



Media Release

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Region of Waterloo Arts Fund awards 24 grants

Waterloo Region – The Region of Waterloo Arts Fund awarded 24 grants today for a total of \$134,500. This was in response to proposals submitted by artists and arts organizations from throughout the Region of Waterloo.

The Arts Fund initially received 81 requests, for a total of \$597,534. After the first round of evaluations, 41 applicants seeking a total of \$271,767 were invited to submit more detailed Stage 2 applications from which the 24 grants were ultimately selected.

Since 2002, when it was established, the Arts Fund has supported more than 490 projects for a total of \$2,445,248.

Proposals selected for full or partial funding in the Spring round are:

Brian Douglas, \$1,500 for the photography project and exhibition *5:00 a.m.* to document people at their workplaces; and to portray that early morning environment that goes unnoticed by a large portion of the population.

Kitchener-Waterloo Arab Canadian Theatre/KW-ACT, \$10,000 to continue the development from its workshop phase of the theatre play *My Name is Dakhel Faraj*, by adding new actors to the cast, enhancing the artistic qualities of acting, multimedia, set, costume and lighting design, music and singing; and to ready the play for presentation both locally and outside the Region.

Neruda Arts, \$6,000 for a one-day Pan Am and Parapan Am Games showcase featuring local and high profile world music artists; this is an extra day of free programming within Kultrun and is the only arts and culture organization in Waterloo Region selected by Ignite Ontario to host a celebration of the Games.

University of Waterloo Art Gallery, \$7,000 for *This Could be the Place*, the second edition of a performance art and public intervention initiative presented outside the gallery on the UW campus; to coincide with the CAFKA biennial in 2016.

Lost & Found Theatre, \$4,000 for the creation of new short animation sequences to enhance the theatre production of *Charles Dickens Writes: A Christmas Carol*.

rare Charitable Research Reserve, \$5,000 to initiate a new two month Visual-Artist-in-Residence at North House to explore the relationship between art and science and produce artwork of their choice; an exhibition will showcase the work at the conclusion of the residency.

Waterloo Concert Band (WCB), \$5,500 to commission original concert band music by Canadian composer Howard Cable; and to premiere the new composition at a special anniversary occasion and then perform as part of the WCB's own repertoire.

Trenchcoat Productions, \$6,000 for the creation of *Charlie*, a new short film, fictionalized and based on the harsh reality of addiction.

Mark Walton, \$6,000 for *Complicity / Creation and Surrender*, an exhibition of original and archival photographs, plus accompanying text, which explores the relationships of immigrants past and present and aboriginal peoples; and 'what it truly means to be Canadian'.

Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, \$1,500 for interactive sessions at a 12 hour *Draw-a-thon* during which the public is welcomed to interact with four local artists who will share their art-making processes.

Megan Muge Aliefendioglu, \$4,000 to research and prepare a new body of work for a first Canadian exhibition; the series of jewellery and decorative art designs is based on ancient Anatolian culture and will explore intercultural themes and contemporary methods.

Nota Bene Baroque Players, \$4,000 for *Bachtoberfest – Bach and the German Baroque*, an experimental and thematic event during Oktoberfest to raise the profile of local early music specialists and lay the groundwork for an Early Music Festival.

Tri-City Stopgap, \$7,000 for *Pop Up Exhibition II*, a collaborative initiative designed to create a stronger, more inclusive grassroots arts community by incorporating multiple disciplines presented in a non-traditional setting.

Wilfrid Laurier University, Faculty of Music, \$4,000 for a new initiative, the *Laurier Competition for Emerging Composers*; young Waterloo Region composers will submit new works to a jury of professional musicians; the winning composition will be featured at a special Laurier Symphony Orchestra concert, in collaboration with NUMUS.

Pamela Rojas and Maca Suazo, \$4,000 for *Miniature City on Stilts*, a new outdoor public sculpture in Ferro cement to be installed at the Mill Courtland Community Centre; the design of 10 small-scale houses is a metaphor for various themes of closeness, cultural diversity, and common support within the community.

Jesse Parent, \$3,000 for a new full-length live acoustic concert and recording of new and reworked songs performed with four other local musicians; including a recorded afternoon rehearsal and live performance the same evening.

Dave and Natasha Mansell, \$7,000 for *Framing Motion: Extending the Kinesphere through Cinematography*, an innovative collaboration exploring advanced camera techniques to create a series of films that integrate the camera directly into the choreography.

Femme Fatale Creations, \$10,000 for *Good Freaky*, an edgy, comedic web series of 10 five-minute episodes on the foibles of human relationships and “focussed on two friends swapping stories of epically bad dating disasters.”

Meg Harder, \$2,800 for creating *Mediating Nature*, a 10 piece mixed-media series on wood panel that represents significant elements of our local bioregion, and reflects admiration for the natural systems that sustain life in the Region of Waterloo.

Wayfarer, \$1,200 for an acoustic EP recording featuring six original tracks, which will incorporate new instruments and experimentation with a new sound and direction.

Douglas W. Campbell, \$10,000 for the theatre production of *Lord Sword*, an original full length two-act play; the project includes all aspects of design, rehearsals, a local premiere and repeat performances, plus video documentation to create interest for national and international touring prospects.

Aisles, \$5,000 for the project *Periscopes*, a series of 12 original rock and indie singles to be released monthly over a full year, then collected and released as a full length single vinyl record.

The LoFi Mind, \$10,000 for the recording and production of a new album of 10 original songs by the musicians of the KW collective plus a series of video documentations of the sessions to accompany the project.

Urban X Entertainment, \$10,000 for the creation and video documentation at each stage of *Gone But Not Forgotten*, a story-driven album to be written and recorded while providing an insider view to “give people a real glimpse into the journey of an independent artist.”

The objective of the Arts Fund is to “make art happen” by funding projects throughout the Region that will occur within the next 12 months and, over the longer term, will enhance the ability of an artist or arts organization to make more art happen through future projects. The Arts Fund invites applications in the spring and fall of each year.

Created in 2002, the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund is a not-for-profit corporation which provides arms-length funding for the performing, visual, media and literary arts and welcomes applications in all arts disciplines from individual artists and arts organizations based in the Region of Waterloo (comprising the cities of Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo and the townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot and Woolwich).

The Arts Fund is one of the very few funds in Canada that awards grants directly to artist-led projects. The funds are generously made available through Regional Council’s allocation of 40 cents per capita.

By investing in the community via the Arts Fund, the supported projects have the ability to attract additional funds through earned revenue, grants from provincial, federal or private sources, sponsorships, private and in-kind donations.

This year, the Arts Fund's volunteer Board of Directors is continuing to examine its governance practices. For the most current information about new initiatives and pilot projects, such as peer-to-peer application support, Board-hosted open houses before application deadlines, and Artist-at-Large Advisors, please visit the website: www.artsfund.ca. The Spring 2015 Artist-at-Large Advisors, who volunteered their time and expertise to assist the Board, were Melissa Dougherty, Rick Nixon and Jennifer Depencier.

The next Arts Fund's Open House for grant applicants before the Fall 2015 round is on Tuesday, August 18, 2015, 5-7 p.m. at Region of Waterloo Headquarters, 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener. This is an informal drop-in, where board members will be available to share general information about the fund, its mandate and will welcome feedback.

The next deadline for applications to the Arts Fund is 4 p.m. on Friday, September 4th, 2015; full details are available on the website: www.artsfund.ca

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