

# 2023 Culture Update

## Achievements and Highlights



### Festivals and Events

Every year the City organizes and supports a wide range of events that promote community engagement, foster civic pride and demonstrate our cultural vibrancy.

## 2023 City-run Events

2023 City-run events included Doors Open, Peony Festival, Canada Day, Events in the Park, Kars on King, Culture Days, Bright and Merry Market, Oshawa Celebrates and more!

### Indigenous History Month

This year, Events & Culture staff partnered with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Indigenous Relations staff to celebrate Indigenous History Month with an event that included performances by Juno-nominated Nimkii and the Niniis and Métis jigger Auriele Diotte.

### Moccasin Identifier Project

Staff led an educational activity at the City's Indigenous History Month event, welcoming audiences to paint stencil moccasins as part of the Moccasin Identifier Project.

### Arts and Culture Sector Development








### Open Call for Artist-Initiated Projects

In 2023 the City of Oshawa launched its first-ever call for artist-initiated projects. This program provided increased support for artists, collectives and arts groups by supporting projects proposed directly by the community. Six unique projects were funded through this program, including a felt patch workshop from Farah Hoosain, Ting Chen's peony painting workshop, an outdoor photography exhibition by Shay Conroy, a drip mural and augmented reality project from artists Amy Shackleton and Julian Brown, an aerial and circus performance from Femmes du Feu Creations and a performance from POR AMOR to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Hip-Hop.

### Anti-Oppression & Anti-Racism 101 Workshop

To support sectoral and organizational development, a workshop titled *Anti-Oppression & Anti-Racism 101: Introduction to Social Justice & Liberation*, presented by Rania El Mugammar, was offered as a free training opportunity for local arts, culture and heritage workers.

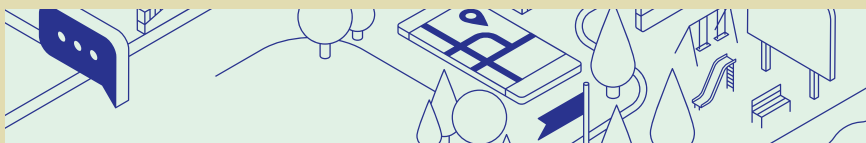
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## Public Art



### **Port of Prosper by Shay Conroy**

Shay Conroy's exhibition *Port of Prosper* was installed at the Ed Broadbent Waterfront Park as a temporary outdoor public artwork. Focusing on the active port and former harbour grounds, Conroy's project explored the industrial side of Oshawa's waterfront.

### **Hot Spot by Amy Shackleton and Julian Brown**

Artists Amy Shackleton and Julian Brown created a new drip mural with an augmented reality component. Audiences were invited to watch the artists create the work live at the South Oshawa Community Centre, where it remained on exhibition afterwards.

### **Downtown Oshawa Murals Evaluation**

The City of Oshawa began a review of the City's 15 murals located in downtown Oshawa, created under the guidance of the since-disbanded Downtown Action Committee from the mid-1990s to early 2000s, seeking community feedback to shape and inform a Mural Evaluation Plan.

## Exhibitions



### **Art and Culture in the Hall**

Art and Culture in the Hall is an exhibition program that celebrates local heritage and artistic talent. In 2023 exhibits were presented by Ontario Regiment RCAC Museum, Oshawa Museum, Oshawa Public Libraries, Oshawa Sports Hall of Fame, Parkwood Estate: National Historic Site and local artists Susan Campbell and Diana Nadia Lawryshyn.

### **Creating Home: Building a Sense of Community and Belonging**

The City developed and installed a new exhibition, *Creating Home: Building a Sense of Community and Belonging*, at Fire Hall 6. The exhibition showcases unique items salvaged from buildings and structures affected by the Highway 407 extension, and tells the stories of people, businesses and buildings from that area.



### **Oshawa Culture Counts Awards**

The Oshawa Culture Counts Awards celebrate and honour the creative and cultural achievements of the community. In 2023 the City recognized:

- **Professional Artist Award**  
Susan Campbell
- **Emerging Artist Award**  
Diana Nadia Lawryshyn
- **Innovation and Creation Champion Award**  
Anushka and Arushi Bhattacharjee

### **Cultural Leadership**

The City is proud to work collaboratively with volunteer committees that support the implementation of *Culture Counts: Oshawa's Arts, Culture and Heritage Plan*.

- Cultural Leadership Council
- Public Art Task Force
- Community Centennial Committee



### **Events & Culture Newsletter**

**1000+** Subscribers



## TeachingCity Oshawa

TeachingCity collaborates with education and research partners to develop experiential learning opportunities for students. The 2022/2023 arts and culture projects included:

- Augmented Reality Experience of Public Art
- Cultural Story Mapping in Oshawa
- Podcasts on Popular Music in Oshawa: 1964-1979
- "Art in the Pit" Workshop Series

### **Arts and Culture Recreation Programs**

Art and culture recreation programs are offered year-round through the City's Recreation Services Branch. Programs are offered for all ages, and provide the opportunity to develop skills and explore disciplines including drawing, painting, dance, drama, pottery, arts camp and more.

For the full City Update – visit: [Oshawa.ca/CultureSummit](https://oshawa.ca/CultureSummit) to download the report and accessible versions.