



2011 2012

YEAR IN REVIEW

**ARTS COUNCIL
WINDSOR®ION**



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OUR MANDATE

Arts Council Windsor & Region (ACWR) is a non-profit organization that enriches the quality of life for all by strengthening the arts and the community through leadership, education and promotion.

OUR VISION

Support artists and arts organizations in Windsor and Essex County to fulfil their creative business potential.

Place the arts, culture and creativity at the heart of economic development

Make the arts a centrepiece of Windsor and Essex County life

OUR VALUES

LEADERSHIP - We advocate for our creative community

INCLUSIVE - We reflect audience and creative community diversity

INNOVATIVE - We support new and innovative art and artists

OPEN AND ACCOUNTABLE - We are consultative and goal oriented

SUSTAINABLE - We encourage and develop social, cultural and economic benefit for our community

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am very pleased to report that the ACWR is healthy , vibrant, creative and thriving.

The past year has been one of the busiest and most successful I have experienced with the Arts Council. Thanks to the hard work of our Board of Directors and staff, the Arts Council's membership has been steadily increasing, our volunteer base is beginning to grow, audience participation is up, our administration and finances have been reviewed and streamlined and our profile in the community has been greatly increased.

We have been working hard to obtain grant funding, and on that front we have been very successful. We've received 3 grants over the past year, enabling us to build capacity and hire a full time Executive Director (Michelle Le Chien), a part-time Cultural Animator (Alana Bartol) and a part-time Outreach Coordinator (Michelle Souillere). These three talented women are the well-oiled engine running all of our programming and services. Our grateful thanks go to the Ontario Arts Council and the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their generous support.

The Board of Directors has approved a new strategic plan for the organization. The plan is a living document that will guide and build the organization and will be updated and revised to meet changing needs and conditions.

One of the strategic plan priorities we've been concentrating on over the past year is the provision of outreach and service to artists and art organizations beyond the visual arts. We want to build an organization that works on behalf of ALL of the arts. In a very short time we are achieving real results in service provision, partnerships and networking with theatre groups, film makers, dancers and writers and a number of non-arts community partners.

Other priorities from the plan that have resulted in positive changes are in the areas of programming, communication and leadership.

In Programming – We have significantly strengthened services, networking and programming for artists. One of our newest and most successful programs is the 1st/3rd Wednesdays networking evenings that has drawn new audiences to the gallery, encouraged artists to collaborate, and provided education and information to all.

In Communications – we have increased awareness and visibility of the ACWR's services, activities and mandate through radio and print interviews, new ACWR literature, website enhancements, an updated newsletter and a lot of outreach work throughout the region.

We've also strengthened our Leadership. Through numerous networking opportunities and targeted programming we have encouraged partnerships and relationships within the arts community and between arts and non-arts groups. We have provided education and mentoring on granting opportunities and sponsored members in the ArtsVest program.

There are too many individual programs, workshops and accomplishments to list each one of them now but want to assure you that the Arts Council Windsor and Region is strong and getting stronger. We are back in the black financially and organizationally stable, we have increased all of our audience, membership and volunteer numbers, we have expanded our programming and services and improved benefits to members and we have a clear plan to guide us through another successful year.

I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to our dedicated board members, past and present, our stupendous staff members and our volunteers for all of the time and effort they have given to help build a better Arts Council. And a special thanks to our members.

Jennifer Escott
President, Arts Council – Windsor & Region
November 6 2012

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Arts Council Windsor Region (ACWR) is an organization that is constantly transforming and re-energizing itself to adapt to the changing cultural landscape of Windsor Essex County.

In 2011/2012 the ACWR with financial assistance from the Trillium Foundation was able to hire a full time Executive Director and to re-allocate and re-organize its administration to best serve the community of Windsor Essex. Through this grant the ACWR has started to re-establish its self as a true umbrella organization for the arts and provide assistance and support to all areas of arts and culture.

ARTSPEAK GALLERY

In the past year we continued to provide the only non-juried space in Windsor Essex. Our visual artists filled the exhibition space with artwork that showcased the many talented artists that reside in our area.

We look forward to 2012/2013 in continuing to provide this space but also to open it for local curators to begin working with our artists in creating dynamic and professional exhibitions. We are also providing new professional development opportunities for our exhibiting visual artists by offering a free "how to on Exhibitions" workshop offered every four months.

PROGRAMMING

We were proud to start a number of new programming activities that were geared to provide accessible professional development opportunities to our area artists. We continued the successful ART.WORK workshop series and started the WE-LAUNCHED program that will continue through 2012/2013. All workshops are focused on providing opportunities for artists to enhance their cultural careers.

In the past year we also launched our 1st/3rd wednesdays that focused on community engagement and partnerships by providing networking opportunities for artists. Along with the 1st/3rd Wednesday programs we hosted many other programs and activities including Think & Drink: A Micro Granting Awards Program and Local Independent Film Screenings.

RESOURCES:

In 2011/2012 we were gracious to the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) for providing funding to hire a Cultural Animator who has provided guidance and resources to our area artists on grants, specifically the OAC's Artist in the Community Workplace Grant.

In April 2012 The ACWR in partnership with the City of Windsor and Windsor Essex Chamber of Commerce assisted in a successful application to be a host community for Artsvest. This program is funded by the Government of Ontario, The Ontario Trillium Foundation and Canadian Heritage aims to connect arts cultural groups and businesses to spark corporate engagement in the arts at a local level. It is coordinated through Business for the Arts, a national non-profit organization of business leaders. We look forward to the many new projects and programs in 2012/2013 funded through this program.

The 2012/2013 season will again be geared to providing assistance through guidance, leadership and resources to our area artists but also to strengthen the ACWR as the VOICE FOR THE ARTS IN WINDSOR ESSEX. Please stay tuned for many new developments including our brand new website (launching 2013), programs geared towards all disciplines and some great fun activities to get engaged in the arts.

I would like to thank our board and volunteers for their continued support through 2011/2012 and look forward to all the upcoming activities planned for the upcoming year.



Michelle Le Chien
Executive Director

PUBLIC PROGRAMS COORDINATOR REPORT

Our public programs are being funded by the Ontario Arts Council Arts Investment Fund: a capacity-building program intended to strengthen arts organizations. Grants in this category must be used to build private sector support, grow earned revenues, and/or invest in audience development.

We are entering our third and final year of the multi-year grant, which funds the part time Public Programs position as well as marketing, promotion and consultant's fees to facilitate professional development workshops geared towards giving hand-on skills and tools to emerging professionals so that they are able to kick-start their creative careers.

By providing our local membership and larger audience with skill-building workshops that can help them into the public arena, we are situating our organization as a community leader in cultural resources and services, showing Windsor-Essex and the world what kind of talent lives and works in our region. This, in turn, will continue to diversify the audience that our organization attracts as we deliver services to meet the needs of our regional residents and cultural producers.

This project has and will continue to deepen and broaden our audience by providing artists of all disciplines with the opportunity to expand themselves and their practice toward being a professional cultural provider.

We have had an increase in performing artist and musician membership since the project began. The majority of which became members due to attending workshops. We are working on increasing performing artist and musician membership over the next year by continuing to provide skill-building workshops to include them specifically.

Our project has succeeded better than originally planned for the following reasons:

- We have been able to increase the total number of workshops over the 3-year period from 6 to 9
- We have overachieved our yearly increase in workshop attendance

2011/2012 Workshop summary:

#1- October 24&25, 2011:

Business and Branding with Dan Bombardier (DEN!@L)

#2- November 26&27, 2011:

Document It! with Frank Piccolo

#3- March 17&18, 2012:

Windsor Music Scene 101 with Murad Erzincliglu & JamSpace Windsor

#4- July 7&14, 2012:

Settling into your own WordPress-based website with Joshua Babcock

#5- August 2&9, 2012:

How to look really good on paper - a CV and Artist Statement for grant writing workshop with Lucy Howe

#6 -August 29&30, 2012:

Beyond the Wall - Professional Graffiti 101 for Youth with Jonathan Jimenez and Jason Deary

What's coming up in 2013:

January 2013: workshop #7

March 2013: workshop #8

July 2013: workshop #9

August 2012 Michelle Soulliere our Public Programs Coordinator accepted the position of the ACWR Outreach Coordinator. She has gained this new position based on her excellent work as the Public Programs Coordinator and her drive and experience outside of the ACWR.

We are very excited to announce that we have hired a new Public Programs Coordinator, Eric Boucher, who is currently completing his Masters of Fine Arts in Film Production (York University, Toronto) while residing and raising a family in Windsor. His thesis direction is a documentary film focusing on the independent arts community in Windsor. Eric completed his (Hon.) BA in Communications at the University of Windsor. He credits much of his passion for Windsor, art and filmmaking to fellow local artists, collaborators and professionals in the city.

Michelle Soulliere

Current Outreach Coordinator (August 2012-present)

Past Public Programs Coordinator (August 2011-August 2012)

CULTURAL ANIMATOR REPORT

The Cultural Animator position with the ACWR is a part-time, one year, contract position, created with funding from the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) to promote, support and assist artists, as well as arts and non-arts community organizations, in developing community arts projects and proposals for the OAC's Artists in the Community / Workplace (AICW) program. It was developed to increase the number of applicants from Windsor-Essex County to the AICW program, while developing awareness of community arts practice in our region.

While the AICW grant has been in existence since the 1990s, there have only been two successful applicants from our community. Through promotion and outreach throughout Windsor-Essex County, interest in the AICW grant and community arts has increased in our area. Since the October 2012 deadline, there has been a 400% increase in applications. Over several of months, I was able to work closely with many groups, connecting them to partners and assisting them in developing and refining their projects and grant application materials. Of equal importance, are the unexpected collaborations, connections and initiatives that have developed through this work, that have and continue to inspire understanding, enthusiasm and support for the arts.

Connecting to artists from all disciplines in our community has been an important aspect of my position. Working with the staff, BOD and community members, the number of ACWR community partnerships has increased from 7 to 28 in just 8 months. Since I began working at the ACWR in mid-February, 2012, I have developed strong relationships with and between artists, arts groups and community organizations. Many of the connections made have lead to the ACWR's involvement in several committees, collaborations and events, including Jennifer Willet's Art and Ecology Parade, a partnership with Enakshi Sinah / Mrudanga Performing Arts and new bi-monthly events such as The Writing Salon and Open Move.

Executive Director, Michelle Le Chien and I have worked together to connect with communities and promote the ACWR at various events, fairs and meetings. We developed 1st / 3rd Wednesdays to create an on-going event at the ACWR that allows artists and community members to connect, educate and support one another. As these new initiatives grow, they continue to bring new and familiar faces to Artspeak Gallery and the ACWR.

Growing up in Windsor, I gravitated to the arts at an early age. Upon returning to the region, I am excited to see and be part of the new collaborations that are being developed and proud to be working with both the ACWR and OAC. Through the Cultural Animator position and as a practicing artist in our community, I have had the privilege of working with and learning from artists, arts professionals and community members that are passionate about fostering arts in Windsor and region. We have a unique opportunity in our area to lead the way in promoting, supporting and advocating for arts. As I work with groups towards the March ACIW deadline, I look forward to working with the ACWR, OAC, artists, organizations and community members, to develop new projects, resources and opportunities, while gaining insight into how community art and all artistic practices can be supported and cultivated in our community.

Alana Bartol
Cultural Animator

For more information on the Artists in the Community Workplace Grant go to www.acwr.net/aicw

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR JULY 1 2011-JUNE 30 2012

JULY 2011

ARTSPEAK GALLERY: HEAT SUMMER Visual Arts Show
Members of the ACWR displayed their works of art in a group show in the Artspeak Gallery

Walkerville's BIA Arts Walk and Rock

AUGUST 2011

ARTSPEAK GALLERY: EVOLVE process exhibition with multiple collaborating artists

ACWR Garden Party - Summer fundraiser at Rino's Kitchen. Collaboration with Windsor Essex Community Supported Agriculture

ARTSPEAK GALLERY: WIDE OPEN: An interactive exhibition exploring the barriers between the studio and community. Featuring Sara Howe, Vince Kogut, Rosina Riccardo and Hiba Abdulah

SEPTEMBER 2011

ARTSPEAK GALLERY: BEYOND THE WALL. Featuring drawings and printmaking by Kristyn Hartford

ART.WORK Professional Development Workshop Series. The Intersection of Art, Entertainment and Commerce.

The ACWR was a sponsoring partner in this years **OPEN STUDIO TOURS** organized by the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Windsor Essex.

ARTSPEAK GALLERY: Sculptures by Mel Vinrich

National Culture Days - Collaborative coast to coast to coast volunteer movement to raise awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement of Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities. The ACWR was a host gallery and community facilitator of Culture Days Windsor Essex.



ACWR's
Garden PARTY!

Support the ACWR August 4th, 2011!
Come out & enjoy local food with international flavour. There will be an array of prizes with live entertainment!

Tickets: \$30 each
Tickets can be purchased at ACWR
1942 Wyandotte St. E, online or by calling 519-252-6855.

Thursday August 4th, 6-10pm
Rino's Kitchen
131 Elliott Street West
Windsor, ON N9A 5Y8

For more information contact ACWR @ 519-252-6855 or email info@acwr.net

OCTOBER 2011

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - LOVE CHILD: featuring artwork by Douglas Bedard

WE-LAUNCH Professional Development Business and Branding with Dan Bombardier (DEN!@L)- Learn self promotion and design professional art-business online and print portfolio

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - ENERGY IN COLOURS: Marian Wyrzykowski

THINK & DRINK - Micro Grant ideas pitch and award for emerging artists
What's Think & Drink? It's a way for local artists to connect and brainstorm ideas for improving the arts and culture in Windsor

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - SHUDDER: Nicolette Westfall and Gulnaz Turdalieva

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

JULY 1 2011-JUNE 30 2012

NOVEMBER 2011

Riverside Library Show and Sale - Community holiday art show and sale at the Riverside Library

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - Contradictions featuring artwork by Danuta Siniarska

ART.WORK Professional Development Series - Grant Writing 101

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - Digi Mass Photography Club presents: A Photographic Exhibition

WE-LAUNCH Professional Development Windsor Music Scene 101 with Murad Erzinclioglu & JamSpace Windsor

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - Rashmi Dadwal - 9th Annual Exhibition

The Arts Council Windsor Region receives an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant to support its operations and upcoming programming.

DECEMBER 2011

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - Holiday Members Show - ACWR hosted reception and members exhibition.

JANUARY 2012

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - Peter Rozek Niagra Falls Information Centre: Installation by Detroit based urban planner and visual artist

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - THE TREES TELL THE STORY: Christine Keech

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - Walkerville Centre for Creative Arts - Student Exhibition featuring photography, painting, sculpture, video and installation

FEBRUARY 2012

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - Aristokrafts: Handmade fibre crafts, soap, jewellery and candles

The ACWR hosted Tyrone Benskin, MP & Arts Critic. He educated local artists with regards to the many funding options available for the arts community and introduced an e-guide to facilitate this process. Alana Bartol, the ACWR's new Cultural Animator was on hand to talk about the Ontario Arts Council's Artists in the Community / Workplace (AICW) program in Windsor and Essex County. Through the AICW program, arts and non-arts partners can apply for up to \$10,000 in funding to develop community-based arts projects.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR JULY 1 2011-JUNE 30 2012

MARCH 2012



ARTSPEAK GALLERY - WOMAN OF MY FAMILY:
UNFINISHED MEMORIES: work by Gulnaz Turdalieva

Independent Film Screening: Organized by ACWR board member Derrick O'Toole the night featured first time screenings of 10 new films created by local independent filmmakers

Information session with ACWR Cultural Animator Alana Bartol. She explained the Ontario Arts Council's granting program Artists in the Community Workplace Grant. The grant connects The Ontario Arts Council's (OAC) Artists in the Community / Workplace (AICW) program is a grant program that supports the research, development, production and presentation of community-engaged, collaborative, process-driven artistic work.

The ACWR hosted a March Break Monoprinting Workshop for Kids with Visual Artist Munazza Naeem. The Children's Workshop was memory of Susan Dingler.

WE-LAUNCH Professional Development Workshop Windsor Music Scene 101 with Murad Erzincliglu & JamSpace Windsor

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - ROMANIAN ART CONNECTIONS: featuring artists: Iosif Dereciche, Janina Stancu, Jean Giofu, Monica Radulescu and Alice Stancu

APRIL 2012

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - PASTICHE: Les eleves et la faculte du departement des visuels de l'Ecole secondaire L'ESSOR a Tecumseh vous presentent l'exposition collective et multimedia.

Independent Film Screening of Mad City Chickens. First of a series of cross-sectoral collective events with Windsor Essex Community Supported Agriculture (WECSA)

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - EXPRESSIONS: Walkerville Centre for Creative Arts, group visual mixed media arts show using acrylic and watercolour, photography and sculpture by high school aged artists.

The ACWR in partnership with the City of Windsor and Windsor Essex Chamber of Commerce assisted in a successful application to be a host community for Artsvest. This program is funded by the Government of Ontario, The Ontario Trillium Foundation and Canadian Heritage aims to connect arts cultural groups and businesses to spark corporate engagement in the arts at a local level. It is coordinated through Business for the Arts, a national non-profit organization of business leaders.

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - DARLING DIVINE ART OF THE AVANT GARDE. Group visual mixed media arts show using acrylic and watercolours, photography, theatrical makeup and graphic design. Exhibition featured: Piera Rock, Elizabeth Matlack and Crystal Seethan

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - ART IN LIVING II Phillip Chouinard

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - OUT ON A LIMB: TREE AS A MUSE, Mary Atkinson and Margaret Guillet

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR JULY 1 2011-JUNE 30 2012

MAY 2012

Riverside Library Craft Exhibition and Sale. 17 artists participated in this years spring library exhibition organized by the ACWR. Along with this years Spring Riverside Library Craft Exhibition the ACWR participated in hosting artists vendors at this years Eco Conference at the Dr. David Suzuki School

1st/3rd Wednesday - "Community Seeks Artist for a Meaningful Partnership"

Over 20 participants came out to our first 1st/3rd Wednesday for a speed dating format networking night

The ACWR teamed up with Windsor Pride to "Bee part of the change" by partnering on a non-juried art installation at the Windsor Pride Community Office

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - The Daily Grind: searching for daily meaning as well as daily bread

As part of MayWorks Windsor 2012 youth from Catholic Central High School and Holy Names High School have created a piece entitled: "The Daily Grind" a commentary on the meaning of work.

Artspeak Gallery hosted a group of home school children and their parents for a fun afternoon of puppet making with Professional puppeteer Matthew Romain

ARTSPEAK GALLERY: Christina Pamela Lord; Solo Exhibition

Culture Days information session held at the ACWR office with over 30 interested artists and arts organizations in attendance

ARTSPEAK GALLERY - St. Leonard's House. Photos documenting the 50 year history of St. Leonard's House in Windsor.

The ACWR was amongst many community groups to present their services at the Annual Windsor Community Services Expo.

1st/3rd Wednesday - "Building Connections: A conversation about community arts"

An open discussion about initiated and creating community engaged art projects with local recipients of the Artists in the Community Workplace (AICW) Grant, Justing Langlois of Broken City Lab and Rolly Marentette of the Injured Workers Coalition

JUNE 2012

The ACWR hosted a booth at the Annual Art in the Park. Children and adults had a chance to take their photos in our cut out art characters and make a kite.

1st/3rd Wednesday: "I'm a real artist" Participants were asked to bring in an object that represented them as an artist in Windsor Essex.

ARTSPEAK GALLERY: June Bug. A process exhibition featuring work by Yara El Safi, Alex Derbyshire, Victoria Strehlau, Erin Donnelly, Carley Ouellette, Todor Tesla Oluic, Kristina Palazzi, Rosalie Edwards, Jill Snider,, Michelle Donaldson, Hannah Maitland, Olga George Politis

Artists in the Community Workplace information session at the Leamington Arts Centre, Leamington.

1st/3rd Wednesday: "Just Because I Am" The ACWR in partnership with the Windsor Pride Community presented "Just Because I am" a documentary on homophobia and youth. This film was screened simultaneously with its screening at the New York Filmmakers Spring Festival.

ARTSPEAK GALLERY: Visual Appetite featuring photography by Angela Roy.



CURRENT ARTS COUNCIL WINDSOR AND REGION STAFF



MICHELLE LE CHIEN
Executive Director
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MICHELLE SOULLIERE
Outreach Coordinator and
Artspeak Gallery Manager
Past Public Programs Coordinator
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ALANA BARTOL
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*Alana at her studio one ten park : a working
space located in downtown Windsor



NICOLE HUTCHINSON
Promotional Coordinator
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ERIC BOUCHER
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ARTS COUNCIL WINDSOR AND REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2011/2012)

Jennifer Escott, President

Mariano Klimowicz, Vice President

Diane Passador, Treasurer

Philippa von Ziegenweidt, Secretary

Nathalie Roy, Director

Munazza Naeem, Director

Suellen Evoy Ozeer, Director

Stephanie Bedford, Director

Derrick O'Toole, Director

Kelly McWhinnie, Director

**ARTS COUNCIL
WINDSOR & REGION**