

Press Release



The West Island Art Studio Circuit (WIASC) will present two free Open Studio Days in mid-August, at artists' studios across the West Island!

MONTREAL, Feb. 15, 2026 – Following its successful and vibrant debut season, the West Island Art Studio Circuit (WIASC) will return this summer with two free Open Studio Days to explore the world of the visual arts. The weekend of Aug. 15-16, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, this celebration of creativity and community will showcase the incredible artistic talent within this sector of Montréal Island.

“Representing a third of the Island of Montreal, the West Island often gets overlooked in terms of visual arts events,” said Sandra Woods, WIASC Founder, Disabled artist and Veteran. “The West Island Art Studio Circuit aims to introduce not only the artists of this area, but also its network of cycling paths and new REM stations, to the rest of our Island. Come out and enjoy a summer day – or two – in mid-August and discover the exceptional creativity of our artists as well as some charming locales.”

The new light rail system (REM) – with its universally accessible stations and connections to the métro – now makes it easy to get to the West Island from downtown and the entire Greater Montreal Area. With bicycles welcome on REM cars this summer, we’re encouraging visitors to use active transportation to travel between participating art studios by offering a suggested “WIASC Cycling Circuit”.

The WIASC Mission Statement notes that: “Exhibitions, museums, and other visual arts venues present artists’ finished works, not the messy and often chaotic stages of the creative process that underpin each piece. We want to pull back the curtains to share these behind-the-scenes aspects of the visual arts... Opening our studios across the West Island to the public during a weekend will create the kinds of one-on-one and small group conversations that foster true and lasting connections between artists and the community in which we create.”

Whether visitors pedal, roll or walk to the studios closest to them, or complete the entire circuit, this unique two-day event is an opportunity to explore local arts in an active and innovative way. This year the West Island Art Studio Circuit will feature four new and eight returning artists, with studios in Beaconsfield, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Ile-Bizard – Ste-Geneviève, Kirkland, Pierrefonds – Roxboro and Pointe-Claire.

“We listened to visitors who came out for the inaugural edition of the WIASC, who pushed for this event to be extended across an entire weekend, so they’d have more time to spend at each participating studio. This year we’re proud to offer a two-day art studio circuit, while maintaining the community spirit of this free event.” Woods added.



WIASC artist Peter W. Hart at work

Meet Montréal area artists in their creative spaces to find out how they set up their studios, what inspires them, and why they’re so driven to create the “ART at the heART” of our island community. Open your mind to the visual arts, and your heart to discoveries, during this free weekend event in mid-August!

About the West Island Art Studio Circuit (WIASC)

The West Island Art Studio Circuit (WIASC) was founded in 2024 as an ad hoc “Visual Arts Group”, defined by the [Canada Council for the Arts](#) as: “independent professional artists in the visual arts... each with a professional practice and who come together for one-time or occasional projects.”

For more information about the WIASC’s 2026 Open Studio Day, visit www.wiasc.ca.

SOURCE West Island Art Studio Circuit

Media inquiries: Sandra Woods, Founder, West Island Art Studio Circuit, info@wiasc.ca.