

Ontario Arts Council Impact Report 2025



National Ballet of Canada, Toronto



Museum London, London



Oakville Galleries, Oakville



Indigenous Curatorial Collective, Ottawa



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario





“

It's clear across Ontario and industry sectors: the OAC's support for the arts is key to unlocking our potential. Here's what the data says: the arts aren't just a nice-to-have – the arts are positively transforming our social and economic futures.

”

– **Simon Foster, Board Chair**

“

From fostering economic opportunities to enhancing community well-being, the arts continue to be a vital force for Ontarians. This Impact Report highlights the incredible work of artists and organizations across the province, showcasing how our support has enabled creativity to thrive and communities to flourish.

”

– **Michael Murray, CEO**



ABOUT US

The Ontario Arts Council (OAC) is Ontario's public arts funder, dedicated to fostering the creation and production of art for the benefit of all Ontarians – and grounded in the belief that creativity has the power to strengthen every community in our province. Since 1963, we've invested in the artists, organizations, and communities whose work helps shape the story of our province – work that brings us together, opens our minds, and reflects the rich diversity of who we are.

Across Ontario, the arts do more than inspire. They fuel local economies, support meaningful jobs, and attract cultural tourism. They create spaces where people feel seen, connected, and proud of where they come from. When we invest in the arts, we invest in opportunity, well-being, and a stronger Ontario for everyone.

OAC's role reaches far beyond funding alone. Our programs rely on transparent, rigorous peer assessment and are guided by our commitment to equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion. We provide advisory support that helps artists and arts organizations build sustainable practices. We work with partners to expand access to the arts in every region. And through research and sector engagement, we ensure that public investment continues to serve Ontario's evolving cultural landscape.

We believe every Ontarian should be able to create, experience, and embrace the arts. Together –with artists, communities, and government – we're building a province where creativity is a shared strength that moves us forward.



Theatre Gargantua, Toronto

OAC SOCIAL IMPACT

36.5 million

Total number of people engaged in OAC-funded activities¹

31.1 million

Total attendance at 553 operating organizations

4.4 million

Total number of participants at OAC-funded arts education activities¹

1.2 million hours

Total estimated number of hours worked by volunteers at OAC-funded organizations

\$3.23

per Ontarian
Total public support to the arts through OAC²

¹Based off of 2024-25 grant applicant data, most recent available attendance figures from 2022-23. Ontario Arts Council and Canadian Arts Data / Données sur les arts au Canada (CADAC), 2025.

²Based on an Ontario population of 16,144,797 as of July 2024. (Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0005-01: Population estimates.)

OAC GRANT FUNDING BY THE NUMBERS

1,030 grants to organizations

for a total value of

\$42.7 million

2,999 grants awarded

for a total value of

\$52.2 million

1,969 grants to individual artists

for a total value of

\$9.5 million

11,706

Total number of grant applications submitted

291

Total number of peer assessors on OAC assessment panels

Figures reflect 2024-25 grant applicant data.

OAC FUNDING BY REGION

123

Total number of Ontario's 124 ridings where artists and arts organizations received OAC grants

204

Total number of Ontario communities where resident artists and arts organizations received grants

OAC NUMBERS BY ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$1 billion

Total local spend across the province by 553 operating organizations¹

25:1

Total revenue: \$980.7 million; OAC operating grants: \$37 million¹
Financial leverage of OAC operating grants

¹Based off of 2024-25 grant applicant data, most recent available attendance figures from 2022-23. Ontario Arts Council and Canadian Arts Data / Données sur les arts au Canada (CADAC), 2025.

OAC ARTISTIC IMPACT

OAC has supported **125,361 new Ontario-made works** – scripts, compositions, dance pieces, visual art and more – with **14,401 created especially for children and youth** over the past 10 years.

OAC has supported **29,886 community arts projects** and **26,613 professional development activities** over the last 10 years.



Compagnie Vox Théâtre, Ottawa

ARTS ACROSS ONTARIO

Ontario generates nearly half of Canada's culture sector GDP and employment – but until recently, communities couldn't see their own local numbers. Municipalities had no reliable way to measure the economic output of their arts and culture sector or understand the return on public investment at a regional level.

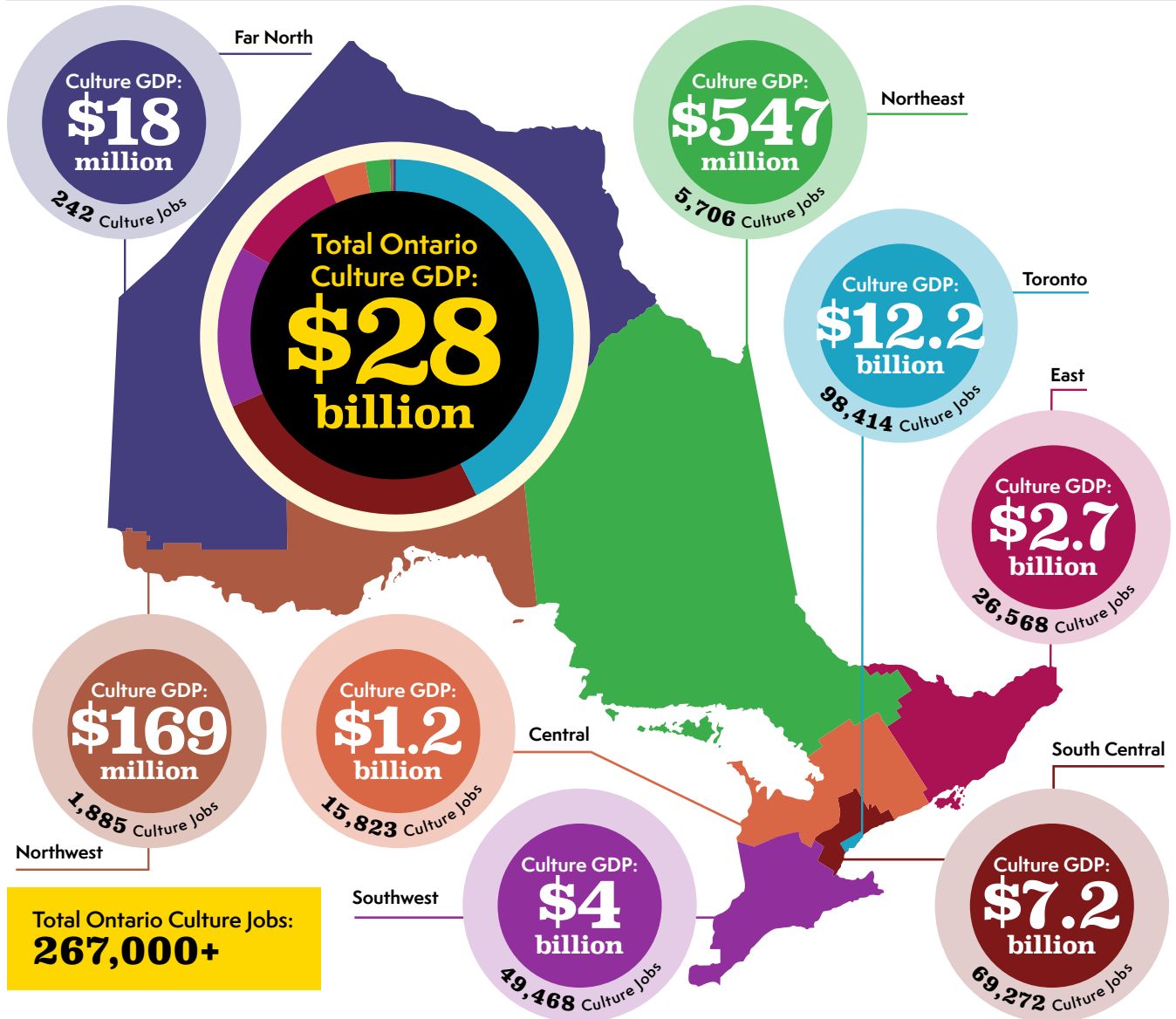
That has now changed. OAC has introduced a new Regional Economic Model – developed with Nordicity – that provides annual, sub-provincial data on culture-sector GDP, jobs, and economic output. For the first time, local governments and sector leaders can access clear, actionable insight to support planning, investment, and community development.

This new edition of *Arts Across Ontario* presents updated regional data and insights.



FabCollab, Toronto

Ontario culture sector, regional economic impact, OAC Regions, 2023



OAC Region	Population	Employment	Culture Jobs	Culture share of employment	Culture GDP (\$000)	Culture GDP per capita (\$)
South Central	4,257,492	1,827,455	69,272	4%	7,152,869	1,680
Southwest	4,043,052	1,632,420	49,468	3%	4,006,213	991
Toronto	3,130,201	1,308,115	98,414	8%	12,230,581	3,907
East	2,058,951	873,565	26,568	3%	2,698,013	1,310
Central	1,281,456	519,085	15,823	3%	1,154,375	901
Northeast	603,463	233,955	5,706	2%	546,597	906
Northwest	175,554	71,575	1,885	3%	168,804	962
Far North	73,038	26,715	242	1%	18,460	253
Total	15,623,207	6,492,885	267,378	4%	27,975,913	1,791

Source: Statistics Canada, Cultural Satellite Account, Nordicity Regional Economic Model

SOUTH CENTRAL

Includes the four regional municipalities surrounding Toronto: Durham, York, Peel and Halton.



Oakville Galleries, Oakville



Lianna Boncore, Oakville



Akwaba Cultural Exchange, Milton



York Region arts recognition event

In August 2025, the Markham Arts Council hosted an event for all OAC grant recipients in York Region who help make this area a cultural powerhouse!



“I’m beyond honored to receive a grant from the Ontario Arts Council for my upcoming project, *More Than Words!* This grant is more than just funding – it’s an investment in storytelling, community, and the power of spoken word. With this support, I’ll be bringing poetry to life in a new way – merging spoken word with music, visuals, and performance to create an immersive artistic experience.”

— **Tracy J the Poet, Pickering**

“So grateful to the Ontario Arts Council for this grant! Their support for Ontario authors means so much, and it helps and motivates me to continue doing what I love – creating stories.”

— **Anitha Rao-Robinson, Milton**

“As an artist, one of the best investments you can make is in your craft. Last week, I had the privilege of attending a one-on-one masterclass in Atlanta with the incredible Sophia Barrett Studios, made possible through the Skills and Career Development grant for arts professionals of colour from the OAC. This experience was everything I needed and more – refreshing, inspiring, and overflowing with creativity, passion, and excellence.”

— **Tasha Brown, Brampton**

“This support from the Ontario Arts Council comes at a critical time. Durham is experiencing tremendous growth, and with that comes a wave of new artists and creative voices ready to contribute. We are proud to build platforms that reflect the diversity and energy of this region and give emerging talent the stage they deserve.”

— **Sathish Bala, Uma Foundation, Ajax**

Economic Contribution of Culture Sector in the South Central Region, by municipality, 2023

South Central Municipality	Jobs	% share of GTA Municipality Total	GDP (\$M)	% share of GTA Municipality Total
Mississauga	10,611	6%	1,307,393	7%
Brampton	10,381	6%	1,279,075	7%
Markham	6,230	4%	754,088	4%
Vaughan	5,990	4%	725,046	4%
Oakville	4,740	3%	397,456	2%
Burlington	4,006	2%	335,935	2%
Richmond Hill	3,714	2%	449,531	2%
Oshawa	3,119	2%	174,834	1%
Milton	3,021	2%	253,343	1%
Whitby	2,456	1%	137,681	1%
Ajax	2,148	1%	120,439	1%
Clarington	1,771	1%	99,271	1%
Pickering	1,730	1%	96,975	1%
Newmarket	1,612	1%	195,163	1%
Halton Hills	1,379	1%	115,677	1%
Caledon	1,204	1%	148,322	1%
Aurora	1,150	1%	139,247	1%
Whitchurch-Stouffville	955	1%	115,585	1%
Georgina	897	1%	108,549	1%
East Gwillimbury	699	0.4%	84,575	0.4%
King	503	0.3%	60,848	0.3%
Scugog	371	0.2%	20,818	0.1%
Uxbridge	356	0.2%	19,970	0.1%
Brock	221	0.1%	12,411	0.1%
South Central Municipalities	69,265	41%	7,152,233	37%
GTA Municipality Total	167,679		19,382,814	

Source: Statistics Canada, Nordicity Regional Economic Model

SOUTHWEST

Consists of the counties and regional municipalities of Brant, Chatham-Kent, Essex, Haldimand-Norfolk, Hamilton, Huron, Lambton, Middlesex, Niagara, Oxford, Perth, Waterloo, and Wellington.

Culture GDP:

\$4
billion

Culture Jobs:

49,468



Andra Zlatescu, London



Stratford Summer Music, Stratford



Art Gallery of Hamilton, Hamilton

Hamilton and Six Nations arts recognition event

In October 2025, the Hamilton Arts Council and Theatre Aquarius hosted an event for all OAC grant recipients in Hamilton and Six Nations. We were joined by local arts supporters and Theatre Aquarius donors— all part of the creative force that makes Hamilton thrive!



Economic Contribution of Culture Sector in the Southwest Region, by CMA, 2023

Southwest Region CMA	Jobs	Share of Ontario Total	GDP (\$M)	Share of Ontario Total
Brantford	1,274	0.5%	88	0.3%
Guelph	2,581	1%	254	0.9%
Hamilton	15,648	6%	1,293	4.6%
Kitchener - Cambridge - Waterloo	4,331	2%	395	1.4%
London	6,387	2%	529	1.9%
St. Catharines - Niagara	5,780	2%	366	1.3%
Windsor	1,168	0.4%	89	0.3%
Southwest Region CMA's Total	37,169	14%	3,014	10.8%
Ontario Total	267,378		27,976	

Source: Statistics Canada, Nordicity Regional Economic Model

“Funding from the Ontario Arts Council is fundamental for the Arts Council Windsor + Region to continue developing programs and services that respond directly to the needs of our local arts community. This support enables us to create opportunities for artists to grow, collaborate, and share their work, while strengthening arts engagement across Windsor-Essex.”
— Arts Council Windsor + Region, Windsor

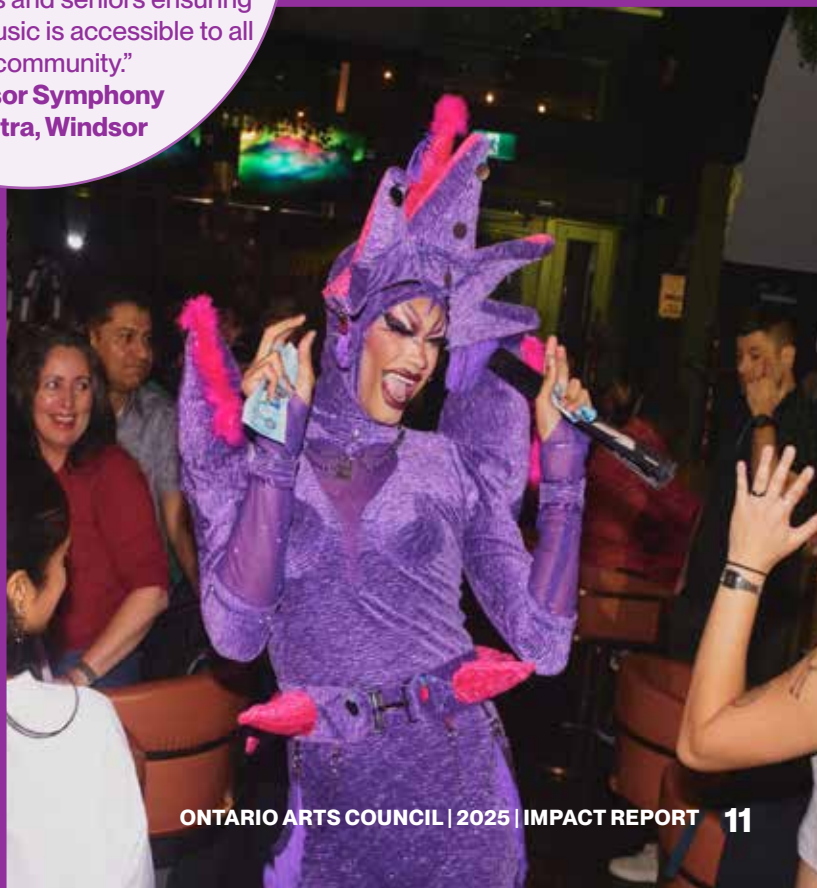
“Having access to funding means I can have the tools and materials I need to pursue my creative practice confidently ... It means I can keep creating work that you love that reflects the beauty and diversity of our sovereign nation, Canada. Thank you, Ontario Arts Council and the Government of Ontario, for supporting Canadian artists and protecting the cultural growth of our nation.”
— Cheryl-Ann Hills, Hamilton

“Thanks to the generous support of the Ontario Arts Council, Lighthouse Festival Theatre continues to share Canadian stories, create local jobs, and grow our region’s creative economy.”
— Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Port Dover

“Funding through the Ontario Arts Council is fundamental to the Windsor Symphony Orchestra’s ability to connect people through music in Windsor-Essex each year ... [including] the support it provides for our education and outreach programs. These programs remove barriers for young students, families and seniors ensuring live orchestral music is accessible to all in our community.”
— Windsor Symphony Orchestra, Windsor

MT Space, Waterloo

Elora Festival, Elora



TORONTO

Comprises the full City of Toronto – including downtown and the former boroughs of Etobicoke, East York, North York, Scarborough and York.



Lakeshore Arts, Toronto



“Thank you so much for the grant! It’s a disability arts grant and receiving it is lifechanging! I appreciate the investment in helping me become a novelist.”
— Lene Andersen, Toronto

“I am thrilled and honored to have the support, encouragement and recognition of the Toronto Comic Arts Festival and the Ontario Arts Council for my project!”
— Janice Goldberg, Toronto

“The Salon du livre de Toronto wishes to express its deep gratitude to its partners for their essential support. Thanks to their funding, we can celebrate the richness of Francophone literature and offer a memorable experience to all our attendees. Your support helps to keep Francophone literature and culture alive and thriving, inspiring and uniting our community.”
— Le Salon du livre de Toronto, Toronto



Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, Toronto





Toronto Outdoor Art Fair, Toronto



“THANK YOU to the Ontario Arts Council for providing me with a 2025 Recommender Grants for Writers!!!! I can’t tell you how much this support means to me. Thank you for believing in the stories I want to share with the world.”
— **Rosena Fung, Toronto**

“From the studio to the spotlight, aspiring dancers of all ages and abilities are achieving their dreams thanks to support from the Ontario Arts Council. Core operating funding from the OAC enables us to share the power and benefits of dance with tens of thousands of Ontarians each year, improving quality of life across the province.”
— **National Ballet School, Toronto**

“My participation in this exhibition would not have been possible without the generous support of the Ontario Arts Council. Their funding has been a lifeline, especially during a time when rising living costs and economic challenges make it harder for artists to sustain their work. Art funding isn’t just about supporting individual artists – it’s about investing in the cultural and social fabric of our communities ... By supporting the arts, we’re ensuring that creativity can continue to thrive, even in difficult times.”

— **Jeannie Pappas, Toronto**



National Ballet School, Toronto

imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Toronto



EAST

Includes nine counties: Frontenac, Hastings, Lanark, Leeds and Grenville, Lennox and Addington, Prescott and Russell, Prince Edward, Renfrew, and Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.



Alexandre Forgues, Moose Creek



Centre culturel Les trois p'tits points, Alexandria



“Each season at Centre culturel Frontenac is woven with encounters, emotions, and discoveries. But behind this richness stand partners who make this ongoing dialogue between artists and audiences possible ... We are proud to have received an operating grant from the Ontario Arts Council, which allows us to continue celebrating francophone culture in Ontario and to offer artistic experiences that are vibrant and accessible to all.”
— **Centre culturel Frontenac, Kingston**

Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Kingston

“The Digital Arts Resource Centre is grateful to receive funding from the Ontario Arts Council and the Government of Ontario ... [With their continued support,] we’re able to offer valuable resources in an inclusive, collaborative space, empowering artists of all experience levels and backgrounds. This funding directly supports artists from diverse communities like our own, helping us share the joy of artistic creation and appreciation with the people of Ottawa and beyond.”
— **Digital Arts Resource Centre, Ottawa**



**Economic Contribution of Culture Sector,
Eastern Ontario, by CMA, 2023**

East Region CMA	Jobs	Share of Ontario Total	GDP (\$M)	Share of Ontario Total
Belleville	923	0.3%	69	0.2%
Kingston	416	0.2%	38	0.1%
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario part)	17,802	6.7%	1,934	7%
East Region CMA's Total	19,141	7.2%	2,041	7%
Ontario Total	267,378		27,976	

Source: Statistics Canada, Nordicity Regional Economic Model

Museoparc Vanier, Ottawa



Music and Beyond, Ottawa



“This increase in support allows us to strengthen our programs, expand opportunities for artists, and deepen our impact across the Quinte region. We are grateful for OAC’s ongoing commitment to the arts across Ontario and for recognizing the value of the arts in our community. Thank you for helping us keep the arts thriving!”

— **Quinte Arts Council, Belleville**

“Thanks to [the support we receive from OAC], we can keep supporting Francophone culture in Ontario, providing a stage for local artists and making rich artistic experiences accessible to all.”

— **Mouvement d’implication francophone d’Orléans, Ottawa**

“OAC funding helps us share the joy of live music with our community! Our thanks to the Ontario Arts Council for their annual operating support that let musicians like Peter, Lyssa, Grace, Maxime, and Julia bring their artistry to life on the Kingston Symphony stage.”

— **Kingston Symphony, Kingston**

Hastings and Prince Edward County grant recipient recognition event

In September 2025, we teamed up with the Quinte Arts Council as part of their annual Arts Recognition Awards to recognize local OAC grant recipients. It was a joy to stand alongside artists, leaders and community members to celebrate the creative heartbeat in Hastings and Prince Edward Counties.



CENTRAL

Stretches from Georgian Bay to Lake Simcoe to the north shore of Lake Ontario. Includes the counties and municipalities of Bruce, Dufferin, Grey, Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Muskoka, Northumberland, Peterborough, and Simcoe.

Culture GDP:

\$1.2
billion

Culture Jobs:

15,823

“A huge thank you to the Ontario Arts Council for their support – not only as a financial contribution to the realization of *Inwards & Outwards*, but as an affirmation that diverse ways of creating and engaging with the arts truly matter.”

— **Christeen Awad, Angus**

“Without funding, I wouldn’t be where I am today. It gives me the stability to take creative risks, learn, and keep growing, and I am so grateful.”

— **Tasneem Dairywala, Wasaga Beach**

“A heartfelt THANK YOU to the Ontario Arts Council and the Ontario Government ... for the support that made this season’s in-school programming possible! With this vital funding, SONG was able to reach three new rural schools — bringing the joy and benefits of music to 147 students who had never experienced SONG before ... [helping to] ensure rural students have access to enriching, equitable arts education – keeping opportunities on par with their urban peers. We’re proud to be building a more musical, inclusive future – one school at a time.”

— **Sounds of the Next Generation (SONG), Cobourg**



Mariposa Folk Festival, Orillia



Economic Contribution of Culture Sector in Central Ontario, by CMA, 2023

Central Region CMA	Jobs	Share of Ontario Total	GDP (\$M)	Share of Ontario Total
Barrie	2,796	1%	180	0.6%
Peterborough	2,134	0.8%	146	0.5%
Central Region CMA's Total	4,931	1.8%	325	1%
Ontario Total	267,378		27,976	

Source: Statistics Canada, Nordicity Regional Economic Model

“We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support of the Ontario Arts Council! Their generous grant helps us bring world-class music to Collingwood, enriching our community and making the arts more accessible to all. Thank you for believing in the power of music!”
— Collingwood Music Festival, Collingwood

Peterborough Folk Festival, Peterborough



“Earlier this month, my short film *Water from a Stone* made it to Reel Women International Film Festival in Lagos. LAGOS!!!! I’m so thankful to get to travel with this film thanks to Ontario Arts Council’s Market Development Travel Grant. Cheers to more projects and adventures to come.”
— Chelsea Osei, Innisfil

Jimbob Marsden, Roseneath



“Arts funding provides me the financial comfort to create. I have been a freelancer for over twenty years. Grants allow me to carve out time where I take on less contracts and dedicate time to my writing. Grant funding also buoys my withered little soul, showing me that other people see value in what I’m doing and in the tremendous societal value of the arts in general.”
— Holley Ghadery, Oakwood

NORTHEAST

Includes the districts of Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sudbury, and Temiskaming.

Culture Jobs:
5,706

Culture GDP:
\$547
million



Isabelle Michaud, Sault Ste. Marie



Felicity Buckell, Haileybury

“I am thrilled, humbled, and honoured to have been awarded this Northern Arts Projects grant from the Ontario Arts Council ... This opportunity will help elevate my artistry and skill set. I am excited to share more about what’s ahead ... Thank you for supporting local Northern Ontario artists and entrepreneurs.”
— **Joseph Kargi, Sault Ste. Marie**

“We would like to take a moment to thank the Ontario Arts Council for their support towards our 2024-2025 programming. Together, we are providing the people in the North with wonderful opportunities to thrive through arts and culture!”
— **Conseil des arts de Hearst, Hearst**

Timmins Symphony Orchestra, Timmins



Economic Contribution of Culture Sector in Northeast Ontario, by CMA, 2023

Northeast Region CMA	Jobs	Share of Ontario Total	GDP (\$M)	Share of Ontario Total
Greater Sudbury	2,214	0.8%	238	0.8%
Northeast Region CMA's Total	2,214	0.8%	238	0.8%
Ontario Total	267,378		27,976	

Source: Statistics Canada, Nordicity Regional Economic Model

Frames and Frequencies, Sudbury



“[The Ontario Arts Council’s] Artists in Communities and Schools grant allows us to expand access to high-quality arts education for students in rural Ontario by bringing working artists directly into local classrooms. Through movement, creation, and critical dialogue, students will engage with contemporary performance in ways that are inclusive, exploratory, and deeply rooted in personal expression.”

— **Jillian Peeper, Burk’s Falls**



Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival, Coniston

“I was beyond grateful to have been the recipient of an Exhibition Assistance grant provided by the Ontario Arts Council to help mitigate some of the costs that artists incur when attending shows of this nature. Although we artists are always prepared to take on these costs ourselves, it makes such a difference to have the support of the OAC behind you to assist you in turning concepts into reality.”

— **Kyle Sorensen, Parry Sound**

Sudbury Symphony Orchestra, Sudbury



“Last year, I had the incredible opportunity to join some truly inspiring humans at the Canadian Film Centre labs! This dream wouldn’t have been possible without the generous support of the Ontario Arts Council and the Government of Ontario ... Thanks to this experience, I’ve grown not only as an editor but as a filmmaker too ... You’ve helped me level up and I’m beyond grateful!”

— **Andrea Novoa, Nipissing**

NORTHWEST

Encompasses Ontario's Thunder Bay and Rainy River districts.

Culture GDP:
\$169
 million

Culture Jobs:
1,885

Alyssa Kusik, Thunder Bay



Andrew Paulsen, Thunder Bay



“Thank you to the Ontario Arts Council for helping bring this dream into reality. Proud to be a Northern Ontario artist exhibiting in the North!”
 — **Gayle Church, Thunder Bay**

“The grant allowed me to bring my cultural vision to life, expanding my work and fostering greater understanding and appreciation of Indigenous heritage. I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to contribute to the local arts scene and to share my traditions through creative expression. This support has made a significant impact, and I look forward to continuing this important work.”
 — **Gene Boshkaykin, Thunder Bay**

Thunder Bay Art Gallery, Thunder Bay

“At Magnus Theatre, the support from the Ontario Arts Council has been absolutely essential to our ability to produce professional theatre in Northwestern Ontario. Their commitment to accessibility, diversity, and regional representation helps ensure that stories like Women of the Fur Trade can be told and celebrated.”
 — **Magnus Theatre, Thunder Bay**



Economic Contribution of Culture Sector in Northwest Ontario, by CMA, 2023

Northwest Region CMA	Jobs	Share of Ontario Total	GDP (\$M)	Share of Ontario Total
Thunder Bay	1,412	0.5%	128	0.5%
Northwest Region CMA's Total	1,412	0.5%	128	0.5%
Ontario Total	267,378		27,976	

Source: Statistics Canada, Nordicity Regional Economic Model

Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra, Thunder Bay



Magnus Theatre, Thunder Bay

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart to the Ontario Arts Council for recognizing the potential of [this project] and helping a dream become a reality! Each model in the Penumbra art exhibition is either a local artist, works in the mental health field or is in support of mental health awareness and transparency (or all 3!). The arts and mental health go hand in hand. Art is cathartic, expressive, transcending and universal.”

— Bianca Gascoigne, Thunder Bay

“A big thank you to our supporters – the Ontario Arts Council, the Government of Ontario, Friends of the Finnish Labour Temple, and VIBE Arts. Your support made this workshop possible and gave space for new voices to grow and connect.”

— Flash Frame Film and Video Network, Thunder Bay



FAR NORTH

Includes the full district of Kenora.

Culture GDP:
\$18
million

Culture Jobs:
242

The Muse, Kenora



Cheryl Wilson-Smith, Red Lake



"We are delighted to announce that the Ontario Arts Council has supported our upcoming exhibition *Jim Oskigeenish: Keep Yourself Alive ...* This grant enables the Douglas Family Art Centre to support the work of this Northern Ontario artist and Northern Ontario curator ... We are grateful for the opportunity to support and amplify the excellent work being created in our region through funding from the Ontario Arts Council."
— **The Muse, Kenora**

Adrian Sutherland, Attawapiskat

"For many northwestern Ontario artists, the challenge is not a lack of creativity, but a lack of infrastructure and access to programs that often concentrate in southern Ontario ... Art Borups Corners is helping to change that, equipping artists with skills in governance, financial management, grant writing, and project planning ... [And this summer, they] secured a grant from the Ontario Arts Council Multi and Inter-Arts Projects program — one of just 27 awarded across the province."
— **Art Borups Corners, Dryden**



2025 AWARDS LAUREATES

OAC administers and presents awards recognizing artists for their contributions to the arts in Ontario. OAC also manages, on behalf of the Ontario Arts Foundation and the Government of Ontario, the peer assessment process of several awards, prizes and scholarships endowed outside the OAC.



Pauline McGibbon Award Laureate

Selected by peer assessment jury
Sophie Moynan



Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Awards

Selected by student juries at Scarborough's Birch Cliff Heights Public School

Children's Picture Book Award Laureates

Yewande Daniel-Ayoade
Ken Daley

Young Adult / Middle Reader Laureate

Cassandra Calin



Vida Peene Orchestra Award Laureate

Selected by peer assessment jury
Sault Symphony Orchestra



Colleen Peterson Songwriting Award Laureate

Selected by peer assessment jury
convened by Folk Canada

Evan Rotella



Leslie Bell Prize for Choral Conducting Laureate

Selected by peer assessment jury

Kathleen Allan



Poet Laureate of Ontario

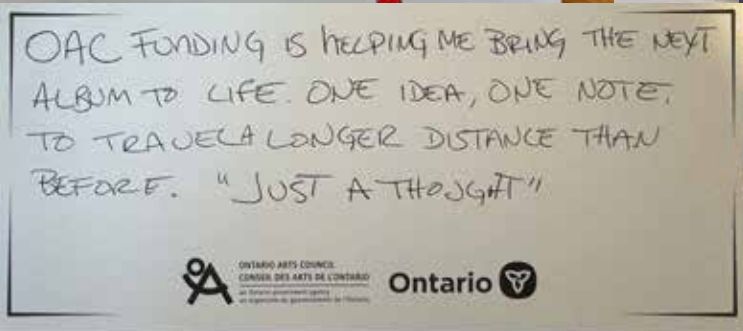
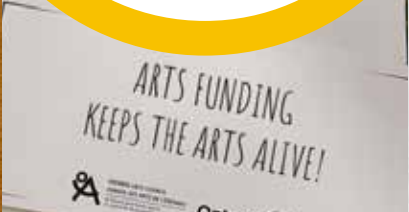
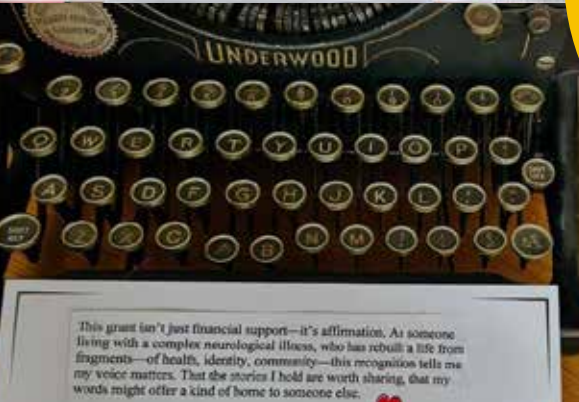
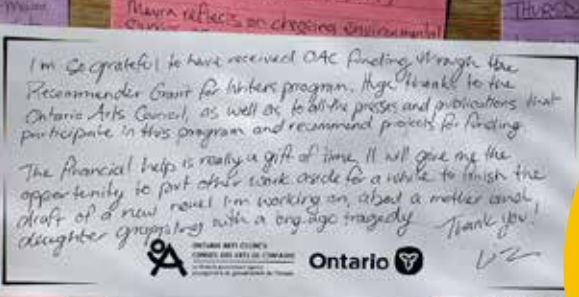
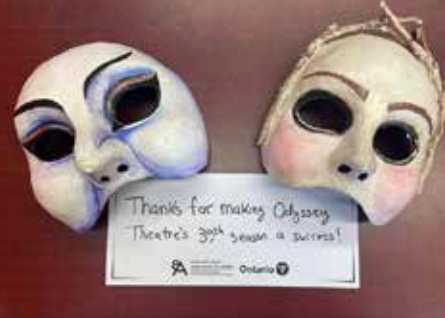
Selected by a panel including the previous Ontario Poet Laureate and representatives from the Ontario Legislature and the Ontario Arts Council

Matthew-Ray Jones

Why does OAC funding matter to you?



Thank you OAC & Government of Ontario!!
Your support helps me to continue my artistic journey!! ❤️🙏



From top left: Ai Jiang (Markham), Sumaira Tazeen (Cambridge), Odyssey Theatre (Ottawa), Lala Santiago (Oshawa), Collingwood Music Festival (Collingwood), Liz Johnston (Toronto), Melissa Williams (Toronto), Elisha Rubacha (Peterborough), Kristine Dandavino (Oshawa), Thompson Egbo-Egbo (Toronto), Stratford Summer Music (Stratford) and Rashkân (Toronto).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The OAC is directed by volunteer board members who come from various regions of the province. They are responsible for setting policies and overseeing the organization's operations. Board members play an important role as advocates for the arts in Ontario and as representatives of OAC in communities across the province.

Congratulations to board chair Simon Foster and board member Marek Ruta, on each receiving a King Charles III Coronation Medal in 2025!

Thank you to our 2025 board members

- Simon Foster, Toronto (Chair)
- Dani Peters, Toronto (Vice-Chair)
- Twee Brown, London
- Nancy Jain, Toronto
- Missy Knott, Curve Lake First Nation
- Mary Meffe, Toronto
- David Millen, Ottawa
- Lilly Obina, Ottawa
- Marek Ruta, Mississauga





Isaac King, Toronto

Quotes were collected from news articles, websites and social media posts, and have been edited for clarity and length. All quotes show the direct impact of public funding on artists and arts organizations.

Ce document est également disponible en français.



The Ontario Arts Council is an agency of the Government of Ontario

Ontario Arts Council Impact Report 2025
ISSN 2819-8182 (PDF) | ISBN 978-1-4868-9569-4 (PDF)

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