



Media Release

For immediate release

Region of Waterloo Arts Fund awards 28 grants in the Spring 2022 round

Waterloo Region -- The Region of Waterloo Arts Fund is awarding \$187,875 in grant support to local artists and organizations ready to “make art happen.” Whether challenging stereotypes, supporting mental health, or exploring local heritage, this art will impact our community, and start much-needed conversations.

The Arts Fund awards grants twice a year. The spring round supports projects slated for completion by June 30, 2023 in community arts, dance, film and video, music and recording, performance, theatre, visual arts, and multimedia, writing and publishing.

The listings below state where the projects will be made or launched. Those marked “Region of Waterloo” are designed to take place in more than one location.

Organizations and Collectives

ArtsPay—Andrea Filiatraut (Kitchener): \$5,616 for Window to Waterloo Region, providing paid opportunities for twelve local artists to have one-month window exhibitions in the 44Gaukel Arts building.

Ayr Community Theatre—Diana Barber (North Dumfries): \$5,000 for *Scrooge: The Musical* will bring live theatre to Ayr, promote the arts, and incorporate local talent.

Belmont Village Bestival—Tammy Lawrence (Kitchener): \$10,000 for the Belmont Village Bestival Arts Fest’s free Arts Exhibition showcasing diverse artists, and providing them with a guaranteed income stipend.

Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery—Akycha Surette (Waterloo): \$5,000 for an eight-week glass residency for an emerging artist from the Region, culminating in a public exhibition and visitor engagement.

Centre in the Square—Rachelle Garcia (Kitchener): \$5,000 for The Lullaby Project, supporting maternal health and infant well-being by partnering professional songwriters with at-risk mothers, to write and record a lullaby for their baby.

Flush Ink Productions—Paddy Gillard-Bentley (Waterloo): \$5,700 to commission one-act plays from three playwrights, to be performed at the UnHinged Festival of Disturbing Theatre.

Grand River Flamenco Fest—Claudia Aguirre (Region of Waterloo): \$8,800 for a 13-day, multi-event festival that explores and celebrates flamenco culture.

The Hill Neighbourhood Committee—Avery Swinkels (Kitchener): \$1,500 for the St. George Sidewalk Gallery that celebrates art, place, and community in the Cedar Hill neighbourhood.

This Naija Girls Studio—Angela Onuora (Region of Waterloo): \$20,000 for *The Red Wrapper* feature film, exploring the issue of war crimes endured by Biafran women during the Nigerian Civil War, aka the Biafran War.

Neruda Arts—Isabella Cisterna (Woolwich): \$5,000 for Pieces of Eight rotating exhibitions in the newly renovated Neruda Arts Studio, celebrating the art of diverse and often-marginalized artists.

O:se Kenhionhata:ioe Land Back Camp—Bangishimo (Kitchener): \$11,900 for The Medicines We Carry, a photo series examining our connection to land, culture, and traditional medicines through a futuristic lens.

Three Sisters Cultural Centre—Adrienne Carter (Woolwich): \$10,000 for WEFT FEST (Woolwich Expressions in Fibre Traditions), celebrating local fibre artists with quilt displays, workshops, fibre arts show, and activities throughout the township.

Virtu Arts—Vanessa Spence (Region of Waterloo): \$5,000 to develop and present *Untitled: A Cultural Play* with the help of a Region of Waterloo-based Black dramaturg.

Individual Artists

Lindsay Bellaire (Region of Waterloo): \$9,500 for Slipstream, using circus-based performances to explore mindfulness, and to provide tools for dealing with anxiety as we navigate an increasingly reactive world.

Tara Butler (Kitchener): \$10,720 for the creation and presentation of Resilience, original contemporary dance featuring new work by Aria Evans, Nickeshia Garrick, Allison Cummings, and Karen Kaeja.

Paul Francescutti (Region of Waterloo): \$5,862 for the Diverse and Delicious podcast: A Tour of the Cultures and the Cooking of Waterloo Region, featuring local chefs and the stories they tell.

Taylor Graham (Cambridge): \$5,000 to write a new play, *Burn of Lyth*, that explores themes of environmental sustainability and women in science.

Roshan James (Kitchener): \$5,000 for Peaceful Gathering, a large-scale, digitally interactive mural celebrating the joy and resilience of BIPOC and LGBTQ2S+ people, with community involvement and collaboration.

Amanda Kind (Region of Waterloo): \$4,000 for the Waterloo singer-songwriter to record and release four original songs throughout 2022 and 2023 as part of an EP.

Derek Koehler (Kitchener): \$5,120 for Traction, a visual arts project exploring the former Dominion Tire factory, and the impression it left on Kitchener's built environment, economy, and residents.

John McKinley (Waterloo): \$5,000 for the John McKinley Band Jam to provide a consistent, supportive place (Jazz Room) for amateur and professional musicians to play live, improvisational music.

Tim Moher (Kitchener): \$4,000 for the creation of *Clefs of Moher* Vol. 2 CD and the release concert, featuring instrumental music, songs, story, dance, and visuals.

Ciaran Myers (Kitchener): \$11,750 to mount a free (non-ticketed), queer, actor-centred Shakespeare-in-the-Park style production of *Twelfth Night*.

Shantell Powell (Kitchener): \$5,000 for The Everwhen, exploratory and generative writing towards the completion of the writer's debut poetry collection.

Debra Smith (Region of Waterloo): \$2,400 for the translation of children's books into sign language, so that Deaf children can enjoy story-time as fully as hearing children.

Nathaniel Voll (Kitchener): \$7,707 for the development and staged reading of a new play, *Merdeka, Merdeka*, about colonization, identity, trauma, and reconciliation in 1940s Indonesia.

Trevor Waurechen (Waterloo): \$5,000 for Wonders, a series of motion-activated light boxes that display multi-layered images reflecting on current issues and subjects of human interest.

Stephen Young (Region of Waterloo): \$3,300 for a Dickson & Bruce “History Meets Mystery” episode on J.M. Schneider in 1896 Berlin (now Kitchener) that ties in the opening of Victoria Park and the Grand Opening of the Berlin Opera House.

The Arts Fund contributes to the vitality of our distinctive region by providing meaningful grants to individual artists and arts organizations. Residents and visitors alike benefit from this foundational support to arts and culture. Since its establishment in 2002, the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund has invested nearly five million dollars in the community and in local creators.

The need for investment in creative community building is surging. Of the 94 applications received this round, seeking a total of \$658,593 in grant funds, the Arts Fund is able to support 28 projects in all.