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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Arts Council Windsor & Region receives Government of Canada support through My Main Street Community Activator Placemaking Program

June 16, 2022 – Windsor, ON – The Arts Council Windsor & Region (ACWR) is pleased to announce that our project, the creation of the **New Voices Community Arts Residency**, was selected for the My Main Street Community Activator program and has received \$30,632 to launch the project this summer.

Through the Government of Canada's My Main Street Community Activator, delivered by the Canadian Urban Institute (CUI), ACWR will enjoy a more vibrant neighbourhood setting that will draw visitors and increase foot traffic to shops, restaurants and exciting new public spaces. The Arts Council Windsor & Region is supported by My Main Street—a two-year, \$23.25-million investment by the Government of Canada through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario), delivered by CUI and the Economic Developers Council of Ontario (EDCO).

The New Voices Community Arts Residency will invite two artists from equity seeking populations to conduct a three-month community-oriented residency at ACWR located in the Walkerville neighborhood. The residency will allow time to conduct research and to connect with the local community to develop a project that responds directly to the specificity of Walkerville and the adjacent neighbourhoods, Wyandotte Town Centre and Ford City.

Each artist in residence will be given space at ACWR, access to internet and printing facilities, as well as the possibility to make use of the New Voices billboard. The goal of the residency is to combine the unique potential of community-oriented art practices for uncovering local narratives and igniting conversations, with the advantageous location of ACWR and the high visibility of the New Voices billboard.

Quotes

“Our government is committed to helping communities bring their main streets back to life. My Main Street is providing vital support to projects that will reanimate neighbourhoods through installations, events and activities that are inclusive, innovative and engaging to create jobs and drive economic growth for local economies.”— The Honourable Helena Jaczek, Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario)

“At ACWR, we are very excited with the opportunity to launch the New Voices Community Arts Residency. At this point we are getting ready to host the first artist, Hibba Abdallah, and we are looking forward to supporting her research and practice while being here with us.” Alejandro Tamayo, Executive Director, ACWR

“It’s so meaningful to be chosen as the inaugural artist-in-residence. Windsor is where I grew up, and ultimately, where I developed my sensibility as an artist. Coming back years later with the opportunity to reconnect with the community is very exciting.”— Hiba Abdallah, Artist in Residence, ACWR

For more information about The ACWR or about The New Voices Community Arts Residency please visit our website at www.acwr.net.

Background

The [Arts Council Windsor & Region](#) (ACWR) is a non-profit organization that serves all disciplines of individual artists, arts organizations and non-arts partners in promoting, developing and realizing creative activity. Our energies are focused on providing our community with valuable services like Artspeak Gallery, Art.Work workshops, individual grant consultation, an in-office resource library and our website, which hosts resources, a community arts calendar and the weekly Arts Notes newsletter.

The [Canadian Urban Institute](#) is the national platform that houses the best in Canadian city building — where policymakers, urban professionals, civic and business leaders, community activists and academics can learn, share and collaborate with one another from coast to coast. Through research, engagement and storytelling, our mission is to ensure Canada builds vibrant, equitable, liveable and resilient cities. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

For more than 12 years, the Government of Canada, through [FedDev Ontario](#), has worked to advance and diversify the southern Ontario economy through funding opportunities and business services that support innovation, job creation and growth in Canada’s most populous region. The Agency has delivered impressive results, which can be seen in southern Ontario businesses that are creating innovative technologies, improving productivity, growing their revenues, creating jobs, and in the economic advancement of communities across the region. Learn more about the impacts the Agency is having in southern Ontario by exploring our [pivotal projects](#), our [Southern Ontario Spotlight](#), and FedDev Ontario’s [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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