

2020 Year in **REVIEW**



**ARTS COUNCIL
WINDSOR & REGION**

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Board Of **DIRECTORS**



David Bergeron
President



Brenda Francis Pelkey
Vice-President



Stephen Lutvak
Treasurer



Laura Service
Secretary



Karen McClellan



Sue Cole

Goodbye from ACWR



Jodi Green



Jolie Inthavong



Julie Tucker

A Message from the **BOARD**

Dear Members,

This year has yielded a nearly unprecedented amount of challenges to our perspectives, and the ways in which our systems operate on a local and global scale. I feel proud when I look at ACWR and not see only survival, but a genuine sense of development despite these challenges.

This achievement took a lot of work and sacrifice. Julie Tucker and Talysha Bujold-Abu have been invaluable to ACWR and continue to show ingenuity, adversity, and compassion.

I would like to highlight a few things from 2020 – When the pandemic hit, ACWR quickly adapted to the online format, keeping Windsor HEAT 2020 alive and successful. ACWR's commitment to the community of Windsor was not at all slowed; and can be further showcased by the Windsor-Essex Artist Micro Grant that supported 40+ Windsor artists during this time of struggle. Additionally, the programming has been staggeringly powerful with *We are not a Phase: Indigenous Screening Series + Talks*.

I would like to thank Jolie Inthavong who is finishing her term on the Board. She has been an excellent asset to ACWR and to myself personally. Her willingness to share knowledge greatly aided my transition from Board Director to President, and was a key component of ACWR's support system.

I would like to congratulate Julie Tucker on her new position with the Art Gallery of Windsor as the Head of Collections and Programs. Over the last four years she has impacted ACWR in an overwhelmingly positive way and we can't thank her enough for that. I look forward to seeing what great things are in her future and how we continue to support each other.

I look forward to 2021, and seeing the creative ways the ACWR family will continue to support Windsor.

David Bergeron | [ACWR President](#)

Updates from the **STAFF**

Director of Public Programs & Advocacy

Dear Members,

I have enjoyed my tenure as the Director of Public Programs and Advocacy, it has been both a challenging and enlightening 4 years. It is time to have a fresh perspective and a new voice. I believe that organizations are made stronger through a change in leadership and I thank all past Director's for their incredible work guiding ACWR. Their work has contributed to my own successes and I would like to offer my support during this transition in any way that is required.

I feel honoured to have worked with so many wonderful board members, volunteers, staff, members and partners. Together, we have made some wonderful things happen in partnership with youth and community organizations. Most of all, I would like to thank you for helping the ACWR team realize the positive impacts of artists and to make Windsor a more supportive and interesting place to live. I will always remember Tujjak: Nunavut Art Pop Up Shop, FREE SPACE, 100 Journals project, Art Share, Cultural Industry Day and so many other initiatives. Culture is essential to both quality of life and to economic development and you can see the stats on ACWR's Advocacy page if you need the proof.

In the past fiscal year, we were affected by both the school strike and the Pandemic. However, we were successful in applying for COVID-19 relief funding from the Federal Government. ACWR is in a sound financial position and was able to shift all programming online. The Pandemic has provided an opportunity to reflect on structures of power of indifference, racism, food insecurity, the gig economy, and environmental degradation. We have looked inwardly as an organization to realize how we are complicit, how we can make change and to have empathy in the work that we do. This is the time to make structural changes in an organization. Please take time to fill out the members' survey in January and share your thoughts.

Lastly, I feel so much more connected to this City and region than I did before, as a result of, learning more about the region's history, the Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeew, Anishinaabe, Black/African/Caribbean and Slave Descendant perspectives – including many other peoples that call this region home. As a publicly funded organization we are working to ensure these perspectives are respected in our programming and community engagement. There is great potential to continue to make things happen in a meaningful way that is specific to our community. I know that ACWR will continue to ensure the artist has been paid and that good cultural projects offer more than fleeting Instagram moments.

ACWR will flourish with your continued support, encouragement and engagement. Xwat Anushiik,

Julie Tucker | [Director of Public Programs & Advocacy](#)

Gallery Manager & Membership Coordinator

Dear Members,

2020 has been a year of significant change, if not, upheaval. In the same token, this year has afforded ACWR the opportunity to adapt and implement new online hubs, social justice initiatives, and responsive community outreach - if there is a brightside, I will always look for one!

Further developing and coordinating online presence has been a successful challenge; when this challenge appears alongside vital (and continually changing) resources (as is related to COVID-19), where does ACWR find access? Congratulations to Director of Public Programs & Advocacy Julie Tucker, and the ACWR Board of Directors in moving forward with vital advocacy resources and research during our collective time of need.

Equally, social justice within the arts remains at the forefront of ACWR's upcoming programming, and I am thankful to be leading MAKING SPACE (2020/2021): an initiative meant to foster critical, self-reflective, and creative spaces alongside the BIPOC Community; to provide actionable (if not vital) anti-black racism work, and build an expansive hub for youth, professional development, and connection.

I extend a sincere thank-you to our members for their ongoing support, the hardwork and dedication from ACWR staff and board, and our exceptional volunteers.

With care,

Talysha Bujold-Abu | [Gallery Manager & Membership Coordinator](#)



VANGUARD

A Year in Review

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. They are present to enrich the artistic culture in our community through youth engagement.

VANGUARD



Current Vanguard

MEMBERS



Kristina Bradt
President



Stephen Drouin
Program Advisor



Gabriella Howes
Secretary



Samantha Enriquez
Social Media Coordinator





Julia Adams



Alexei Ungurenasu



Sandra Jabbour



Kaylyn Pickering



Mia Lee- Dagile



Meaghan Sweeney



VANGUARD Continued...

2020 for the Windsor-Essex community was rich in arts programming, including contributions from the members of the Vanguard Youth Arts Collective! We had a busy summer beginning in June when we were able to launch our virtual zine publication, 'Run, Don't Walk' with the support of the Arts Culture & Heritage Fund Covid Relief grant.

Throughout the month of July we were able to bring the Beyond Borders Project to the Windsor-Essex community through our online journaling and creative workshops. Artists of all ages from a variety of community spaces were encouraged to share their lived experiences through written word, imagery, and other forms of creative expression. These workshops were able to foster a sense of community and connection between our youth leaders and participants through discussion and creation. When we were not working on our own projects, Vanguard members were attending and participating in arts events throughout the region such as the ACHF Covid Fund online presentations, online talks and workshops through Artcite, ACWR and Art Gallery of Windsor, and participating in social media surveys with the West End Art Project.

Towards the end of the year we were able to focus our efforts on collaborative initiatives with other local organizations to bring art and creativity to the region. In September we worked in partnership with Life After Fifty and The Gordie Howe Bridge Association to produce two public art installations at Queen's Dock in Sandwich Towne for The West End Art Project. In October, Vanguard participated as the featured artists for Art Gallery of Windsor's Sundays in the Studio program, giving members the opportunity to release art tutorials for their online programming initiative. We were then fortunate to partner with AGW again to lead an outdoor art walk through Sandwich Towne titled, Walking Through the City. Drawings, photography, poetry and other creative outcomes of the walk will be shared in a group installation at the Art Gallery of Windsor in the coming months. We are pleased to end this year with the collective now at full capacity, collaborating and brainstorming for our next big idea to bring to light.

Through these experiences, Vanguard has learned that initiative, collaboration and ability to adapt is the key to successfully bonding a community and creating opportunities, even when times are tough. In 2021 we hope to reach even more communities and collaborate with talented, local artists and organizations for our upcoming programming ideas!

- Vanguard Members

Featured Vanguard **PROGRAMMING**

100 Journals

Vanguard's 100 Journals Project brought together youth groups from across Windsor-Essex through a sketchbook share project. Participants were encouraged to share their lived experiences through written word, imagery, and other forms of expression that can be communicated through the sketchbooks. Over the course of the project, the journals were circulated between organizations.

Mess Fest

The Mission of Vanguard Youth Arts Collective is to nurture creative development by fostering connections within the community, by acting as a voice for an emerging generation of the arts within Windsor-Essex. MESS FEST is a week of creative workshops, sharing, and fun...including: FREE Foreign Film Flick Fest, Open Mic Surgery + Sewing Class, Windsor Sculpture Garden Sketch + Sculpt, Smartphone Fashion Photography + Editing Workshop, Letterpress Poster Workshop, BOB ROSS Paint Along, Vanguard Exhibit Reception+Journaling Workshop, and Category Is: Disco Dance & Drag.

2020 Accomplishments **PROMOTION**

ARTS NOTES

ACWR has 1000+ 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, the goal is to reach 2000+ subscribers within three years.

ARTSPEAK PODCAST

ACWR has launched its first podcast - on the last Friday of every month, expect a little bit of art-speak: featuring updates on the month ahead, including details on new and upcoming projects, what's happening behind the scenes, and where we can connect as part of the Windsor-Essex community. Keep up to date with past episodes by visiting acwr.net, and signing up for ArtsNotes our weekly arts and culture newsletter.

OUTREACH & INFORMATION SESSIONS

Windsor-Essex Region: Theatre Networking Session
Workshop: Introduction to Video Editing

Black History Month: 2020

MayWorks 2020: Windsor Handmade

Media City Film Festival: Chrysalis Showcase

International Women's Day: Artist Panel Discussion

National Indigenous History Month: Film Screening
We are Not a Phase: Indigenous Film

Screening and Talks
Vanguard Youth Arts Collective: Beyond Borders
Vanguard Youth Arts

Collective: Run, Don't Walk - Virtual Zine Launch
MAKING SPACE (November 2020 - March 2021)

SOCIAL MEDIA



Instagram: 1788 - 1805

Facebook: 2425 - 2526

Twitter: 2582 - 2584

Collected November 2019 / 2020



PARTNERSHIPS

WE ARE NOT A PHASE: INDIGENOUS SCREENING SERIES + TALKS

In partnership with Turtle Island Aboriginal Education Centre | University of Windsor, St. Clair College Indigenous Student Services, VUCAVU and Arts Council Windsor & Region proudly presented: We are Not a Phase: Indigenous Screening Series + Talks. This is the fourth collaboration between ACWR and the Turtle Island Aboriginal Education Centre to engage and gather the University community and those outside to experience film and discussions reflecting on Indigeneity and to honour community initiatives that are Indigenous led. This year we are proud to welcome St. Clair College and VUCAVU as collaborators with support from the National Film Board of Canada.

We are Not a Phase: Indigenous Screening Series + Talks is a series of four separate short programs that showcase a variety of film genres by primarily Indigenous Directors from across Turtle Island. The organizers assert that in this time what comes to mind is the connection to the land and the responsibility to the past and future generations. The films are grounded in the concerns of communities, pride, resiliency and memory. The discussion involved community members with special guests who spoke from their own perspectives and worldview. The goal was to build relationships within the communities we occupy and to celebrate the artists who imagine a better future for their people.

WIKIPEDIA EDIT-A-THON

(June 25-26, 2020) Arts Council Windsor & Region, in partnership with the University of Windsor – Leddy Library, Art Gallery of Windsor and partners hosted the annual Art+Feminism. This international event is designed to improve the coverage of gender, feminism and the arts on Wikipedia and to encourage female editorship. Thank-you to visiting editor and presenter Devon Mordell (Becoming an Information Ancestor: How to Preserve Your Own Digital Stuff and Help Others Do the Same), editor/researcher Imogen Clendinning, and partnerships with the Art Gallery of Windsor, Leddy Library, and White Water Gallery.

WINDSOR- ESSEX REGION: THEATRE NETWORKING SESSION

The Arts Council Windsor & Region, Post Productions and The Shadowbox Theatre presented a networking session for theatre groups of the Windsor-Essex region. The aim of this event was to create meaningful connections between the members of the theatre scene. Thank-you to all who participated and shared in this important discussion!



SUPPORT

ART.WORK WORKSHOPS

The Arts Council Windsor and Region partners with artists, organizations and businesses to provide special programs, including: professional development, creative learning and networking opportunities for artists of all ages and all disciplines. All ACWR programs aim to infuse arts and culture into everyday life, while giving artists and community organizations the opportunity to come together to facilitate discussion and connection.

FREESPACE

FREESPACE began out of a community need, Windsor & Region needed a space for professional development opportunities in the arts. FREESPACE Residency Program is a great opportunity: to build your resume, to rehearse, to explore, and to document. We look forward to welcoming FREESPACE (2020/2021) artist-in-residence - Tejai Travis.

CURATORIAL FREESPACE

Curatorial FREE SPACE (2019 - 2021) - ACWR partnered with the Art Gallery of Windsor and Arcite Inc. to host three exhibitions of contemporary art, curated by emerging curators. ACWR initiated this project because artists in the Windsor-Essex community felt there was a lack of critically engaged curation of regional artists. Each exhibition includes a publication, published by Woodbridge Farm Books, Windsor ON. In 2020, curator Nadja Pelkey presented Placed - featuring the work of three artists and one writer working through articulations of home and place. Featured artists: Andrea Carvalho, Czarina Mendoza, Laura Madera, and Casey Plett. *We look forward to 2021, with (un)happy objects curated by Adrienne Crossman.*

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: 2020

(February 2020) The ACWR provided resources for BPOC Creatives, including links to professional opportunities, job postings, and grant applications.

WINDSOR- ESSEX ARTIST MICRO GRANT

The COVID-19 pandemic has the world facing unparalleled financial and social challenges. The ACWR is here to help meet the needs of our community of artists in Windsor-Essex. Artists of all career levels and disciplines are working to overcome the barriers created through these times of necessary collective social distancing.

ACWR offered 2-Rounds of an Artist Micro-grant (\$75.00) for essentials; artists of any discipline, student members from the School of Creative Arts and St. Clair College, and all ACWR members were eligible. Grants were given on a first-come, first-served basis until the funds raised were exhausted.

Arts Council Windsor & Region would like to extend our sincere thanks to all donors that made the Round Two: Windsor-Essex Micro Grant possible. Special thanks to Nadine Deleury for donating \$60.00 from her backyard concert series!

MEMBERSHIP & GRANT CONSULTATION

Members of the Arts Council of Windsor & Region are artists, art supporters, arts administrators, arts organizations and community members; whether working or supporting in the creative industries, ACWR strives to keep our members connected, to gain access to valuable resources and learn about artistic/professional development opportunities.

MEMBER BENEFITS

- Reduced Fees on ACWR programs and rentals
- Opportunities to exhibit
- Become a part of the artistic community & support creative endeavours throughout the region
- Access to online resources and our In-Office Resource Library
- Grant Consultation (Ontario Arts Council and the Arts, Cultural & Heritage Fund)
- Access to Health Insurance through The Arts & Entertainment Plan with AFBS
- Deals & Discounts at our wide range of Partnered regional cultural providers

VOLUNTEER & ON THE JOB TRAINING

Remote volunteering opportunities have continued throughout 2020. ACWR hosted and facilitated multiple work study programs, and volunteer opportunities; partnering with the University of Windsor, Community Volunteers, and (before COVID-19) The Greater Essex Public School Board Co-op Program.

Along with the above work study programs, ACWR received approval from the Canada Summer Jobs Program for paid placements. These placements are vital to ACWR's continued support of the Windsor-Essex Arts Community; staff provides students with mentorship to assist in the development of their professional portfolios in arts management, and the creative industries.



ADVOCACY

WEBSITE LAUNCH: ADVOCACY

ACWR continues to expand and add to our comprehensive page outlining both the economic and social case for the arts. It provides the community at large with media assets, statistics, and an advocacy toolkit. In 2020, the ACWR has researched and made available for public access new information/resources: Arts Culture & Heritage Sector, Arts Promotion Toolkit, Arts Education, Universal Basic Income, Safe Workplaces//Safe-Space Policies, COVID-19 Resources.

Through continued support, the ACWR is able to keep its commitment of providing valuable services and programs to the community that increases accessibility for the arts, cultivates skills, and creates opportunities for professional development.

ARTICLES/REVIEWS/RADIO

The Drive Magazine- All About Community (July 24, 2019)

Our Windsor- ACWR presenting exhibition and workshop by Hadi Ali Chaudhary (October, 2019)

CBC News- Art Gallery of Windsor supports Sounds of the Season with free creative workshop Social Sharing (December 9, 2019)

Our Windsor- Arts Council launches new COVID-19 Windsor Essex Artist Micro Grants (April 30, 2020)

Windsor Star- Arts council urges support for local artists during new Giving Tuesday movement (May 4, 2020)

The Tecumseh Local- ACWR promotes the Great Canadian Giving Challenge (June 4, 2020)

Arts Pond: New Faces: 2020 Artist Residency (July 9, 2020)

CTV News Windsor- City of Windsor seeking input from creative community on COVID-19 impact (July 24, 2020)

Windsor Star- Survey seeks to help art community through pandemic | with Chris Thompson (July 25, 2020)

Blackburn News- Survey to measure impact of COVID-19 on arts and culture | Adelle Loiselle (August 2, 2020)

UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

ACWR is in support of Universal Basic Income; a necessary initiative to help support Canadian arts and culture workers. On July 16, 2020 a public letter was addressed to the Canadian Government illustrating how Universal Basic Income (UBI) would positively affect artists, culture workers and every Canadian citizen in their day-to-day lives. This letter was written by artists Craig Berggold, Zainub Verjee and Clayton Windatt and was signed and supported by an additional three hundred Canadian arts workers and organizations.

It is important to note that many artists in our community are considered as employees of the “gig-economy”, meaning contract work of various lengths, commission and no health benefits, a pension and more. During the country-wide lockdown that was enforced because of the COVID-19 pandemic, artists have continued to work together to keep their online presence strong. For more information on Universal Basic Income and the positive change and impact it can have for artists and culture workers please visit the Canadian Artists Representation (CARFAC) website.

ARTS EDUCATION

Current and past research illustrates the positive impacts of arts education for learners of all ages. An increase in academic scores, a decrease in dropout rates, and gaining a greater sense of well-being and quality of life are just a few examples of the benefits of arts education. We are providing educators, learners, and/or advocates for arts education with two documents that go into more detail and outline a variety of reasons why we should include the arts in our everyday learning.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

ACWR has launched a COVID-19 Resource & Tools Page outlining a variety of resources; our first priority is the health and safety of the Windsor-Essex community. Global public health guidelines indicate that the more quickly the world responds to a pandemic, the better off the outcomes. ACWR resources include: Health & Wellness, Tracking Finances & Support, Surveys & Advocacy, and Adapting/Assessment.

ALLIANCE OF ARTS COUNCILS

ACWR in partnership with the Alliance of Arts Councils of Ontario submitted statements on behalf of the communities we serve; acting now, is an opportunity for the arts sector to work together with local and provincial governments to reshape the sector, its infrastructure, and supports. To review these statements, please visit: acwr.net



Featured **NEW PROGRAMS**



THANK YOU

Funders



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

an Ontario government agency
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Stephanie Barnhard
Jude Abu Zaineh
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Windsor Essex Community Foundation
WFCU

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ACWR Partners

Deals & 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

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sho-studios.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

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taloolacafe.com

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5% off studio quotes (portraits, studio work etc.)

NANCY JOHNS GALLERY & FRAMING

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nancyjohns.com

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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)

Organizational Members

ArtCite Inc.Art
Gallery of Windsor
Bookfest Windsor
Canadian Network for Arts and Learning
Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre
Capitol Theatre
City of Windsor Cultural Affairs Department
The Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board
Hackforge
Levigator Press
Mayworks
Media City Film Festival
One Ten Park
Ontario Arts Council
Sho: Art, Spirit and Performance
The Greater Essex District School Board
Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee
The Multicultural Centre of Windsor Essex
The University of Windsor Turtle Island Education Centre
Unifor Local 200, Workforce Windsor Essex
VUCAVU
Wapikoni Cinema on Wheels
W.E. Trans Support
Windsor Essex Economic Development Corporation
Windsor Essex Small Business Centre
Windsor Youth Centre
Windsor Poetry Slam
Workforce Windsor Essex





**ARTS COUNCIL
WINDSOR & REGION**

