

- 1995 WEA was established to create a permanent funding base for community artists and arts organizations. WEA's four Founding members: Mary Rodger - Art Council Windsor & Region, Barb Bondy - Artcite, Gina Lori Riley Dance Enterprises and Nancy Nicholson, President.
- 1996 The City of Windsor granted seed monies for a cultural assessment by consultant John Fisher, who stated "WEA is not only an excellent idea but does not exist anywhere else in North America."
- 1998 WEA was incorporated and a strategic plan set forth
- 1999 The City of Windsor approved – as a matching grant – the funding of \$250,000 to establish the endowment fund. Fundraising began.
- 2001 WEA was granted charitable status.
- 2001 WEA and the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario presented MORE THAN A WINE AUCTION at Casino Windsor. Fundraising returns were shared.
- 2005 CarTunes on Parade (CToP), initiated by WEA, was a cross-border partnership with the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit. This first-ever international public art exhibit involved the design, creation, display and auction of almost two hundred car sculptures that celebrated the region's passion for cars and music. The CarTunes were exhibited around Windsor and Detroit during the summer of 2005. This public art project also provided an educational outreach program inviting students to design and create a 3D CarTune prototype.
- 2006 WEA's partnered with the UWindsor and St. Clair College to present "Really Great Mischief" honouring Alistair MacLeod. The evening's financial success endowed the Alistair and Anita MacLeod Scholarship for the UWindsor.
- 2010 WEA's first biennial Arts Leadership Awards and Arts Grants Celebration delivered financial support to 8 artists and arts organizations and honoured 4 community individuals.
- 2011 WEA presented 'Home Grown Talent', a showcase of fine art and craft, literary arts and entertainment at the Vollmer Culture and Recreation Complex in partnership with the Town of LaSalle. Weekend success indicated that arts and culture can be part of a sports and recreation complex.
- 2012 WEA's second Award/Grants program renamed *THE WEAs*.
- 2014 *The WEAs* third Celebration partnered with the City of Windsor and hosted the renewed Mayor's Arts Awards.
- 2014 WEA collaborated with The Art Gallery of Windsor and Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island to present the Windsor-Essex Triennial of Contemporary Art. WEA presented "The Art of Business and the Business of Art" at the Downtown Windsor Business Accelerator offering an evening of multidisciplinary voices speaking to working and living as an artist in the Windsor-Essex region.
- 2015 WEA honoured Dr. Eric Jackman for his dedication to cultural philanthropy in Windsor-Essex. *The Artistry of Windsor-Essex* presented at Caesars Windsor showcased local artists and celebrated the talents of students from the UWindsor's School of Dramatic Art and School of Creative Arts.
- 2016 Partnering with the City of Windsor with St. Clair College as the Presenting Sponsor, *THE WEAs* were presented at the Chimczuk Museum. The Windsor Mayor's Arts Awards were presented.
- 2017 *The Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation Tribute Dinner - A Community Gathers to Celebrate* brought together twelve local organizations, institutions and agencies in recognition of the founder's generous philanthropic spirit and The Baker Foundation's vision in serving a range of related causes. This collaboration alone was a milestone as it was the first time that these organizations jointly embraced community enrichment by partnering to stage this auspicious occasion.
- 2018 Again partnering with the City of Windsor, *The WEAs* were presented with the University of Windsor as the Presenting Sponsor. The Eric Jackman Youth Grant in the Arts and The Morris and Beverly Baker Youth Grant in the Arts were presented for the first time. WEAs Arts Grants were now valued at \$3,000, from \$2,000.
- 2018 WEA opened its first office at SHO Studios, a hub for the ARTS in Walkerville.

- 2013-2018 **Changing the Odds: Community Transformation Through the Arts (CTO)**  
For six years a community outreach, multi-disciplinary arts program designed to provide transformative experiences to youth living with challenges has been presented at the School of Dramatic Art. This program funded by WEA with generous support from the Odette Foundation, The Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation, The Jackman Foundation and many other generous donors.
- 2019 A new Changing the Odds program: Downtown Music Initiative (DMI) directed by Melissa Miner received a \$5000 CTO summer grant that offered a unique opportunity to 20 youth in downtown Windsor to learn to play a musical instrument in a one-on-one or small group-teaching environment. These youth live in households supported by Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program or are operating below the poverty line.

Creating a legacy for our children and grandchildren.