

A YEAR IN REVIEW

ARTS COUNCIL WINDSOR & REGION



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



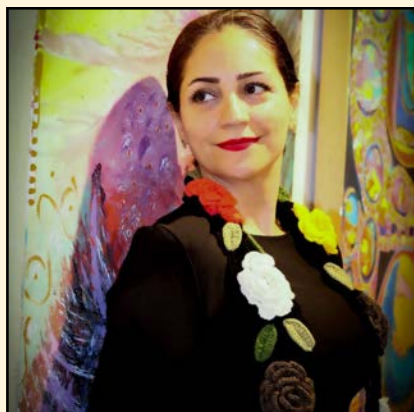
LAURA SERVICE
INTERIM CHAIR



**MARIA BELENKOVA-
BUFORD**
TREASURER



ANGELA DESJARDINS
SECRETARY



MARYAM SAFARZADEH



CÉLESTE KURCZ



ANDREAS MANIATIS



STEPHANIE BARNHARD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF FAREWELLS

MADLINE DOORNEART
ADMINISTRATIVE & OUTREACH
COORDINATOR

JILL THOMSON
BOARD MEMBER

STEPHEN DROUIN
BOARD MEMBER

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

INTERIM PRESIDENT/BOARD CHAIR

At the Arts Council Windsor & Region (ACWR), we hold a vision for the community we serve that informs our direction. This vision is a community where all forms and expressions of art are valued and none are privileged over another; artists and art-workers are valued, respected, and supported; and barriers to art-making are identified and removed to ensure equitable access to resources and support.

These three pillars of our purpose are about one thing, accessibility. ACWR exists to help artists live and work in an accessible, stable, and supportive community. We work to make this vision come to life through many activities and programs designed to support the artists, creatives, makers and visionaries of Windsor Essex. I am proud to serve ACWR as a board member, and in 2023 as the Interim Board President and Chair because I believe in this purpose. Artists and creative activity are an essential part of a thriving community. And working alongside a board of caring, driven, and committed people to bring this vision to life is immensely valuable to me.

2023 has been like many years at the ACWR, there were challenges faced while simultaneously there were many things to celebrate. Under the leadership of Executive Director, Alejandro Tamayo, ACWR has recovered from a post covid financial crisis and is now well on its way to future success. As a former staff of this organization myself, I understand the stress and uncertainty that can sometimes face arts workers. I'm continually impressed by Alejandro's elegant and resolute approach to navigating bumps in the road. And I have witnessed the cooperative and equitable way the staff team works and it gives me so much hope for the year ahead.

In 2023, ACWR continued successful programs like the New Voices program, experiential learning placements for local students, and the Vanguard Youth Arts Collective. Grant consultation services continued fiercely helping numerous artists access much needed funds. And new programs and initiatives were developed, like Drag Me to Windsor - an exhibition and event Celebrating 150 Years of Windsor-Detroit Drag History, and the Neighbourhood Art Tour.

Looking into 2024, the ACWR will be led by a board and staff that sees a vision for Windsor-Essex that is welcoming and accessible to artists from all backgrounds and lived experiences. I am truly optimistic about the year ahead because I know that the people who surround me, doing this work, know that the arts have the power to unite, heal, and inspire. We do this work because of the artists, members, partners and people we work with every day. I look forward to another year with the ACWR, helping to grow in our ability to support and realize creative activity that contributes to a thriving community.

Laura Service

Interim President & Board Chair, Arts Council Windsor & Region

A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear ACWR members and local arts community ,

As we approach the end of 2023, this letter is not only an opportunity to reflect on the various programs and services we offered this year, but also an opportunity to acknowledge the importance of partnerships and collaborations in the development of these programs.

Additionally, as we continue to implement our Strategic Plan, “Art is what makes life more interesting than art,” we remain committed to exploring various ways to expand and diversify the use of our gallery space, ArtSpeak Gallery, emphasizing its potential as a safe space for artists from various disciplines and backgrounds to meet and interact with the general public, while keeping it accessible and affordable.

Through a collaboration with local drag queen, Epoxy (Cole Fortier), we offered a program that celebrated 150 years of drag culture in Windsor-Detroit. This program included a free drag show at the Walkerville Brewery that attracted over 200 guests and an exhibition at ArtSpeak showcasing historical documents and artifacts. This event sought to bring tourists to Windsor during the cold days of March, and was supported by a grant received from the Tourism Relief Fund.

Other collaborations and partnerships included our ongoing support to WorkInCulture’s “Growing Creative Careers: Windsor & Region”, a professional development training series offered free of charge to local artists and arts workers; the creation of a listening event series organized by CJAM radio at ArtSpeak gallery on a bi-monthly bases; and a partnership with Irene Moore Davis and the Essex County Black Historical Research Society to hold an exhibition celebrating the bicentennial anniversary of Mary Ann Shadd Cary.

It is also relevant to mention our collaboration with Ontario Culture Days and Windsor Endowment for the Arts (WEA) in the creation of a free Neighborhood Art Tour. The event brought together more than 30 participants who visited four different neighborhoods of the city, learned about local stories and public art landmarks. I would like to take the opportunity to thank our board of directors and volunteers for supporting these programs.

A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2023 also brought important changes to the organization. Madeline Doornaert left the Administrative and Outreach Coordinator position, we are grateful for the support and positive impact Madeline brought to the organization as a professional musician and we wish her all the best in her future academic endeavors and creative practice. Finding a replacement for this position was not an easy task; we were fortunate to hire Maria Mediratta, who brought a wealth of knowledge in community engagement and experience in arts administration and gallery preparation, making the transition into this position very smooth.

Also this year we welcomed Moneeza Sami as our Marketing and Fundraising Specialist; this position was opened thanks to a grant received from the Community Services Recovery Fund. Moneeza has been supporting the organization by developing and implementing a number of fundraising strategies which will be instrumental in continuing to recover from the effects of the pandemic.

In closing, I would like to especially thank our funders, sponsors and donors for their support. Without your contributions we would not be able to continue providing the programs and services we offer, and we are grateful for your continued support.

We are excited for what 2024 will bring!

Alejandro Tamayo
Executive Director



A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF ADMIN. & OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Hello Members!

Joining the ACWR Staff this year has been an absolute pleasure. Stepping into an organization with over four decades of dedicated service to our arts community has been wonderful.

As I navigate through the archives and documents within our office, it truly makes me smile to come across the names of board members, volunteers, and staff who have left an indelible mark on the canvas of our organization. Each of us plays a pivotal role in sustaining artist-run spaces like ACWR, and I take great pride in contributing my part to keep these creative resources and spaces alive. I would like to express a special thank you to Madeline and Alejandro for orchestrating a seamless and thoughtful welcome into the Outreach role. I am also very grateful for the collaborative spirit that defines our team.

I look forward to the opportunity to connect with each of you in person. Please feel free to stop by, say hi, and share in the ever changing shape of ArtSpeak Gallery. Here's to the exciting chapters yet to unfold!

Wishing you well,

Maria Mediratta

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 focused on developing connections within the collective and interacting with the community through hybrid and in-person initiatives.

We've maintained a steady audience through our programming, reaching around 400-500 community members. Vanguard's first goal of the year was to develop strategies for reintroducing the volunteers that make up the collective to the community.

We started this year by welcoming many new members, to celebrate and introduce our new and old members we had a group exhibition in February, Getting to Know Vanguard at Artspeak Gallery, it was very well-attended. Our members exhibition highlighted the diverse and interdisciplinary practices of all our members. This was the first exhibition some of our members have ever shown their work in an exhibition. It was also a wonderful opportunity to introduce the collective to the public. We hope to make our Vanguard member exhibition a yearly occurrence.

In March we partnered with Artcite Inc. for their March Art Jam programming, and members of the collective volunteered to help facilitate the event, in exchange members were given a free table to vend at Artcite's Market as well as memberships to Artcite Inc.





Continuing with our collaborative and educational programming over the spring/summer season, members of the collective were invited by the AWE to facilitate Weekends in the Studio in June and to facilitate a Healing Through Creative Creation Workshop at WWWIW (Windsor Women Working With Immigrant Women). Vanguard members had the chance to plan and facilitate their own workshops! Allowing them professional art experience.

In August, Vanguard had an action-packed month, we physically published Spot On!, partnered with Artcite Inc. for Art Jam Pride and Art Jam Jr, and hosted a vendor table/interactive art activity at Dropped on Drouillard. At Dropped on Drouillard our co-vice-president Bianca made an awesome 'Windsor' themed coloring canvas where the community interacted by adding their personal touches and the members had an opportunity to vend their creative goods!

Spot On! Vanguard's biggest ongoing project has been the digital publishing of the magazine. This project is a monthly artist interview series edited by Alexei Ungurenasu and Meaghan Sweeney. Sadly Alexei's time as a member of the collective came to an end, but they collaborated with us by masterfully designing the entire layout of the printed issue of Spot On.

When we were not working on our own projects, Vanguard members were attending and participating in arts events throughout the region offered by the City of Windsor, Artcite Inc., ACWR, SOCA, Art Windsor Essex, Ford City BIA, and many more. We also said goodbye to two of our members this year. We are excited to continue growing and learning in 2024. Thank you to ACWR for supporting the collective and encouraging us to keep moving forward with our passions and ideas.

Meaghan Sweeney – President

Sandra Jabbour - Co-Vice President | Bianca Daher - Co-Vice President

Chantal Brouillard – Secretary

Members: Abbey Default | Rebecca Mckenzie | Grace Taylor | Howl Fyodor | Lou Cox | Emma McGee | Kaitlyn Cote-Caron | Nafeesa Sohail | Raida Farzat

2023 PROMOTION

ARTSNOTES

ACWR has 1200+ 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 updated digital strategies, ACWR aims to reach 2000+ subscribers within three years. Arts notes is curated by Claire Baldwin (right.)



ARTSPEAK PODCAST EPISODES

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

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



TEA AND CHAT

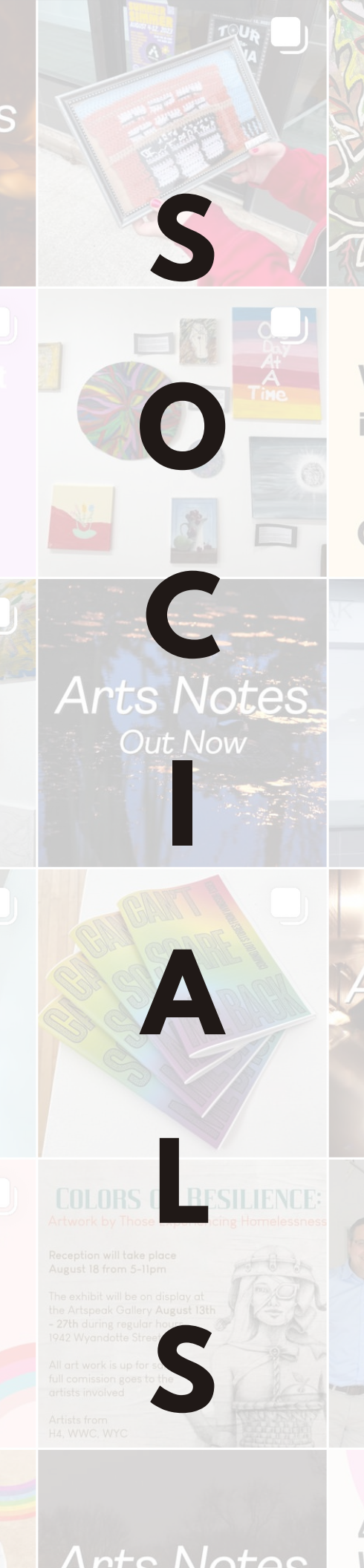
ACWR staff offers tea to gallery visitors on Wednesdays from 5-7pm. Visitors, including representatives from arts-based organizations and Windsor-Essex artists, are provided with tea, resources, and information about ACWR. This initiative will be returning in 2024!



OUTREACH & INFORMATION SESSIONS




- Growing Creative Careers Partner & Guest Speaker for Work In Culture
- Met with local politicians to advocate for funding and discuss grant opportunities
- Presenting Partners at Media City Film Festival 26
- Arts Resources Session for SoCA Seminar students (Dr. Jennifer Willet)





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	2023
 INSTAGRAM	1,805	2,012	2,358	2,763
 TWITTER	2,584	2,628	2,637	2,626
 FACEBOOK	2,526	2,582	2,804	2,869

Numbers collected in December 2023

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.

200+ Active Members.

ARTSPEAK GALLERY EXHIBITIONS 2023

THOM ZYNWALA (David Rimanelli & Windsor Printmakers Forum)

January 8th - February 5th

Getting to Know Vanguard (Youth Arts Collective)

February 5th - 12th

Hope for Healing (David & Alicia)

February 19th - 26th

Drag Me to Windsor (Cole Fortier & Walter T. Cassidy)

March 5th - 18th

Gesture Marks: Recent Graphite Drawings (Ed Janzen)

March 19th - 25th

Assumption College Student Exhibition

March 26th - April 1st

EDHS Photography Exhibition (Tom Litschko)

May 7th - 14th

Input / Output (Kristina Bradt & Andrew Bradt)

May 21st - 28th

Solo Exhibition (Elizabeth Kyle)

May 28th - June 10th

Elysian Prints (Emma Sorrell & Marissa Holowchak)

June 11th - 17th

Kindred (Michelle Chappus, Charmaine Billing, Carol Anne Winters & Sloane Skene)

June 18th - 24th

HOW DOES IT FEEL (Erik Skelton)

June 26th-30th

Windsor Heat (ACWR)

July 2 - 16th

Yardsale Fundraiser (ACWR)

July 16th - 23rd

Can't Scare Me Back (Luke Maddafor & Cole Fortier)

August 6th - 13th

Colours of Resilience (Batoolio)

August 13th-27th

More Balloons Please (Tiffany Messina)

August 27th-September 3rd

Art Create Learn Fall Issue & Exhibition

(Gulnaz Turdialeva)

September 3rd-10th

paper & cloth: a pop-up studio (Levigator Press & asil)

September 17th-24th

Getting from Point A to Point B and Back Again (Jeremy Burke)

September 24th-30th

Signs in the Stars (Kristyn Hartford)

October 1st-8th

Mary Ann Shade Cary: A Bicentennial Celebration (Essex County Black Historical Research Society)

October 8th-15th

"CRISIS AND POSSIBILITY" a print installation by Kalina Winska (Windsor Printmakers Forum)

October 15th-29th

stillmotion.2 (John Chan)

October 29th - November 15th

Solo Exhibition (Rashmi Dadwal)

November 12th-19th

Solo Exhibition (Nellie Dadabaeva)

November 19th-26th

The Memory of a Dream (Dennis Hunkler, Katherine Korach, Judy Chappus & Holly L. Wolter)

November 26th - December 3rd

Mistletoe & Snow (ACWR)

December 5th-15th

Single Day Rentals: Ashley Hastings Pop-Up January 7th | Ashley Hastings Pop-Up

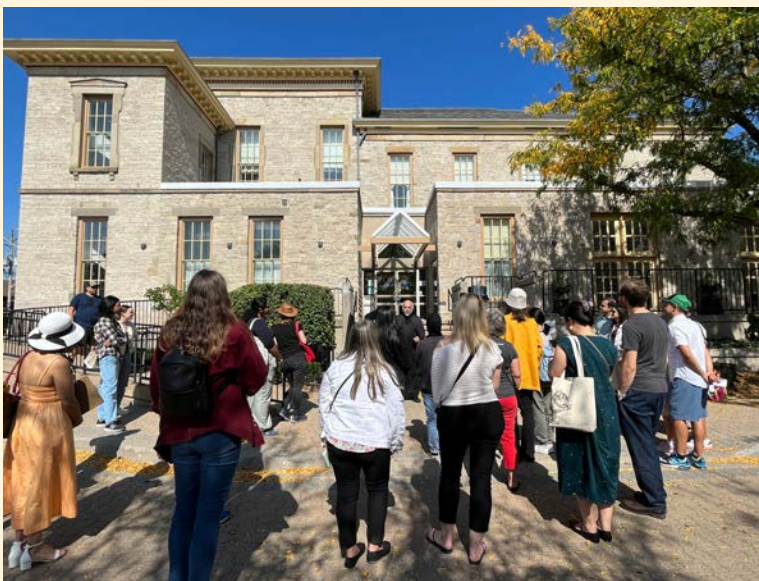
April 2nd | **Kelly Spinarsky** April 4th | **Seher Ali** April 5th | **Bianca Algoni** April 6-7th | **Colin Sutton**

April 8th | **Justin Elliot** April 28th | **Anthony Cardillo** May 18th | **Signal Exchange** June 10th

2023 PARTNERSHIPS

ONTARIO CULTURE DAYS

In September 2023, ACWR partnered with AWE, WEA and Ontario Culture Days to celebrate arts and culture in Windsor-Essex through a series of events, including exhibitions by asil & Levigator Press, Kristyn Hartford, Jeremy Burke, and Essex County Black Historical Research Society. For the first time, we also hosted a free Neighbourhood Art Tour Bus guided by Dakota Sweet.



CJAM LISTENING ROOM

A collaborative effort to bring pop-up events to ArtSpeak Gallery that feature an interactive DJ set inspired by the current exhibition and community conversation.



2023 PARTNERSHIPS

WORKINCULTURE

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

UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR VIP & INTERNSHIPS PROGRAM

ACWR partnered with the University of Windsor's VIP and Internship programs to provide 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.

This year we were joined by Emma Chlumecky, Moneeza Sami, Teddie Ursu and Amey Mahendra Thakur

HIGH-SCHOOL CO-OP PROGRAMS

Students Lindsay S. and Talen D. contributed to programs and initiatives with ACWR and hosted at Artspeak Gallery. The students had hands on experience learning about fundraising strategies, daily operations of gallery spaces, photography skills and learning about and community engagement.

MEDIA CITY FILM FESTIVAL

The ACWR team was invited to co-present at Media City Film Fest 26 with International Program One. MCFF present an exceptional, rare, and bountiful offering of over 70 films made by some of cinema's most extraordinary practitioners, with artists in attendance from around the world. November 7- 11, 2023.



THANK YOU

Anchor Coffee House
Artcite Inc.
Art Create Learn Magazine
Art Windsor Essex
Arts Can Teach
Blaks Bakery
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
Greater Essex County District School Board
Levigator Press
Media City Film Festival
Ontario Arts Council
Ontario Culture Days
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 Endowment for the Arts
Windsor Essex Economic Development Corporation
Windsor Essex Small Business Centre
Windsor Youth Centre
Workforce Windsor Essex
WorkInCulture



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

Ontario
Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium
de l'Ontario

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



An up to date & independent donor list can be found on our website.

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

levigatorpress.ca

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.

TALLOOLA CAFE

390 Devonshire Rd | Windsor ON
taloolacafe.com
Free select beverage with purchase over \$5

SYMCHYSHYN PHOTOGRAPHIC

symchyshyn.com
15% off studio quotes (portraits, studio work etc.)

NANCY JOHNS GALLERY & FRAMING

4755 Wyandotte St E | Windsor ON
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/
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

LEAMINGTON ARTS CENTRE

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

