



2020 Windsor Mayor's Arts Awards Recipients

INDIVIDUAL ARTIST: CHRISTY LITSTER

Christy Litster is no stranger to the local creative community. In 2008, she committed to building opportunities for emerging artists. She helped found the organization that became the Walkerville Artists' Co-op; assisted in curating and promoting many shows at Sho Art, Spirit and Performance from 2013-15; and produced over 20 art shows, with 100% of the sales going to local artists. She has hosted sketch nights at the Arts Council Windsor & Region, and created a mentorship series at the Windsor Youth Centre. After a 2016 diagnosis of Hodgkin's Lymphoma, she spent her treatment days working behind the scenes supporting the work of other artists. She went on to create the 'Windsor Snapshots' mural for our City's 125th Birthday, and has received multiple ACHF grants. Today, healthy and busy as ever, Christy has created a series of free colouring book downloads as part of the ACHF COVID-19 presentations.

ARTS ORGANIZATION – ACT – ARTS COLLECTIVE THEATRE

ACT – Arts Collective Theatre is a well-respected local performing arts organization. The group is dedicated and committed to enhancing the well-being of Windsor-Essex artists through theatre education and mentorship, and by bringing awareness to social justice issues in Windsor and beyond. This group offers programs for local artists at all levels of their theatrical development. They provide training and performance opportunities for multi-ethnic artists of all ages, offering productions that highlight diversity. Their work has been supported by the City's ACHF program many times over the years. They recently celebrated their 5th anniversary as a group that gives a voice and a platform to artists from all backgrounds, helping to bring us together by sharing stories and themes that unite us all.

ARTS VOLUNTEER – ROD TURTON

Rod Turton is a key member of the performing arts community. Since 2015, he has volunteered as the Director of Youth Theatre at Windsor Light Music Theatre – one of Windsor's most highly-respected performing arts organizations. There, he has used his theatrical training and educational talents to build a series of youth theatre programs for local children – a first for this organization that is over 70 years old. Also an elementary teacher, he ensures that every child at Windsor Light feels valued, and leaves feeling more confident in their abilities in acting, dance and voice. He tells the kids in his program that they are "family", fostering individual relationships with each child, while mounting a high-quality rendition of a Broadway show. Between planning and running these programs, performing in musicals, and serving on the Board of Directors, he has accumulated thousands of volunteer hours.