



OTTAWA **ARTS**
COUNCIL | CONSEIL DES
ARTS D'OTTAWA

Annual
Report

2024

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Message from the Executive Director

Ottawa Arts Council acknowledges that our work takes place on the traditional, unceded, and unsundered territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg people. This land has been a gathering place for storytelling, creativity, and cultural exchange for thousands of years.

Our commitment to reconciliation is both internal and external. It requires humility, accountability, and sustained action. We continue to deepen our understanding of the responsibilities that come with working on this land and to honour the knowledge, traditions, and practices of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg and all Indigenous peoples who have contributed to the cultural fabric of this region.

For over four decades, Ottawa Arts Council has stood as a champion of the local arts sector, supporting artists, nurturing creative talent, and advocating for the role of the arts in civic life. Since our founding in 1982, we have proudly stewarded funding programs, celebrated artistic excellence through our annual awards, and built relationships across communities to ensure the arts remain vital to Ottawa's future.

In 2024, we entered a bold new chapter. With the support and guidance of our community, we successfully merged with Arts Network Ottawa to form a stronger, unified organization. One that reflects our shared values and vision for the future. This transformation was not just structural, it was community-driven. Over 250 artists, cultural workers, and partners contributed to conversations that shaped our new direction. Their voices are at the heart of everything we do.

As we reflect on the final year of Ottawa Arts Council as an independent organization, we celebrate decades of championing the local arts community. With gratitude, we acknowledge the artists, cultural leaders, funders, former and current staff, and community partners who have contributed to our impact.

The legacy of Ottawa Arts Council will continue through Arts Ottawa, ensuring a strong and unified voice for the arts in our city.



Nicole Milne
Executive Director

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Message from the President

It has been an absolute honor for me to serve as President of Ottawa Arts Council (OAC) this past year. As we approach the conclusion of the OAC's 40-year legacy of supporting Ottawa-area artists, it's undoubtedly bittersweet to acknowledge that we are at the end of an era. But while we reflect on our incredible journey, the future ahead is filled with boundless opportunities. We stand on the brink of a new and exciting chapter.

Over the past two years, Ottawa Arts Council and Arts Network Ottawa (ANO) have worked tirelessly to merge into one unified entity, Arts Ottawa. This process was no small feat, and I want to extend my deepest gratitude to both of our Executive Directors — Nicole Milne (OAC) and Cassandra Olsthoorn (ANO) — for their unwavering dedication, creativity, and outstanding leadership in managing this monumental transition.

Throughout this time, the arts community and its stakeholders were invited to engage in extensive consultations. We were thrilled to see such a tremendous response, with so many of you actively participating and contributing your invaluable insights. We could not have reached this point without your support and involvement, and I want to express my sincere thanks to everyone who rolled up their sleeves to help us achieve this collective goal.

But this merger is so much more than simply combining two organizations. Arts Ottawa is redefining what a not-for-profit can be. Through an innovative approach, we will amplify creativity, build connections and drive collective action to create a thriving, inclusive cultural landscape.

We are deeply grateful to our funders — notably the City of Ottawa, the Ontario Arts Council and the Ottawa Community Foundation — whose trust and confidence in us helped shape this visionary organizational framework. We also thank each of you for engaging in this innovative process and for helping us bring Ottawa Arts Council to its final days in a blaze of glory!



Anne-Marie Brugger
President, Ottawa Arts Council

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne-Marie Brugger".

Who We Are



OTTAWA **ARTS**
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Ottawa Arts Council was established in 1982 to advocate for the arts, connect artists across disciplines, support skills development, produce festivals, and champion the creation of a municipal arts centre in the city's core. By 1988, the Council partnered with the City and other arts organizations to help transform the former courthouse at 2 Daly Ave into Arts Court, a key cultural facility.

Facing financial challenges in the 1990s, the Council shifted its focus from programming to becoming a dedicated arts service organization. It began directing more financial resources into the community, including the creation of \$70,000 in endowment funds. The Council also played a key role in advocating against proposed arts funding cuts under Premier Harris, while continuing to work with the City and the Arts Court Portfolio Manager to improve Arts Court's spaces.

From 2000 to 2010, the Council strengthened its role in arts resource development, leading advocacy efforts against proposed municipal arts cuts of up to 80%. Through awareness campaigns and participation in the Municipal Investment Strategy, the Council helped secure an additional \$2.5 million in City arts funding.

By 2015, the Council had expanded its capacity and program offerings, introducing awards like the RBC Emerging Artist Award, the Young Artist Award, and the Project X Photography Fund Award to support local talent. It also joined the Steering Committee for the \$40 million Ottawa Art Gallery Expansion and Arts Court Redevelopment Project and helped lead the Mayor's Gala for the Arts, which raised \$75,000 for the initiative.

Soon after, the Council helped found the Ottawa Cultural Alliance, delivering new community resources, including support for Ottawa 2017 programming, research into an arms-length cultural funding model, and the creation of a Cultural Roadmap to guide the City's future planning.

In 2019, new executive leadership ushered in a strategic focus on equity, diversity, inclusion, and diversified revenue. Despite the global health crisis, the Council expanded its reach, launched a microgrant program, and grew its membership and engagement activities. After years of community-focused consultation, this work led to a successful merger with Arts Network Ottawa—resulting in the co-creation of a stronger, united organization: Arts Ottawa.

Who We Are

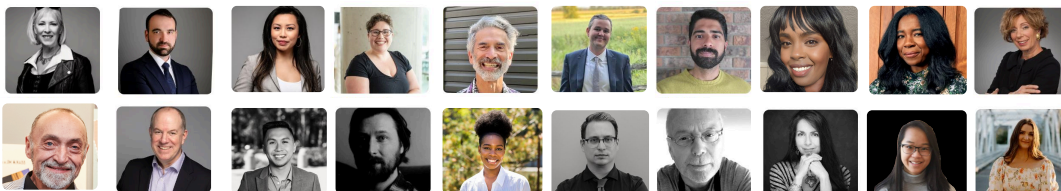
Meet the Team

Nicole Milne (Executive Director),
Joni Hamlin (Communications and
Development Manager),
Axandre Lemours (Administrative
and Communications Assistant),
Vern Martin-Ivie (Administrative
Assistant)



Photo by Eric Reid

Meet the Board



Anne-Marie Brugger (President), Dominic Brisson (Vice-President), Jamie Kwong (Past President), Anona Kosmack (Co-Secretary), Jeff Richstone (Co-Secretary), Josh Schram (Co-Treasurer), Chi Gehani (Co-Treasurer)

DIRECTORS:

Waris Dualeh, Jeanelle Dundas, Isabel Metcalfe, Bill Staubi, Rob Henderson, John Hong, Chris Johnson, Lily Akagbuosu, Daniel Pujdak, Murray Dineen, Claudia Salguero, Isabelle Tooker, Alyssa English

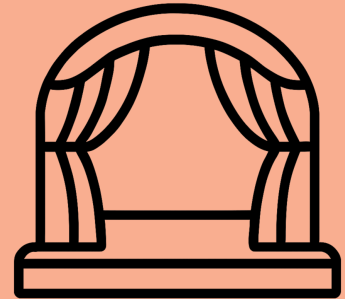
Our Impact

48

Public events held
over the year

16,000+

Attendees to events
held or partnered by the
Ottawa Arts Council



\$44,840

Allocated to Artists
through programming

140

Artists participating
in our programs

144 Community Members



Thank you to our members for being such a vital part of Ottawa's creative landscape. Your presence, participation, and passion strengthen the arts in our city and make this community what it is. Whether you've been with us for years or have just joined, we're so grateful to be connected through our shared commitment to the arts.

Your involvement helps shape meaningful programs, foster collaboration, and amplify the voices that need to be heard. Together, we're building something bigger—an arts community that's more vibrant, inclusive, and connected than ever.

Our Members

Individual Members - 114

Organization Members - 20

Supporters – Individual - 13

Supporters – Organization - 1

Allison Burns, Alyssa English, Andrew Milne, Angelina Barrucco, Angelique Francis, Anne-Marie Brugger, Annette Hegel, Anona Kosmack, ARC Poetry Society, Arts Network Ottawa | Réseau des arts d'Ottawa, Ashley Andrews, Association des auteures et auteurs de l'Ontario français (AAOF), Axandre Lemours, Azar Zarebi, Baharak Farokh, Bill Staubi, Burning Passions Theatre, Cairn Cunnane, Carmina Mari Miana, Carol Howard Donati, Catherine Bélanger, Catherine Mensour, Catherine Mensour (The Mensour Agency), Catherine Proctor, Cecilia Chan, Chantal Gervais, Chinthaka Fernando, Chirag Gehani, Claudia Salguero, Conor DeVries, Dancia Susilo, David Whiteley, Dawn Xavier-Franklin, Deborah Margo, Digi60 Filmmakers' Festival, Dillon Orr, Dion Prints, Dominic Brisson, Dominic Laporte, Edgar Hernandez, Empress Nyiringango, Erin Galt, Faten Trabelsi Trabelsi, Finet Laurence, Félicité Wilu Wilu Mvioki Makaba, Gaby El Ashkar, Garrett Barr, Geraldine Taylor, Gilda Diaz, Glenn McInnes, Guido Alonso Correa Murillo, Heritage Ottawa, Heritier Bilaka, Horseshoes & Hand Grenades Theatre, Ian MacKay, Ikhda Degoul, In Our Tongues, Isabel Metcalfe, Isabelle Tooker, Iyore Edegbe, James W Cook, Jennifer Kelly, Jen Lynn Bailey, Jesse Stewart, Jessica Hartung, Joe Khalil, Johanna Mizgala, John Healey, John Koensgen, Jojo Cadieux, Jovita Akahome, Joshua Schram, Julia Johnston, Julie Hodgson, Juliana McDonald, Julea Hope Boswell, Karen Bailey, Kate Keating, Kathryn Sauve, Kayla Calder, Kelly Ann Beaton, Khaleefa Hamdan, Kimberley Dawkins, Kimberly Will, Kirk Shannon, Kristen Berkeley, Kristina Watt Villegas, Kristin Fardy, Krystyna Sadej, Lenore Gale, Lewis Auerbach, Ludmylla Mar Dos Reis, Majid Khodabandehloo, Mario Cerroni, Marilyn Smith, Mary Ann Varley, Maya Basudde, Mela Constantinidi, Melanie Brulée, Michel Carriere, Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Naïm Ghawi, Nicole Blundell, Nicole Milne, Niki Economo, Osman Romero, Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa Gatineau Printmakers Connective, Ottawa Jazz Festival, Ottawa School of Art, Patricia Kenny, Pauline Ducharme, Peter Honeywell, Philip Ross, Propeller Dance, Rachel Beausoleil, Rebecca Clouâtre, Rebecca Rama, Rémi Thériault, Richard Lee, Robert Cram, Robert Henderson, Rosemary Chapman, Ruth Steinberg, Samantha Leitch, Sandra Gregson, Sara Prisma, Sarah Farmer, Shalyn Isaacs, Sharon McDonell, Sue Daugherty, Sunday Riot Club, Susan Annis, Susan Roston, Sylvie Renaud, Terry Stevens, Théâtre Action, Tyler Nykilchyk, Velvet Wells, Vern Martin-Ivie, Victoria Steele, Voices Dance Project, Vox Théâtre, Waris Dualeh.

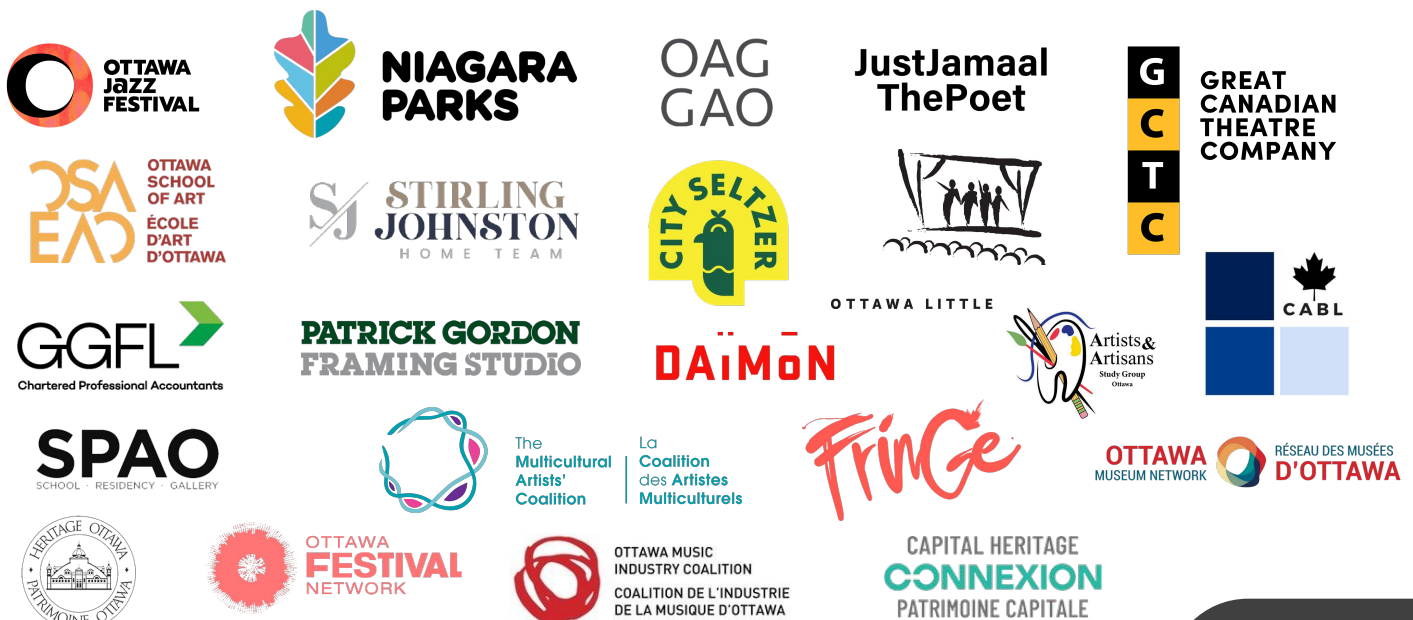
Our Community Partners and Collaborators

Ottawa's arts and culture scene is shaped by the people, artists, collectives, and organizations who continue to make this city vibrant. We're proud to collaborate with a range of partners—longtime allies and new connections alike—who help bring meaningful opportunities to the community.

These partnerships allow us to extend our reach beyond our membership and connect with the wider arts sector. In the past year, they've played a key role in offering accessible professional development and community-building experiences.

Together, we supported exhibitions like *Echoes From This Land*, Asha Higginson's *Mycelium*, and Olivia Johnston's *Saints and Madonnas* (recipient of the Project X Award) at the Ottawa Art Gallery. We also partnered to deliver MAC-CAM's robust slate of programs, including workshops on grant writing, budgeting, marketing, taxes, and legal resources, alongside seasonal showcases and exhibitions for local artists.

We're also proud members of the Ottawa Cultural Alliance—a partnership between Ottawa Festival Network, Arts Network Ottawa, OMIC, Heritage Ottawa, Capital Heritage Connexions, and the Ottawa Museum Network—working together to strengthen and advocate for the cultural sector at large. With each collaboration, we continue to build stronger connections across the arts ecosystem—opening more space for learning, celebration, and creative exchange.



Arts Awards

Since 1988, Ottawa Arts Council has awarded more than \$425,000 in prize funds and in-kind professional development opportunities to exceptional artists and to those who have shown outstanding commitment to the arts in the Ottawa community.

On Tuesday, May 21st, Ottawa Arts Council celebrated the recipients of its highly anticipated annual Arts Awards during a vibrant in-person event at the Ottawa Little Theatre. A total of \$25,850 in cash prizes was awarded to outstanding artists and cultural contributors across the city.

These awards reflect the Council's ongoing commitment to celebrating artistic excellence and fostering creativity, innovation, and inclusion in Ottawa's vibrant arts scene.



"Arts Awards play an important part in recognizing artists and creating public awareness of valuable creative work being done in the community. Such Awards can motivate those who labour in the shadows, always show up, who make the "big splash" possible for others and without whom Ottawa's creative landscape would be less vibrant and sustainable."

**-Bill Staubi,
Victor Tolgesy Award**

"As a young emerging artist currently studying STEM in university, having this mentorship has helped me continue to push myself to explore new ideas in the arts and to maintain my artistic practice."

**-Tyler Nykilchyk,
Young Artist Award**

Arts Awards Recipients

Awards included the Victor Tolgesy Award for enriching Ottawa's cultural life; the Peter Honeywell Mid-Career Artist Award for accomplished professionals; the Emerging IBPOC Artist Award for early-career Indigenous, Black, and Persons of Colour artists; the Project X Photography Award for public photographic excellence; and the Community Arts Educator Award for inspiring arts education. Two project-based prizes were also granted: the Corel Endowment for the Arts Award, supporting innovative work across disciplines, and the Young Artist Award, a mentorship prize for emerging artists aged 14 to 21.



Victor Tolgesy Award

Winner: Bill Staubi

Peter Honeywell Mid-Career Artist Award

Winner: Angelique Francis (music)

Finalist: Dominic Laporte (visual arts)

Finalist: Nicole Blundell (film)

Emerging IBPOC Artist Award

Winner: Empress Nyiringango (music)

Finalist: Ludmylla Reis (music)

Finalist: MayaSpoken (spoken word)

Project X, Photography Award

Winner: Olivia Johnston (photography)

Finalist: Chantal Gervais (photography)

Finalist: Ruth Steinberg (photography)

Community Arts Educator Award

Winner: Shara Weaver (dance)

Corel Endowment for the Arts Award

Winner: Spectral Weavers

(multi-disciplinary visual artists and urban gardeners)

Young Artist Award

Winner: Tyler Nykilchyk (interdisciplinary arts)

LUCK! The Bill Staubi Collection



LUCK! 2024 was a milestone event – the final edition under the Ottawa Arts Council name and the first to feature an entire collection from a single donor, Bill Staubi. This year, LUCK! was presented in two phases. In October our fundraiser began with Bid for a Cause, an online silent auction featuring artwork from Bill Staubi's collection, contributions from Portfolio_83, and exciting experiences up for grabs such as bronze passes to the Ottawa Jazz Festival.

On December 5th, 60 lots from 52 artists, all from Bill's private collection, were showcased for our in-person LUCK! Art Draw held at Arts Court. Bill has been a passionate supporter of the arts since 1978, collecting, promoting, mentoring, and ensuring artists' work is recognized and preserved. His generosity has significantly impacted the Ottawa arts community.

Adding an online silent auction component to LUCK! helped us raise more than \$22,000 in gross revenue this year. Funds were designated to support the first transitional year of Arts Ottawa.



Photos by Maryn Devine

ActivArt Micro-Grant

Ottawa Arts Council introduced the ActivArt Micro-Grants in 2023 as a pilot initiative to provide direct financial support to local artists. This program was developed in response to community feedback, aiming to assist artists in sustaining their creative practices and fostering community engagement through arts-based projects. In its inaugural year, the program received over 200 applications, with ten recipients selected for funding. The grants were divided into two streams: the ActivArt Artist Grant, offering \$500 for individual artistic endeavors, and the ActivArt Neighbourhood Grant, providing \$1,000 for community-focused projects.

Since its inception, the ActivArt Micro-Grants has continued to support artists across various disciplines, emphasizing equity and inclusion. The ActivArt program has dispersed \$11,000 to artists, funded through community fundraising and donations. The program prioritizes projects led by Indigenous, Black, and other equity-deserving groups, including racialized individuals, persons with disabilities, and members of the 2SLGBTQ+ communities. By offering these microgrants, Ottawa Arts Council reinforced its commitment to nurturing a vibrant and inclusive arts community in the region.

”

"As an artist who moved to Canada from Korea several years ago, I struggled to find where to start. ActivArt gave me the opportunity to connect with people through my work and encouraged me to continue my artistic practice. It was a meaningful step in building my creative community here."

-HyeMin Park



"As an emerging, queer artist opportunities for funding like the ActivArt Microgrant make a huge difference in my ability to expand my artistic career without the burden of stressful expenses like travel. Having the opportunity to showcase Ottawa art on the international stage was incredible and could not have been done without this award! "

-Sarah Ivanco

ActivArt Recipients

► Neighbourhood Stream

Thee Market - Community Space

HyeMin Park - Visual Art - Interactive Art Project

Shahana Walibhai-Campbell - Visual Art - Community Sketchbook

subDevision - Interdisciplinary Art - Site-Specific

► Artist Stream

Sara Prisma - Visual Art - Outdoor Street Art

Amen Jafri - Film - Experimental Short

Sarah-Mecca Abdourahman - Sculpture - Plaster Casting

Sarah Ivanco - Theatre - Queer Dance Theatre

► Share Your Piece Micro-Grant

Bao Vuong (Martin) - Visual Art - Historical Oil Paintings



Through the ActivArt Micro-Grant program, the Council has distributed \$11,000 into the community -

\$5,000 to 10 artists and collectives in its inaugural year, and \$6,000 to 20 artists and collectives for this year's iteration.

Mandala Project



Launched in 2022, the Mandala Project is a community engagement initiative led by Ottawa Arts Council and developed by and for the Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour (IBPOC) artistic community.

It began with two community consultation sessions facilitated by Zainab Muse and Curtis Gero, where ten IBPOC artists provided candid insights into systemic barriers within Ottawa's cultural funding structures.

These conversations, supported by trauma-informed practices including on-call therapy, laid the foundation for an advocacy plan focused on equity in grant language, assessment processes, and funding flexibility. The first year prioritized trust-building over programming, deferring performance showcases to invest in relationships and to ensure that next steps reflected community priorities rather than token gestures. The second year produced a showcase of 12 local artists and artisans, welcoming 127 pay-what-you-can audience members to raise the platform of these artists in our community.

In 2024, we partnered with MAC-CAM to support the delivery of their professional development and exhibition series. Workshops focused on grant writing, legal issues, marketing and budgeting, in addition to multiple exhibition opportunities throughout the year. Close to 500 artists participated in programming designed by MAC-CAM in partnership with the Council.

To date, the Mandala Project has engaged more than 600 participants through consultations, workshops, and public events, while forging strategic partnerships with organizations like MAC-CAM and CultureBrew.Art. With over \$60,000 invested in artist fees, facilitation, accessibility, and community engagement (supported in part by a grant from the Ottawa Community Foundation), the project has catalyzed important cultural conversations and institutional change.



MAC-CAM Workshops
through the Mandala Project

Advocacy Work

REPRESENTING THE ARTS AT CITY HALL

We met and/or corresponded with every City Councillor on key arts sector priorities, including increasing the Cultural Funding Envelope and prioritizing a new Municipal Culture Plan. We also tracked and informed our community on key developments and projects. With Arts Network Ottawa, we brought a delegation to the Community Services Committee to speak on the communities' budget priorities

After five years of advocacy by Arts Network Ottawa, the Ottawa Arts Council and members of the Ottawa Cultural Alliance, City of Ottawa staff released an Implementation Status Report for the RENEWED ACTION PLAN FOR ARTS, HERITAGE, AND CULTURE (2013-2018) at the April 23 meeting of the Community Services Committee. The report, dated February 2019, offers insight into the accomplishments and outstanding items of the Renewed Action Plan.

ALLIANCE OF ARTS COUNCILS OF ONTARIO

We were proud to serve as former co-chair and board member on the AACO, connecting and listening to members, and coordinating the October 28 ASO Symposium: Pathways to Growth.



JOINING THE CITY OF OTTAWA'S NIGHTLIFE COUNCIL



Arts Ottawa was appointed to the City of Ottawa's 18-member Nightlife Council—one of six local organizations representing the city's nightlife economy. This marked an early step toward the work that would continue through our newly merged organization, Arts Ottawa, in 2025. Through the Council, we contributed to shaping Ottawa's nightlife culture, safety, and policy development.

Transforming Together:

Systemic Change for Community Benefit

In October 2023, Arts Network Ottawa and the Ottawa Arts Council announced the merger. Since Fall 2023, we collaborated with the community to gather insights and understand what changes were needed. We developed an initial organizational model prototype and, as we tested it, we continued to engage stakeholders, incorporate feedback, and adapt our approach.

**FORMING A NEW,
UNIFIED
ORGANIZATION
DEDICATED TO
ADVANCING THE
ARTS IN OTTAWA**

MERGER TIMELINE



A case was published about our merger design process that can be found on our website.



We commissioned artist Melanie Yugo to create a piece that captured the spirit of this transition.

After participating in our Community Co-Creation Weekend, she created Nurture Future—a reflection of the grassroots approach, community voices, and shared hopes for a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive arts sector.

Melanie also generously donated a portion of her artist fee and honorarium to the Ottawa Arts Council ActivArt Micro-Grant. We're grateful for her creativity and generosity.



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ARTS RÉSEAU
NETWORK DES ARTS
OTTAWA D'OTTAWA

Merger Events

CO-CREATION WEEKEND



Led by Evoke 2.0 consulting, participants worked together to identify priorities and essential categories for the new organizational model. These included: Purpose, Values, Guiding Principles, Rules and Norms (Protocols), Decision-Making, Governance, and Community Priorities.

We analyzed the results of the Community Survey and distilled key takeaways from Community Conversations. These sessions built on these findings, ensuring they will serve as the cornerstone for the creation of a new arts organization. Participants delved into the critical aspects of the priorities identified. This work will contribute to robust decision-making and governance structure that aligns with community priorities and will help inform the foundation of what the new organization will build toward.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS



Arts Network Ottawa and the Ottawa Arts Council embarked on a series of learning and engagement opportunities where the arts sector and community were invited to engage in crucial conversations.

The presentations shared insights, explored innovative ideas, transformative strategies, and visionary perspectives to spark your thinking and our collective work in the arts. Presentations were followed by a facilitated workshop led by Evoke and Associates.



NAVIGATING THE FUTURE OF ARTISTIC HUMAN RESOURCES

Strategies for dealing with post-pandemic challenges in the workplace.

With Grégoire Gagnon, Marie-Christine Morin and Frédéric Julien

HIGHLIGHTING ARTISTS' VOICES

Highlighting the vital role of artists in the merger between the Ottawa Arts Network and the Ottawa Arts Council.

With Anik Bouvrette and Benoit Roy



ARTS LEADERS' BREAKFAST



The Ottawa Arts Council and Arts Network Ottawa hosted an Arts Leaders' Breakfast on June 5th at the Ottawa Art Gallery, to present the prototype organizational model for the new arts service organization. We facilitated discussions on how, as a sector, we can work more collaboratively to advance our collective goals.

Held at the OAG



Photos by Quest



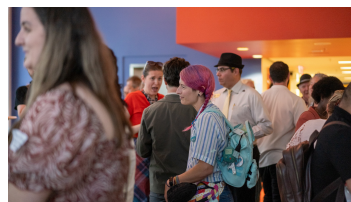
Draft Organizational Model

MERGED AGMS



The Ottawa Arts Council and Arts Network Ottawa joined forces for our Annual General Meetings on June 26th at GCTC. We shared our merger milestones with our members, along with the unveiling of our innovative organizational model for our new Arts Service Organization. Members voted on the mechanisms to officially join the two organizations in 2025.

AGM Held at GCTC



Photos by Quest



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA

Funded by the
Government of Canada's
Community Services Recovery Fund

Canada

Ottawa



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada

CAPACOA
CANADIAN ARTS PRESENTING ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES ORGANISMES ARTISTIQUES



OTTAWA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Thank You

To Our Funders

The continued commitment of our funders is essential to the growth and resilience of Ottawa's arts community. Their support empowers local artists, nurtures inclusive spaces for creativity, and keeps the arts thriving and within reach for all. These contributions make it possible to bring powerful projects to life, uplift underrepresented voices, and build a more dynamic, connected cultural scene across the region.



To Our Donors

Donor support is the driving force behind the work we do, empowering the artists, spaces, and stories that define Ottawa's vibrant creative community. Whether large or small, every donation strengthens the ability to nurture the people behind the art and create more opportunities for connection, expression, and meaningful impact. Thank you for believing in this mission and for being a vital part of this ever-growing community.

Jovita Akahome
Lewis Auerbach
Karen Bailey
Angelina Barrucco
Kelly Ann Beaton
Catherine Bélanger
Loretto Beninger
Heritier Bilaka
Peter Bowie
Anne-Marie Brugger
Melanie Brulée
Nicole Burton
Michel Carriere
Mela Constantinidi
Robert Cram
Kalene DeBaeremaeker
Ikhda Degoul

Allison Dingle
Kelly Eyamie-Shorey
Kristin Fardy
Sarah Farmer
Samantha Christ Francois
Robert Henderson
Julie Hodgson
Peter Honeywell
Janet Irwin
Joy Kardish
Kate Keating
Daniel Knapp
John Koensgen
Glenn McInnes
Isabel Metcalfe
Andrew Milne
Peter Nicholson

Cynthia O'Brien
Judith Parker
Geoff Penner
Catherine Proctor
Warda Rasheed
Aubrey Reeves
Sylvie Renaud
Jeffrey Richstone
Philip Ross
Bill Staubi
Victoria Steele
Jesse Stewart
Debbie Sweeney
Geraldine Taylor
Remi Theriault
Somaieh Yousefi
Melanie Yugo

Thank You For 40 Years Of Arts and Community

For more than 40 years, Ottawa Arts Council has stood as a passionate advocate for Ottawa's artists and creative communities. From the first grassroots meetings in the early 1980s to city-wide campaigns for arts funding, to the launch of programs that champion equity and emerging voices, the Council has been a catalyst for connection, support, and transformation in the arts sector.



This work has never happened in isolation. Over those same four decades, Arts Network Ottawa built bridges across sectors, strengthened regional networks, and brought forward the voices of artists working in neighbourhoods and nontraditional spaces. While the Council often focused on deepening relationships with municipal leaders and investing in artistic growth, the Network helped amplify community-engaged practice and foster inclusion across a wider map of the city.

In 2024, artists and community members called on us to do more: to work together, break down silos, and redefine what an arts service organization could and should be. The result is Arts Ottawa: a new, united organization with shared values and a collective vision for the future.

Arts Ottawa carries forward the best of both legacies. We honour the Council's commitment to artistic excellence and recognition, and we build on the Network's inclusive, place-based approach to engagement. Since the merger, we've co-designed programs that address real barriers in our sector. We've hosted community conversations that centre equity and lived experience. We're exploring bold experiments in downtown revitalization, in contemporary philanthropy, and collaborative leadership. And we're just getting started.

We're looking ahead to a future shaped by shared purpose, radical imagination, and the belief that the arts belong to everyone.

Recognition of Dedicated Service

The work of past staff has been essential to the Ottawa Arts Council's impact and longevity over the past 40 years. While there are many to acknowledge, we wish to highlight the significant contributions of Peter Honeywell, Stéphane Lauzon, Sharon Diamond, and Zoë Ashby, whose leadership and commitment over many years of employment helped shape the Council's role in advancing the arts in Ottawa.

Past Board Members

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2024 Annual Report

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