



**PUBLIC
ART
CENTRE**
Est. 1969
COMMUNITY REPORT 2018

St. Thomas-Elgin

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The St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre is the principal public art centre in the St. Thomas and Elgin County supporting contemporary and historical visual arts on a local, national and international level. The Public Art Centre acknowledges art to be an essential part of the human experience in nurturing a healthy society. As a leading cultural institution, the Public Art Centre is an integral part of the fabric that draws intellectual, social and economic opportunities to our city, county and to our region.

The Public Art Centre fosters enjoyment of and interest in the visual arts by researching, developing and producing exhibitions, publications and programs that engage, challenge and inform its various audiences.

The Public Art Centre also oversees the development and preservation of a permanent collection that includes regional, national and international art in all media. It also strives to create rewarding opportunities for visual arts professionals and the public.



Our Mission

To encourage and support an appreciation for and support the practice of the visual arts in St. Thomas and Elgin County through a variety of exhibitions, educational programs and through the preservation of a permanent collection.

Our Vision

The St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre is a highly valued and respected art centre that is a focal point for the St. Thomas and Elgin community. The Public Art Centre is dedicated to fostering a welcoming, enriching and engaging environment of art and creativity that inspires, challenges and educates its audiences.

We gratefully acknowledge the continued support from the City of St. Thomas, the County of Elgin, donors, members and supporters. With your support you provide us with the opportunity to be creative, responsive and entertaining.



Board Of Directors

PAST PRESIDENT: Tom Hughes
PRESIDENT: Suzanne Baehr
TREASURER: Meghan Vreman
RECORDING SECRETARY: Laura Woermke

Directors

Ardythe Anderson
Bethany Green
Amy Sloan
Dang Ho
Katherine Medlyn
Debra Bagshaw
Kathy Collier
Kevin Morrell
Grayden Laing
Neil Hubert
Joan Dennis
Mayor Heather Jackson (City Rep.)
Alternate Linda Stevenson (City Rep.)
Mayor Greg Currie (County Rep.)

Committees

Executive Committee (standing)

Past President Tom Hughes
President Suzanne Baehr
Treasurer Megan Vreman

Acquisitions Committee (standing)

Chair Bethany Green
Kevin Morrell
Gerald Pedros
Laura Woermke

Fundraising Committee (standing)

Chair Dang Ho
Amy Sloan

Bethany Green
Sherri Howard
Laura Woermke

Finance Committee

Chair Suzanne Baehr
Treasurer Meghan Vreman
Laura Woermke

Membership Committee

Chair Ardythe Anderson
Laura Woermke
Joan Dennis
Sharron Little
Deb Bagshaw

Human Resource Committee

Chair Suzanne Baehr
Tom Hughes
Megan Vreman

Sponsorship Committee

Chair Kathy Collier
Laura Woermke
Suzanne Baehr
Amy Sloan

Administration

Laura Woermke,
Executive Director / Curator
Sherri Howard
Program Director
Katelyn Tippin
Reception / Volunteer
Coordinator
Peri Hayes
Part-time Reception
Teagan Butler
Part-time Reception

Catherine Craig, (Volunteer)
Reception
Ruth Wallace, (Volunteer)
Reception
Elizabeth Bouque, (Volunteer)
Reception

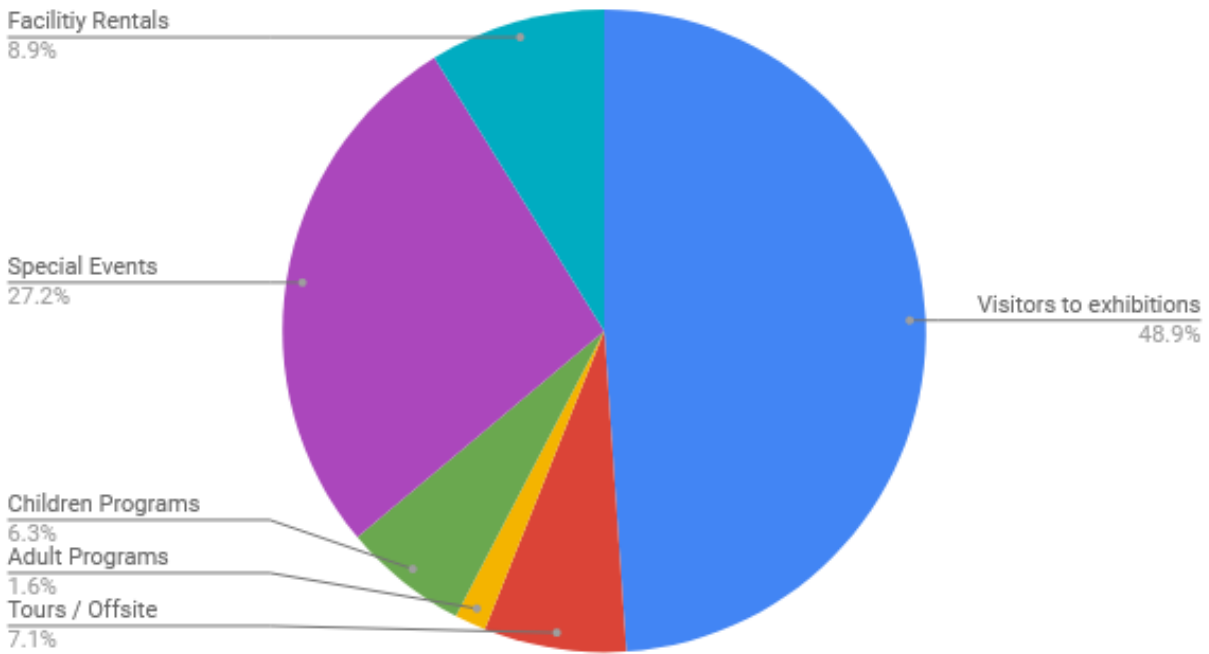
Instructors / Guest Speakers

Heather Keating
Katelyn Tippin
Sarah Van Pelt
Andres Villar
Catherine Craig
Janis Harris

Community Engagement and Social Media

The St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre is the leading non –profit organization for advancing art and culture in St. Thomas and Elgin County. Located in the west end of Talbot Street in St. Thomas, it has a record of 49 years of service. The Art Centre is dedicated to representing and serving our community and creating opportunities for everyone to participate in and develop an appreciation of the visual arts.

Attendance Statistics Nov 2017 to Nov 2018



7400 Visitors to Exhibitions
4120 Openings and Special Events
1340 Facility Rentals
951 Children Classes
1081 Student Tours / offsite programming
239 Adult Classes
Overall Attendance 15131
2017 Year Attendance 11539

Social Media Highlights
Twitter Followers 4504
Facebook Fans 2144
Instagram 991
Visits to www.stepac.ca 15174

Executive Director Summary

As we began 2018, the Public Art Centre was faced with a challenge to solidify its role in our community. We had a hard look at our social value, our economic impact and the effect we have on the cultural and educational environment for our citizens.

It was encouraging to see the support and patronage from our members, visitors, teachers, educators and families in light of this challenge. At the heart of it all, we remained committed to fostering our artists, providing inspiring and provocative educational programs, continuing our work with community partners and hosting a tremendous series of events and fundraisers.

This past summer and early fall provided a wonderful opportunity to meet individuals running for council. It was encouraging to discover that many of the candidates had a desire and openness to know more about the integral role the Public Art Centre plays in the cultural framework of our city. These discussions focused on who we are, what we do, the benefits to our citizens and our contribution to the economic and cultural growth of City of St. Thomas.

In my review of 2018, I marvel at our accomplishments and the intensity of activity. We continued our efforts to deepen our engagement and I was happy to see us realize continued growth in our attendance to both exhibitions and in our programs. The openings for Great Beginnings Elementary and Great Beginnings Secondary, seemed to set the tone for the year. These exciting exhibitions of student art work saw hundreds of visitors to the exhibitions and hundreds more to the opening receptions. This trend of vibrant, at-capacity opening receptions was sustained through the year.

The summer exhibitions brought us a closer look at ourselves, with the exhibition, Francis Caprani—Ghost in the Machine. With over 50 self portraits on display, the artists pushed the viewer to examine the notion of the mind's connection to the physical in an age where the dispersed digital body has become prevalent through self portrait "Selfie". To create a dialogue within the exhibitions spaces in the Public Art Centre, a call for submissions was sent out to our community. #artcentreselfie, was a portrait of our community, resulting in hundreds of photos emailed and tagged on social media. #artcentreselfie".

In total the Public Art Centre hosted eleven thought-provoking exhibitions that encompassed many different themes and mediums. "In View of the Artist", our Annual Juried Exhibition received an overwhelming amount of submissions from local and regional artists. This exhibition provided an opportunity for a "Meet the Artist" event during Culture Days Ontario, and visitors to have a chance to discuss the art making process with the artist. We thank the Downtown Development Board for supporting the exhibition and the Meet the Artist event.

I cannot overstate the value all our programs bring to the Public Art Centre and our audiences. My deep thanks to Sherri Howard our Program Director for her exceptional School Programs for all students, the partnership with the Thames Valley District School Board and London Catholic School Board, providing engaging free public programs, Adult and Children workshops and classes and the collaboration with our community partners. She designs these programs to ensure our community can engage on multiple levels; all with the hope that once engaged, our audience members will continue to connect with art throughout their lives.

As we move into our 50th year, I would like to honour our funders who continue to value our efforts and provide sustaining operational support. My tremendous thanks to the City of St. Thomas and the County of Elgin. I also recognize the critical contribution of the many businesses and individuals, and particularly our members who support our exhibitions, our programs, our events and simply contribute to the Public Art Centre because they too see the importance of an Art Centre in St. Thomas and Elgin County that supports artists, extends the conversation about the value of visual art and nurtures critical thinking, creativity, respect for diversity and the power of engagement. Thank you to the extraordinary efforts of our Board and volunteers.

I look forward to 2019 and celebrating our 50th Anniversary with you.

Respectfully,
Laura Woermke

Program Director Summary

For almost 50 years, art education programming has played a central role in the St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre realizing its mission in the community. Each year we look for ways to not only maintain, but increase the services being offered so that they reflect the needs and wishes of the community.

In 2018, the Public Art Centre maintained its strong relationship with the schools in the TVDSB and the LDSCB and once again presented our biennial Great Beginnings Elementary and Secondary School Exhibitions. Twenty-one schools took part (more than 525 works of art) and the opening reception saw 821 people stop by the Public Art Centre to take in the show. The Art Centre has long realized the importance of showcasing the artwork of children. It is an experience that many children will remember for a lifetime and others will use as a starting point in pursuing their life's ambitions. For our community, children's art offers an energetic, welcoming and straightforward exhibition that we can all take pride in. It provides a wonderful venue for building self-esteem and acknowledges the importance of art and creativity within our schools.

Although construction in the west end resulted in much lower than normal tour numbers this spring, our stunning new streetscape has seen large numbers of school tours returning again this fall and many already booked for the winter.

Our weekend, PA Day, March Break and summer art programs allow hundreds of children the opportunity to take part in art based classes and workshops in our studio and our main gallery space, where they can also experience directly the work of professional artists. Additionally these programs provides older youth with the chance to participate in and learn about teaching art. This is accomplished through the local high school volunteer programs, co-op placements, and university internships.

Our versatile, dynamic venue at 301 Talbot Street has always been at the heart of our public programs and 2018 presented abundant, new opportunities to work with community partners. In our effort to build on programs that reflect the shared needs and concerns of our community, the Public Art Centre partnered with the Elgin St. Thomas Coalition to End Poverty committee, to mount the From Poverty to Possibility, photovoice project. The Public Art Centre was eager to join this initiative and provide our expertise and a cultural venue for this important initiative.

Another new partnership that began this year was the Winter Blues program run through the Central Community Health Centre. The Public Art Centre provides the setting for an unplugged music jam that is presented as a preventative program that encourages people to get out during the winter months and enjoy companionship and music.

The Heath Recruiters St. Thomas and Elgin County, continued to showcase the value of an art institution in our community by hosting a breakfast social for the surgical residents that were spending time in our community this past February.

Our facility rental program also ensured that many local and regional businesses and organizations were able to host their events and gatherings in a welcoming space that our community can be very proud to call its own. These organizations include: St. Thomas Executive Association, London Health Sciences Centre, Elgin Travel, Elgin Medical Association, Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Development Board, Early Learning Centre, County of Elgin and many others.

It is a distinct privilege to have the opportunity to provide these, and all our many programs and services to the community. As we prepare to celebrate our 50th anniversary we look forward to expanding the important work we do, building on the solid foundation the Public Art Centre has worked so hard to achieve and furthering the tremendous support that exists in our community. We invite all of you to be a part of the celebration and to work with us in solidifying our next 50 years.

Sincerely,
Sherri Howard

Exhibitions 2018

Modern /Contemporary? Selections from the Permanent Collection January 6 to February 17

While contemporary and modern art may sound similar, in form and practice they are quite different. In many ways, modern art has laid the foundation for contemporary art, as both seem to have emerged as a result of technological advancements in society and are concerned with being indicative of popular culture or social issues of their respective time period. This exhibition focused on the works and artists that also fulfill our mandate of “collecting and preserving local and regional artworks”. These works define our community and demonstrate the artists’ contribution to the development of contemporary art in Canada.

Winter in Canada: Selections from the Permanent Collection January 6 to February 17

There is a certain silent grandeur about the natural world when it is blanketed with a deep layer of snow that is entirely captivating. The study of the effects of light and shadow on the subtly coloured surface of snow, has been a challenge and vocation of the Canadian Artist. *For example, Black Spruce Country, by Francis (called Frank, and later Franz) Hans Johnston (1888 – 1949) demonstrates the artist’s pursuit of the natural subtly of this season. Franz was a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts and one of the founding members of the Group of Seven. He was characteristically known for his pastoral scenes of Ontario, Quebec countryside and the landscapes of people of the Arctic.*

This selection of work was dedicated to the brilliance of winter. If you are not motivated to play in the snow (and even if you are), winter is also a great time to visit the Art Centre and warm up your artistic sensibility along with your toes.

Great Beginnings—Elementary February 24 to March 24

Every other year the Art Centre hosts exhibitions comprised of works of art created by the many talented young artist attending schools in St. Thomas-Elgin County. This exhibition allows hundreds of elementary and secondary students the opportunity to share their talent and accomplishments with family, friends, teachers and the entire community. It provides a wonderful venue for building self-esteem and acknowledges the importance of art and creativity within our schools.

Great Beginnings—Secondary March 31 to April 29

The Art Centre has long realized the importance of showcasing student artwork. It is an experience that many students will remember for a lifetime and others will use as a starting point in pursuing their life’s ambitions. For our community it offers an energetic, welcoming and straightforward exhibition that we can all take pride in. Participating schools— St. Joseph’s High School, Arthur Voaden Secondary School, Parkside College Institute, West Elgin Secondary School, East Elgin Secondary School

All in the Family—Selections from the Permanent Collection May 15 to June 17

This exhibition examined the significant influence of family with the work of Robert Reginald Whale and his sons John Claude and Robert Heard and nephew John Hicks Whale. Robert Reginald Whale, a self-taught artist was born in Cornwall County, England, in 1805. He was one of the first professional artists to work in what is now southwestern Ontario. Best known for a handful of frequently reproduced landscapes— panoramic views of Hamilton and Dundas from the Niagara Escarpment and of Niagara Falls—he also specialized in portraiture and genre painting. Unable to support a growing family, Whale, his wife Ellen Heard and 5 children emigrated to Canada in June 1852. They settled first in the rural village of Burford, then in 1864 moved to the nearby town of Brantford, where Whale established a family studio that employed his sons John Claude (1852-1905) and Robert Heard (1857-1906) and his nephew John Hicks Whale (1829-1905), all 3 of whom went on to establish professional careers of their own. The paintings drawn together for this exhibition demonstrate the Whale family’s important artistic and cultural legacy and help to define the impact of the family influence.

Few and Far Between: From the Collection May 15 to June 17

The Art Centre has acquired a lot of artwork over the last 49 years. Most are representative of their time in history, but some fall beyond the realm of our collection mandate. This exhibition brought together a diverse selection of works by contemporary artists who have felt the pull of the unusual or extraordinary. The works that were on display included sculpture, drawings, fibre art and painting, with subjects ranging from masks, folk, and the unusual.

Francis Caprani—Ghost in the Machine July 7 to September 1

For centuries artists have possessed a drive to expose who they are. From the Lascaux cave paintings, where stencilled handprints revealed the existence of their creators nearly 20,000 years ago, to artists like Albrecht Dürer and Frida Kahlo, who focused on the particulars of their appearance in self-portraits that evoked a presence of defined mystery—deeply personal interpretations of one's own image have always been investigations of the self, with an unequivocal ability to provoke desire in the viewer to know more about the identity behind the subject.

But why do we as humans feel it necessary to create with the intention of proving our existence? In our contemporary culture, the Selfie is a reflexive referent to our physicality in relationship to time. By capturing our face and its distinguishing features, we choose to convey the message of our being to the world. Social media functions as the key transmitter in the mass dissemination of Selfies whose relevance is paradoxically dependent upon and also diluted by the sheer vastness of the medium.

In *Ghost in the Machine*, Francis Caprani considers the notion of the mind's connection to the corporeal in an age where the dispersed, digital body has become predominant through his exploration of self-portraiture; an introspective process where proof of life also happens to carry with it the acknowledgement of our mortality.

#ARTCENTRESELFIE July 7 to September 1

#artcentreselfie coincides with the launch of the new exhibition by Francis Caprani—*Ghost in the Machine* an exhibition of self portraits. The exhibition was open from July 7 to September 1, 2018. This exhibition explored the differences and similarities of the selfie and the self portrait, while celebrating the truly creative potential of a form of expression often mocked for its vanity. Presented alongside Francis Caprani's self portraits, the selfie has quickly become the icon of the digital era – from the simple and uplifting to the untamed, bad and utterly risky.

In View of the Artist Annual Juried Exhibition September 8 to October 21

Exhibition Sponsor Downtown Development Board

This juried exhibition sought original two-dimensional works of art that celebrate the artist behind the art, what the artist sees and creates, "in their view", real or imagined. This means anything goes!



Shelby Hayward Doyenne September 8 to October 21

Based in London Ontario, Shelby Hayward is a recent graduate of Western University's BFA program. Her work has primarily been shown in London and its surrounding area; however, she had the privilege of taking part in a collaborative Print Project featured in an international exhibition, which was shown in Germany, Norway and the UNAIDS headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Most of Shelby's work takes its form in silkscreen prints and sculptural pieces addressing femininity, the human body, exposure and, most recently, witchcraft. She uses bold colour and imagery in her work as a way to evoke chosen feelings and associations, offering a sense of whimsy paired with serious underlying tones and commentary.

Deborah Worsfold Renaissance November 10 to December 29

"Not every year or even decade is adorned with "new" work. Painting for a show can be daunting in early years, but at mid career it is thrilling to paint for this upcoming solo show. This work stems from years of practice in studio and in situ as well as many years of observation. Whether you view a painting previous to this show or this upcoming work, you will see a constancy. There is relevance in the language, form and composition but most important in the colour relationships. Scale varies to exercise range in voice and show each piece as a singular object, acting in its own language. What is life in connecting with others and the nature of that intimacy? Whether it be a moment, an atmosphere or a movement, the nature of connection is pivotal in this contemplation." Deborah Worsfold August 9, 2018



Sarah Van Pelt A Pint-Sized Perspective November 10 to December 29

Sarah enjoys many different mediums of art - everything from lino and wood block printing, to handmade books, painting, fibre art and more. The sky is the limit. Right now, her focus is on scratch building miniature dioramas. She has always loved the world in miniature, appreciating the sense of delight and mystery they evoke. Her inspiration comes from Anonymouse MMX's "Noix de Vie" store for mice in Malmo in Sweden and the fairy doors of Ann Arbor, Michigan. She has also been inspired by street artists like Banksy and David Zinn. She occasionally hides her miniatures around St. Thomas for the unsuspecting viewer to come across, and plans to do more of that in the future.



Programs (Children and Adult)

Seasonal Classes / Workshops for Children

PA DAY Works, January 19, 2018 Grades JK-5

Elementary Expressions (Winter Session) February 3 to March 10, 2018 Grades JK-3

Drawing and Painting (Winter Session) February 3-24, 2018 Grades 4-8

March Break Workshops March 12 to 16, 2018 Grades JK-5

Elementary Expressions (Spring Session) April 7 to May 12, 2018, Grades JK-3

Drawing and Painting (Spring Session) April 7 - 28, 2018 Grades 4-8

P.A. Day Workshop April 27, 2018 Grades JK-5

P.A. Day Workshop June 8, 2018 Grades JK-5

Elementary Expressions (Fall Session) October 13-Nov 17 Grades JK-3

Drawing and Painting (Fall Session) October 13 to Nov 3 Grades 4-8

P.A. Day Workshops October 26 (In the Studio) JK-5

P.A. Day Workshops October 26 (in the Gallery) Ages 11 and up

P.A. Day Workshops November 16 Grades JK-5

Family Day (FREE Family Art Activities)

Monday February 19, 2018 11am to 3pm FREE art activities, games and more Grades JK-6 (accompanied by an adult)

Summer Programs

Daily Workshops July 3-6 Ages 5-11

Around the Works with Art July 9-13 Ages 5-11

Sculpture July 16-20 Ages 5-11

Art Movements July 23-27 Ages 5-11

Cursive Writing (in the Gallery) 24-26 Ages 12 and up

Medium a Day July 30 - August 3 Ages 5-11

Drawing and Illustration (Main Gallery) July 31 - August 2, Ages 12 and up

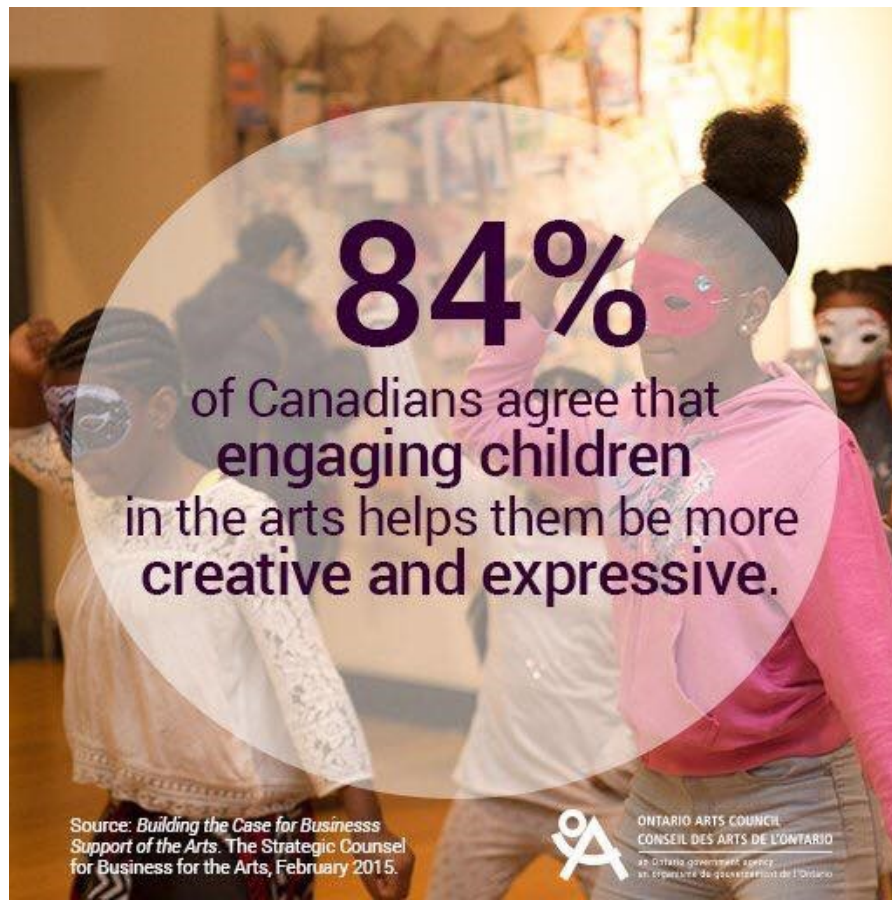
Daily Workshops August 7-10 Ages 5-11

Puppets, Plays and Productions August 13-17 Ages 5-11

Daily Workshops August 20-24 Ages 5-11

Adult Workshops and Classes

Watercolour with Heather Keating, February 1 to March 8, 2018



Source: *Building the Case for Business Support of the Arts. The Strategic Council for Business for the Arts, February 2015.*



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

EAT DRINK CREATE, Friday February 9, 2018
Petals & Paint(Harris Flower Farm and Heather Keating) Thursday April 19, 2018
EAT DRINK CREATE, Friday April 21, 2018
Watercolour with Heather Keating, May 17 to June 21, 2018
Petals & Paint June 28, 2018 (Harris Flower and Heather Keating)
Watercolour with Heather Keating October 11 to November 29
EAT DRINK CREATE November 30

EDUCATION

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ARTS IN THE CURRICULUM

“Since arts experiences offer other modes and ways of experiencing and learning, children will have opportunities to think and feel as they explore, problem solve, express, interpret, and evaluate the process and the results. To watch a child completely engaged in an arts experience is to recognize that the brain is on, driven by the aesthetic and emotional imperative to make meaning, to say something, to represent what matters.”
“Community partners can be an important resource for a school’s arts program. In choosing community partners, schools should build on existing links with their local communities and create new partnerships in conjunction with ministry and school board policies. These links are especially beneficial when they have direct connections to the curriculum.” (taken from the Ontario Arts Curriculum updated in 2009)

The Public Art Centre offers tours and hands-on art activities, based on the Ontario Arts Curriculum to the schools in our community. These tours incorporate aspects of both the creative process and the critical analysis process, as well as offering students an active, participatory experience. They are offered free of charge to ensure that all schools and students are able to participate.

Within our community, grades junior kindergarten through high school participate in our educational tours, day long workshops and the biennial Great Beginnings Elementary and Secondary School Exhibitions. We welcome high school students participating in Work Internships, co-op placements and serve as a host venue for day long workplace placements.

In recent years, we have also partnered with Fanshawe College to teach a workshop on “Art and Play” to the students enrolled in the Foundations of Early Childhood Education course.

The imagination is one of our most precious human resources, and one of the most comprehensive ways to cultivate it is through art education. Art increases a child’s ability to convey ideas, feelings and emotions, to analyze, reflect, make judgments and generate new ideas. Art is a visual medium that provides a basis for both national and international understanding like no other subject. Young people, more so than ever before need a broad set of skills to be successful in higher education, careers and life. The Public Art Centre takes seriously our responsibility to educate children that there are unlimited possibilities for them and their imaginations!



88% of Ontarians agree that participating in arts activities builds a shared sense of community identity

Free Art History Talks with Andres Villar

Throughout 2017 and 2018, the Art Centre will be offered Art History Talks on the last Sunday of the month. The talks were prepared by Andrés Villar. Andrés Villar was born in Colombia and has lived in Canada since the early 90s. He obtained a Ph.D. in Art and Visual Culture, a Master's in Art History, and a Bachelor's in Visual Arts at Western University, where he currently teaches courses in art history. Admission to these talks was free and open to individuals new to the study of art history, those picking up where they left off but primarily those just looking to spend some time culturally on a Sunday afternoon.

Clark McDougall Scholarship

In order to commemorate the life and artistic achievements of Clark McDougall and to encourage and support future generations of artists, a scholarship fund has been established in Clark McDougall's name by his family. Each year two \$1000.00 awards are presented to two graduating secondary school students from St. Thomas and Elgin County, who are pursuing visual or graphic arts at a post secondary level.

1. \$1000.00 for any graduating student entering a traditional post secondary fine arts program which included studio courses in drawing and painting.
2. \$1000.00 for any graduating student entering any other post secondary visual arts program which may include arts, photography, design and architecture or any other program deemed appropriate by the selection committee.



Special Projects and Partnerships

Canada Southern Station (CASO Station)

In 2018 our Gift Shop/Reception area was generously remodeled by skilled volunteer craftsmen; Bob Lister, Charlie Gendron, Larry Doan and Brian Yallop of the CASO Station. Using donated, reclaimed heritage materials from the CASO Station, volunteers created a unique, functional space that highlights our local heritage by preserving and repurposing historical materials and giving them new life. The public has been remarking on the beauty, creativity and enjoying learning more about the history of each piece of furniture the volunteers crafted.

Image: Bert Dennis, Bob Lister, Charlie Gendron, Brian Yallop, and Larry Doan.

City of St. Thomas Local Art Wall

Located across from the Treasury Office, the local Art Wall is organized and presented by the Public Art Centre. During 2018 the wall has been adorned by local artists such as Clark McDougall (Permanent Collection STEPAC),

Paul Schelusner (Permanent Collection STEPAC), Diane Dobson, Dang Ho, Grayden Laing, Chris Cherry, Betty Burrell and many more.

Elgin County Libraries

Since 2015 the Public Art Centre has partnered with the Elgin County Libraries to bring several of our programs off-site. These programs are self-guided and focus on well known artists and art movements. They provide an opportunity for learning as well as creating art. These lessons have been prepared by the Art Centre and rotated between all of the libraries in the county.

Central Community Health Centre Winter Blues

As a mainstay in the west end, the Public Art Centre is always looking for ways to best serve our neighbourhood and the opportunity for new partnerships is one of the most effective ways to do this. In 2018 the Public Art Centre offered our facility as the venue for another non-profit to run a new community program. The Winter Blues program, coordinated by the Central Community Health Centre, is an unplugged music jam that is presented as a preventative program that encourages people to get out during the winter months and enjoy companionship and music. This initial partnership has led to the opportunity to also welcome the TRUYOUTH group to the Public Art Centre in order to tour our facility, learn more about what we do and opportunities for them to be involved.

City of St. Thomas Public Art Committee

The Public Art Centre participates with representation on the City of St. Thomas Public Art Committee. This committee is responsible for reviewing new acquisitions / gifts of artwork, care for existing and purchasing new works through policy and defined terms of reference.

Leadership Council Mayor's Office

The Cabinet provides a forum where Community Leaders work collectively to improve the quality of life in St. Thomas Elgin through strong cross-sectoral leadership. The Art Centre has been an active participant since 2015.

Railway City Tourism

Arts Crawl

The Railway City Arts Crawl is a **FREE** winter event celebrating local arts and culture.



Elgin County Tourism Elgin Arts Trail

A member of the Elgin Arts Trail since 2008, the trail offers visitors year long opportunities to discover Elgin County and its artists, galleries, collectives and studios.



Culture Days Ontario

Culture Days was created in response to the growing recognition that a vibrant arts and cultural sector contributes directly to a healthy and stable society. With hundreds in attendance, the Art Centre provided visitors the opportunity to meet the 40 Artists of "In View of the Artist". A very special thank you to the Downtown Development Board for sponsoring the exhibition and the "Meet the Artist" event.

A record **1,764 events** were registered in 158 cities, towns, rural areas, and First Nations across Ontario.

We saw a massive increase in public participation, with nearly **950,000 people attending Culture Days** events in our province alone.



91% of attendees say Culture Days offers a unique cultural experience, with 41% saying they discovered a new artist or cultural organization in their community.

89% of attendees said that Culture Days increases pride in their communities.

**Survey results courtesy of Maru/Matchbox, 2018*



Arable Communications

During 2018, we have started planning our 50th Anniversary celebration. C, Design Director & Partner of Arable Brand Communications has worked with staff to rebrand the Art Centre as we move into our next 50 years. We are grateful for their contribution and their volunteer hours. Stay tuned through 2019.

Doors Open St. Thomas - Railway City Tourism

The Ontario Heritage Trust works with communities across the province to open the doors, gates and courtyards of their unique and most fascinating cultural sites so you can explore the stories inside. Our focus during 2018 Doors Open was to provide more information on the original of the Art Centre and its location at 301 Talbot |Street. A special thank you to Steve Peters, Pete Sheridan and Mike Baker at the Elgin County Museum.



Chamber of Commerce - Meet the Makers

In partnership with the Chamber of Commerce the Art Centre organized the Creative Corner, at “Meet the Makers”, featuring local artists and creative businesses. The goal of “Meet the Maker” is to highlight many of the worthwhile opportunities that our region has to offer, both in the present and in the future and also learn of the surprising (and often unknown) products created inside the walls of local places we never get to visit.

Permanent Collection

The St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre’s Permanent Collection is one of the largest and most significant in the St. Thomas and Elgin County region, made up of approximately 1700 artworks of local, regional, national and international origin in a variety of media, with special emphasis on contemporary and historical Canadian art, and on the artists associated with St. Thomas and Elgin County. The historical component of the Collection is based on approximately 400 works by local artists from the 19th and 20th century, with content that demonstrates our important history, which includes, oil paintings, prints, sculpture and watercolours. Several major gifts of artwork have been made to the Collection, including the St. Thomas-Smith and Clark McDougall works and through a purchase of the artwork from Alma College.

Canadian Cultural Property Government of Canada Protecting our Heritage

Approximately 180 works in the permanent collection have received the status of “Canadian Cultural Property”. As a A1 rated gallery, the Public Art Centre has the duty and responsibility to protect these works. Cultural properties are of outstanding significance and national importance with a view to protect and preserve significant examples of Canada’s artistic, historic, and scientific heritage. Works include local artist Ron Kingwood, Clark McDougall, Walter Redinger, El Zelenak, Ross Reverdy Osgoode to name a few.

1. Evelyn Knight "Smith", *Untitled (Summer Scene)*, Oil on board, nd
2. Evelyn Knight "Smith", *Untitled (Log Cabin)*, Oil on board, nd
3. Evelyn Knight "Smith", *Untitled (Hay Stacks)*, Oil on board, nd
4. Evelyn Knight "Smith", *Untitled (Laundry)*, Oil on board, nd
5. Clark McDougall, *Untitled, (Portrait of a Horse "Now")*, oil on masonite, 1966
6. William St. Thomas Smith, *Untitled (Sea Scene)*, Oil on board, nd
7. Fred Harrison, *Middlesex Courthouse*, Oil on board, 1978
8. Francis Caprani, *Untitled, (Self Portrait)*, acrylic on mylar, 2018
9. Peter Robson, *Reflections on Landscapes*, watercolour and Gouache on paper, 1993
10. Ron Martin, *Untitled collage*, mixed media, 1966
11. Tony Urquhart, *Untitled*, drawing, 1999
12. Tony Urquhart, *Untitled*, drawing, 1983
13. Tony Urquhart, *Untitled*, drawing, 1999
14. Tony Urquhart, *Untitled*, drawing, 1989
15. Tony Urquhart, *Untitled*, drawing, 1970
16. Tony Urquhart, *Untitled*, drawing, 2011
17. Tony Urquhart, *Untitled*, drawing, 1986
18. Tony Urquhart, *Untitled*, drawing, 1995
19. Tony Urquhart, *Untitled*, drawing, 2004
20. Tony Urquhart, *Untitled*, drawing, 1993
21. Tony Urquhart, *Untitled*, drawing, 2014



Special Events / Fundraising

Redtail Cocktail Party and Silent Auction

This event was held on Saturday May 26, 2018 in the club house of the Redtail Golf Course. This sold out event features a traditional cocktail party and silent auction. Auction items were generously donated by many local businesses. We thank our sponsors and our returning emcee Andrew Buttigieg from MYfm.

Annual Art Auction

For over 35 years the Annual Art Auction is held on the first Friday in November. This year the event took place on Friday, November 2 and featured over 80 works of art in the live and silent auction. Al Hughson, our auctioneer, entertained the sold out crowd and kept everyone on task. A very big thank you to our event sponsors, generous local artists and everyone who purchased a ticket!

Clark McDougall Posters Fundraiser

Based on the overwhelming success of the Talbot Street 1964, Anne's Snack Bar poster, the Public Art Centre has reproduced five gorgeous, Clark McDougall images as new art posters. The originals of four of these images were part of the donation made to the Art Centre's permanent collection by the McDougall Group in 2016. The fifth image is from the collection of Deb and Carl Bagshaw. Funds raised from the sale of these posters help the Art Centre to continue to house, exhibit and maintain our outstanding collection containing more than 420 works by Clark McDougall, the largest in Canada.

Women's Committee St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre

Over 50 years ago a group of women were presented with an idea by the National Gallery of Canada. It was a call to communities to start small and mid-sized galleries. Since 1969, this group have continued to support and raise funds for the operations of the Art Centre. As we enter our 50th year, we owe this group our sincere gratitude for their forward thinkingness and making the Public Art Centre a reality. For the first time in

two decades the Women's Committee membership numbers are steadily beginning to increase.

ART MART Saturday November 17, 2018 7-9pm

This market styled event featured local artists from St. Thomas and Elgin County. 9 artists filled the Public Art Centre with exciting and new creations.

Facility Rentals

Facility rentals provide the Public Art Centre a revenue stream and the opportunity to expand our audience. Our facility is the perfect place to meet or hold a business function.

St. Thomas Executive Association
Central Community Health Centre
St. Thomas Elgin Medical Association
Elgin Travel
Phil Bell Shutter Studio

Downtown Development Board
Elgin County Administration
Elgin Health Recruiters
London Health Science Centre
Southwest Region Cancer Program



GIFT SHOP ARTISTS

The Gift Shop allows us to raise funds for the St. Thomas – Elgin Public Art Centre through consignment sales of local, original art, jewellery, pottery and local books from our community of artist entrepreneurs who are looking to grow their creative small businesses. We provide a venue for artists to sell and gain visibility year round while providing the public with information about the artists, techniques and processes used in the making of the artworks. The Public Art Centre also gives referrals to local artists for commission work, private lessons and general interest.

Artists and local artisan businesses in our gift shop include:

Joel Berry
Julie Berry
Emmi Coburn
Genevieve Crabe
Ann-Marie Cheung
Mandy Carter
Pat Curtis
Terry Carroll
Tamara David
Kellen Devos
Herman Gooden
Robin Grindley
Paula Platter-Galloway
Christopher Golding
Betty Harmsen

Kim Hughson
Elizabeth Kusinski
Heather Keating
Christine Klaus Noble
Grayden Laing
Terry Lanning
Raegan Little
Katherine Medlyn
Ethel Mirovic
Crystal McMaster
Candy McManiman
Peter Robson Studio
Denyse Gervais Regan
Larry Russell
Judy Ross

Jan Row
Peter Sheridan
Aganetha Sawatzky
Joseph Sawicki
Scott Shakir
Jennifer Squires
Katelyn Tippin
Vivian Tserotas
Sarah Van Pelt
Deborah Worsfold
Lily Wraight
Jeff Wilmore
Mary Louise White
Laura Woermke

Volunteers - An Important Resource

Volunteers have contributed over 861 hours in 2018. In our children's educational programs volunteers have contributed 526 hours. Reception, event and maintenance volunteers have volunteered 335 hours. Our Board of Directors have contributed 355 hours. In 2018 volunteer participation has increased 33% over 2017.

We greatly appreciate the time and efforts of our active volunteer team which currently includes:

Carol Ashford
Jeevan Atwal
Suzanne Baehr
Halle Bartley
Elizabeth Bourque
Catherine Craig
Jim Coburn
Jesse Cummings
Emma Ewaskiw
Tarisa Loucks

Erica Harris
Kala Herring-Geelen
Dang Ho
Yen Ho
Olive McEvenue
Aaliyah Paul
Jack Pigram
Mike Pineau
Andre Remero
Rodger Remero

Ethan Smith
Amie Steven
Ruth Wallace
Cara Wilson
Angelyn Flemming-White
Olisa Wong
Lillian Wraight

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF ARTS AND CULTURE IN ONTARIO



**ARTS AND CULTURE CONTRIBUTE
\$25.7 BILLION ANNUALLY
TO ONTARIO'S ECONOMY
(3.5% OF GDP)**

Awards and Grants

Dowler Karn - Fueling Communities

This year marks the 75th anniversary for Dowler-Karn, a third-generation family business. To celebrate, Dowler-Karn and the ESSO Community Program decided to invest \$75,000 into local projects through the Fueling Communities Give-Away.

A total of 161 projects applied for funding through the Give-Away and 8,485 people registered to show their support for their organizations of choice.

The response from the community was outstanding, and both Dowler-Karn and ESSO™ made the decision to expand their generosity. The Fueling Communities 75th Anniversary grant program has increased funding to \$127,500 – 58% more than had originally committed. In total, 48 organizations have been selected to receive a portion of that grand total.

The St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre was a recipient. Our project:

In 2019 the Art Centre will be celebrating 50 years of working to inspire and enrich our community and

schools through art education. The Art Centre maintains its strong relationship with the schools in the TVDSB and the LDCSB, welcoming thousands of students through our doors and offering free, curriculum based tours and hands-on activities. In celebration of our anniversary, an extraordinary exhibition featuring over 200 works of art from the Permanent Collection will be present from April 13 to June 29. This exhibition will highlight historic to contemporary art with a special focus on our local culture and history. Our goal during this exhibition is to welcome 50 classes of students for our free hands-on curriculum

based tours. Our project is to help with the cost of transportation of students to the Art Centre by offering \$50 towards busing costs for 50th Anniversary and to ensure the participation in the celebration of the art during our anniversary year.

Nomination: Premier's Awards for Excellence in the Arts - Arts Organization Award Nominator County of Elgin Council

The Premier's Awards for Excellence in the Arts celebrate the outstanding achievements of Ontario's arts community and its contributions to a strong, vibrant culture sector. Now in its 11th year, the program recognizes artists and arts organizations whose contributions span a significant period of time.

Kinsmen Club of St. Thomas

Each year the Kinsmen Club of St. Thomas support the Art Centre's initiative to support the art education of the students of St. Thomas and Elgin County. Their \$3000 contribution, covers the materials for the hands-on curriculum based activities. We are very grateful for their continued support.

Canada Summer Jobs

This year the Art Centre received funding for two summer students. Instructor of Summer Art Programs and Studio Assistant / Assistant Instructor positions was filled by Shelby Hayward and Celeste Fialios Castillo respectfully. This dynamic duo brought an incredible line-up of classes and workshops to our community. Through hands-on activi-





ties, art lessons, games and so much more children experienced a summer of creativity, imagination and inspiration in our fun, active, learning environment. #arteducationmatters

YWCA Summer Work Student Exchange

We welcomed Rosaline Bergeron The YMCA Summer Work Student Exchange is a unique national exchange program that brings together youth from various communities across the country. Participating youth, aged 16 and 17, have the opportunity to improve their second official language skills, and gain important employment experience through a work placement while on their exchange.

Within local participating communities, other community partners such as exchange hosts, employers, our summer staff and the community at large also

both contribute to the program and benefit from participation.

In 6 short weeks over the summer, participants go on a journey that will forever impact their life. Learning more about themselves, discovering another part of Canada and the people that make up our great nation, taking on new challenges, making new friends and, having so much fun, participants agree this experience is **THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME!**



Donors, Sponsors, Supporters and Members

Annual Giving

Kathy Collier
Elgin Contracting and Restoration Ltd.
Brenda Fuhrman
Ray Galloway
Anne Gilbert
Sheila Martin
Carolyn McLeod
Marietta Robert
Pat White

General Donation

Kathlyn J. Haggerman
Nancy Moore
Joan Janes – Little Red Mitten
Evelyn Knight
Marion Orchard
Catherine Elliot Shaw and John D. Shaw
Heather Robinson
Steve Wookey

Public Programming

Cornella Greger

Inspire A Student

Elgin Contracting and Restoration Ltd.
Kinsmen Club of St. Thomas
Carolyn McLeod
Talbot Trail Optimist Club
Williams Funeral Home Ltd.
Malcom and Monique Wood
Optimist Club of St. Thomas Bingo

In Memory of Ted Gatenby

Marly Gatenby

In Memory of Kay Pocock

Barb Hinchberger

In Memory of Agnes Bennett

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John and Judy Bain
Allison Bain
John and Lynda Bottoms
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Helen Roberts

Shirley Shore
David and Barbara Trafford
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Carol Ewaskiw
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Janet Willoughby

2018 Membership

Individual/ Senior/ Student

Linda Armstrong
Robin Baratta
Susan Bassett-Gold
Lynda Baughman
Emily & Scott Bate
Helga Bear
Agnes Berko
Elizabeth Bourque
Paul Brezina
Cathy Burgoyne
Mary Carnahan
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Brandon Collier
Tara Collier
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Mary Donlan
Joann Dunn

Elgin Business Resource Centre

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 Candy McManiman & Paul Prevett
 Frances Tarry
 St. Thomas Downtown Development Board

Sponsors

Redtail Cocktail Party and Silent Auction Saturday May 26, 2018

Platinum

Doug Tarry Homes

Gold

Talbot Trail Physiotherapy

Silver

Masco Canada
 Geerlinks Home Hardware
 Railway City Tourism
 Graham Scott Enns
 Omac Mortgages - Mike Rogozynski
 Collier Homes

Bronze

GCW custom Kitchens & Cabinetry
 INC
 Edward Jones—Kelly Ruddock
 Kenny Insurance Brokers
 Locke Insurance

Art Auction Friday November 2, 2018

Gold

Dr. Paul Collins MPC

Bronze

Elgin/St. Thomas Small Business Enterprise Centre
 Ferguson DiMeo Lawyers
 Railway City Tourism
 Locke Insurance
 Graham Scott Enns
 Minerva Art Gallery

Beamish Landscape Service
 Dementia Support Strategies
 RBC Meg Sloan
 Shawn Jackson Funeral Home

Silver

Under Armor
 McBains Signs and Designs
 Canadale Nurseries

Reception Sponsor

Wendy Tippin

Newsletter

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