



While we continue the co-creation work to shape the development of a new arts service organization, we are simultaneously amplifying our advocacy work.

## **April 23 Meeting February 27 Community Services Committee**

### **FEBRUARY 2019 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REPORT – RENEWED ACTION PLAN FOR ARTS, HERITAGE, AND CULTURE (2013-2018)**

This is a big win for our sector; the report offers insight into the accomplishments from [A Renewed Action Plan for Arts, Heritage and Culture](#) in Ottawa (2013 - 2018). The Council and Arts Network have been advocating for this report since 2019, and the results have just been made public via an inquiry submitted by Councillor King to City staff in February. City staff submitted their response at the April 23 Community Services Committee Meeting (CSC), read the report [here](#).

We will review the report to highlight the many accomplishments and identify any gaps that persist since the end of the Action Plan. Notably, the effects of the pandemic on the sector, and the delay in receiving the report will inform our response, encouraging adaptation and relevance moving forward.

At first glance there is lots to celebrate. We applaud the movement on the Host Nation Protocol, the success and investment in the redevelopment of La Nouvelle Scene, the Ottawa Art Gallery and the Arts Court space. We'd love to hear your feedback on the report, and keep the door open to our community to share your insights and feedback.

#### **New Municipal Culture Plan**

A new Culture Plan is being developed in early 2025. The City shared as part of the same Councillor Inquiry response, "Development of the new Culture Plan...will kick-off with internal engagement sessions within RCFS [Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services], related departments and boards from March to May 2024, expanding to broad public engagement in the fall. Of particular focus will be public engagement in priority neighbourhoods, where residents have been underrepresented in cultural policy making. The Culture Plan is expected to be tabled at the Community Services Committee between January and May 2026. The Culture Plan will be built on extensive cultural mapping work on artists, cultural spaces, and support structures. The focus on public engagement and data-informed insights will ensure that all residents can see themselves reflected in the city's cultural vision."

The Council and Arts Network are meeting regularly with the Cultural Development Initiatives Unit to emphasize the importance of prioritizing a Cultural Plan while advocating for a greater investment in timely public reporting.

#### **Hill Strategies Report on the Ottawa Arts Sector**

Up-to-date statistics on the Ottawa arts sector strengthens our organization's ability to effectively advocate for artists and the sector. In April, the Council and ANO sponsored Kelly Hill of Hill Strategies to do a deep dive into the available data from the last census, which included an analysis of the demographics, employment characteristics, and income of artists who reside in the City of Ottawa. [The full report](#) also provides a summary of workers in arts leadership occupations and all individuals who work in arts, culture and heritage.

#### **Key findings:**

- There are 5,800 professional artists in the City of Ottawa
- The median income of Ottawa's artists was \$29,000 in 2020, 12% below the living wage in Ottawa in 2021 (\$33,852) and 49% below the median income of all Ottawa workers (\$58,400)
- One in every 19 workers in Ottawa has a cultural occupation
- The 31,300 workers in arts, culture, and heritage occupations in Ottawa account for 5.4% of the local labour force, which is higher than the provincial (4.7%) and national (4.4%) average

#### **Feature in the Ottawa Business Journal**

The merger between Arts Network Ottawa and Ottawa Arts Council is [gaining momentum](#), and some welcome attention in the press. Michael Curran, a former ANO board member, community champion and Publisher of the Ottawa Business Journal invited Cassandra and Nicole to share their story in a recent Ottawa Business Journal expert blog. The piece discusses the process and asks key questions about the important role arts and culture plays to a broader audience - particularly in the realm of the decline of old systems and models and the rise of new ones. [Read the story](#).

#### **Arts and culture are core drivers of downtown revitalization.**

##### **Downtown Revitalization - Ottawa Building Summit hosted by Ottawa Board of Trade (OBOT)**

Congratulations to OBOT for their great City Building Summit on April 23. Cassandra attended the Summit and noted that in the opening session on downtown revitalization, representatives from the cities of Calgary, Montreal and Vancouver all highlighted the powerful role arts are playing in their downtown revitalizations. We know that artists and arts groups have been doing it in Ottawa. Can we as a sector come together to incubate new projects and initiatives downtown?

As the City galvanizes working groups and community stakeholders tasked to map out the revitalization of the downtown core, ANO and OAC met with MP Yasir Naqvi in April to discuss the role of arts and culture in this realm and we gained greater insight into some potential new opportunities.

The closing session featured the big projects that are changing the landscape of our City, downtown work of the NCC, the new Ottawa Hospital, the Senators possible new arena at Lebreton Flats, and the O-Train. Opportunity exists in all these projects to infuse arts and culture more deeply in our daily lives and city culture - how can we activate on a community level in these projects? Just as how these Carleton students are envisioning, a Sensplex doesn't have to just be for hockey: [#LoopBreton? A new home for the Sens is just the start of the vision for these students – Ottawa Business Journal \(obj.ca\)](#)

We are looking forward to the release of the downtown revitalization action plan and the new merged model of our arts service orgs to further activate arts for City Building!

#### **On the Radar - Art is active in all parts of our City**

##### **Joining Planning and Housing and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committees received report on draft new Zoning By-law to kick off public consultations**

"The Zoning By-law is a land-use regulation tool that shapes the way a city grows. It sets rules about what can be built without having to seek specific permission from the City. Ottawa's new Zoning By-law will be essential to implementing the policy directions of the new Official Plan" We'll be following up on how this will affect current arts and culture venues and can support the development of more cultural placemaking.

- See the presentations from the meeting here: [New Zoning By-law – Draft 1 - Joint Planning and Housing and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee - April 29, 2024 \(escribemeetings.com\)](#)
- Engage Ottawa site: <https://engage.ottawa.ca/zoning>

We are also tracking: the 1010 Somerset Complex, new Barrhaven Civic Complex and Findlay Creek Recreation Centre planning, the [Confederation Heights](#) project.

Thanks for reading and for your trust!  
Nicole and Cassandra