

**Presenter Name:** Catherine McInnes

**Proposal Title:**

London Artist in Residence (LAIR) Program

**Description:**

The Ontario Arts Council's *Artists in Residence (Education) Program* was a base for development of the London Arts Council's *London Artist in Residence Program (LAIR)*; a new collaboration between the Ontario Arts Council, London Arts Council, and two London & region school boards; *Thames Valley District School Board and London District Catholic School Board*. Launched in 2012, the program currently provides professional opportunities for artists to work with school age children in the classroom delivering arts enhanced and arts infused learning. Professional London artists in all disciplines are listed on a juried roster from which the school boards make selections based on their curriculum deliverables.

LAC's Education Coordinator works closely with school board arts consultants to provide professional development opportunities for artists & teachers, and to coordinate classroom-based programming to support artists working with generalist and/or specialist classroom teachers. Projects have an overall theme and design created by the artist, as well as planned and delivered collaboratively with teachers. Project themes are drawn from the artists' expertise and creative interest, often have cross-curricular elements, and focused on the creative process.

What makes us different from other communities delivering the provincial program?

A local arts council administers recruiting, training, mentoring, insuring and overseeing all participating artists working in local schools. In London, the Arts Council has generated local funding for program administration and to support further professional development for participating artists to deliver this unique model for an arts enrichment program in public schools.