1. Call to Order

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest under the “Municipal Conflict of Interest Act”

4. Delegations
   4.1 Nate Whalen, Cambridge
       re: Regional Revenue & Expense Levers Consideration
           • GRT Monthly Pass Revenue, Library Board Consolidation, and launching an Organizational Structure Review.

   4.2 Shirley Madill, Executive Director, Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery
       re: Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery impact on Waterloo Region and funding request

   4.3 Denis Longchamps, Executive Director, Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery
       re: Inclusion of the art galleries in the Key Cultural Institution funding.

       Both KWAG and CCGG are recognized as Key Cultural Institutions

   *4.4 Kim Wilhelm, Interim CEO, The Food Bank of Waterloo Region
       re: an updated funding strategy for The Food Bank of Waterloo Region.

       Annual funding has not kept pace with the unprecedented need for food assistance or the cost to run these crucial programs. Since 2016-17, there has been a 136% increase in visits to a local food assistance program, and a renewed approach to funding is needed for the organization to fill gaps in the current funding model, and address overwhelming community needs.

   *4.5 Geoff Schwarz, Kitchener
       re: GRT Youth fare prices
*4.6 Danna Ferrarese, Cambridge  
Re: budget spend and tax increase

5. Call for Delegations

6. Communications

*6.1 Correspondence - Conestoga Students Inc.

7. Other Business

8. Adjourn

Recommended Motion:
That the meeting adjourn at x:xx x.m.
Founded in 1956
OUR MISSION

The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery connects people and ideas through art. Its nationally acclaimed exhibitions and programs welcome all to be inspired and challenged through a deepened understanding of ourselves, our cultures and our communities.
OUR VISION

KWAG will enrich lives across our community and nation through the creation and experience of contemporary art. It will flourish as a recognized leader and exceptional cultural presence at the intersection of contemporary art and civic life by:

• Amplifying the voices of diverse artists
• Expanding access to art’s transformative impact
• Securing and strengthening its distinctive legacy for future generations
Programs
We welcomed over 6,000 students from WRDSB and WRCDSB
Expressions is now in its 48th year
Diversity, Equity, Accessibility & Inclusion

• Multilingual tours in nine languages (French, Spanish, Italian, Urdu, Arabic, English, Mandarin, Japanese, Polish and Arabic.

• Open Conversation series with newcomers in the community.

• Touch and descriptive tours for people who are blind.

• Sensory Friendly Saturdays - Ontario Autism Association.

• ASL tours for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
Wellness Initiatives

Art of Seeing Professional Development for Resident Doctors and Medical Students in KW. In collaboration with Family Medicine, McMaster University - improving skills at observation and empathy.

Working with KW Habilitation with Disabilities programming - aligned with Wellbeing Waterloo Region.

Professional development workshops, team building and creative thinking workshops for corporations and businesses.
Our program partners responding to the Region’s shifting demographic:

IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP WATERLOO

THE FAMILY CENTRE

INDIGENOUS STUDENT CENTRE

KW HABILITATION

MULTICULTURAL CENTRE

RECEPTION HOUSE
Exhibitions & Collecting

(IBPOC ARTISTS AND CURATORS)

10 EXHIBITIONS ANNUALLY ORIGINATED IN-HOUSE
100% OF OUR SOLO EXHIBITIONS AND 88% OF OUR PERMANENT COLLECTION ACQUISITIONS HAVE BEEN IBPOC ARTISTS IN 2022/23

80% of our solo exhibitions and 100% of artworks purchased have been created by (often emerging) artists who identify as women*

*WOMEN OF INFLUENCE FOR WOMEN’S ART GROUP SUPPORTS THIS INITIATIVE
Billy Gauthier

COMING IN 2024

Shortlisted for the Kenojuak Ashevak Memorial Award
Permanent Collection

- KWAG is an art museum
- Over 4,500 works of art, heritage held in public trust
- Largest collection in North America of international contemporary naïve art paintings from the Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Collection, Toronto
- Second largest collection of photographs by award-winning photographer Edward Burtynsky
Civic Engagement
CULTURE TALKS

Presented with Perimeter Development Corporation and Grand Valley Society of Architects

- BRUCE KUWABARA, ARCHITECT, KPMB, TORONTO
- KEN GREENBERG, URBAN DESIGNER, TORONTO
- HEIDI REITMAIER, FORMER CEO, MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, TORONTO
- CAROLINE ROBBIE, ARCHITECT, QUADRANGLE ARCHITECTS, TORONTO
- ALEXANDRA MACINTOSH, FOGO ISLAND, NFLD
- MATTHEW HICKEY, TWO-ROW ARCHITECTS, SIX NATIONS
- PAUL RAFF, PAUL RAFF STUDIO, TORONTO
- LISA RAPOPORT, PLANT ARCHITECT, TORONTO
- PUBLIC CITYARCHITECTURE, WINNIPEG
- PETER SOLAND, CIVILITI, MONTREAL
Civic Engagement
PUBLIC ART COLLABORATIONS

• Downtown Kitchener BIA and KWAG collaborative public art project

• Charlie West Condo development site-specific art installation. Momentum Partnership.

• Public City Architecture installation at Perimeter Development Corporation building on Homer Watson Blvd.
Feast for the Senses.

Art, Food & Wine
OUR REQUEST

We request that the Region of Waterloo include public art galleries in funding decisions for 2024 and beyond to ensure that these culturally significant organizations continue to serve the citizens of Waterloo Region.
Thank you
THE CANADIAN CLAY & GLASS GALLERY

REQUEST FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2024 KEY CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS FUNDING
WHO WE ARE

• National museum
• The only national museum in Canada dedicated to ceramics, glass and enamelling arts
• 30 years in the Waterloo region, Key Cultural Institution since 2015
• Free admission
• Recognized by Canadian Museums Association for its award-winning programming
• Permanent collection of over 1400 pieces
• Community programming for education and outreach
• Research and residencies in clay, glass and enamel including for BIPOC artists
• Supported by national and provincial arts organizations (Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council)
• Supported by national corporation & foundations: Keith and Winifred Shantz Fund for the Arts, RBC Foundation, TD Bank Group
• Growing and wanting to continue to grow
NATIONAL MUSEUM
ADMISSION IS ALWAYS FREE

• 12 to 14 exhibitions every year
• 2 national awards every year
  • Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics and RBC Glass Award for Glass
• Emerging Talents Series
• 2 national exhibitions in 2022-2023
  • Confined: an art response to Covid
  • Voices: diversity, equity and inclusion in Canada
ONTARIO MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

EXCELLENCE IN PUBLICATION AWARD

2021
ONTARIO MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

HONOURABLE MENTION
EXHIBITIONS
DISRUPTION

2021
HONOURABLE MENTION
PROGRAMS
COMMUNITY GARDEN

2022
LEADERSHIP

• CRAFT ONTARIO - 2020
  • JOHN AND BARBARA MATHER AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENTS

• CANADIAN MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION - 2023
  • BARBARA A. TYLER AWARD IN MUSEUM LEADERSHIP
EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

• 10 to 12 different programs
• Claytime, School tours, Adults and Teens Workshop
• 2 residencies for emerging BIPOC artists every year
• Scholarships for low-income families (16 were offered for Summer camps this year)
• Youth Guild
• Gather at the Gallery for 55+
• Free activities on special occasions: Garden fairy Day, Crafternoon, Lumen, Winterloo
VOICES: ARTISTS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
MODERATOR: AARON FRANCIS
PARTICIPATING ARTISTS: BEHNAZ FATEMI, HEIDI MCKENZIE & JONAH STRUB
27 public figures created a plate on the theme of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Canada

Public response: more than 300 cards were left in the gallery
WHAT’S BEEN HAPPENING SINCE THE PANDEMIC

24,300 visitors in 2022-2023
a 25% increase from pre-Covid (2018-2019)
OTHER STATISTICS FOR 2022-2023

Website: 48,000 visitors
Facebook: 61,657 people reached & 19,403 engagements
YouTube: 14,000 video viewings
130 artists exhibited
- 123 Canadian
- 67 Ontarians
- 27 Region of Waterloo
4625 ART PARTICIPANTS
2431 HOURS OF VOLUNTEERING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUDIENCES</th>
<th>PROGRAMS</th>
<th>NO. OF SESSIONS</th>
<th>NO. OF PARTICIPANTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>ADULTS (paid)</td>
<td>Adult &amp; Teen Workshops</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>369</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private Groups</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>96</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHILDREN (paid)</td>
<td>Art Camp (Summer &amp; March)*</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>141</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1608</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Youth Guild</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>ALL AGES (paid)</td>
<td>Claytime at the Gallery</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>1250</td>
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<td></td>
<td>At Home Kits</td>
<td>153</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gather at the Gallery</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>Community Garden Project</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY</td>
<td>Sharing Experiences</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROGRAMS</td>
<td>Lumen</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Artist Talks</td>
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<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Creative Connections</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gather at the Gallery</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2,431 HOURS OF VOLUNTEERING DONE OVER THE PAST FISCAL YEAR
WHAT OUR VISITORS SAY ABOUT US

• I am so grateful to have stumbled upon this journal and this exhibition. It’s things like these that remind me to slow down and reflect—instead of always feeling the need to do more, be more and achieve more. What a gift art is, and it would be a shame to not take the time to appreciate it. It is so interesting to see and read what others have shared—it gives me hope—you are never alone.

• The last 5 months have been really hard for me. On a whim, I turned to come here on my way to the library. I am happy I found this sketchbook with so many notes and drawings from people of all ages and places in life. I think it’s peaceful and profound. I’m happy I got to experience this. I hope to leave behind a piece of my life in this book, and at least some of the pain, the grief, and sadness weighing on me, when I walk back out these doors. Keep going. I love you.
2023-2024 INCREASES IN PARTICIPATION AND IN VISITORS

• In June 2023 we hosted a Garden Fairies day with more than 540 attendees (registered for the free event on Eventbrite)

• 74% of the participants were from the Waterloo region and 26% were from outside (including a family from Montreal who did the trip specifically to attend)

• 195 attendees to the opening reception of Robotic Clay: New Methods in Architectural Ceramics & Emergence 2023
WHY ARE WE ASKING FOR INCLUSION IN 2024 KCI FUNDING

• To continue this important work, we need more support.
• As a Key Cultural Institution (KCI) we provide critical arts and culture experiences for our community and visitors to the Region.
• To continue to be FREE admission
• To continue to offer low-cost programs that support a wide range of participants
• To broaden our reach and maintain our expanding momentum
• Draw more visitors to the Waterloo Region to experience our culture.
1 in 10 households is accessing an emergency food program

- Food insecurity is on the rise in Waterloo region, with no signs of slowing down.
  - CTV News Kitchener - Food bank use in Waterloo region at an all time high
  - CBC News - Record breaking number of people accessed Waterloo region’s food bank in March

- Our fiscal year (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023) data shows a significant increase in the number of households and individuals accessing local food assistance programs.
The Issue: Overwhelming community need

- We’re seeing the highest need for food assistance in our 39-year history.

- As food assistance becomes the norm for individuals and families in our community we’re expanding our capacity to keep up with community need.

- More financial support will allow us and our agency partners to provide increase wrap around supports for those accessing food assistance.
The Ask: A renewed funding strategy

- Regional government currently supports the The Food Bank network in the amount of $744,000 shared with programs in each city and township.

- Increased funding from our regional government is crucial for sustaining and expanding the efforts of the Community Food Assistance Network in addressing food insecurity in Waterloo region.

- As we continue to serve our community, providing food and support to those in need, regional government can play a role in our success by increasing The Food Bank’s annual funding to $1,682,646.

- The increase is based on $3.736 per visit – established in 2017-18.
The Food Bank of Waterloo Region is committed to providing emergency food assistance and support, ensuring no one goes hungry or faces barriers to accessing food. Working in collaboration with the Community Food Assistance Network—a system of 120+ community programs and agency partners—our goal is to reduce hunger in our region and identify proactive solutions to address poverty and food insecurity.

1 in 10 HOUSEHOLDS in Waterloo region is using an emergency food program

THE NEED
Like other municipalities, food insecurity is rising rapidly in Waterloo region, and there are no signs of it slowing down. In fact, we’re seeing the highest need for food assistance in our 39-year history. It’s become obvious that we’re no longer providing food assistance during tough times but becoming the norm for more and more community members.

Our fiscal year (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023) numbers paint a grim picture of how many of our neighbours can’t afford to put food on the table.

More than 7,500 households accessed a food assistance program for the first time, a 113% increase over the previous fiscal year. The Community Food Assistance Network supported more than 58,000 unique individuals, a 45% increase. Of those we feed, children account for 31%.

Of those accessing food assistance in Waterloo region, more than 3,200 unique households received Ontario Works payments. That’s an 11% increase over the same period in 2021–2022. Similarly, there was a 10% increase for households supported by the Ontario Disability Support Program. Based on the 2022 Cost of Eating Well in Waterloo Region report, one person receiving Ontario Works would need 8 food hampers each month to maintain a healthy and nutritious diet.

This tells us that wages and government support programs aren’t providing enough income for people to afford basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter.

HUNGER IN WATERLOO REGION – Community Food Assistance Network

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023</th>
<th>July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022</th>
<th>% Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total visits</td>
<td>450,387</td>
<td>343,953</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unique households served</td>
<td>24,018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampers distributed</td>
<td>151,684</td>
<td>114,402</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals served</td>
<td>874,213</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(community/shelter/residential)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unique households listed as</td>
<td>1,210</td>
<td>1,027</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>living in social housing</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
We need change. We need leadership. We need policy.

For too long, food banks have filled the gaps that government could not. But with rapidly expanding demand for food assistance, quarter over quarter, things aren’t okay. In our sector, it’s becoming clear that the numbers we’re seeing aren’t sustainable and we can no longer carry on as we have in the past. Now, more than ever, we need change, we need leadership, and we need policies that address poverty and food insecurity.

As a policymaker, you play a big role in shaping the future of poverty and food security in Waterloo region. With a better social security net and financial programs that keep up with the cost of living, community members won’t need to rely on food assistance programs.

The data included in this document clearly shows that more and more people are falling between the cracks, and more financial support will allow us and our partners to provide essential services to our community’s most vulnerable.

You can help by championing our ask and sharing it with your network. Having these important conversations and creating a clear path forward is needed as we work towards a poverty-free future.

**THE ASK**

Food banks are not a solution to food insecurity or poverty. These are complex issues that require strong public policy and support programs that reflect our community and ensure that everyone in Waterloo region has access to basic needs. You can support our work by ensuring The Food Bank and our agency partners have what we need to meet the growing demand for food assistance. The Food Bank is grateful for the $744,030 we receive from our regional government each year—funds that are dispersed between Cambridge Food Bank, House of Friendship, Salvation Army (Kitchener), The Working Centre, Wilmot Family Resource Centre, and Woolwich Community Services. But the reality is that annual funding hasn’t kept pace with the unprecedented need for food assistance or the cost to run these crucial programs.

**Increased funding from our regional government is essential to sustaining the Network’s current response level so we can continue to provide food and support to those in need.**

LET’S CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

Kim Wilhelm
Interim CEO, The Food Bank of Waterloo Region
519.743.5576 extension 335
kimw@thefoodbank.ca
thefoodbank.ca

The chart above represents the number of unique individuals served over the past 10 years.
REGIONAL YOUTH FARES

GEOFF SCHWARZ
### Hamilton
- 12 and under Free
- 13 – 19: $2.25
- 18% monthly pass youth discount

### Toronto (TTC)
- 12 and under Free
- 13 – 19: $2.35
- 18% monthly pass youth discount

### Ottawa
- 12 and under Free
- 13-19: $3.70
- 23% monthly pass youth discount
- Free Presto pass to 13 – 19 for school transport Sept - June

### London
- 12 and under Free
- 13 – 19: $2.25
- 17% monthly pass youth discount
- Student (grade 7 – 12): $1.80
- 35% monthly pass youth discount

### Windsor
- 12 and under Free
- Youth: $2.14 (smart ride 10)
- 32% monthly pass youth discount

### Kingston
- 14 and under Free
- 15 – 24: $3.25
- 25% monthly pass youth discount

### Grand River Transit
- 4 and under Free
- 5 and up: $3.75
- 0% monthly pass discount for children and youth
- College Students - $76.50 a month (17%)
- University Students - $28.33 a month (69%)

### Other Transit Systems with Youth Fares and Children Free
- Sarnia, Barrie, Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Victoria, Montreal
October 18, 2023

Region of Waterloo Council
150 Frederick Street,
Kitchener, ON
N2G 4J3

RE: Support for Conestoga College U-Pass

Dear Regional Council,

On behalf of Conestoga Students Inc. (CSI), the official student association of Conestoga College representing over 30,000 students in the Waterloo Region, I would like to express our support for the expansion of the U-Pass to Conestoga College and associated service improvements to be included in the 2024 Regional Budget.

For over a year, CSI, Conestoga, and the staff at Grand River Transit and the Region have worked collaboratively to make public transit more affordable and equitable for Conestoga students by expanding the U-Pass program to Conestoga and enhancing service to cover all Conestoga campuses in the Waterloo Region. This pass not only benefits Conestoga students by providing more affordable transit, but the proposed service changes will also improve the ridership experience for the entire Waterloo Region community.

Additionally, the U-Pass program aligns with GRT and the Region’s focus on climate action, equity, and partnerships. A U-Pass will help to influence, change, and establish long-term ridership within the Region, reducing the reliance on personal vehicles, decreasing our community’s greenhouse gas emissions and ultimately contributing to an overall greener and healthier community.

Overall, expanding the U-Pass program to Conestoga College is a positive change for the Region, Conestoga, and the broader community by providing more affordable transit for Conestoga students, improving service offerings for the entire community, and helping the Region meet its climate goals.

Thank you for allowing CSI to provide our input and support for the expansion of the U-Pass program and associated service improvements in the 2024 Regional Budget.

Sincerely,

Nelson Chukwuma
President

Nelson Chukwuma
Conestoga Students Incorporated (CSI)
Room 2A106
299 Doon Valley Drive
Kitchener, ON
N2G 4M4