



2019 Annual Report

The WRSA is proud of their efforts this year to have once again played an important role in our community, providing outreach, community involvement, important commentary and insights into architectural issues facing our community. We have once again, been successful, in maintaining and expanding on our three primary mandates of outreach, activism and awareness.

Our activism this year continued to focus primarily on the new Mega Hospital being planned for our region and specifically the site selection process. Through the last number of years our Society has: developed a sub-committee to specifically study the process and site in order to provide opinion to the municipality and provincial government, prepared a detailed report forwarded to various levels of the provincial and municipal governments, and formed a registered delegation at our Municipal Council meeting presenting its findings, answering questions and provided a strong opinion against locating the Mega Hospital in a rural, greenfield farm land site. Our Society, along with the OAA, continued this year to provide support and commentary to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) Hearing. Although the ruling by the Tribunal was not the decision we were looking for our Society continues to promote a downtown, urban site and will continue to collaborate with our local community partners and municipal government to provide the best possible solution in an effort to protect the public safety.

Community awareness this year was highlighted by several key initiatives, the largest and most recognizable was our support of the Windsor International Film Festival (WIFF); now officially Canada's largest volunteer-run film festival. Our society directly supported four films related to architecture and planning and were proud to be the "Official Downtown Windsor Champion" once again supporting the WIFF's permanent office and downtown screening venues. Other notable events included our Society's financial support and public endorsement of the Our Lady of Assumption Church Restoration Project. This building is significant piece of Windsor's cultural and architectural heritage which opened in 1845 and is the oldest parish in Canada, west of Montreal.

Our outreach this year focused mainly on our membership and its direction connection to the community. We inaugurated our first ever "WRSA Recognition Awards" program intended to honour individuals i.e. architects, owners, allied professionals, community members and or students that have made a valuable or significant architectural / cultural contribution to the local community. We presented three awards this year in the categories of "Design Excellence" for a Built Project, "Professional Recognition" to a prominent retired or deceased local member and "Cultural Recognition" to a member of the public that has made significant contributions to architecture. We intend on making this a bi-yearly event.

WRSA was very proud to culminate our year with a local presentation of the "RISE for Architecture" initiative supporting the creation of a National Architecture Policy. This was the first presentation and workshop undertaken with non-architect participants in Canada. Past OAA Presidents John Stephenson and Toon Dreeseen travelled to Windsor and led the session with a wide variety of non-architect attendees including: City Councillors, School Board Trustees, Community Housing Officials, School Board Administration, City Planning and Building Department Officials, our Member of Parliament (MP) and local Architects; we felt it was an extremely beneficial and important event.

Settimo Vilardi, M.Arch, OAA, MRAIC, LEED AP BD + C, Architect
Chair, Windsor Region Society of Architects