

Mary Calarco  
Southwestern Regional Coordinator

November 3, 2009

Dear Southwestern Member of the Ontario Crafts Council,

Ontario Crafts Council

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I am thrilled to introduce myself as your new Regional Coordinator! As an artist who was raised in Kitchener and educated in Toronto, I have called Guelph home for the last 6 years and am eager to bring some new programming directly to you. I will be expanding your services, improving communications and strengthening our partnerships with other creative communities outside of the GTA. Southwestern Ontario is quite an expansive area, but it's filled with innovative thinkers and makers and I'm looking forward to developing new opportunities for craftspeople in this part of the province.

While I will be doing a fair bit of travel, I also plan to take advantage of the web in order to connect with as many members as possible. OCC updates can be accessed any time by visiting our regional page at [www.craft.on.ca/OCC\\_News/Southwest\\_Update](http://www.craft.on.ca/OCC_News/Southwest_Update). I urge all members to subscribe to **Craftfl@sh**, our monthly e-newsletter, which provides members with free updates on the latest professional development opportunities. If you do not yet have an email address, I would be more than happy to personally walk you through the set up process. There are a number of free account services that are invaluable communication tools. For those of you that are already online, please feel free to follow my informal updates on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/OCC\\_SouthWest](http://www.twitter.com/OCC_SouthWest).

**We are currently seeking nominations for the new OCC Southwestern Regional Committee.**

The members of this committee will act as representatives for both the craft community and the OCC. Together we will plan programming, organize events, enlist enthusiastic volunteers and bring new initiatives to the forefront. Each member of the committee will serve a two year term, meeting in person once annually and once each month via conference call. To nominate yourself or another member, please email me two brief paragraphs outlining your motivations for participating along with your professional strengths and experience. The nomination deadline is January 4, 2010.

Plans are also underway for our juried travelling exhibition *Masterworks Southwest*. This show will visit five gallery locations between April and November, 2010, featuring the best contemporary craft this region has to offer. Each venue will host additional programming features such as artist talks, opening receptions and demonstrations. Stay tuned for the call for entry!

If you have any ideas to share, I would love to hear from you. Please contact me anytime at [mcalarco@craft.on.ca](mailto:mcalarco@craft.on.ca) or by calling 519-841-6481.

Warm regards,  
Mary Calarco

Ontario Crafts Council

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Supporting craft and advocating for craftspeople for over thirty years