



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



STEPHANIE BARNHARDPresident



ANDREAS MANIATIS

Vice president



MARIA BELENKOVA-BUFORD Outgoing treasurer



SARAH SMITHERMAN *Secretary*



PRATYUSH SINGHOutgoing board member



NAZILA NASIRI *Board member*



ANNA LYTOSHBoard member



KALENE CIESLAKOutgoing board member



JULIE BELLBoard member



MARK BAKERBoard member

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF FAREWELLS

MARIA MEDIRATTA
ADMINISTRATIVE & OUTREACH
COORDINATOR

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

As I reflect on my first year as Board President of the Arts Council Windsor & Region, I am pleased to share that it has been a resounding success. I have had the privilege of working alongside a dynamic slate of directors-young, diverse, and talented emerging artists who brought tremendous energy and commitment to the board. Month after month, they attended meetings fully prepared, engaged in thoughtful discussion, and fostered a spirit of collaboration and friendship that strengthened our work together. This year, our directors were introduced to community outreach in meaningful ways.

They volunteered at bingo sessions, showcased their artwork in the ACWR's summer exhibition Windsor Heat and will soon be featured in our upcoming winter exhibition Mistletoe & Snow. They proudly represented the ACWR at the information booth inside Willistead Manor during Art in the Park, greeted visitors outside the ArtSpeak Gallery during the Walkerville Art Walk, and contributed to the self-guided art tour during Ontario Culture Days in September. Their enthusiasm and dedication have been a true highlight of the year.

I am incredibly proud of this board and deeply grateful for the dedication and hard work of our Executive Director, Alejandro Tamayo, and our Outreach Coordinator, Phoebe Findlay. I look forward to completing my second and final term in 2026 alongside such an engaged and inspiring group of individuals.

As we continue to support local artists and celebrate creativity in our region, we encourage community members to get involved. If you are interested in joining the board, we welcome you to apply online. We also invite artists and arts enthusiasts to purchase or renew memberships, make a donation, share our posts on social media, and bring friends and family to exhibitions at the ArtSpeak Gallery. Your support ensures that arts and culture continue to thrive in Windsor and Essex County.

Thank you for being part of our vibrant arts community.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Barnhard

Board President



A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I reflect on 2025, I have the feeling that it went by very, very fast. I know I say this every year, but 2025 felt especially quick. We were constantly busy planning and running new programs, preparing grant applications and reports, meeting with artists, and responding to the many day-to-day needs of the organization. All of this activity made the year move quickly, but it also made it a very rewarding one.

This year we also said goodbye to our Outreach Coordinator, **Maria Mediratta**, who joined ACWR in July 2023. Maria left a meaningful impact on the organization through her dedication and thoughtful approach to community engagement. At the same time, it was exciting to welcome **Phoebe Findlay**, a recent graduate of the School of Creative Arts at the University of Windsor, who joined us in April. Phoebe has adapted quickly to the role and has been extremely efficient in taking on the many tasks required of the position.

I want to briefly mention some key accomplishments from this year:

Our **Senior Arts Program** completed its second year and continued to show strong participation. Every workshop and Tea & Chat session was fully attended. A big thank you to **Lupita Amaya** and **Meaghan Sweeney** for their work organizing and delivering this program.

Another major highlight was the **Creatives at Work** residencies and professional development series. This program launched this year with support from an Ontario Trillium Foundation Seed Grant. We partnered six local businesses with six local artists, each undertaking a six-week residency. The impact of this program is still being felt, and we received very positive feedback from both the participating organizations and the artists.

I also want to acknowledge the continuation of the **Art & Wellness program** for youth offered by the Vanguard Youth Collective, supported this year by artist and art therapist **Sarah Shehadeh**. We are grateful to the **Solcz Family Foundation** for supporting this initiative.

Another important moment this year was the final disbursement of the **Waddell Trust**, whose interests ACWR has distributed since 2002. Six organizations benefited from this final gift: the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, Art Windsor-Essex, the Windsor Historic Sites Association, Common Ground Gallery, Artcite Inc., and ACWR.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of our **volunteers** and our dedicated **Board of Directors**, whose commitment and guidance are essential to everything we do.

And finally, a thank you to the **Ontario Arts Council** and the **City of Windsor** for their operating support, which allows us to continue developing programs and offering services that benefit the arts community across Windsor-Essex.

Alejandro Tamayo Executive Director - ACWR



A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF ADMIN. & OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Hello Community Members,

As we look back on 2025, I've been reflecting on what a meaningful year it's been and how grateful I am to have joined the Arts Council Windsor & Region. With over 45 years of history, ACWR continues to thrive because of a community that truly values creativity and connection. The generosity I've seen, from our bingo volunteers, members, workshop participants, exhibiting artists, board members, and community collaborators, has been incredibly inspiring. Meeting so many of you has been a highlight of my year, and I look forward to connecting with even more artists and partners in 2026.

Beyond our regular ArtSpeak Gallery programming, this year brought new opportunities to connect through art in meaningful ways. **Creatives at Work** supported six artist residencies and a professional development series for artists throughout the region. The **Senior Community Arts Program** returned for its second year, giving adults 50+ space to create, learn, and share stories. And the **Vanguard Arts & Wellness Program** continued to offer youth a welcoming environment to explore mental wellness through art.

These programs also brought new energy and growth to our team, with seven new roles created across projects. Our Canada Summer Jobs employees, **Chidera Ikewibe and Sydney Cremasco**, brought wonderful energy and support during the summer months, and I'm grateful for the care they put into their work. I also want to recognize our **program coordinators**, whose dedication helped bring Creatives at Work, the Senior Community Arts Program, and Vanguard Arts & Wellness to life this year.

And finally, a heartfelt thank-you to Executive Director, **Alejandro Tamayo** for his steady leadership and encouragement during my onboarding transition, and to **Claire Baldwin** for her continued work as the Arts Notes newsletter editor, keeping our community connected and informed.

It has been a warm and welcoming beginning, and I'm looking forward to what's ahead; more creativity, more collaboration, and more ways for art to bring us together.

With gratitude,

Phoebe Findlay
Administration & Outreach Coordinator



A LETTER FROM VANGUARD

Vanguard Youth Arts Collective are a group of creatively driven youth who act as a voice for an emerging generation of the arts within the Windsor-Essex region. We nurture creative development by fostering connections within the community. Vanguard spent this past year creating, sharing, and connecting art with the community of Windsor-Essex.

We started out strong with our members' exhibition, Vanguard's Feeling Green, which was shown at the ArtSpeak Gallery from March 23rd to April 5th. With this exhibition, members created work that either incorporated or was surrounded by the colour green. The gallery was filled with wonderful green works, and it created a wonderful atmosphere within the space.

With generous support from the Solcz Family Foundation, we had the opportunity to continue our Arts & Wellness workshop series. Now facilitated by Sarah Shehadeh, an artist trained in art therapy, along with the assistance of our members. From July to December, the community has had an opportunity to enjoy themes such as Sensory Art Meditation, Yoga Flow & Creative Reflection, Feel Good Arts Group, and more to come in 2026!

Throughout the year, we also had the opportunity to host events such as our Poetry Open Mic & Art Supply Swap at ArtSpeak Gallery, creating Zines, Bracelets and Buttons with anyone who chose to drop in during Dropped on Drouillard at Artcite, and collaborated with AWE to host their Weekends in the Studio for the month of April. Members also got to foster connections with community members on both ends of the spectrum of age by leading Zine Workshops with both ACWR's Senior Arts Program and AWE's Teen Art Council. It was wonderful to see that regardless of age, everyone enjoyed the creation equally.

Vanguard was lucky to be able to create a community collaborative artwork through a drop-in activity at the Walkerville Art Walk, where participants decorated mini fabric squares. These completed mini artworks were then sewn together into a community art quilt that was later displayed at our "Second Chances" Exhibit. This exhibit ran from September 1st -7th at the ArtSpeak Gallery, and gave members the opportunity to showcase works that have not had their chance to shine.

This year, we said goodbye to longtime members who are moving on to new projects, but we also welcomed 6 new members as part of our most recent Member Call! Recently, from those new members we voted in our new Secretary and Vice-President, Olivia Patricia and Jasmin Gault! The Collective is already planning new projects and workshops for 2026, and with our fresh set of minds, we are sure to cook up some awesome programming!

We send out a big thank you to the ACWR team, Art Windsor-Essex, Artcite Inc., the Solcz Family Foundation, The May Court Club, and our many family and friends.

We all look forward to a fruitful and creative new year in 2026!

Early 2025 Members

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

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

Late 2025 Members

Lou Cox | President

Jasmin Gault | Vice - President

Liv Patrica | Secretary

Members: Axel Obersat-Johnson | Dunia Roba | Eleane Amador | Éoghan McCullough | Henry Nwokoye Kenechukwu | Howl Fyodor | Jasmin Gault | Kaitlyn Schram | Olivia Krysa | Raida Farzat | Sydney Cremasco | Trina Das



2025 PROMOTION

ARTSNOTES

ACWR has **1500+ subscribers** to the Arts Notes Newsletter. This is the only comprehensive Arts, Cultural and Heritage listing in Windsor and Region. Arts Notes features Local Events, Exhibitions, Job Calls, Music Listings, Calls for volunteers, Calls for Submissions and Auditions. Arts Notes is curated by Claire Baldwin (right.) and sent out every Wednesday at 1pm. With 1500+ subscribers and growing, we are steadily moving towards our goal of 2000 subscribers.

In 2025, Arts Notes was sponsored for the year by CUPE-1393, and also sponsored by Ford City Potters, Paul Murray Callery & Retreats, and Art Windsor - Essex.



Claire BaldwinArts Notes Newsletter Editor

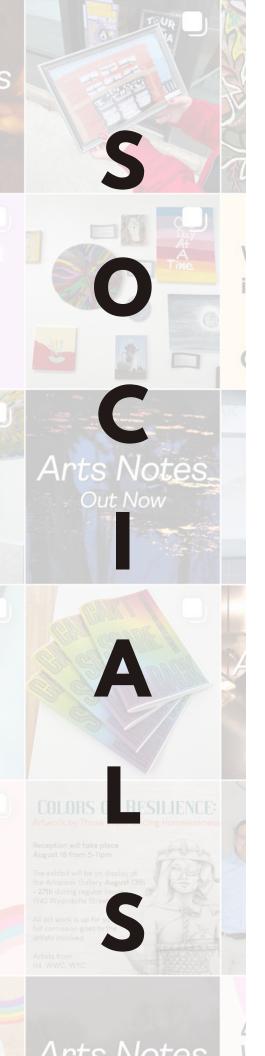
ARTSPEAK PODCAST EPISODES

Keep up to date with past episodes by visiting <u>acwr.net</u> or following ACWR on SoundCloud at ArtsCouncilWindsorRegion. Podcast artwork created by Kalie Chapman This project is carried out by Staff, Canada Summer Jobs team members, and co-op students when possible.

This year, to celebrate ACWR's 45th anniversary, two separate podcast episodes were released featuring integral community members from ACWR's history. In one episode, Walter Petrichyn interviews Al Linell, the Founder and First Chairman of ACWR. In the other, Thao Huyen Nguyen interviews Merry Ellen Scully Mosna, ACWR's first Executive Director.







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.

YEAR	INSTAGRAM	FACEBOOK
2020	1,805	2,526
2021	2,012	2,582
2022	2,358	2,804
2023	2,763	2,869
2024	3,146	3,000
2025	3,451	3,038

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.

over 200 active members

ARTSPEAK GALLERY EXHIBITIONS 2025

Synzygy (Walkerville High School)

January 5th - 12th

Flowering Plants of Ojibway (Sarah

Smitherman)

January 12th - 26th

The Art of Peter Bering (Peter Bering & Eileen

Pomerleau)

February 2nd - 9th **ACWR Collage Night**

February 12th

Boards and Chords (Glen Donaldson)

February 16th - March 9th

Purging the Anomalies (Dennis Hunkler)

March 9th - 16th

Local Artisan Pop Up Market (Group Show)

March 16th - 23rd

Vanguard's Feeling Green (Vanguard Youth

Arts Collective)

March 23rd - April 6th

Reflections (Adriana Milovic)

April 6th - 13th

Six Works Five Decades (Jim Mroczkowski)

April 13th - 27th

Constellation Franco (Bravo-Sud)

April 27th - May 4th

Visions (Walkerville High School)

May 4th - 11th

20/20. Twenty - Four (Sandie Collins)

May 11th - 18th

Life of Secrets (Sandie Collins)

May 18th - 25th

Encounter (Christoper Harold Perkins)

May 25th - June 1st

The Shape of Oil (Samantha & Philip Gurrey)

June 1st - 8th

The Art of Peter Bering (Peter Bering & Eileen

Pomerleau)

June 8th - 15th

ATC: Artist Trading Cards (Group Show)

June 15th - 22nd

Wildlife Works (Madison Young)

June 22nd - 29th

dopplegänger.2025 (Derek Cervoksi & Garth

Jackson)

June 29th - July 6th

WHELVE (Grace Taylor)

July 6th - 13th

Windsor Heat (Members Group Show)

July 6th - 27th

Rent this Space: Installation Aisle (Niku

Koochak)

July 27th - August 3rd

The Maker Market: Art for Newcomers (Group

Show)

August 3rd - 17th

Monstrously Feminine (Emma McGee)

August 17th - 24th

something produced by or as if by brewing

(Cassie Paine)

August 24th - 31st

Second Chances (Vanguard Youth Arts

Collective)

August 31st -September 7th

SKETCHES OF an automotive supplier (Kalie

Chapman)

September 7th - 14th

Enclosed (Milos Main & Éoghan McCullough)

September 14th - 20th

The Mending Room (Jodi Green & Lisa

Sylvestre)

September 20th - 28th

Art In Mind (Karen Gerard)

September 28th - October 5th

Out of Ashes (Maya Chmaissany)

October 5th - 12th

Un(finished) Business (Thao Huyen Nguyen)

October 12th - 19th

Going through the (e)motions (Kristyn

Hartford) - October 19th - 26th

Turning Seven (Ellis)

October 26th - Nov 2nd

Creatives at Work (Jim Mroczkowski)

November 2nd - 9th

EXHIBITION BY RASHMI DADWAL (Rashmi

Dadwal)

November 9th - 23rd

Mistletoe & Snow (Members Group Show)

November 23rd - December 7th

A Temporary Guest (Walter Petrichyn)

December 7th - 14th

Landscapes (Trevor Pallisco)

December 14th - 21st

artspeak gallery stats

40 exhibitions (that's a new show every week!)

displaying over 200 artists
between solo and group shows



2025 PARTNERSHIPS

ONTARIO CULTURE DAYS

As an Ontario Culture Days Festival Hub, ACWR organized **a self-directed art walk** on September 27th, creating a cultural corridor linking the neighbourhoods of Walkerville and Ford City. This partnership enabled a full day of free programming that encouraged residents to explore and engage with Windsor's creative community.

The route was activated by activities from partnering organizations including **The Mending Room** (Lisa Sylvestre & Jodi Green), **Shō Studios**, **Artcite Inc.**, **Chapter Two Brewing Co.**, **Art à la Carte** (Sarah Smitherman), **Mean Studio**, and the **Ford City Community Garden**. Activities included workshops, open studios, exhibitions, and mobile art-making experiences that showcased the strength of our local arts sector. The day concluded with the Panier Picnic at the Ford City Community Garden, hosted by Mean Studio with live music by Crissi Cochrane, sponsored by the Ford City BIA.









2025 PARTNERSHIPS

In 2025, we partnered and collaborated with **over 18 organizations** in delivering a variety of programs and services, including:

- Ontario Culture Days
- Small Business & Entrepreneurship Centre
- Art Windsor Essex
- Artcite Inc.
- CJAM Radio
- Shō Studios
- Chapter Two Brewery
- Dry Goods Gallery
- Media City Film Festival
- University of Windsor School of Creative Arts
- University of Windsor's Internship program
- Walkerville Collegiate Institute
- Walkerville BIA
- Ford City BIA
- Kautex Inc.
- City Market
- Walkerville Brewery
- Juniper Books
- Sunshine Grocers
- Kava Café

Regrind High Density Polyethylenel High Density Byen

2025 IMPACT

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ARTISTS

Throughout 2025, **more than 22 local artists** from diverse backgrounds and creative practices were engaged in ACWR programs and activities, including Creatives at Work, the Senior Community Arts Program, and the Vanguard Art & Wellness Program. **ACWR provided over \$14,000 in artist fees** to support their work, with all artists remunerated in accordance with CARFAC fee standards.







EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In 2025, the ACWR created 8 meaningful employment opportunities for local artists to gain professional experience in arts administration. These positions included:

- 2 Canada Summer Jobs placements
- 2 Program Coordinators for the Creatives at Work program
- 2 Program Coordinators for the Senior Community Arts program
- 1 Program Coordinator for the Vanguard Art & Wellness program
- 1 Internship placement in partnership with the Visual Arts Program at the University of Windsor

2025 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CREATIVES AT WORK

In 2025, the Arts Council Windsor & Region announced the upcoming launch of a new program, Creatives at Work, scheduled to begin on June 2, 2025. The program featured 6 artist residencies, matching local artists with local businesses. As well, a series of professional development workshops for emerging, mid-career, and established artists. Our initiative was to create meaningful opportunities for local artists to connect, grow their practice, and advance their careers.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Seed Grant funded this initiative developed in response to the Arts & Culture survey ACWR collected in 2024 in which local artists and creatives highlighted the lack of spaces and opportunities for creative collaboration. Creatives at Work offered businesses a fresh perspective into their space, and allowed artists to work in new and unexpected ways, presenting the public with unique opportunities for meaning engagement with ideas and materiality.

6-WEEK ARTIST RESIDENCIES

Niku Koochak at The City Market June - July

Cassie Paine at The Walkerville Brewery
July - August

Kalie Chapman at Kautex Inc. August - September

Maya Chmaissany at Kava Cafe & Bakery September - October

Thao Huyen Nguyen at Sunshine Grocers September - October

Jim Mroczkowski at Juniper Books October - November



From a total of 36 applicants, 6 artists were selected. Each Residency was held on-site at a business location ACWR paired with the artist. They ran for 6 consecutive weeks between June and November 2025.

Each Artist in Residence Received

- \$1,000 materials budget
- \$500 honorarium for an public Artist Talk about the residency
- \$500 honorarium for leading a public Artist Workshop at ACWR
- One free week rental of ArtSpeak Gallery to exhibit residency work
- Opportunities for public engagement, professional growth, and cross-sector collaboration

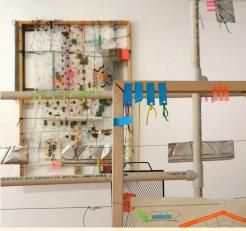


















Each artist in residence developed work inspired by the environment and experience of the paired workplace and developed a one-week exhibition at ArtSpeak gallery. In addition, each artist offered a unique skill-sharing workshop inspired by their own practice and experience during the residency.





Throughout the year, seniors shared their expertise, learned from one another, and cultivated a supportive, creative environment that enriched both individual experiences and the wider community.



Senior Community Arts Program

a program for adults age fifty and up

June 11th 10:30am - 12pm **COLLAGE AND ZINE WORKSHOP**

with Vanguard Youth Art Collective at ArtSpeak Gallery, 1942 Wyandotte St. E

June 25th 10:30am - 12pm Tea & Chat with Leslie McCurdy

35 + Years of Playing Around at ArtSpeak Gallery, 1942 Wyandotte St. E

July 9th 10:30am - 12pm MINDFULLNESS MEDITATION WITH A CAMERA

with Tammy Blaze at ArtSpeak Gallery , 1942 Wyandotte St. E

July 23rd 10:30am - 12pm Tea & Chat Amelia Daigle

Opera-Storytelling at ArtSpeak Gallery , 1942 Wyandotte St. E

August 13th 10:30am - 12pm POTTERY DEMONSTRATION

with Ford City Potters at Ford City Potters, 994 Drouillard Rd

August 27th 10:30am - 12pm Tea & Chat with Local Organizations

Learn about local programming and services at ArtSpeak Gallery, 1942 Wyandotte St. E

September 10th 10:30am - 12pm Tea & Chat with Peter Hrastovec

Influencing the Influencer at ArtSpeak Gallery, 1942 Wyandotte St. E

September 24th 10:30am - 12pm MENDING AND REFASHIONING WORKSHOP

with Lisa Sylvestre and Jodi Green at ArtSpeak Gallery, 1942 Wyandotte St. E

October 8th 10:30am - 12pm Art of Origami

with Ada Ng at ArtSpeak Gallery, 1942 Wyandotte St. E

October 22 10:30am - 12pm Tea & Chat with Art Windsor-Essex

Guided tour by Art Windsor-Essex/Team Member at Art Windsor Essex, 401 Riverside Drive W.

November 26th 10:30am - 12pm Tea & Chat with Michelle Mainwaring

Tea & Chat determined by prior participant feedback 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

"I AM SO THANKFUL FOR THIS SENIORS
PROGRAM THAT BRINGS ME IN CONTACT
WITH SUCH TALENTED AND INSPIRING
PEOPLE. THESE TALKS THAT SPEAK TO
ENGAGEMENT, ART, CULTURE, MUSIC,
PERFORMANCE, REALLY HELPS SO MUCH
TO MITIGATE THE NEGATIVITY THAT IS
PART AND PARCEL OF OUR ENVIRONMENT
THESE DAYS"

-SENIOR PARTICIPANT

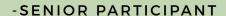








"AS A RECENT NEWCOMER TO WINDSOR, FOR ME PERSONALLY, IT HELPED DISPEL A FEELING OF ISOLATION, HELPED ME TO MEET NEW PEOPLE AND ABOVE ALL, ENGAGE WITH SO MANY FACETS OF THE ONLY FABULOUS WINDSOR ARTS COMMUNITY."









THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND DONORS

- Art Windsor-Essex
- Stephanie Barnhard
- Brad Bridgen
- CUPE 1393
- Ron Dodson
- Ford City Potters
- Kona Sushi
- Cyndra MacDowall
- Judy MacNeill
- Nancy McClellan
- David Nash
- Ki Ok Park
- Paul Murray Gallery & Retreats
- Gail Raymond
- Ginetta Lori Riley
- Laura Service
- Eric Skelton
- Patricia St. Louis
- Holly Wolter

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













