

A YEAR IN REVIEW

ARTS COUNCIL WINDSOR & REGION



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



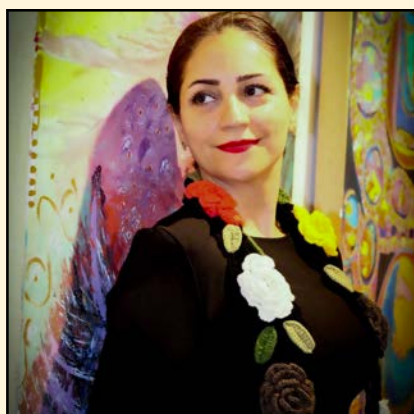
LAURA SERVICE
*outgoing chair /
vice-president*



**MARIA BELENKOVA-
BUFORD**
president



ANGELA DESJARDINS
outgoing treasurer



MARYAM SAFARZADEH
outgoing boardmember



CÉLESTE KURCZ
outgoing boardmember



ANDREAS MANIATIS
boardmember



STEPHANIE BARNHARD
secretary



ROBERT-DAVID JONES
outgoing boardmember

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear Members of the ACWR,

As the new Board President, I am excited to work alongside a dynamic slate of directors made up of young, diverse emerging artists. Together, we are committed to strengthening the Arts Council by growing the membership, increasing donations, and enhancing the Art Speak Gallery as a hub for creativity and community.

As we look to the future, our vision is to introduce fresh forms of art, music, and poetry to the community through monthly gatherings that will bridge the gap between seasoned and novice artists, as well as artists who were born here and those who have recently made Windsor their home.

Your support is vital to these efforts. By renewing your membership, donating, or spreading the word about our work, you help us ensure that arts and culture continue to thrive in our community.

Thank you for your continued enthusiasm. Let's create, connect, and inspire— together.

With gratitude,



Stephanie Barnhard
Board President
Arts Council Windsor & Region



A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear members and supporters of ACWR,

2024 marks 45 years since the founding of the Arts Council Windsor & Region. That's right —45 years! Since 1980, ACWR has been dedicated to supporting the Windsor-Essex arts community. We firmly believe in the importance of fostering a healthy, vibrant community that enriches the quality of life for everyone. This mission is what continues to inspire and drive us forward.

Despite 2024 being a challenging year —our operating funding has remained stagnant while our regular costs have risen due to inflation— we were able to secure funding to continue offering our programs and services including the introduction of a new program for the senior community as well as a new art and wellness program for the youth.

Overall, we remain optimistic about the future and are excited about our plans for 2025:

- We will introduce a new series of professional development programs, networking events, and artist residencies designed to support artists and creatives at all stages of their careers. These initiatives will connect participants with local businesses and open new opportunities to showcase their work.
- Additionally, we are planning an expanded series of workshops and events tailored for the senior community, building on the success of our current programs.
- We also aim to launch a new series of art and wellness workshops for young creatives, supported by our youth arts collective, Vanguard.
- These programs, along with our resource library, individual grant-writing consultations, and our weekly ArtsNotes newsletter, will continue to be offered free of charge.

I want to finish by thanking our donors, supporters, partners, collaborators, as well as everyone who attended our exhibitions at ArtSpeak Gallery or took advantage of the various programs and services we offered this year. As we look ahead to 2025, we remain deeply grateful for the trust and commitment of our community.

Thank you for believing in the importance of our work!

Alejandro Tamayo
Executive Director - ACWR



A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF ADMIN. & OUTREACH COORDINATOR

To our community,

Let's celebrate the collective achievements we've made this year for our organization and one another. Our Senior Community Arts Program has flourished, fostering creative engagement among older adults, while our Ontario Culture Days Tour Programming has allowed us to showcase the vibrant work of local artists to broader audiences. The Vanguard Youth Arts and Wellness Program, in particular, has been a highlight, empowering young people to explore their creative potential while nurturing their overall well-being. These initiatives reflect the heart of what we do—building inclusive, accessible, and supportive spaces for artistic expression.

Navigating through our archives and documents over the past two years has been a reminder of the incredible individuals who've shaped this organization. From past board members to volunteers and staff, it's clear that each person's contribution has played a crucial role in sustaining and evolving ACWR. I'm grateful to be part of this ongoing story and to continue the work of fostering a thriving arts community.

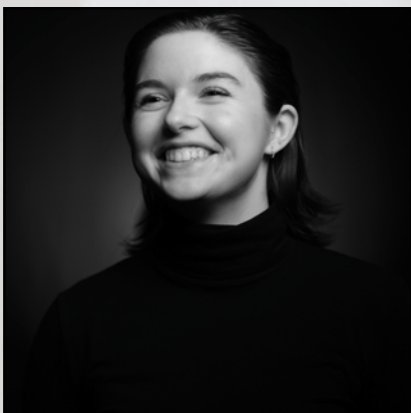
I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the co-op and summer contract team members who put their energy into every single event and initiative that happened both inside and outside the gallery. Thank you to Phoebe Findlay, Sarah Shehadeh, Erin Fyfe Momney, Moneeza Sami, and Chloe B. for all of your efforts!

I look forward to the new initiatives we have planned for 2025 and I encourage our community to continue to show up and show support. Here's to all the exciting possibilities that lie ahead!

Wishing you well,

Maria Mediratta

Administrative & Outreach Coordinator



A LETTER FROM VANGUARD

Vanguard Youth Arts Collective is a group of creatively driven youth (16-29 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 in-person initiatives.

We kicked off the year by hosting our second annual member exhibition Celebrating Home, at Artspeak Gallery from February 19th, 2024, to March 1st, 2024. Each artwork in the exhibition uniquely portrayed what 'home' signifies to each Vanguard member through concept and medium, inviting viewers to explore a sense of belonging alongside the collective. The exhibition created a space where every unique interpretation holds value together.

Continuing into our 2024 spring programming, Vanguard started a monthly Vanguard Arts and Wellness series funded by the Solcz Family Foundation from May to December. Through this series of carefully curated activities and discussions, participants were provided with a safe and nurturing environment to explore their emotions, foster self-reflection, and cultivate meaningful connections with their peers. The feedback from the youth was extremely positive saying they were "welcoming, comfortable, and fun".

In August, the collective was included in Art Jam Pride presented by Windsor-Essex Pride Fest and Artcite Inc., as well as popping up alongside ACWR for Dropped on Drouillard, as an opportunity for members to sell their work and connect with folks. In October, Vanguard teamed up with AWE and United Way to develop and lead an art activity for the members of AWE's Teen Art Council and United Way's On Track to Success students. We were able to connect to new youth and share information on Vanguard initiatives. Additionally, our members were able to see the process of partnership with other non-profits and provide their input on the workshop concept: Zines as Expression.

When we were not working on our Vanguard projects we cheered on our fellow members who pursued independent art projects including Chantal Brouillard's solo exhibition Through, Sandra Jabbour's solo exhibition Nostalgia, Emma McGee at AWE Weekends in the Studio, Abbey in the group exhibition Resonance, Bianca Daher's solo exhibition Tending to Time, and many more.

In September, we said goodbye to some members and welcomed seven additional creative youths to the team. Recently, we voted in our wonderful new executive team: co-presidents Chidera Ikewibe and Lou Cox, VP Bianca Daher, and Secretary Emma McGee.

We owe a big thanks to ACWR, the Solcz Family Foundation, AWE, Artcite Inc., Ford City BIA, United Way, our friends, and our families for supporting our creative dreams. We look forward to a fresh and exciting new year for the arts in Windsor-Essex!

2024 Members

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

2025 Members

Chidera Ikewibe | Co-President
Lou Cox | Co-President
Bianca Daher | Vice President
Emma McGee | Secretary

Members: Abbey Default | Chantal Brouillard | | Howl Fyodor |
Olivia Krysa | Axel Obersat-Johnson | Dunia | Nafeesa Sohail | Raida Farzat | Eleane Amador | Henry Kenechukwu Nwokoye | Phoebe Findlay |

2024 PROMOTION

ARTSNOTES

ACWR has 1300+ 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/artspeak). Podcast artwork created by Kalie Chapman. This project is taken on by Canada Summer Jobs team members and co-op students when possible. The latest episode interviews artist Stephen Mueller and touches on his durational performance at ArtSpeak Gallery this year.



TEA AND CHAT

ACWR staff revived the tea and chat sessions by incorporated them into the Senior Community Arts Program and inviting local creatives to speak about their practice.



OUTREACH & INFORMATION SESSIONS

- Met with local politicians to advocate for funding and discuss grant opportunities
- Met with local BIAs to promote programs and partnerships
- Presenting Partners at Media City Film Festival
- Provide Arts Resources Sessions for uWindsor Students

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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	2024
 INSTAGRAM	1,805	2,012	2,358	2,763	3,146
 TWITTER	2,584	2,628	2,637	2,626	X
 FACEBOOK	2,526	2,582	2,804	2,869	3,000

COLORS OF RESILIENCE:
Artwork by Those Experiencing Homelessness

Reception will take place
August 18 from 5-11pm

The exhibit will be on display at
the Artspeak Gallery August 13th
- 27th during regular hours
1942 Wyandotte Street

All art work is up for sale
full comission goes to the
artists involved

Artists from
H4, WWC, WYC

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.



ARTSPEAK GALLERY EXHIBITIONS 2024

addressing space (group show)

January 7th - January 14th

Resurgence (WCCA Walkerville High)

January 14th - 21st

Paperwork (uWindsor SoCA MFAs)

January 21st - 28th

Temporal Spaces (Hunkler, Broeders, Janzen)

January 28th - February 4th

Celebrating Home (Vanguard Youth Arts Collective)

February 18th - March 3rd

Time-Space-Illusion | Ancestor Magik for the Uninitiated (Teajai Travis)

March 3rd - March 10th

You Up You Here You Beautiful (Patricia St.Louis)

March 17th - March 24th

Anthony DIFAZIO + Thomas PROVOST

March 24th - March 31st

dc24 (Derek Cerovski)

March 31st - April 6th

Soleau (Mary Jo Mullins & Christine Paris)

April 7th - 14th

Normative Consumption (Brayden Jones)

April 14th - April 21st

Dead Body (Stephen Mueller)

April 21st - April 28th

Bridging Gaps (Erin Fyfe & Stephanie Mele)

April 28th - May 5th

Resilience (Andrea Niven)

May 5th - May 12th

Byte Brush (Justin James Gignac)

May 12th - May 19th

So Many Stories (Marian Drouillard & Gary May)

May 19th - May 26th

EDHS Student Photography

May 26th - June 2nd

WCCA Student Show

June 2nd - June 9th

Denouement | Art to Celebrate Endings (Chamberlain, Soave & Velasco)

June 9th - June 16th

Tending to Time (Bianca Daher)

June 16th - June 23rd

Inkology (Marissa Holowchak & Emma Sorrell)

June 23rd - June 30th

From Needs into Actions (ACWR)

June 30th - July 7th

Synth Jam Session (Anthony Gomez)

July 6th

50 Years of Printmaking: A Retrospective (Eric Skelton)

July 7th - July 14th

WINDSOR HEAT (ACWR Members Show)

July 14th - July 28th

Chasing Rabbits (Stephen Nilsson)

July 28th - August 11th

Nostalgia (Sandra Jabbour)

August 11th - August 18th

HeArt From the Streets

August 18th - September 1st

Home Ground (Alex Taves)

September 1st - September 8th

The Lost Sheep Art Series (Kate Lamoure)

September 8th - September 15th

The Mending Room

(Lisa Sylvestre & Jodi Green)

September 15th - September 22nd

Half-life Show (Emily Bezaire)

September 22nd - September 29th

Gentleman Scientist Microecologies (Jennifer Willet)

September 29th - October 13th

Above (Colleen Melody)

October 13th - October 20th

Tammy Blaze Photography

October 20th - October 27th

A Little Bit Freaky by Ann Reno
October 27th - November 3rd
Creative Currents (group show)
November 3rd - November 10th
**18th Annual Exhibition of Works
by Rashmi Dadwal**
November 10th - November 24th
THROUGH (Chantal Brouillard)
November 24th - December 1st
**MISTLETOE & SNOW
(ACWR Members Show)**
December 1st - December 15th
Vessel (Lindsay Marr & Dayna Wagner)
December 15th - December 22nd

artspeak gallery stats

41 exhibitions [that's a new show
every week!]

3500+ exhibition and program
attendees

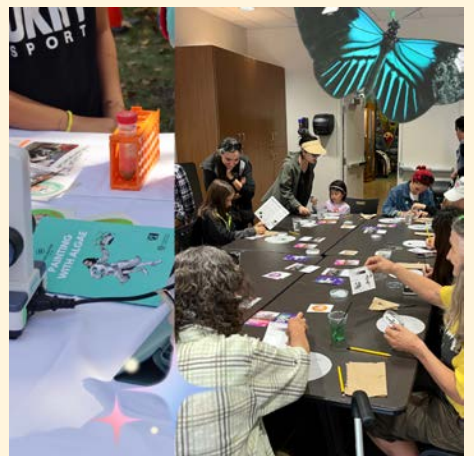


windsor heat 2024
members show

2024 PARTNERSHIPS

ONTARIO CULTURE DAYS

In the Fall of 2024, ACWR partnered with ONCD for another year to celebrate arts and culture in Windsor-Essex. During culture days, ArtSpeak Gallery hosted The Mending Room (Lisa Sylvestre & Jodi Green), Half-life Show (Emily Bezaire), and Gentleman Scientist Microecologies (Jennifer Willet). Expanding on the previous year's successful tour bus, we hosted two days of tour activities for folks to explore the region. On day one, we visited Art Windsor Essex, Amherstburg Freedom Museum, and Leamington Arts Centre with poet Chidera Ikwibe and board member Stephanie Barnhard leading the group. On day two, we visited Point Pelee National Park to enjoy a science fair and parade with ONCD Creative in Residence, Jennifer Willet.



2024 PARTNERSHIPS

UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR VIP & INTERNSHIPS PROGRAM

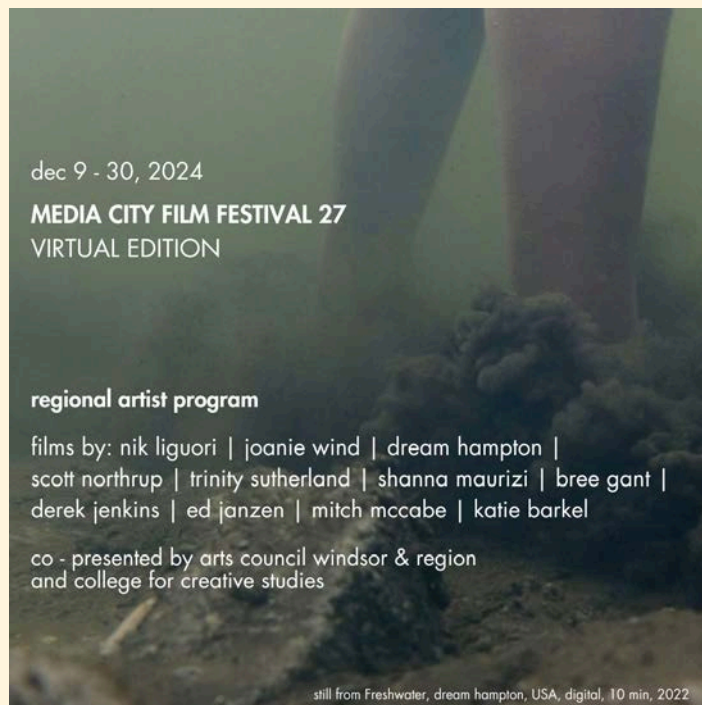
ACWR partnered with the University of Windsor's VIP and Internship programs to provide students with work experiences in the field of arts administration. Students registered for this program receive up to two course credits for participating in the internship. This year we were joined by Huyen Nguyen, who contributed to archival work, Ontario Culture Days and our podcast.

HIGH-SCHOOL CO-OP PROGRAMS

Students 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. Thank you, Chloe!

MEDIA CITY FILM FESTIVAL

The ACWR team was invited to co-present the Media City Film Fest 27 Regional Program. MCFF presents 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.



2024 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

The Arts Council Windsor & Region is proud to introduce a Senior Community Arts Program dedicated to empowering and engaging adults fifty and up. Through enriching workshops, skill-sharing activities, and a group exhibition at ArtSpeak Gallery, the program will foster creativity and meaningful connections. This free program will run monthly, from June 2024 – December 2024. Thank you to our Senior Community Coordinator, Lupita Amaya.

Senior Community Arts Program a program for adults age fifty and up

June 12th
10:30am - 12pm

CHARCOAL DRAWING SKILLS
with John Vacratsis
at ArtSpeak Gallery 1942 Wyandotte St. E

June 28th
10:30am - 12pm

Tea & Chat *The Creative Process*
with Barry Brodie
at Life After Fifty 635 McEwan Avenue

July 5th
10:30am - 12pm

Tea & Chat *Music Appreciation*
with Francisco Hernandez B.
at ArtSpeak Gallery 1942 Wyandotte St. E

July 10th
10:30am - 12:30pm

ACRYLIC PAINTING SKILLS
with Dennis K. Smith
at Art Windsor Essex 401 Riverside Drive W.

August 7th
1pm - 3pm

THEATRICAL IMPROVISATION
with Barry Brodie
at Life After Fifty 635 McEwan Avenue

October 11th
10:30am - 12pm

Tea & Chat *Memory Objects: Why We Love Our Things*
with Vanessa Shields
at ArtSpeak Gallery 1942 Wyandotte St. E

September 4th
10:30am - 12pm

BEGINNER PHONE PHOTOGRAPHY
with Ted Kloske
at ArtSpeak Gallery 1942 Wyandotte St. E

September 20th
10:30am - 12pm

Tea & Chat *Dance and Movement*
with Anh Nguyen
at Life After Fifty 635 McEwan Avenue

November 27th
10:30am - 12pm

WAYS OF NATURE STUDIES (Intro to Art & Science)
with daniela brill
at ArtSpeak Gallery 1942 Wyandotte St. E

November 15th
10:30am - 12pm

Tea & Chat *Exhibition Tour*
with Art Windsor Essex Artist/Team Member
at Art Windsor Essex 401 Riverside Drive W.

December 13th
6pm-8pm

Tea & Chat *Mistletoe & Snow*
during the Members Exhibition Reception
at ArtSpeak Gallery 1942 Wyandotte St. E

This program is FREE and organized by the Arts Council Windsor & Region.
For more information, visit our website www.acwr.net

To RSVP for workshops, email programs@acwr.net
Tea & Chat's are open and do not require registration.

Funded in part by the
Government of Canada's
New Horizons for Seniors Program

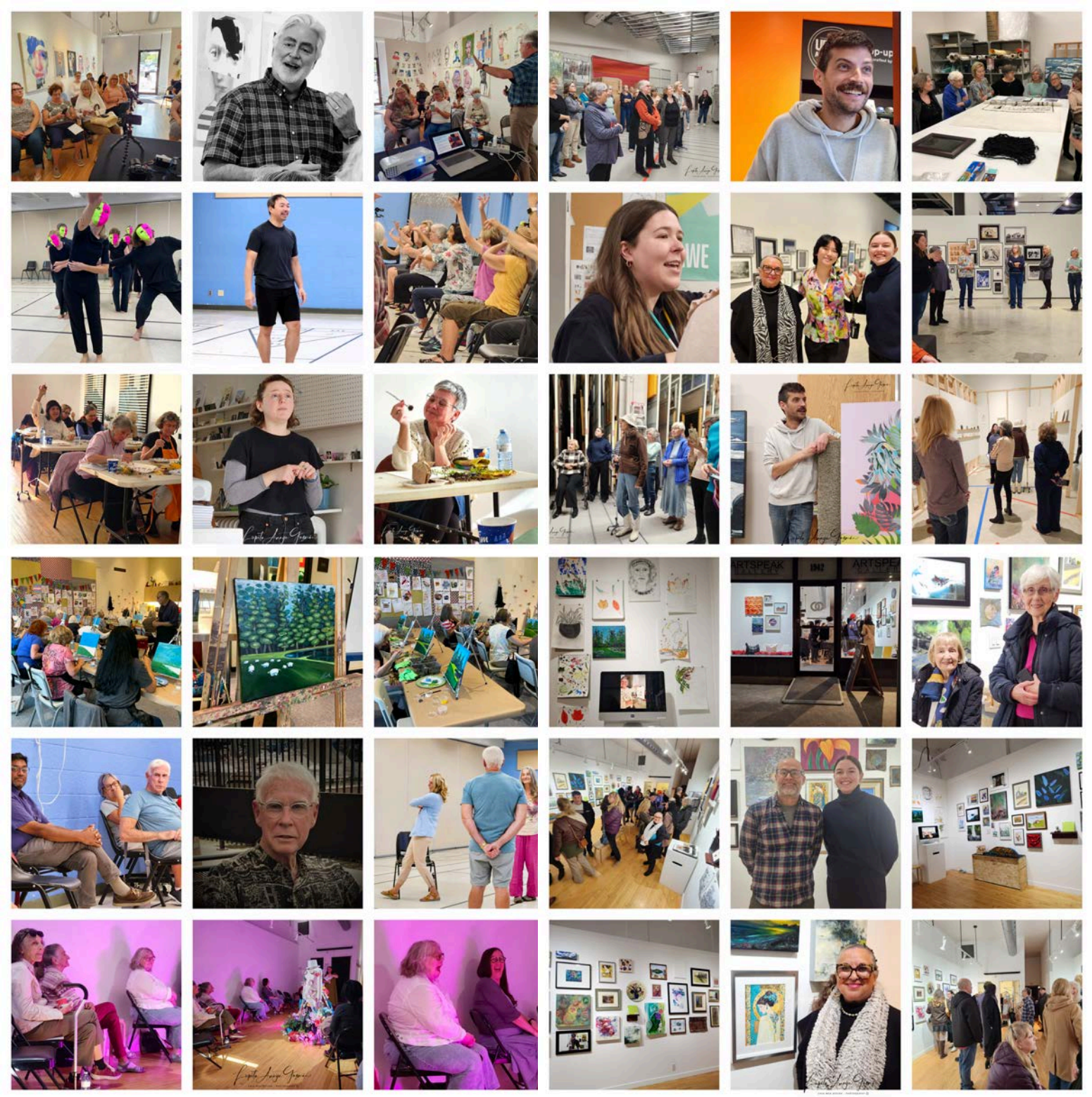
Canada

Thank you to our partners Life After Fifty and Art Windsor Essex.

When surveying our attendees we asked, what did you learn or take away from the program?

"Art is a big part of our lives. It is everywhere you look."

"I was moved by the passion of the presenters."



THANK YOU

Amherstburg Freedom Museum
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
Leamington Arts Centre
Media City Film Festival
Ontario Arts Council
Ontario Culture Days
Sho: Art, Spirit and Performance
Solz Family Foundation
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

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



Ontario
Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium
de l'Ontario

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



Funded in part by the
Government of Canada's
New Horizons for Seniors Program



Employment and
Social Development Canada

Emploi et
Développement social Canada



SOLCZ FAMILY
FOUNDATION

ON CULTURE DAYS