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Frank Incitti, Treasurer
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Laura Service | Outreach Coordinator
Jordan Worsell-Collins | Assistant Outreach Coordinator





PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Cheers to a great year, celebrating 35 years for the Arts Council Windsor & Region! 2015 has been intensely productive and brought with it many progressive changes towards making the ACWR the main resource for artists, city partners, and citizens in the region. With a new design direction and the return of the original 1980 logo, strides towards community awareness, and an emphasis on a more targeted and inclusive approach, the ACWR attracts a constellation of diverse artists in many fields, volunteers, experienced staff and supporters of all ages and backgrounds, together actively assuring the sustainability and flourishing of arts in Windsor.

I am delighted to report that, for the third year in a row, the ACWR's membership is up, we remain financially stable, and our volunteer base is growing with the implementation of training workshops and outreach; we remain committed to transparent communication to our membership base with online arts calendars and community involvement. We are pleased to have ushered in many successful programs and services highlighting the partnerships with the City of Windsor's internationally acclaimed Tale of the Town and Culture Days; with Windsor Women Working With Immigrant Women, and the University of Windsor.

This year, with Patrick Rivait of Patrick Rivait Solutions, we have outlined a Strategic Plan, illuminating the key issues for amelioration in order to grow with a clear and organized roadmap until 2018. Although the organization has made great strides towards our goals, improvement must be made in fundraising strategies. There must be a sustained focus on fundraising in the year to come so that the ACWR can continue to provide support for arts and culture in the region.

I step down from the ACWR Board of Directors, knowing that the Arts Council will continue to thrive as the strongest resource for artists in the Windsor region. On December 1st, we welcome back Michelle Staadegaard to the Executive Director position and look forward to her continuing great work into the new year. I wish to thank the many people that have supported me with their energy and optimism during the year: to the Vice President Jolie Inthavong and the Board of Directors, who have volunteered their time to keep the ACWR's inner machine in constant propulsion forward by making important decisions, approving policies and negotiating productively and respectfully between each other; to the Volunteers that have shown up to the many events with smiles ready to welcome and inform new supporters with a special mention to Jordan Worsell-Collins and Jude Abdu Zaineh; to Laura Service, who has done wonderful work at growing our membership, training our volunteers, and keeping the office in order with her dignified and professional poise; to Brian Sweet who has offered invaluable guidance and means of protocol during the challenges, with his admirable combination of firm legal advice and humanity. I would like to also extend an enormous thanks to Past President Jennifer Escott, who relayed her knowledge of the position with foresight and initiative, great sociability and well of energy, and finally to the Interim Executive Director Nadja Pelkey, with your leadership, humour, vision, and experience, I was able to navigate the learning curve, dealings, negotiations, and the overseeing of policies that came with my first Board Presidency – You have been instrumental in the progress of the year for both me, and the ACWR.

I wish everyone a great end of year, and wish a new year of productivity, fundraising, awareness and inclusivity for the Arts Council Windsor Region.

Happy 35th Arts Council Windsor Region.

Olivia Lori
ACWR president





STRATEGIC PLAN

Introduction by the President of the Board

We have reinvigorated our goals since publishing the past plan, and look forward to engaging our clear vision in the years to come.

We will build from the four key strategic focus areas from the 2012-2015 plan:

- Communicate
- Program
- Build
- Lead

In the last three years, the ACWR has achieved:

1. Developing new, information/content-rich website;
2. Launching new weekly ACWR Arts Notes communication platform;
3. Launching smART Card program;
4. Launching new, improved website;
5. Implementing several Professional Development, Networking, and Advocacy initiatives that served and supported artistic endeavors across various art disciplines, with a particular focus on arts production, outreach, networking, public education and professional development;
6. Fostering extensive communication and interaction via information gathering sessions with constituency for a better assessment of the artistic community requirements and professional development;
7. Establishing a volunteer management infrastructure and leveraged volunteer efforts from the local community.

The new plan was developed with involvement by the Board of Directors, and staff of ACWR, and the process was facilitated by Rivait Business Solutions, Inc. A series of meeting were held over several months to review past and current state of the organization, and update the organizations Mission, Vision and Value statements. An assessment of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) was completed to assist ACWR in clarifying the direction of the organization for the coming years, and also set the context for the decisions set forth within this strategic plan. As you'll read in our report following, the new Strategic Plan will seek to build from the ground work and the strategic initiatives that originated out of the 2012-2015, so that the ACWR can grow into an intrinsic creative hub and resource centre for both artists and enthusiasts, in a broadening arts focused community in Windsor/ Essex County. I'm delighted to share the ACWR's Strategic Plan for 2015-2018!

Olivia Lori
President of the Board

Direction and Results

The strategic direction and related goals established in this plan are the response to the ACWR's understanding of the needs and challenges of the arts in the Windsor-Essex Region. The ACWR will continue to identify opportunities to help increase the awareness of the arts within the region, the value of the arts to the region, and to celebrate the contribution of its artistic community.



The three-year period of this strategic plan will see the organization further building on operating practices, strengths and infrastructure, as well working to deepen its role in supporting artists from all disciplines and career levels with respect to professional development and public awareness. With a fresh perspective following the planning process, the organization will pursue the following strategic direction:

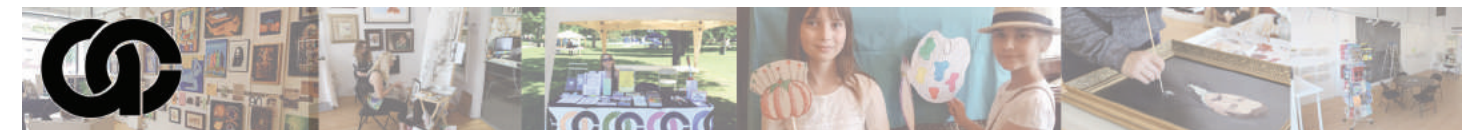
1. The ACWR will continue to build on its leadership role as a resource and advocate for the arts within the region;
2. The ACWR will continue to develop a greater awareness of the value it provides to the arts community, and also of the value that the arts provides to the local community;
3. The ACWR will further build on the portfolio of programs and services to deepen service levels to support professional development for participants in all disciplines of art, and community awareness of the richness and value of the local arts scene;
4. The ACWR will work with the community, and supporting organizations, to increase the level of participation of the arts in driving the community, and regional economy, as well as engage the participation of the community as consumers and participants in the arts experience.

Goals

The ACWR has established the following goals for the coming FY2015-2018 period in response to the environmental analysis. These goals will provide a roadmap intended to help realize the strategic direction of the organization.

- 1. Sustainability** – The ACWR will work to identify additional funding and revenue sources, and build upon strategic alliances to ensure the long-term viability of the organization;
- 2. Brand Building** -- The ACWR will continue to educate and inform the community of its value in supporting those who participate and/or are consumers of arts within the region;
- 3. Programs and Services** – The ACWR will continue to develop and deliver a portfolio of programs and services intended to support and develop artists within the region, and to further help infuse the arts into the daily life of residents within the community;
- 4. Advocacy** – The ACWR will work to further serve as a voice for artists within the community in and also continue to help educate on the value that the arts bring in terms of economic contributions as well as quality of life to those within the community;
- 5. Operations** – The ACWR will work to further establish and refine operating practices, standards, and methods in order to improve efficiencies and optimize operating effectiveness.

As an organization evolves and responds to its changing environment, so too must the Mission, Vision, and values that guide the organization. During the strategic planning process, the ACWR reviewed and updated the Mission, Vision, and Values statements for the organization.





Mission

The ACWR will strive to enhance the economic and social well-being of the community by:

- Strengthening the arts through leadership, education, advocacy and promotion;
- Creating and expanding opportunities for diverse activities that connect the community through participation in the arts
- Enriching the quality of life in our region by increasing awareness of the arts and its value

We will achieve this Mission through:

- Education and programming focusing on professional development;
- Advocacy for arts and arts organizations;
- Building mutually beneficial partnerships;
- Facilitation of communication and awareness of arts and arts-related activities;
- Increased accessibility and relevance of the arts and arts-related activities in the region.

Vision

The vision for the ACWR is to create a community in which:

- there is an enhanced awareness and recognition of the value and contribution of the arts to our region's overall growth and wellbeing;
- there are strong linkages between artists and the broader public, and these linkages serve as a bond within the community and foster the development of intra-regional and inter-regional partnerships between the arts and other sectors;
- there is an environment in which various artistic disciplines thrive and contribute to the economic and cultural growth of the region

Values

The core values which guide and support the ACWR include:

LEADERSHIP: We believe it is important for the ACWR to provide advocacy, support, and constructive input on behalf of our region's arts community

COMMITMENT: We are driven to enhance and add to the opportunities for artists and arts organizations throughout our region

INNOVATION: We seek new and alternative approaches to develop and capitalize on opportunities within the creative sector

INCLUSIVITY: We build audiences and embrace creative community diversity

INTEGRITY: We operate with transparency and adopt high ethical and professional standards in our conduct

INDUSTRIOUSNESS: We work to help advance the arts as an economic driver in the region



INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Nadja Pelkey

I would like to thank the staff, board, partners and volunteers of the Arts Council Windsor & Region for their contributions to the cultural landscape of our region. This has been a year of transitions for ACWR, and together we have worked to create and deliver meaningful programs and services to engage our community. Our goal is to be an effective resource for this region, and we are committed to facilitating and supporting strong linkages between the arts community, the educational community, the business community and the creative community.

2014-2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2015 Survey

In late 2014 ACWR staff and board members drafted a comprehensive study to better understand the needs of our community and stakeholders. We received a large number of responses, and the data collected is being used to make programming decisions for ACWR.

VANGUARD

Funded through a grant from the Windsor Essex Community Foundation, VANGUARD is ACWR's Youth Arts Collective. The fourteen youths chosen to participate have spent the year learning and refining skills in cultural administration and programming. VANGUARD members work alongside ACWR staff to work on programs and initiatives that highlight the potential of our youth to take an active role in shaping

Neighbourhood Spaces: Windsor Essex Artist in Residence Program

The Neighbourhood Spaces symposium in November 2014 was an unparalleled success. We brought together a diverse range of artists, curators, critics, and community stakeholders for three days of panels, performances and activities that explored ideas of collaborative practice, community work, and our region as a material for artistic exploration.

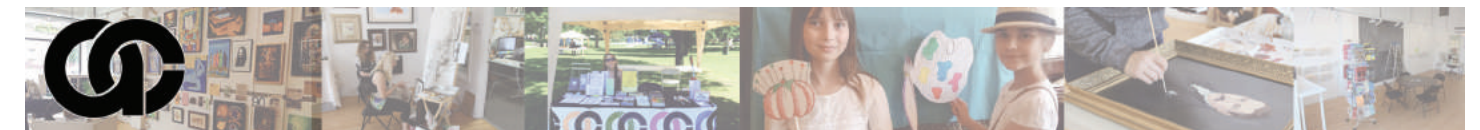
The final iteration of this program is a beautiful publication with contributions from the resident artists, as well as special essays commissioned from: Susan Gold Smith, Alana Bartol, Lisa Lipton, Zachary Gough, Amanda White, Michael DiRisio, Arturo Herrera, Natalie Blaustone-Dye, Jacqueline Bell, and Rebecca Noone. Neighbourhood Spaces was supported entirely through a generous grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Work Study Programs at the ACWR

We continue to have the privilege to work with a number of bright, talented students through Co-op programs. Students contribute over 500 hours annually to ACWR, a significant portion of our volunteer program.

This year we also worked with two students over the summer as part of the Human Resources Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) program.

Jordan Worsell-Collins was hired for a second summer as the Assistant Outreach Coordinator where she concentrated her efforts on administrative support and development while supporting important ACWR programs like community outreach events, arts notes, www.acwr.net, and Arts Vote.





Sophia Pelka was hired as a Special Project Assistant - Archive to organize and digitize ACWR's 35 year history. This was a massive undertaking, and the end result is an online timeline of ACWR milestone and achievements which can be found at <http://acwr.net/news/acwr-historical-timeline/>. For the first time we also worked with a volunteer from the New Canadian Centre for Excellence who worked diligently to translate ACWR outreach materials from English to Arabic as part of a larger initiative to reach out to the newcomer community.

#ACWR10

As a way of getting know our community better, we introduced the #ACWR10 questionnaire. Participants are asked to respond to an eccentric set of ten questions, and the responses are posted to a special section on our website.

The MFA Show

This year we invited students from the School of Creative Arts studio and film MFA programs to engage with the Artspeak Gallery space. The students put together an exhibition, and held a critique in the space with Dr. Lee Rodney. On September 18th, a special reception was held to introduce students to members of the arts community. Attracting and retaining artists in our area is an important part of sustaining a vibrant arts community.

Tale of a Town

Through a special partnership with the City of Windsor Cultural Affairs Department, Arts Council Windsor & Region presented Tale of a Town, a project originated by Fixt Point Theatre. Local artist Sherry Campeau was hired as a story-gathering artist and assisted by Alison Brovermen in collecting stories from Windsorites along the waterfront this past August. The stories collected were edited into an audio work which was played at a special event at the end of the month. The project will make special appearances at upcoming events in Windsor.

ACWR smART Card

This past year, the ACWR continued its innovative smART Card initiative - a partnership with locally owned businesses and organizations to offer ACWR members enhanced benefits and for our local businesses to reach a wider audience and gain increased traffic. This initiative launched in late 2013 highlights the many ways the arts and cultural community and our regional businesses partner together to create a dynamic and supportive community.

Artspeak Gallery

Artspeak Gallery is one of ACWR's most well-known resources. Our public rental gallery accommodates both emerging and established artists, as well as providing a space for community meetings, workshops, seminars and spoken-word performances. The space is unjuried, enabling emerging artists to learn and grow while allowing professional artists to exhibit new work in a timely fashion in a professional gallery setting. Other groups make use of the space for meetings, book launches, dance workshops, theatre rehearsals and more.

Working with the Environment Art Show

As a collaborative partnership with UNIFOR local 200, The Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board, The Greater Essex Public School Board, Conseil scolaire catholique Providence and the Arts Council Windsor & Region again hosted the annual "Working with the Environment" high school Art Show at Artspeak Gallery. Local High Schools throughout Windsor Essex were invited to submit up to three works of art that reflected on the theme of the "Environment", "Working (labour)" or a combination of both.



This year's judges were Jodi Green (Levigator Press), Mariano Klimowicz (Association of Representational Artists), and Cathy Masterson (City of Windsor, Cultural Affairs Manager). The judges were impressed by the efforts of all students who submitted work and thoughtfully considered each one before coming to a decision. Each student was awarded a one year membership to ACWR, and given a certificate of participation.

Former board member Sonya Soave is the primary organizer of this initiative, without her hard work and dedication it would not be possible. We extend our deepest gratitude for her efforts. The event is supported by the environment committee of UNIFOR local 200, The Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board, The Greater Essex Public School Board and Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence.

1st Place – Anais Soulliere of Belle River for her work, "Ashes to Ashes"

2nd Place – Sara Nguyen of Riverside for her work, "The Roots of Creation"

3rd Place – Rebecca Mackenzie of L'essor for work, "Leave Your Mark"

People's Choice - Emma Ricci "Destruction of the Environment"

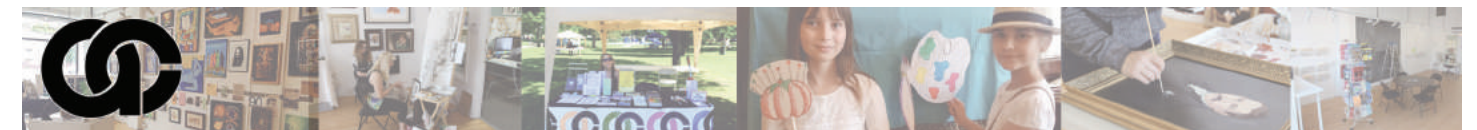
Participating high schools included Belle River District High School (Lakeshore), Cardinal Carter High School (Leamington), F. J. Brennan High School (Windsor), Holy Names Catholic High School (Windsor), L'école secondaire L'Essor (Tecumseh), Riverside Secondary (Windsor), St. Anne High School (Lakeshore), St. Thomas of Villanova High School (Lasalle)

Creative Learning/Professional Development

The Arts Council Windsor and Region partners with artists, organizations and businesses to provide special programs including; professional development, creative learning and networking opportunities for artists of all ages and all disciplines. All our programs aim to infuse arts and culture into the everyday life while giving artists and community organizations the opportunity to come together to facilitate discussions, create connections and grow as professionals.

Some of the programs this past year include:

- Monumental: An Introduction to public art commissions
- Windsor Yeast: A Bio Art workshop with Jennifer Willett.
- Back to the Drawing Board: A two week long artistic think tank open to the public that focused on creative development and communication within the arts community in the Windsor Essex Region. This last version saw ACWR's administrative staff move their workstations into the gallery space to make visible the behind the scenes work of the ACWR.
- How to on Exhibitions
- Writer's Salon (Kingsville): A bi-weekly opportunity for both established and aspiring writers to meet and share their work in a productive workshop setting under the guidance of Paul Vasey. This event took Place at the Kingsville Public Library in partnership with the Essex Region Literary Network. ACWR was represented by Board Member Brian Sweet.
- Writer's Salon (Windsor): Led again by Mary-Ann Mulhern the Writer's Salon invites writers of all ages and genres to gather and share their work. A new session led by Marty Gervais slated for Winter 2016
- ACWR Resource library (onsite and online): The ACWR expanded its service to providing valuable resources to its community and its patrons through an accessible on site resource library and an expanding online resource library on ACWR.net.





We also entered into a partnership with the University of Windsor School of Creative Arts, and EPIcentre to present the Cultural Entrepreneurship Workshop aimed at senior students and recent graduates in the arts. CEW provides two days of intensive learning covering topics like delivering a pitch, public speaking, marketing/brand building, granting and funding, post-grad strategies, and taxes for the artist.

www.ACWR.net

The Arts Council Windsor & Region was very excited to launch the new acwr.net in 2014. Since the launch our site has hosted thousands of event listing and consistently grows in audience.

Features include:

Artist profiles and blogs - a searchable artist directory

Community calendar - an easy to use and navigate calendar and agenda listing of all arts and cultural activities happening in and around Windsor Essex

Professional Development Resource area: providing artists of all disciplines and the community with the opportunity to expand themselves and their practice towards being a professional cultural provider.

Culture Days 2015

ACWR hosted a special workshop at Mackenzie Hall with Jennifer Willet where participants were encouraged to swab for wild yeast. The yeast was then cultured and the results shared online.

ACWR also held information sessions with Culture Days organizers, and was a resource and central location for Culture Days information and branded materials.

Jumblies Theatre - Train of Thought

On June 12th, Arts Council Windsor & Region hosted Jumblies Theatre Train of Thought project on the riverbank through a partnership with The City of Windsor's Our Space project. With assistance from HRSDC student Sophia Pelka we did an outreach activity, and helped the travellers gather soil and water samples. Tory James and Alex McKay brought their project "Treaty Canoe" to the banks of the river and engaged the travellers in a discussion about the origins and future of the project.

Arts VOTE 2015

In the run-up to the 2015 federal election,, the Arts Council Windsor & Region (ACWR) presented a short set of questions aimed at identifying the ideas, the opportunities, and the challenges that candidates see for arts and culture in our region. The questions were assembled in collaboration with a number of arts organizations, artists, patrons of the arts and community members across Windsor & Essex County. These questions were addressed to ALL candidates in our region. Answers from candidates were hosted online.

The ACWR continues to work to increase our community partnerships with numerous arts and non arts organizations including: Art Gallery of Windsor, Capitol Theatre, City of Windsor Cultural Affairs Department., Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence, Downtown Windsor Farmers Market, Ford City Neighbourhood Renewal, Sandwich Teen Action Centre, St. Clair College - Media Plex, The Windsor Symphony Orchestra, The Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board, The Greater Essex Public School Board, Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island, University of Windsor, Unifor Local 200, Windsor Public Library, Windsor Endowment for the Arts, Windsor Workers Action Centre and Windsor Youth Centre, and more.



Looking forward

The ACWR will continue new and innovative programs which encourage the efforts of aboriginal, francophone, culturally diverse, new generation and regional artists, arts organizations and the general public by providing exhibition space and educational opportunities. The ACWR will continue to offer support through our resources, workshops, information sessions and networking opportunities to assist in the continued professional development of our area artists.

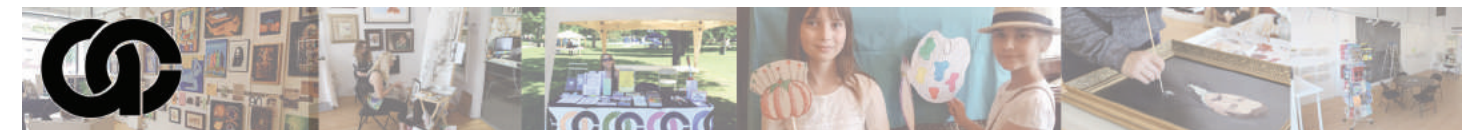
THANK YOU!

Our successes are shared with the community that surrounds and supports us. I'd like to thank the Ontario Arts Council, Ontario Trillium Foundation, The City of Windsor, The Windsor Essex Community Foundation, our Sponsors, and Donors for their continued financial support through this year. Their contributions have a direct impact on the program and resources we are able to offer our community.

I thank our Board for providing leadership and guidance, their experiences are invaluable to us. I thank our wonderful staff without whom the ACWR would not work. Their dedication to our mission, vision and values is unparalleled. I thank our volunteers who make a significant contribution to all that we do. And I thank our community. We are all privileged to work in a city where we have so many opportunities to engage in conversations about the inherent importance of culture in our daily lives. We learn from each project we undertake, each member we sign up, each partnership we enter into, each event we hold, and each person we encounter.

In my year as Interim Executive Director I have had the distinct pleasure of working with this community on projects and partnerships that will continue to impact our organization in the months and years to come. I'd like to thank Board President Olivia Lori for stepping in to a position of great responsibility and having the courage to meet challenges head on. I'd like to thank our board executive for their tireless work in particular Jolie Inthavong for her knowledge and enthusiasm, Frank Incitti our new Treasurer for his dedication to ensuring ACWR's fiscal operations are updated and current, and Mariano Klimowicz our Secretary. I thank Jennifer Escott for her help and guidance to the new board, she has gone over and above in her work as Past President.

Nadja Pelkey
Interim Executive Director





TREASURER'S REPORT (NARRATIVE)

Staff

During the year ending June 30 2015, ACWR benefited from having a part-time ED, a part-time outreach coordinator and a part-time assistant outreach coordinator. ACWR also had a special project assistant for archives and the assistant outreach coordinator during the summer which were covered by the HRSDC (Human Resources Skills Development) grant. The dollars from memberships have doubled from last year thanks to the extra effort put in by the outreach coordinator and other part-time staff.

Operations

In order to maintain accurate accounting records, and improve fiscal security we have purchased a laptop dedicated to accounting and we will transfer all accounting data to new accounting software that is more user friendly and will provide better reporting with less staff time spent on accounting. A fire proof safe to hold all important financial and other documents on external drives has also been installed in the office.

Grants

The ACWR is waiting to hear back about a Trillium Grow grant that if acquired will create a new position in the organization and has also applied for a Canada Council Inter Arts grant to support programming in the Sandwich Town neighbourhood.

For the Twelve months ending June 2015, ACWR finished with a recorded deficit of \$30,209. This is due to the timing of the grants received, and the fact that grant funds are front loaded. The funds for 3 years were received in one lump sum and designated for use over that period. You will see this in the statement of receipts, disbursements and fund balance in the financial statements.

Fundraising and workshop revenues have increased by approximately \$5000. This is a good sign that we have done a better job raising funds from events other than bingo's as bingo revenue was down from last year.

It is imperative that ACWR concentrate efforts on fundraising in the coming year to balance grant revenues and ensure the fiscal sustainability of the organization.

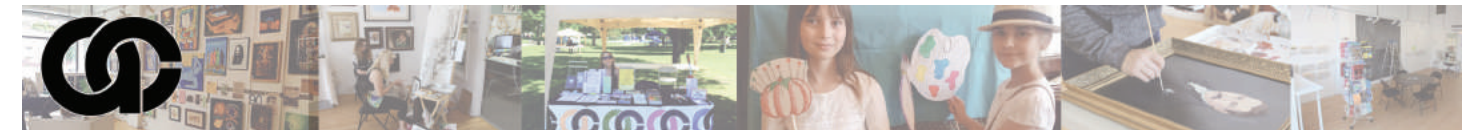


Frank Incitti
ACWR Treasurer




TREASURER'S REPORT (FINANCIAL)

	2015	2014	Variance
	\$	\$	\$
Revenue:			
Ontario Arts Council	55,204	61,472	(6,268)
Ontario Trillium Foundation	87,191	204,250	(117,059)
City of Windsor	15,000	15,000	-
Fundraising and Workshops	38,648	33,845	4,803
Gallery Rental	2,850	4,485	(1,635)
Memberships	8,564	4,340	4,224
Investment Income	6,266	6,275	(9)
	213,723	329,667	(115,944)
Deducted - Deferred Revenues	(58,212)	(91,762)	33,550
	155,511	237,905	(82,394)
			-
Operating Expenses			-
Advertising and Promotion	6,784	4,307	2,477
Amortization	1,633	3,088	(1,455)
Funding disbursements	11,000	5,000	6,000
Insurance	4,214	3,611	603
Interest & bank charges	50	310	(260)
Office	5,403	3,968	1,435
Professional fees	1,695	1,695	-
Web Design	452	3,750	(3,298)
Rent	10,848	10,848	-
Repairs & Maintenance	1,351	1,318	33
Telephone		1,084	(1,084)
Fundraising	32,315	37,098	(4,783)
Utilities	1,139	1,213	(74)
Wages and Benefits	108,836	132,098	(23,262)
			-
	185,720	209,388	(23,668)
Total Surplus (Deficit)	(30,209)	28,517	(58,726)





2015 has been a busy and productive year for the Arts Council of Windsor & Region in many respects. Through active and promotional partnerships with artists and organizations all over the region, our reach to new user groups has widened, and we have been able to effectively provide one-on-one support to many new and returning individuals. We also have many dedicated volunteers to thank this year, as we could not have achieved this marked success without them.

Membership

Since November 2014, ACWR membership has seen a 15% increase. This is a significant change which has allowed membership to increase further than its average 230 members each month and currently stands at 257. This is a significant portion of artists living and working in Windsor/Essex. Through local/regional partnerships, and outreach, we have seen this number increase and anticipate further growth into 2016 as these partnerships are maintained, and new opportunities for partnerships arise.

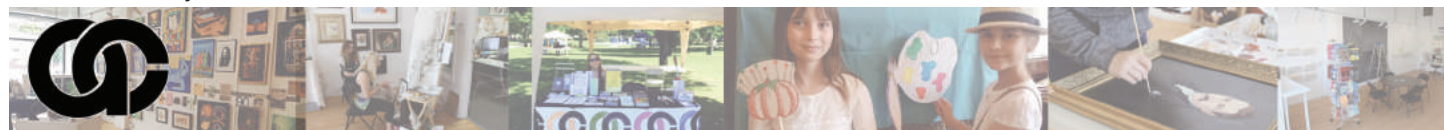
ACWR's membership program, the smART Card program, continues to be a valuable incentive to members and partners. Since November 2014, the smART Card program has offered a new level of membership to organizations and businesses called "Community Partner" which allows for the partner to receive some benefits through the ACWR without providing a deal or discount to our members. We currently serve twelve partners at this level. smART Card Partners continue to benefit from added promotion on acwr.net, various discounts to rentals and workshops, access to volunteers and more. These partners provide a variety of deals and discounts to our members. We have taken on five new partners this year, organizations and businesses who represent the performing arts and literary arts. These partnerships have grown into strong contacts for the ACWR in local, professional art practice.

In 2015, we have taken on the goal to provide our programs and services to a wider range of young professionals and students as we were aware that this was an underserved demographic in 2014 previous. Through this initiative, we were able to gain a large number of new members who are currently studying the arts at the secondary and postsecondary level. Student membership currently makes up 14% of our total membership base.

Volunteers

In 2015, volunteer recruiting, training and programming has been a priority. With a small staff core, the ACWR depends greatly on the support of volunteers at all levels of the organization. In recognition of this fact, we have accelerated our volunteer program to train community members to take on more impactful and rewarding tasks within the scope of the ACWR's annual goals and commitments.

The smART Volunteer Program was launched this year and continues to grow in its success. The smART Volunteer Program is the recruitment and management of a core group of individuals who are invested in donating their time and effort supporting the arts community in Windsor-Essex. These individuals are trained to take on volunteer projects within the scope of the ACWR's goals, while also being provided with opportunities to volunteer with other arts organizations/activities in the region. They will represent the ACWR on and off-site, and be knowledgeable in the programming and services provided by the ACWR. They will be ambassadors for the organization, while also providing support to our partnered businesses and organizations. The first stage of this program took place in October of this year which was a training/info session on the ACWR's purpose, programs & services. The next stage will be to place these trained and screened volunteers in positions within the ACWR and with positions hosted by our smART Card Partners. This program will continue as a regular volunteer service, with info and training sessions held annually.



In 2015, the ACWR has hosted six work-study placements at the secondary and post-secondary level completing over 500 hours of service. We have been fortunate enough to be placed with a series of dedicated, and enthusiastic students who have served as excellent office and gallery support throughout the year. The ACWR's work study program has evolved into a significant workplace learning experience for high school and university students.

ArtSpeak Gallery

The ArtSpeak Gallery calendar for 2015 has booked completely without a single empty week this year. We continue to serve annual renters, however they are no longer the majority. Our renters have been primarily young professionals with a large variety of hobby artists as well. We have seen this natural shift from hobby to professional this year, and expect this to continue into the new year.

ArtSpeak has grown a reputation as an organized, affordable, and professional space in which to exhibit and is becoming more and more sought after. We are currently booking into 2017, and have unfortunately had to limit single artists from exhibiting more than once per calendar year simply due to the public rental demand.

ACWR members can look forward to the upcoming Holiday Member's Show in December of 2015. This annual fundraiser is expected to have a large number of local and regional exhibitors, and will open up to the sale to all artistic media. We are hopeful that this year's exhibition will bring new members to the ACWR, and boast a number of art sales.

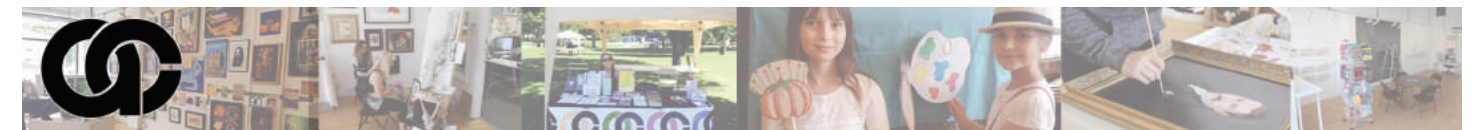
Vanguard: Youth Arts Collective

With a grant received from the Windsor-Essex Community Foundation in late 2014, the ACWR was able to bring together fourteen young individuals to represent an emerging generation of artists in the Windsor/Essex region forming Vanguard: Youth Arts Collective.

Guided by ACWR staff, Vanguard has developed into an active group of young creatives who have made it their mission to highlight the arts as a reason for young people to stay in Windsor/Essex and contribute to the cultural sector. Thus far they have presented a series of workshops and free events for youth through their launch of an annual summer festival of youth arts called Mess Fest. They have also partnered with local organizations and spoken at local cultural events on behalf of the collective. This group of young people have only come together this year, but they have already achieved so much and gained quite a public following. We expect nothing but great success ahead of Vanguard, and will support them every step of the way.

As the Outreach Coordinator, I am looking forward to continuing my work managing volunteers, gallery exhibitions, Vanguard: Youth Arts Collective, and membership in the new year. I expect the ACWR to continue to make important connections in the community and act as a hub for all creative professional development in 2016.

Laura Service
Outreach Coordinator





ARTSPEAK GALLERY 2015 EXHIBITIONS

ArtSpeak Gallery Exhibitions 2014/2015

- November 3 to November 7 2014 The Interpretive Lens | F.J. Brennan High School
- November 9 to November 16 2014 Cars | Danuta Siniarska
- November 17 to November 22 2014 An Exhibition by Rashmi Dadwal
- November 24 to November 28 2014 Reflect Find Build Encourage Reimagine | Michelle Soulliere
- December 5 to December 19 2014 Mistletoe and Snow Holiday Member's Show
- January 12 to January 23 2015 Back to the Drawing Board
- January 26 to February 1 2015 The Eighty-Six Collection | Rene Cartolano
- February 9 to February 13 2015 Illuminate | Walkerville Collegiate
- February 15 to February 22 2015 Uninhibited | Carmen Prodantchouk
- February 24 to February 27 2015 Textiles | Stephen Drouin
- March 3 to March 6 2015 The Nature of Ourselves | April Morris
- March 9 to March 14 2015 Stuffed with Figs | Nicholas de Cosson
- March 15 to March 28 2015 Romanian Art Connections 5
- April 6 to April 11 2015 Zoetic Monuments: Narrative Portraiture | Laura Service and Melissa Marchant
- April 14 to April 25 2015 Working with the Environment Annual High School Art Show
- April 28 to May 1 2015 Illusion: Art and Media Works | Walkerville Collegiate
- May 5 to May 8 2015 Seeing the World Differently | F.J. Brennan High School
- May 11 to May 16 2015 Photo Exhibition | Vincent Massey Secondary School and Essex District High School
- May 19 to May 23 2015 Ukraine 1993-1993: Hope and Hope Deferred | Reggie Tucker
- May 25 to May 30 2015 Fossils of Experience | Owen Swain
- June 14 to June 22 2015 Ladies in the City | Lauren Webb, Josinah Makotoko, Lindsay Whalen
- June 23 to June 26 2015 Exhibition 1 | Photo Research League
- July 6 to July 17 2015 HEAT: ACWR's Summer Member's Exhibition
- July 20 to July 25 2015 Extreme Outdoor Painter | Elizabeth Gaye Macdonald
- July 28 to July 31 2015 Behind the Scenes of Messfest | VANGUARD Youth Arts Collective
- August 3 to August 8 2015 Manuscript of the Sky via Butterfly | Anna Rencz
- August 18 to August 30 2015 Summer Sizzle Art Exhibit and Sale | ARA
- September 1 to September 5 2015 Are you a diptych? | PIE TWOBLE
- September 7 to September 12 2015 Compositions | Danuta Siniarska
- September 14 to September 19 2015 The MFA Show
- September 21 to September 26 2015 Windsor Essex Open Studio Tour Artist Exhibition
- September 29 to October 3 2015 Matt Maenpa Solo Exhibition
- October 6 to October 9 2015 Harvesting the FAM Exhibition
- October 13 to October 17 2015 Emerge | Creative Works by Victoria Strehlau
- October 18 to October 24 2015 Creating & Collecting | Jim Mroczkowski
- October 26 to October 31 2015 Exhibition by Rashmi Dadwal
- November 1 to November 8 2015 Ten. Artists are Present
- November 9 to November 14 2015 Capricious | Mariano Klimowicz





VANGUARD REPORT

Vanguard Members

- Jude Abu Zaineh, President
- Rosina Riccardo, Vice-President
- Lindsay Whalen, Secretary
- Yomna Seraglandin
- Jordan Worsell-Collins
- Rick Santarossa
- Chelsea Greenwell
- Ashleigh Arca
- Maria Jose
- Lina Chaker
- Rachel Loerts
- Tida Kheav
- Frank Varga
- Rachel Watson



Current Events/Activities

Vanguard CEW Presentation: Vanguard presented as part of a two-day workshop held at the University of Windsor on October 23rd and 24th. The event featured many professionals of different disciplines, University students, community members, and local professionals. Vanguard had the opportunity of sharing our experience as a newly established youth arts collective.. Vanguard representatives Lindsay Whelan and Rachel Loerts discussed how the group was formed and Vanguard's very first project, Mess Fest. According to post-conference surveys, the Vanguard Presentation rated among one of the favorites.

Blog: In an ongoing effort to connect to our online audience, we have developed a blog schedule. Each member writes a blog post weekly about Vanguard activities as well as community and arts events. These entries are posted to the ACWR domain under "Youth Arts Collective" under the Programs & Services Tab. Vanguard also shares these to social media, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

Genesis Entrepreneurship: Tuesday November 17th- Hosted at St. Clair College in partnership with Ontario Centers of Excellence. This is an event that will provide St. Clair students, alumni and faculty with theory and practice based tools designed to help entrepreneurs take a new product or process to market. Vanguard has been invited to participate as a presenter.

Future Activity/Outreach/Programming

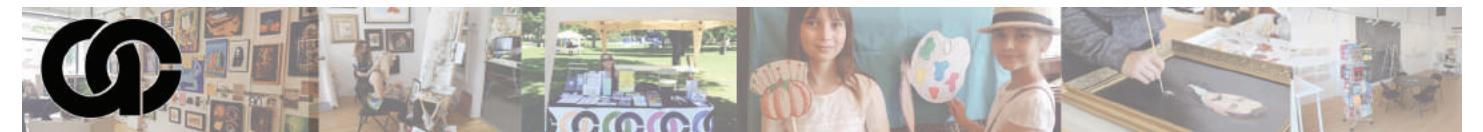
New Recruits Open-House: Member/Volunteer Fair. Date TBD. Vanguard will host a recruitment fair to connect with potential volunteers and members. Executive Members Jude Abu Zaineh (President), Rosina Riccardo (Vice-Prisidnt) and Lindsay Whalen (Secretary) terms will end as of March 2016, new membership is required to continue community involvement.

Culture Talks -Dep't of Tourism, and Sports: Dec 3rd at AGW- Vanguard is to attend round table discussions and workshops. We will participate in the activities to harbour conversations for what we want to see for tourism and sports in Windsor.



VANGUARD MESS FEST

Mess Fest: A Community Arts Week was a weeklong celebration of Windsor's arts and cultural scene. The festival featured daily events, activities, and workshops that highlighted and encouraged the arts in Windsor-Essex





It has been my pleasure to curate and publish the Arts Notes this year. Arts Notes are a vital resource for staying updated on the vibrant arts community that Windsor-Essex has to offer. There has been no shortage of amazing cultural events to showcase this year, and I was honoured to be able to share each and everyone with our readership.

Since last year, over 200 subscribers were added to the Arts Notes mailing list, bringing the total subscribers to more than 700. More people are interacting with the Arts Notes and the ACWR community calendar every week. I am pleased to report that the Arts Notes continue to maintain a stable open rate of about 35-45%, an increase of roughly 10% from 2014.

In addition to posting the Arts Notes to the Windsor Star, this year also saw the Arts Notes shared weekly on Windsor Square and the Windsor Independent, which allows the e-newsletter to reach an even broader audience. I would like to thank the editors at those media outlets for continuing to support ACWR through sharing the Arts Notes with their readers.

The Arts Notes would not be able to run without the continuing involvement from the arts community in Windsor-Essex. I would like to thank everyone who submits events to ACWR's Community Calendar. ACWR is proud to promote and engage with your arts events.

I look forward to curating the Arts Notes for the year to come and continuing to promote the wonderful creativity happening in our city.

Jordan Worsell-Collins
Assistant Outreach Coordinator



ACWR Art.WORK professional development workshops support artists in building skill sets to further their creative careers.

Upcoming Workshops 2015/2016

December 9, 2015 | Film and Video Festival Primer

February 9, 2016 | Writing About Art: A Critical View

April 13, 2016 | Online Sales for Artists (Leamington Arts Centre)

May 11, 2016 | Websites for Artists

July 13, 2016 | Publishing Primer

September 14, 2016 | Grant Writing

Workshops are \$10 for ACWR members & \$15 for non-members





During the course of 2015, the Arts Council of Windsor & Region has seen a great number of dedicated volunteers generously donate their time to support our programs, daily services, and events. Volunteers are an integral part of the ACWR, and much of the success we have had over the past year, could not have been achieved without the support of these generous community members.

The Arts Council of Windsor & Region would like to extend a big “thank-you” to the following individuals who donated their time to the organization in the year of 2015...

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Anupriya Singh | Mariano Klimovicz |
| Ashley Lavigne | Mary Porter |
| Banka Dam | Meg Reiner |
| Brian Sweet | Nadia Silvestri |
| Chelsea Greenwell | Nancy Yim-Holt |
| Dave Kant | Nathalie Roy |
| David Hanna | Olivia Lori |
| Dee Calzavara | Patrick Thompson |
| Diane White | Paulette Rivait |
| Emy Szigyarto | Rachel Leorts |
| Frank Incitti | Rick Santarossa |
| Frank Varga | Rose MacDonald |
| Han Wang | Rosina Riccardo |
| Jacqueline Tinus | Sabrina Sisco |
| Jennifer Escott | Shane Potvin |
| Jinchen Jiao | Shelly Bennett Carr |
| Jolie Inthavong | Sonya Soave |
| Jordan Worsell-Collins | Sue Cole |
| Jude Abu Zaineh | Susan Mcleod |
| Katherine Melanson | Tanya Ciotti |
| Khaleel Al-Haddad | Tida Kheav |
| Lindsay Whalen | Vanessa Gatti |
| Lynne Beausoleil | Yiru Chen |
| Maria Jose | Yomna Seregeldin |



The Arts Council Windsor & Region is supported through grants, donations and support from our membership. Every contribution makes an impact on the services we offer the community. We extend our deepest thanks to those who have supported us this past year, and we encourage everyone to consider adding their names to the list of ACWR supporters.

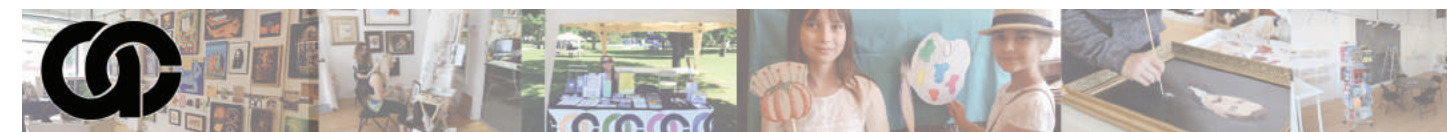
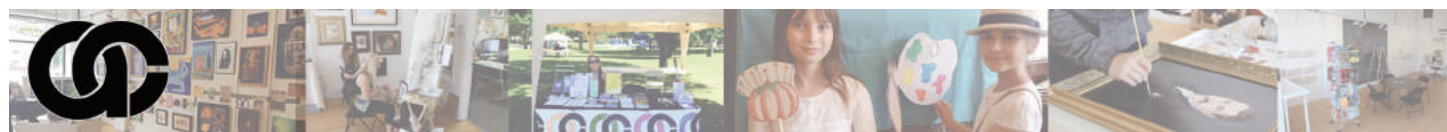
2014/2015 Donors

- Green Shield Canada - Dress Down Day staff donations
- Waddell Trust
- Gregory Atkinson
- Terry and Margaret Snyder in Memory of longtime ACWR member Mary Atkinson
- Dave Kant, proceeds of Walter Kant memorial exhibition donated to VANGUARD Youth Arts Collective
- Catherine Service
- Geoffrey P. Deneau
- Olivia Lori

Throughout the year ACWR staff writes grants to support projects and operations through several funding bodies. We are proud to have the support and confidence of our funders in our capacity to deliver important programs and services to our community. Thank you for your continued support.

2014/2015 Funders

- The City of Windsor
- Ontario Arts Council
- Windsor Essex Community Foundation
- Ontario Trillium Foundation



EACH YEAR ACWR WORKS TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE THE ARTS COMMUNITY IN OUR REGION.

WE ARE ABLE TO DO OUR WORK THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF OUR DONORS, FUNDING BODIES, AND MEMBERSHIP.

EVERY CONTRIBUTION HAS A DIRECT IMPACT ON OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY.



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT, DONATE TO ACWR TODAY



4th Wall Music
121 University Drive West | Windsor, ON
<http://4thwallmusic.org>
\$2 off adult tickets to performances

Art Galia
12055 Tecumseh Rd E | Tecumseh, ON
<http://artgalia.com>
15% off custom framing, 10% off art supplies and art classes

Biblioasis
1520 Wyandotte St E | Windsor, ON
<http://biblioasis.com>
10% off all books

Crosstown Players
<http://crosstownplayers.ca>
A deal or discount based on performance

City Cycle ry
553 Lincoln Rd | Windsor ON
<http://citycyclery.ca>
10% off bicycle accessories

The Gibson Gallery
140 Richmond Street | Amherstburg, ON
<http://gibsonartgallery.com>
10% off Artisan Shoppe sales

The Gallery at Visions of Canada
1521 Riverside Dr W | Windsor ON
<http://visionsofcanada.com/>
Entered into a contest to win a \$50 gift card

InTune Music
1971 Ottawa St | Windsor, ON
<http://intunewindsor.com/>
10% off group classes and programs

Jewish Community Centre
1641 Ouelette Ave. | Windsor, ON
<http://jewishwindsor.org/>
Member's Rates on all activities and rental

Jones & Co
1755 Wyandotte St. E | Windsor, ON
15% off

Levigator Press
1984 Wyandotte St. E | Windsor, ON
<http://levigatorpress.ca/>
15% off all classes

Leamington Arts Centre
SEAA/LAC Member's rates on group show entry fees and 5% less on sales commission

Mirror World Publishing
<http://www.mirrorworldpublishing.com/>
15% off online sales with code: MWPARTS

Nancy Johns Gallery & Framing
4755 Wyandotte St E | Windsor ON
<http://nancyjohns.com/>
15% off custom framing

Ring Weavers Studios
<http://www.ringweaversstudios.com/>
\$10 off all class fees and \$50 off wedding band workshop

Sho: Art, Spirit & Performance
628 Monmouth Rd., Unit #6 | Windsor, ON
<http://www.sho-studios.com/>
\$5 off events

Taloola Cafe
2965 Dominion Blvd | Windsor, ON
<http://www.southwindsorschoolof-music.com>
Free select beverage with purchase over \$5

South Windsor School of Music
390 Devonshire Rd. | Windsor, ON
<http://www.taloolacafe.com/>
25% first month's music lessons

Symchyshyn Photographic
<http://www.symchyshyn.com/>
15% off studio quotes (portraits, studio work etc.)

**Community Partners
(Businesses/Organizations with
ACWR Memberships)**

Canadian Arts Productions
Capricorn Pottery
F.J. Brennan Catholic High School
LeyDan Art Gallery
Media City Film Festival
Music Express
Romanian Culture Society
Studio M
The Gourmet Imporium
Walkerville Collegiate Institute
Windsor Community Museum
Windsor Writes

