

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

Arts Council Windsor & Region



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**HUSSEIN SAMHAT**  
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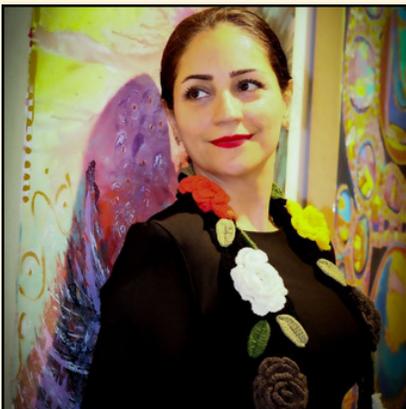
**MARIA BELENKOVA-  
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COORDINATOR

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear ACWR Members,

Here we are near the end of yet another year for the Arts Council Windsor & Region. As we approach the Annual General Meeting, and my first AGM as President and Chair of the Board, it was important for me to take some time to reflect on these last few years for the organisation, and the first few months of my Presidency. My predecessor had informed me of some of the challenges that I would be facing coming into the role of President, and I will admit, there have been some challenges and road bumps on this journey transitioning back to in-person experiences.

When reflecting upon the last two years, I would describe the Arts Council Windsor & Region in one word, resilient. I promised myself that I would not speak about the pandemic in this letter, however, I believe that the impacts and obstacles that have been thrown our way have served to shape the ACWR into the organisation it would like to be and continues to work toward becoming. I believe that a step in the right direction begins internally with the plans, processes, and opportunities that are being created to enhance the experience and connection between the team and our external partners, and ACWR Members.

A personal goal that I have set for myself at the start of my term as President was to increase the visibility of the Arts Council. I strongly believe in our mission, our staff, our Board, and our community. While a huge part of organisational leadership is showing up. I believe that the most important part in this kind of work is to be present, be authentic, and to be ready to do the work. Through our strategic plan, the Arts Council Windsor & Region intends on fostering connections and rebuilding the partnerships and relationships that have been established within our community. The change begins on the inside with the organisational goals and commitments that we have set for ourselves. With intentions to work towards increasing our commitment to areas of equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization and the framing of art as a way of being, thinking, and knowing being at the forefront of this vision.

I am hopeful for the year ahead of us as we reintegrate ourselves into a community going through a period of rebuilding, healing, and growth as a leader. I am committed to continue to work closely with our Staff and Board in the implementation of our strategic vision, and I am grateful for the opportunity to lead, support, and advocate for our arts organisation and arts community.

**Hussein Samhat,**

President & Board Chair, Arts Council Windsor & Region

*Hussein Samhat*

# A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members,

I am writing this letter at the beginning of December, just a couple of days before our AGM. Looking back on everything that happened this year, I feel very proud of what we were able to accomplish, and also very grateful for all the support received from the community.

The ArtSpeak gallery reopened its doors after two years of being closed due to COVID-19. Once we announced its reopening in early April, the gallery was booked for the rest of the year. In 8 months we were able to hold 19 exhibits and 2 member shows, bringing together very diverse practices. As we gradually began to feel comfortable visiting physical spaces, the importance of the gallery as a gathering place became apparent.

We worked on simplifying the gallery booking process, which will now be able to take place online. This digital improvement took place with the support of the OTF Resilient Communities grant, which also supported the creation of a digital membership card that can be easily downloaded to take advantage of various benefits, including discounts from local businesses, art supply stores, and coffee shops.

Sadly, this year we saw the departure of our Outreach Coordinator, Kaitlyn Karns. We welcomed Madeline Doornaert, a recent graduate of the University of Windsor's music and education program. Madeline has contributed a wide variety of assets, helping not only with the day-to-day running of the gallery, but also with the development of various fundraising strategies.

In addition to the opening of the gallery space, the NewVoices program continued taking place during the year and we were able to hold 7 new site-specific installations on the billboard by artists from diverse backgrounds. Also, thanks to My Main Street - Community Activator program, we were able to initiate the New Voices Community Arts Residency, welcoming Hiba Abdallah and Alejandro Franco Briones as artists in residence.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The residency program offered a unique opportunity to reflect about our privileged location in the Walkerville neighborhood, and also opened the possibility of initiating a local community of live coding artists. Ostoró Petahtegoose was hired to coordinate the project and their knowledge and support were key to facilitating the interaction between the artists and the local communities.

Also this year, board members and staff worked together to finalize the review of the 2019-2024 strategic plan and adapt it based on the impacts of COVID-19. This work was carried out with the support of the consultant Melinda Munro who provided an external look at the process. As a result, the new strategic plan, “Art is what makes life more interesting than art”, was developed and will guide the organization for the next five years.

I would like to conclude by mentioning that next year our efforts will be directed on the implementation of the new strategic plan, which includes, among others, creating more opportunities for diverse communities to use the gallery space; developing collaborations and partnerships with other local organizations; and the development of new fundraising strategies to expand and diversify our sources of income, so that the organization can continue to thrive as a service provider and advocate for the local and regional arts community.

I look forward to meeting you in person over the next year!

**Alejandro Tamayo,**  
Executive Director  
Arts Council Windsor & Region



# A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE & OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Dear Members,

In my first month of working at the Arts Council Windsor & Region, I had the opportunity of learning more about the organization by looking through some archived photographs from past events, programs, and exhibits, occurring at ArtSpeak Gallery and surrounding locations. These captured memories, spanning back to the '80s, provided me with insight on the history of ACWR, its staff, members, volunteers, and more. In exploring these memories, a few stills caught my attention: a sculpture that artist and ACWR member, Rashmi Dadwal, has been exhibiting at ArtSpeak Gallery each year for over 20 years; a group of over 20 people gathered around an emotive fringe-style theatre performance in the middle of the gallery; members of the Vanguard Youth Arts Collective inviting passersby to contribute to a thought-provoking art project in the Ford City Community Garden.

I was trying to identify what makes these photos and the organization so intriguing. What makes ACWR so special? The vast amount of resources offered to Windsor-Essex Artists? The opportunity to organize projects, like the New Voices billboard program, that actively work to elevate the voices of equity-seeking groups in the region? A non-juried gallery space filled with different types of exhibits every week?

After a few years of isolation, paused events, and adapting to a new normal, it is clear that what makes ACWR so special is that the organization is a reflection of what you, the members, want it to be!

When the sun has set early in the middle of winter, and you cannot spend another dark night isolated at home, ACWR can be a bright room full of passionate people gathering, laughing, brainstorming, and sharing at ArtSpeak Gallery. When a skill-related challenge or lack of inspiration arises in your artistic practice, ACWR can be a virtual workshop you attend, providing you with the spark needed to initiate a new creative venture. When you least expect for your project to change direction, ACWR can be the connection you made with another member at the annual members' showcase that fosters an enduring collaborative relationship.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE & OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Building upon the hard work dedicated to developing such a unique organization that reflects the needs of Windsor-Essex artists, one of our goals for this year has been to engage artists from more diverse disciplines and backgrounds as we resume programming following the pandemic. After facilitating more events in the past four months than we have hosted in the past two years, we accomplished expanding our volunteer base of individuals from various artistic disciplines, hosting events that push “the norm” of art making, and making existing programming more accessible to wider ranges of artists and art-lovers in the region.

Thank you so much to the Board of Directors for their assistance and support throughout the year; to Executive Director Alejandro Tamayo for all his hard work, leadership, and mentorship through the exciting and busy process of re-opening and strategic planning; to the incredible volunteers, Canada Summer Job employees, and University of Windsor VIP Interns for leveraging their unique skills in helping the organization’s efforts in event hosting, fundraising, and outreach; to Claire Baldwin for creatively curating ACWR’s weekly e-newsletter, ArtsNotes; and to Ostorio Petahtegoose for thoughtfully fostering and coordinating the 2022 New Voices Community Arts Residency, a program that will hopefully grow to connect many individuals in new and unique ways through art. Also, thank you so much to ACWR members for filling ACWR’s virtual and physical spaces with inspiration, ideas, passion, and resilience through distance, adversity, and time.

I look forward to a new year full of artistic exploration, exciting events, and connection through the arts!

Kind Regards,  
**Madeline Doornaert**  
Administrative & Outreach Coordinator



# A LETTER FROM VANGUARD

Vanguard Youth Arts Collective is a group of creatively driven youth (15-29 years of age) who act as a voice for an emerging generation of the arts within the Windsor Essex Region. Vanguard nurtures creative development by fostering connections within the community. We strive to enrich the artistic culture in our community through youth engagement and inspire interdisciplinary creative practices with low barriers. Vanguard spent this past year focussed on developing connections within the collective and interacting with the community through hybrid and in-person initiatives. Through our hybrid programming we've maintained a steady audience, reaching around 400-500 community members.

Vanguard's first goal of the year was to develop strategies of reintroducing the volunteers that make up the collective back to the city and plan some in-person events. Online we hosted a few different educational and experimentation series including "How-To Tuesday" with Julia Adams, "Draw This in Your Style" with a mix of members contributing, and a continuation of our "Spot On" digital magazine interview series run by Alexei Ungurenasu and Meaghan Sweeney. These initiatives fostered opportunities to refine skills in social media marketing, journalism and content management, while also giving members a platform to share their interests and community activities with others.

In late winter/early spring, Vanguard put together successful grant proposals for 'Spot On' magazine to head to a print edition and for a 'Breaking Waves' Workshop Series. Vanguard's biggest ongoing project has been the digital publishing of the zine, 'Spot On!' This project is a monthly artist interview series edited by Alexei Ungurenasu and Meaghan Sweeney. Each issue is focused on a different artist that varies in age, discipline and skill level and gives an introspective look at the incredible artists that make up the Windsor-Essex art scene. The team was awarded the financial backing from WEA to continue the project and publish a physical copy of the full year of interviews.

Vanguard also received funding this year from the Arts Culture Heritage Fund to run a literary and visual arts workshop series geared toward high-school age students in the area. The free workshop featured guest creatives Teajai Travis (Artcite Inc.) and Vanessa Shields (Gertrude's Writing Room) as well as workshop leads within the collective. Students explored during the full day workshop and tried poetry, creative writing, drumming, collage, sewing and more to create unique artworks to be featured in a week long exhibition. The spring workshop and accompanying exhibition was a great success and will ideally become an ongoing series hosted by the collective and feature new guest artists every year. Alongside the Breaking Waves workshop, the collective had the opportunity to highlight our interdisciplinary interests once more through the New Voices Billboard Project run by ACWR.

# A LETTER FROM VANGUARD

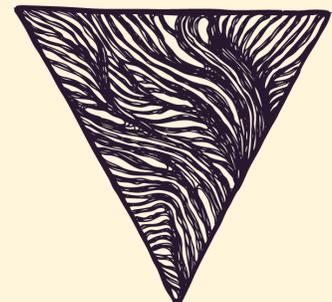
Continuing with our collaborative and educational programming over the spring/summer season, members of the collective were invited by the AWE Teen Arts council to run a lightning workshop weekend called Art Bites. In the education studio at the gallery, members of the public were invited to try comic illustration, collaging/mail art, wire sculpture flowers and more! Leading into the summer, we ventured over to Dropped on Drouillard to host all-ages activities at our art booth. Our vice-president Meaghan made an awesome 'Windsor' pizza panel where the community contributed unique collaged toppings! Most recently, our president and vice-president spoke at a Youth Arts & Community panel alongside the Windsor Symphony Youth Orchestra and the AWE Teen Arts Council as part of the AWE at Night event.

When we were not working on our own projects, Vanguard members were attending and participating in arts events throughout the region offered by City of Windsor, Artcite Inc., ACWR, SOCA, Art Windsor Essex, Ford City BIA, United Way Youth Mentorship Programs, Work In Culture and many more. We also said goodbye to a few members this year but we are pleased to end on a high note as we welcome a handful of members to the collective (to be the biggest we've ever been!) and plan our next adventures for 2023. Thank you to ACWR for supporting the collective and encouraging us to keep moving forward with our passions and ideas.

## **Current Members:**

Maria Mediratta - President  
Meaghan Sweeney - Vice President  
Gabiella Howes - Secretary  
Julia Adams - Vanguard Member  
Alexei Ungurenasu - Vanguard Member  
Sandra Jabbour - Vanguard Member  
Chantal Brouillard - Vanguard Member  
Kristina Bradt - Vanguard Member  
Rebecca Mckenzie - Vanguard Member

VANGUARD



# 2022 PROMOTION

## ARTSNOTES

ACWR has 1150+ subscribers to the Arts Notes Newsletter. This is the only comprehensive Arts, Cultural and Heritage listing in Windsor and Region. With a new website and software, ACWR aims to reach 2000+ subscribers within three years.

## ARTSPEAK PODCAST EPISODES

Keep up to date with past episodes by visiting [acwr.net](http://acwr.net) or following ACWR on SoundCloud at [ArtsCouncilWindsorRegion](https://www.soundcloud.com/ArtsCouncilWindsorRegion).

- New Voices - Derrick Biso (in conversation with Alejandro Tamayo)
- Sound Poetry Workshop Recap w/ Kalie Chapman
- Interview with Dr. Karl Jirgens



ArtsNotes is curated by Claire Baldwin.

## TEA AND CHAT

From October 17th to December 14th, 2022, ACWR staff offered tea to gallery visitors on Wednesdays from 5-7pm. Visitors, including representatives from arts-based organizations and Windsor-Essex artists, were provided with tea, resources, and information about ACWR.



Podcast artwork created by Kalie Chapman.

## OUTREACH & INFORMATION SESSIONS

- Connecting Neighborhoods: Resource Sharing, Collaboration & Other Challenges
  - Hiba Abdallah, ACWR New Voices Community Arts Residency
- Black History Month Website Resources
- Live Coding Presentation at University of Windsor School of Creative Arts SoCA Friday
  - Alejandro Franco Briones, ACWR New Voices Community Arts Residency

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# S O C I A L S

The ACWR social media accounts have seen a great increase in followers since 2020.

This increase is a result of new marketing tactics and efforts made by the staff to expand ACWR's following and networks.

PLATFORM	2020	2021	2022
 INSTAGRAM	1,805	2,012	2,358
 TWITTER	2,584	2,628	2,637
 FACEBOOK	2,526	2,582	2,804

Numbers collected in December 2022

# 2022 PARTNERSHIPS

## ONTARIO CULTURE DAYS

In September 2022, ACWR partnered with AWE and Ontario Culture Days to celebrate arts and culture in Windsor-Essex through a series of events, including exhibitions by Rosina Riccardo, Lauren Hedges, Sarah Morris, Meaghan Sweeney, and Martha Franco, and a free Sound Poetry Workshop event hosted at ArtSpeak Gallery.

## CULTURE DAYS



Sound poetry workshop by Dr. Karl Jirgens

## WORKINCULTURE

ACWR partnered with WorkInCulture to support an event series, called Growing Creative Careers. These events, facilitated by Nadja Pelkey, consisted of workshops, peer learning, and resource sharing.

## UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR VIP PROGRAM

ACWR partnered with the University of Windsor's VIP program to provide three students with work experiences in the field of arts administration. Students registered for this program receive up to two course credits for participating in the internship.



VIP students from left to right: Maja Bojoevski, Emma Sorrell, and Kalie Chapman

# MEMBERS & EXHIBITIONS



Members of the Arts Council of Windsor & Region are artists, art supporters, arts administrators, arts organizations and community members; whether working or supporting in creative industries, ACWR strives to connect members with valuable resources and artistic and professional development opportunities.

## MEMBER EXHIBITS

### **Earth Lodge: An Exhibition by Jay Raven**

June 5th - June 12th, 2022

### **Beatnik Art Supplies Gallery Show: Bus Stop Beatniks**

June 21st - June 25th, 2022

### **Windsor Heat**

July 2nd - July 14th, 2022

ACWR members shared works at ArtSpeak Gallery; a collection of paintings, drawings, fine crafts, books, and more!

### **My Coming of Gay-ge by Alyssa Pisciotte**

July 18th - July 23rd, 2022

### **Unfinished Memories: Portrait of a Woman by Gulnaz Turdalieva**

August 21st - August 28th, 2022

### **Laura Becker: Compendium**

August 28th - September 11th, 2022

### **NEKA: Kahame Msiska**

September 13th - September 18th, 2022

### **Locally Sourced: A Visual Archive Documenting the Downtown Farmers' Market by Rosina Riccardo, Lauren Hedges, and Sarah Morris**

September 19th - September 24th, 2022

### **Meaghan Sweeney: An Invitation to Exist**

October 2nd - October 9th, 2022

### **Exhibition by Rashmi Dadwal**

October 23rd - November 6th, 2022

### **Winter Holiday Market by Maude Chalifour, Nora Harvey, and Stephanie Mason**

November 13th - November 27th, 2022

### **Mistletoe & Snow**

December 8th - December 16th, 2022

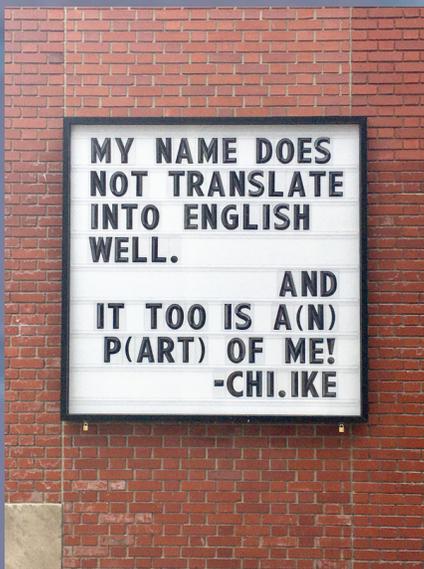
ACWR members shared works at ArtSpeak Gallery; a collection of paintings, drawings, fine crafts, books, and more!

# NEW VOICES

New Voices is ACWR's 6 x 6-foot billboard located on the external wall of ArtSpeak gallery. The billboard, featuring interchangeable letters, is a place for language-based exhibitions and concrete and experimental poetry installations. The initial focus of this program is to provide an outlet for underrepresented and marginalized voices in Windsor-Essex, including new generation artists, newcomer artists, artists of colour, Indigenous artists, artists with disabilities, francophone artists, and 2SLGBTQ+ communities. Accompanying tote bags are sometimes sold to raise funds to support this program. New Voices will continue in 2023.



12 Words from 12 Songs by ACWR Staff  
Dec. 15th, 2021 - Jan. 15th, 2022



A(N) P(A)RT) OF ME! by Chidera Ikewibe,  
Jan. 15th - Feb. 15th, 2022



THE WORLD IS YOURS by Tenzin Dorjé  
Feb. 15th - March 15th, 2022

# NEW VOICES



Hello Traveller by Jade Wallace  
March. 15th - April. 15th, 2022

"When we are forgotten, who will remember us?"  
by Mahlet Cuff  
April 15th - May 15th, 2022



"trees remember the sins of a city"  
by Teajai Travis  
May. 15th - June. 15th, 2022

# NEW VOICES



## TRANS WELLNESS ONTARIO DONATION

In June, Derrick Carl Biso displayed, “BI GAY LESBIAN TRANS & QUEER / WE HAVE & WILL ALWAYS EXIST HERE”, on the New Voices public art billboard. ACWR created 25 tote bags with their design and donated \$5.00 from every one of these New Voices tote bags to Trans Wellness Ontario. We are happy to share that we sold 25 tote bags and donated \$125.00 to the organization.



“BI GAY LESBIAN TRANS & QUEER / WE HAVE & WILL ALWAYS EXIST HERE” by Derrick Carl Biso  
June 15th - July 15th, 2022



“Breaking Waves”  
by Vanguard Youth Arts Collective  
July 15th - August 15th, 2022

# NEW VOICES COMMUNITY ARTS RESIDENCY

**Holding two artists in the second semester of 2022, the residency allowed time to conduct research and to connect with the local community to develop a project that responds directly to the specificity of Walkerville and the adjacent neighbourhoods, Wyandotte Town Centre and Ford City.**

**Each artist in residence was given space at ACWR, access to internet and printing facilities, as well as the possibility to make use of the New Voices billboard.**

**The goal of the residency was to combine the unique potential of community-oriented art practices for uncovering local narratives and igniting conversations, with the advantageous location of ACWR and the high visibility of the New Voices billboard.**



New Voices  
Program Coordinator,  
Ostoró Petahtegoose



Funded by:  
Federal Economic Development  
Agency for Southern Ontario

Financé par :  
Agence fédérale de développement  
économique pour le Sud de l'Ontario

Canada 



# THANK YOU

## FUNDERS AND IN-KIND DONATIONS



Ontario  
Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium  
de l'Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario  
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

ArtCite Inc.

Art Gallery of Windsor

Arts Can Teach

Canadian Network for Arts and Learning

Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre

Capitol Theatre

City of Windsor Cultural Affairs Department

CJAM 99.1FM

The Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board

Levigator Press

Mayworks

Media City Film Festival

One Ten Park

Ontario Arts Council

Sho: Art, Spirit and Performance

Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island

The Multicultural Centre of Windsor Essex

The University of Windsor Turtle Island Education Centre

The University of Windsor's School of Creative Arts

Unifor Local 200

VUCAVU

Wapikoni Cinema on Wheels

W.E. Trans Support

Windsor Essex Economic Development Corporation

Windsor Essex Small Business Centre

Windsor Youth Centre

Workforce Windsor Essex

# PARTNERS

## DEALS AND DISCOUNTS WITH YOUR ACWR MEMBERSHIP!

### **ART GALIA**

1255 Tecumseh Rd E | Tecumseh ON  
artgalia.com  
15% off custom framing, 10% off art supplies  
and art classes

### **THE GIBSON GALLERY**

140 Richmond St | Amherstburg ON  
gibsongallery.com  
10% off Artisan Shoppe sales

### **INTUNE MUSIC**

934 Ottawa St | Windsor ON  
intunewindsor.com  
25% off first month's group classes

### **WINDSOR JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE**

1641 Ouellette Ave | Windsor ON  
jewishwindsor.org  
Member's rates on all activities and rentals

### **LEVIGATOR PRESS**

1984 Wyandotte St E | Windsor ON  
levigatorpress.ca  
15% off all classes

### **LEAMINGTON ARTS CENTRE**

72 Talbot St W | Leamington ON  
SEAA/LAC Member's rates on group shows

### **MIRROR WORLD PUBLISHING**

mirrorworldpublishing.com  
15% off online sales with code: MWPARTS

### **SHO: ART, SPIRIT & PERFORMANCE**

628 Monmouth Rd | Windsor ON  
shoartstudios.com  
\$5 off select events

### **HOT POP FACTORY**

<https://www.hotpopfactory.com/>  
15% discount on Hot Pop Factory's laser  
cutting, laser engraving, and 3D printing  
services.

### **TALOOLA CAFE**

390 Devonshire Rd | Windsor ON [taloolacafe.com](http://taloolacafe.com)  
Free select beverage with purchase over \$5

### **SYMCHYSHYN PHOTOGRAPHIC**

[symchyshyn.com](http://symchyshyn.com)  
15% off studio quotes (portraits, studio work etc.)

### **NANCY JOHNS GALLERY & FRAMING**

4755 Wyandotte St E | Windsor ON [nancyjohns.com](http://nancyjohns.com)  
15% off custom framing

### **COMMON GROUND GALLERY**

3277 Sandwich St | Windsor ON  
Free entrance to all events and free button at the  
door

### **UNIVERSITY PLAYERS**

[uwindsor.ca/universityplayers/](http://uwindsor.ca/universityplayers/)  
ACT UP! Ticket (\$8 Saturday Matinee)

### **DESERRES- ART SUPPLY STORE**

Save 10% off regular price items

### **HNM DANCE COMPANY**

1641 Ouellette Ave | Windsor ON  
Free Fun Fridays & 10% off classes and programs

### **LEVIGATOR PRESS**

[levigatorpress.ca](http://levigatorpress.ca) | Windsor ON  
15% off all classes

### **LEAMINGTON ARTS CENTRE**

72 Talbot St W | Leamington ON  
SEAA/LAC Member's rates on group shows