

ANNUAL REPORT

AUGUST 1, 2021 TO JULY 31, 2022



Executive Summary

Congratulations for making it through the second year of a global pandemic.

Despite the challenges we faced during our last fiscal year at London Clay Art Centre (from Aug 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022), we did our best to maintain the highest level of service we could for our students, customers, and studio users. Once the government shutdowns and mask mandates were removed in the spring of 2022, we finally started to get back to normal.

Even though our facility was shut down at times over the past year, the work never slowed down. The Board and staff team worked diligently behind the scenes so we could emerge stronger than ever.

For instance, the Board completed a number of important structural elements to put the organization on a stronger footing. We now have a new 5-year Strategic Plan to guide the organization with 5 strong strategic priorities. We revamped our mission, vision, and charitable purpose statements. On Feb 1, 2022 our new bylaw came into effect as we completed our move from provincial to federal jurisdiction.

The staff team made sure to keep work progressing through the kilns, implemented an intake program for new studio users, replaced aging equipment, organized exterior façade renovation work, applied for and received funding for the renovation of the second floor, implemented an online registration system, and somehow squeezed in mosaic tile production for the Embassy Commons mosaic project.

Outside our walls, we held a one day Empty Bowls event in September where we raised \$9,000 for My Sister's Place. In November, the Potters Market had one of its highest sales ever. Also in November, the reconstruction work on Dundas Street was

completed.

And we can never forget that all this wonderful activity was made possible through the generous support we received from our artists, operational funders, and government programs. Despite all the financial challenges we faced this fiscal year, we finished the year with just a small deficit.

To all our supporters, we extend a big “Thank You!” We couldn’t have done it without your unwavering support.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Durham, Board Chair

Darlene Pratt, Executive Director



Lawrence Durham
Board Chair



Darlene Pratt
Executive Director &
General Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jane Paterak
Vice-Chair



Jennifer Hopeson
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Karen Bailey
Director



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Director



Cathy Herbert
Director



Christine Torres
Director



John White
Director



Lynne Williams
Director

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

Summer

As we began our fiscal year on August 1, 2021, we were into the second year of the global pandemic. It wasn't always easy to run our operations with so many restrictions, but we pressed on regardless. In August, we operated classes at half capacity. Looking ahead, we ordered a replacement kiln for installation in January 2022.



Fall

After a summer of noisy and dusty construction on the street just outside our front doors, the City of London completed its Infrastructure Renewal project along Dundas from Adelaide to English Streets. With fresh pavement and a widened sidewalk, our building now has more curb appeal.

We had a very busy fall, and we were finally able to increase our class registration numbers. In November we put a new registration system (Amilia) online, making it easier for students to register and easier for our staff to handle the rush. Due to COVID-19 capacity restrictions on gathering, we held Empty Bowls 2021 on Sept 11 in our back parking lot to maximize attendance. Thankfully the weather was beautiful and we were able to raise \$9000 for the food program at My Sisters' Place. We also held a very successful Fall Potters Market (November 19-21) just down the street from us in OEV at Somerville 630.



Winter

The new year started off slowly as our winter sessions were again postponed due to Covid restrictions. However, we were able to install our new kiln on January 25th as planned. During the cold winter months, we held several mosaic tile workshops to prepare for summer installation at the Indwell Embassy Commons project down the road from LCAC. Unfortunately, our March Break camps were canceled due to the late start of winter session classes.



Spring

Our newly launched Bring Back that Lovin' Feelin' Working Group held their first official event - a Raku Bash hosted by Beth Turnbull Morrish at her studio in Ailsa Craig on June 11. Classes and workshop participation increased as capacity restrictions were lifted. The Spring Potters Market on May 6-8, 2022 was held again at Somerville 630.

Summer

By the summer of 2022, the exterior of the Indwell Embassy Commons building was completed so LCAC mosaic installers could begin their work. Our building also got a facelift in July thanks to a grant from the City of London that paid for the repainting of our facade, in keeping with our heritage status. As mask mandates were lifted, classes and camps (kids and adults) were at full capacity and we were gratefully back at Home County after years of event cancellations.



Edith Pierce Memorial Award

In June each year, we provide a monetary award and summer studio-use at LCAC to the Bealart student who displays outstanding talent and discipline in working with clay and who wants to pursue ceramic studies at a post-secondary institution. Unfortunately for the second year in a row, the Beal Secondary School's Bealart program experienced challenges that made it difficult to select a recipient. As a result, we suspended awarding the Edith Pierce Memorial Award in 2022.



Artist-in-Residence Program

The decision was made to put the Artist in Residence program on hold as of May 2021 until we can formalize and re-structure it. Amy Kinkhamer, our Canadian Artist-in-Residence up until that point, has remained with us as a Studio Renter.



Amy Kinkhamer
Artist-in-Residence



OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION

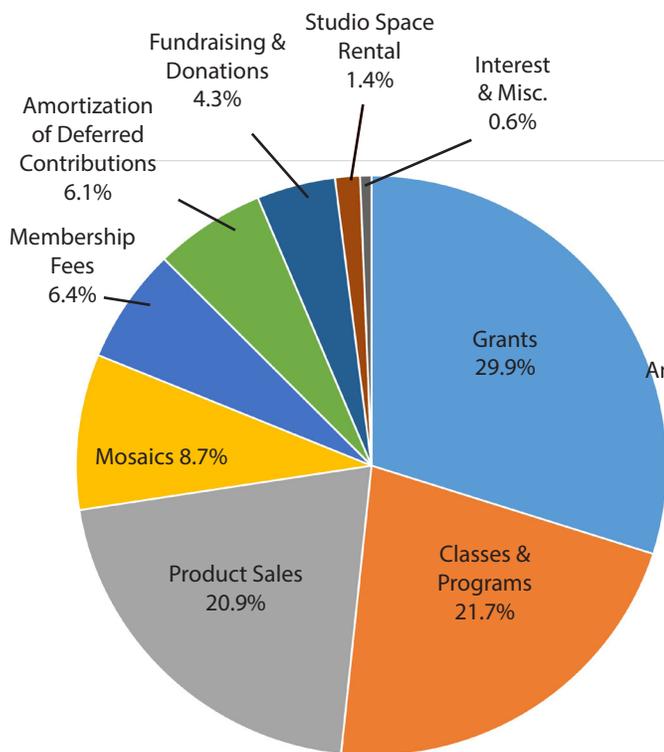
Each year we are supported financially in four ways:

- Through the money we raise through our operations (classes, sales, etc)
- Through operational grants (that naturally fund our operations)
- Through project grants (for specific projects)
- Through the kind donations of our supporters

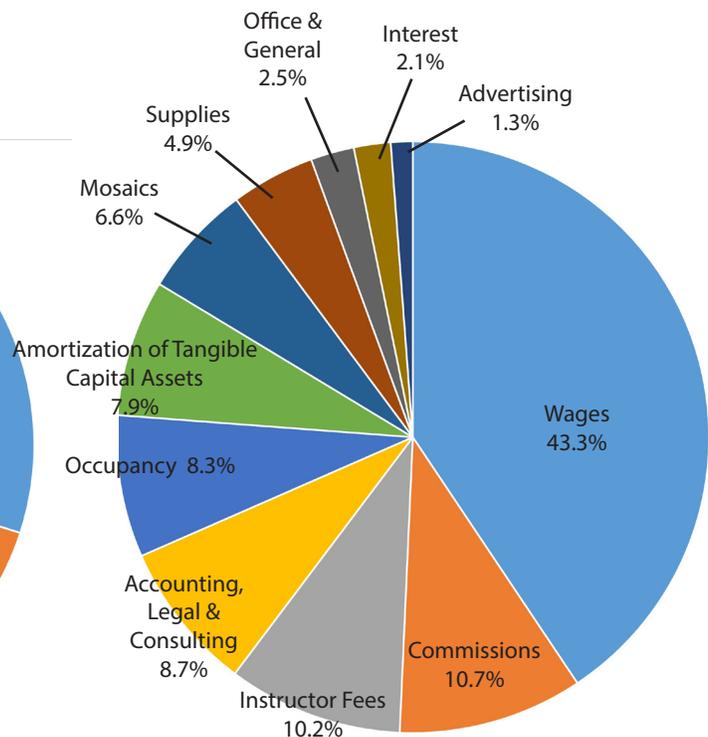
This year our operational revenues were down due to Covid-related decreases in our revenue-generating activities. Fortunately, we received Covid-relief grants from the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario, and the City of London that helped us compensate for those decreases. As always our two operational funders, the Ontario Arts Council and the London Arts Council supported us with our operational costs. For project grants this year, the Ontario Trillium Foundation came through with project funding. And finally, in addition to our regular individual donations, we received a substantial one-time donation in support of our mosaic project with Indwell.

Despite financial challenges, we managed to finish the year with a small deficit of just \$13,650. We once again want to thank the entire community for its support.

Revenues



Expenses



CONCLUSION

Now that the two year pandemic seems to be fading, we hope that it stays in the past so that we can move forward and grow again as a charitable organization that supports, and is supported by, our surrounding community. We appreciate that we exist through the hard work, dedication, and resilience of the board, our staff team, our faithful artists, and the financial assistance of individual donors and the federal, provincial, and municipal governments. We look forward to a prosperous and creative year ahead.



London Arts Council



LONDON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



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



London
CANADA



Old East Village
Business Improvement Area

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

We believe working with clay empowers people to embrace their inner creativity, transforming how they feel about themselves and the connection between art and community-building.

We aspire to give everyone access to exceptional educational, artistic, and community-building experiences with clay and ceramic art.

Charitable tax number: 88667 6790 RR 0001



Judy Morris



Janice White



April Ossenkopp



Debra Reid