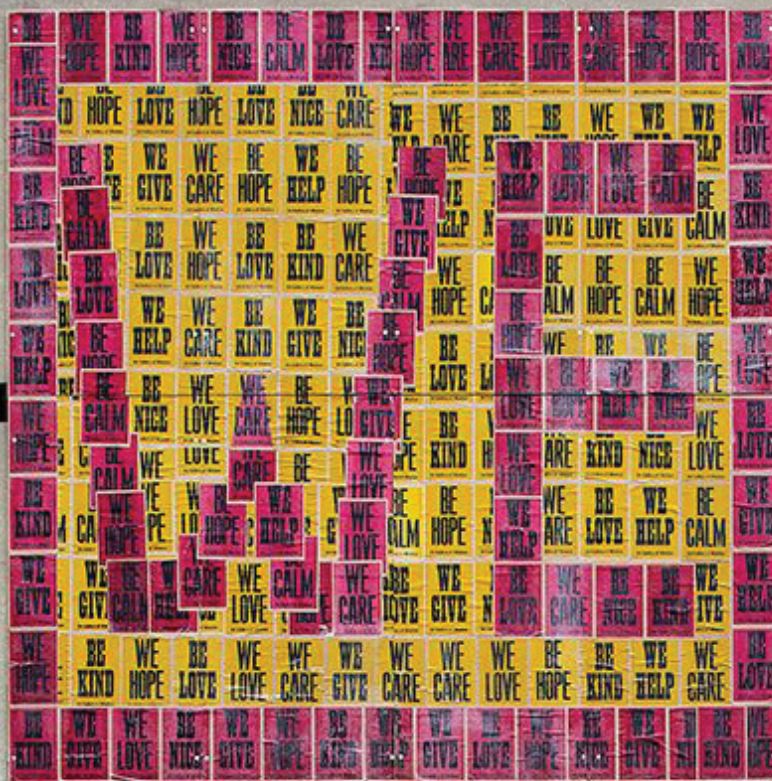


Art
Windsor
Essex



2022

IMPACT REPORT



Programs, Exhibitions and Collection

3,690 students

participated in virtual
education programs.

19,215 people

participated in virtual and
in-person programs.

Over **40,000** people

attended our on-site
and off-site exhibitions.

79% increase

in admissions compared to 2019.

26 artworks

donated to the collection.

Community Support

More Than

\$500,000 fundraised

for the gallery in 2022, thanks
to the generous support of our donors!

38 Community
Partnerships

on over **100+**

programs

Over **1,000** volunteer hours

contributed by volunteers in 2022.

Membership in 2022:

1,022 **153% increase**

(Compared to 2019)

social media    

4,300,791

impressions
(158% increase over 2021)

149,597

video views
(510% increase over 2021)

117,186

engagements
(113.4% increase over 2021)

23.3%

audience growth
(in 2022 over 2021)

31,049

post-link clicks
(264.1% increase over 2021)

“Slay.”
– AWE
under 25
Member

Transformation



Becoming an art gallery for the 21st century.

Against the Current

In Spring 2022, AWE worked with multimedia studio Moment Factory to launch an innovative digital project called 'Against the Current'. Participants use their personal devices to move across Downtown Windsor to discover eight locations that feature artwork reproductions from the art gallery's collection. Mini-games accessible via QR codes reveal the stories of each featured artist. *Against the Current* has been accessed by 7,400 users. The project was highlighted at the 2022 American Alliance of Museums annual conference and was awarded funding from My Main Street, supported by the Government of Canada through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

“What I liked most about Against The Current was being able to get downtown and see some of the really amazing art! It makes you just stop for a minute and appreciate something beautiful.”

– Against the Current participant



NEW NAME, WHO DIS?

A new
brand and
website

In Fall 2022, after the launch of our new brand and name - Art Windsor-Essex - the gallery launched a new website with funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The new website has improved how AWE shares information about programs to prospective visitors. By the end of 2022, AWE's website saw a 100% increase in visitors compared to our previous website.

artwindsor-essex.ca

Putting the 'E' in AWE:

Look Again! Amherstburg and Group of Seven: Not Formed in a Day



In July 2022, five reproductions of art from AWE's collection were placed throughout downtown Amherstburg. Between July 1 and 10, 2022, AWE presented the pop-up exhibition 'Group of Seven: Not Formed in a Day' at the Hole in the Wall space above Amherstburg's River Bookshop. The pop-up exhibition was attended by 1,240 people over 10 days. The show was displayed again at AWE in Fall 2022. These projects, which brought important art and ideas to Essex County, were generously supported by Richard and Colleen Peddie and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

CREATING CONVERSATIONS

Introducing different ideas and ways of thinking

An 'awe factory' welcome to all

The exhibition *Crip Ecologies: Vulnerable Bodies in a Toxic Landscape*, curated by Amanda Cachia, featured 10 international disability artists alongside a display on disability justice presented by members of AWE's external accessibility consultation group. In 2022, AWE hosted solo exhibitions and projects by artists and curators from across Canada and from Windsor-Essex, including Howie Tsui, Talysha Bujold Abu, The Artists of Colour, Manuel Mathieu, Valentin Brown, Jude Abu Zanieh, and Shelley Niro. In 2022, AWE purchased an artwork by Niro, one of Canada's most celebrated Indigenous artists.

Through exhibitions, projects, and acquisitions like these, AWE lived our commitment to showcasing artists who have historically been underrepresented. In 2022, AWE's Board of Directors signed on to the Government of Canada's 50/30 Challenge – a commitment to diversifying our Board by increasing representation from Black, Indigenous, and other racialized and equity-deserving groups.



“Just wanted to say thank you for all of the trans support signs :) It makes us feel welcome and loved the restoration exhibit. So cool!”

-exhibition attendee

Celebrating Indigenous cultures, furthering truth and reconciliation

Through the power of art, AWE wants people to think differently about the history and art of Canada. In 2022, AWE showed artworks by 27 Indigenous artists and partnered on 16 programs and events to support Indigenous artists and people living in our region. Artist Shelley Niro conducted a beadwork workshop at the Turtle Island Education Centre at the University of Windsor. AWE worked with the Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority to produce *The Bridge Artists*, a virtual field trip featuring the works of Indigenous artists Teresa Altman, Naomi Peters and Daisy White. This virtual field trip reached over 2,225 Students. AWE co-hosted the *Every Child Matters* walk alongside community members.

"I am so excited. Thank you so much. My staff are going to be very happy to have access to these resources."

- GECDSB Educator



"The transformative leadership at Art Windsor-Essex has been inspiring. Their thoughtful and meaningful work around community engagement is paving the way in the region, with particular attention on how to engage with the local Indigenous community. They have done so by uplifting artists in exhibits, sharing circles with community members for feedback, meaningful partnerships with community organizations and their ongoing commitment to free access to the gallery, all demonstrate accountability and steps towards reconciliation." -Indigenous community member

EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

A key hub for learning through art in Windsor-Essex

Art for the Next Generation

Although our galleries reopened for in-person visits in 2022, educators and students continued to engage with AWE's digital education offerings. One virtual field trip developed by AWE won the 2022 Education Award from Galleries Ontario/Ontario Galleries. 'We All Belong: Building Welcoming and Safe Spaces' was developed by Derrick Carl Biso and Abbey Lee Hallett to encourage students and teachers to discover works of art created by artists of the 2S-LGBTQQIA+ community, and inspire youth to take action.

EAIR: Emerging Artist in Residence Program

In its inaugural year, AWE welcomed early career artists Maria Mediratta, Michael Khalil, and Dante Bresolin with paid opportunities to develop their artistic practices and share their skills. The Emerging Artists activated the AWE education studio for 630 hours, hosted 12 community engagements, created three education videos, and installed three solo offsite exhibitions at the Dry Goods Gallery in Ford City. This program was funded by the Windsor-Essex Community Foundation.

"This residency gave me the chance to work closely with people from across the city and help them create art that can make a difference in the issues affecting their lives."

-Michael Khalil,
Emerging Artist in
Residence, 2022



Just what the doctor ordered: AWE's Centre for Art and Wellness

Programs run through AWE's Centre for Art and Wellness use art as a catalyst to support personal well-being, focusing on the needs of vulnerable groups in our community. Over the course of 2022, 413 participants participated in 16 art and wellness activities delivered online. In summer 2022, 50 workers from Pure Flavor Farms collaborated with the Z'otz* Collective – three artists with Latin American Roots – on a community art project displayed at the Leamington Arts Centre, which welcomed over 700 visitors. AWE also presented a series of workshops for clients of the House of Sophrosyne, a charitable organization in Windsor-Essex that supports women and their families who are managing substance misuse. Artist Christy Lister enabled participants to use creativity for healing. Together, they created a mural at the House of Sophrosyne. The mural will have a lasting impact on other women going through recovery and healing. AWE is thankful for the support of the Solcz Family Foundation, who made these programs possible.

“This experience (working with Christy Lister) has been beyond inspiring. It woke the creative side in me! I will be carrying everything I learned into my journey to recovery. Words cannot explain how much I enjoyed this adventure – I was always looking forward to art night every week! Thank you so much AWE!”

-program participant

STEWARDSHIP

Ensuring a sustainable future

Thank you for being a friend!

AWE welcomed nearly 10,000 visits through our doors in 2022. AWE ended 2022 with almost 1,500 members. In 2022, over 1,000 new members joined AWE through our free membership offerings for youth under 25 and for local artists and creators.

"I attended the AWE at Night event this month with my membership and I was, in fact, in awe! The way the art and conversation brought the community together was beautiful to see. Thanks so much for the amazing night and I'll definitely be back for more visits :)" - AWE under 25 member



Photo Credit: Justin Elliot

Give where you live

In 2022, 27 gallery volunteers and gallery guides supported nearly 60 programs and activities at AWE. We are grateful for their help with tours, workshops, and events.

AWE appreciates the volunteer leadership provided by our Board of Directors in 2022. Thank you to Board Chairs Victoria Little and Alex Baker, and Board Members Ilias Kiritsis, Melinda Munro, James Pineault, Phillip Olla, Gisele Poisson, Mona Stonefish, Wen Teoh, Keith Henry, Kiemia Rezagian, Nicole Taylor, Evelina Baczewska, and Wendy Furtado for your strategic oversight and governance support.

Without the generosity of our donors, AWE could not undertake our mission to inspire growth through the power of art. Thank you to all of our past and present supporters.



View all AWE
supporters
here!

A year of transformation that would not have been possible without you!

In 2022, the gallery entered the 2nd year of our 2021-25 strategic plan. We continued transforming into an art gallery for the 21st century – starting with our new name and brand of Art Windsor-Essex (AWE), and new website.

During the year, AWE hosted accessible, transformative experiences that inspired growth, sparked curiosity and conversation, and created impactful change in Essex County. In 2022 we reopened our doors and invited the community back into our gallery space with our awe-inspiring exhibitions, programming, and events. Exhibitions in 2022 focused on themes of identity, belonging, and connection through diverse perspectives by artists from racialized and equity seeking groups whose works have been historically underrepresented in mainstream culture. In response to community demand after re-opening, our 'Saturdays in the Studio' program, featuring workshops by community artists, expanded to become 'Weekends in the Studio'. In June, we launched the event series AWE at Night – where the third Thursday of the month, the gallery hosts evenings of art-making activities, guided tours, community conversation, and music. Through programs delivered through the Centre for Arts and Wellness, AWE engaged with partners such as the House of Sophrosyne, working with underserved communities to demonstrate how the power of art can change lives, and uplift communities. Our relationship with the county deepened in 2022 through the expansion of our 'Look Again! Outside' project into Amherstburg. Seeing reproductions of artworks from our collection across Essex County has changed visitor perspectives of the gallery. We are expanding our work outside of our walls, and into the community, where the people are.

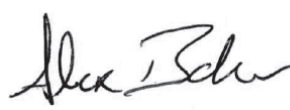
This year we have experienced great change, and with each year and every adaptation, we just keep getting better at what we do: inspiring growth through the power of art. None of this would be possible without the support of our members, donors, partners, and funders in 2022. In particular, we thank the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and the Government of Canada for their crucial financial support. We are also grateful to the many partners we collaborated with in 2022, most notably Chimczuk Museum, The City of Windsor, Pure Flavor Farms, the School of Disability Studies at Toronto Metropolitan University, St. Clair College, The Stephanie and Barry Zekelman Foundation, Tangled Art + Disability, Turtle Island-Aboriginal Education Centre, Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority, Windsor Public Library, and Windsor Symphony Orchestra, among many others.

At Art Windsor-Essex, change happens here. And it would not be possible without you. Thank you for continuing to support our mission to inspire growth through the power of art.




Jennifer Matotek
Executive Director




Alex Baker
Board Chair

Mission

Art Windsor-Essex harnesses the power of art to open minds and hearts to new ideas, perspectives and ways of thinking that inspire people to grow emotionally and intellectually.

Strategic Pillars

Transformation

To transform Art Windsor-Essex into a community-driven art gallery for the 21st century.

Creating Conversations

To spark community conversations around ideas and issues, such as history, culture and society, leveraging the galleries, collection and exhibitions.

Education & Engagement

To serve and engage with the community as a key, unique hub for learning through art in Windsor-Essex.

Stewardship

To ensure AWE's long-term sustainability, manage our assets effectively, be accountable to our community, and maintain positive relationships with stakeholders.



Land Acknowledgement

Art Windsor-Essex sits on Anishinaabe Territory – the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi. Today the Anishinaabe of the Three Fires Confederacy are represented by Walpole Island First Nation. Art Windsor-Essex states our respect of the historical and ongoing authority of Walpole Island First Nation over its Territory.

About Art Windsor-Essex (AWE)

Art Windsor-Essex (AWE) is a non-profit public art gallery focused on presenting the visual arts of Canada. The Gallery was formed on October 1, 1943 and incorporated on June 8, 1944 with the mandate of serving the southwestern Ontario region and community of Windsor, Ontario. AWE is an award-winning organization known for its cutting-edge contemporary art program and Canadian art collections now approaching 4,000 works. The exhibition galleries (comprising about 15,000 square feet) include both changing exhibitions and ongoing displays of the acclaimed AGW Collection.

**401 Riverside Dr W,
Windsor, ON N9A 7J1**

artwindsor-essex.ca