

Topic	The future of national cultural research as it relates to how Arts Policy (specifically Creative Canada) affects rural border regions		
Date	Friday August 9, 2019	Location	City Hall (Windsor)
Host(s)	Taisa Petruk, Riverfront InterArts		
Participants	<p>Anne Rota, Amherstburg Tourism Bob Becken, CBC (Windsor) Cheryl Hardcastle, MP (Tecumseh) Chris Finn, Art Gallery of Windsor Christopher Menard, Cultural Department, City of Windsor Imogen Clendinning, Artcite Inc. Jennifer Ibrahim, Amherstburg Tourism Julia Galli, The Capitol Theatre - Windsor Julie Tucker, Arts Council Windsor & Region Lionel Kernerman, Tourism Windsor-Essex Lorraine Steele, Sho Art Spirit & Performance Lynnette Bain, Tourism Windsor-Essex Patricia Reid-Crichton, Multicultural Council of Windsor-Essex Oona Mosna, Media City Film Festival Susan McLeod, Sho Art Spirit & Performance Stephanie Hosowich, Local Resident Talysha Bujold-Abu, Arts Council Windsor & Region Windsor & Region Dance (WaRD)</p>		
Notetaker(s)	Mary Jo Mullins and Taisa Petruk		
Facilitator(s)	Taisa Petruk, Riverfront InterArts Mary Jo Mullins, Independent Dance Artist		
Invitation	At this Gathering , attendees are invited to discuss the future of national cultural research as it relates to how Arts Policy (specifically Creative Canada) affects rural border regions. A select group of people - engaged in this topic at different levels and in different sectors and industries – will meet for a lively, informal conversation facilitated by Taisa Petruk (Riverfront InterArts) and Mary Jo Mullins (Independent Dance Artist).		
Perspectives and Thoughts	<p>How are border regions like Windsor Essex affected by the current Creative Canada policy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is the opportunity for smaller organizations to collaborate with other organizations - locally and globally - and to leverage funding from multiple levels of government • There is more Project based funding available and Operating funding is shifting in its nature. • Long term community impact is sitting at higher value and there is a current momentum to energize both local and global arts initiatives. • Is there better attendance to events that feature imported work and/or artists? • National, provincial, and local media outlets like and want to tell and promote more of the local story • Breaking down borders and barriers should be prioritized 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public is embracing technology and media arts and it is radically changing how art is being made, produced, marketed and enjoyed. • Organizations should focus on partnerships, sustainability, impact and longevity. • Media arts is a movement and technology must be embraced and utilized as a boundary and barrier breaking marketing tool. <p>Reflect on the following: Progression and usage of art and culture, arts for art’s sake, commercial usage, an instrument for social good, a tool to aid physical and mental health, heritage and preservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the ideologies stated and more are important to consider when creating arts events. • Education about and access to art is a preliminary requirement for art to have positive economic impact. • Mental health has been identified as a priority in the region - research has identified that, even when people have access to events, they still choose to stay and home and use the internet. How can we combat this? • Locally, there is an increased interconnection between these elements within projects and organizations over the last 5 years. Attitudes have now shifted to the sharing of ideas, concerns, and issues. • Policy drives funding and tends to be forward thinking and generally positive however, it takes a long time for systemic change within communities to occur • Windsor-Essex is a self-sufficient region • Cultural pluralism in the region is high and it is hoped that it will remain so <p>Within the context of our Local and Non-local Arts and culture perception, does our location help or hinder the progression and sustainability of our arts and culture community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our location both helps and hinders our progression. • Detroit has a globally recognized and historically significant arts and culture community. It regularly tours pop culture and global artists and has multiple recognized post-secondary programs and theatres. • Windsor is repeatedly labeled as a blue collar and retirement town in the media but that is not the “face” of the people in the region. It is diverse in generations, ethnicities, hobbies, interests, and activities. • Windsor-Essex has a lack of municipal operating funding that can be shared with local artists. This hinders the growth, variety of, knowledge of, and accessibility to professional, career development, and cultural arts across the region. As well, local arts patronship has diminished over the last two decades. • Increasing capacity and working together in new ways may lead to increased local funding. • Maybe some arts events need to “retire” and make room for new ones. • (The number of events and choices for potential audience was identified as a challenge and potential barrier to progression.) • Dance is an underserved art form in our region and the majority of dancers in the region stop moving after high school. We have a very active social dance scene and many ethnic groups still continue carrying on traditions but we will need help to keep them going and help people be aware of them. • There are some tools [for advertising and marketing of events] already in place in our community that may not be used and accessed as well as they could be, by both organizations and potential audience. We need to start collaborating and having more shared knowledge of arts and culture schedules. • (The concept of Windsor vs. County as a potential barrier was identified.) • (It was tabled that organizations should consider the difference between “arts”, “culture”, and “heritage”.) • (It was strongly suggested that there is a way for artists, municipalities, and arts organizations to come together to work collectively.)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local indigenous communities want to further develop and develop more relationships and share their traditions and stories with the both the local arts and culture community and local residents. This was stated at the Windsor Culture Talks. • Local Federal MP offices were identified as potential funders for projects.
What research would be useful?	Up-to-date local, accurate data regarding cultural industry in Windsor-Essex Models of/data from successful arts communities with similar populations and accessibility to the USA
Whose voices are missing around the table?	<p>For-profit presenters</p> <p>Current and Potential Philanthropists and investors</p> <p>Performing arts collectives</p> <p>More members of the general public</p> <p>Cultural groups and Ethnic representatives</p> <p>Youth</p> <p>Other municipalities</p> <p>Recreation departments</p> <p>School Boards</p> <p>Post-Secondary education institutions</p> <p>Mental and Physical health representatives</p>
Resources & Links (mentioned during discussion or shared afterwards)	
What next steps were mentioned as a result of the Gathering?	Further discussion involving and research into specific issues that affect the region Brainstorming sessions regarding research and data needed to make effective long term decision-making.