



**PILLAR COMMUNITY
IMPACT PROGRAM**



2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT

THE PILLAR COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

THE PROJECTS

1

Developed a youth volunteer engagement strategy
with STEAM Education Centre

2

Provided leadership training for youth
with The Chippewas of the Thames Youth Ambassador Project

3

Enhanced public policy initiatives to better align with the needs
of the arts community and the priorities of the City of London.
with Forest City Gallery



STEAM EDUCATION CENTRE

STEAM Education Centre educates, equips and empowers learners to imagine and create the future through play, ingenuity, and innovation, using science, technology, engineering, art/design, and math (STEAM).

Pillar helped STEAM Education Centre developed a full volunteer recruitment, engagement and retention strategy that aligned with the needs and goals of youth.

CHIPPEWAS OF THE THAMES YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROJECT

The Chippewas of the Thames Youth Ambassador Project is a grassroots organization that provides youth with the skills to organize, plan, and participate in youth-led activities to gain knowledge about their Anishinabek history and culture. In turn, these youth ambassadors teach younger generations.

Pillar developed a youth coaching series to ready youth ambassadors to take on a leadership role, fostering their ability to effectively mentor, teach and collaborate with the younger generation.

WHAT'S NEXT?

STEAM Education Centre began volunteer recruitment in September 2024.

The Chippewas of the Thames Youth Ambassadors will use their new and refined leadership skills as they prepare to go to New Zealand in the summer of 2025.

FOREST CITY GALLERY

Forest City Gallery is the only artist-run centre in London and Middlesex County.

Founded in 1973, Forest City Gallery is a vibrant space for artistic expression. Forest City Gallery supports emerging and mid-career artists seeking support, mentorship, and a platform to showcase their work.

What We Did:

We matched Forest City Gallery's public policy priorities with the goals and priorities of the City of London.

How the Pillar Community Impact Program Helped:

The program helped to focus their approach to advocate for policies that support local arts infrastructure, funding, and accessibility.

The Results:

Forest City Gallery has gotten more involved with arts public policy at the local and grassroots level and is becoming a leader in arts advocacy in London.



“

Pillar [was] incredibly helpful [with providing an] organizational assessment of where our mission and the City of London aligned. The ability to have informal but highly personable one-on-one conversations with folks like Mariam, Paul, Luis and Maureen bolstered our organization's understanding of how non-profits can indeed advocate for themselves and their communities. Pillar gave us the vocabulary and the encouragement to speak up for our community members' concerns. This was, without a doubt, integral to our organizations renewed focus on local and grassroots advocacy work in the arts sector.”

~ The Forest City Gallery Team



WHAT'S NEXT?

The Pillar Community Impact Program ran for two years, providing 7 small nonprofits and grassroots organizations with highly customized capacity-building support.

In 2025, we are shifting from a one-to-one to a one-to-many approach, allowing us to reach more nonprofit organizations and be better equipped to meet the changing needs of the nonprofit sector.

In October, Pillar Nonprofit Network launched the Pillar Impact & Learning Centre, formerly known as our Learning & Development program.

THE PILLAR IMPACT & LEARNING CENTRE



The program integrates professional development workshops and events, consulting and coaching for the nonprofit sector, social enterprise and social finance under one program. The Centre is designed to make it easier for organizations to access what they need, when they need it.

For more information, visit pillarnonprofit.ca/education.

The picture on the left shows our dedicated Office Hours space!

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INVOLVED

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