of Edmonton
- Government of Canada
- End Poverty Edmonton
- Edmonton Arts Council
- HIV Edmonton
- Calgary Arts Development
- Edmonton Community Foundation
- NorQuest College
- Concordia University of Edmonton (CUE)
- Multicultural Health Brokers (MCHB)
- University of Alberta

## Thank You

Together, we will continue to build a world where **health equity is not an aspiration but a reality.**

### Phone

[780 777 8337](tel:7807778337)

### Email

[admin@ribbonrouge.com](mailto:admin@ribbonrouge.com)

### Address

Edmonton Intercultural  
Centre  
9538 107 Ave NW,  
Edmonton, AB T5H 0Z5

### Online

[www.ribbonrouge.com](http://www.ribbonrouge.com)