

**ON  
CULTURE  
DAYS**



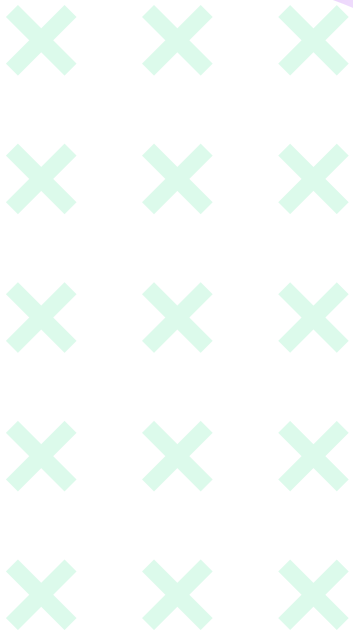
**2023  
YEAR END  
REPORT**



# Ontario Culture Days 2023 Year End Report

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## Land Acknowledgement

*Ontario Culture Days acknowledges that our offices are situated on the traditional homeland of many nations, both recorded and unrecorded, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe and Odawa), the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples.*

*This land is now to home to many diverse First Nation, Inuit and Metis peoples, as well as many settlers, migrants, newcomers and those who were brought here involuntarily through the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.*

*Together, under the Dish With One Spoon Covenant, we have a collective responsibility to steward the lands and waterways on which we live. They are to be shared peacefully, through a relationship based in care and in the spirit of mutual cooperation.*

*Ontario Culture Days is committed to a continuous process of listening and learning, and to dismantling colonial approaches, while celebrating the varied cultural and artistic traditions of Indigenous communities.*

*We are grateful to have the opportunity to work and create on this land.*



## A Word from our Leadership

In 2023, Ontario Culture Days marked another year of remarkable growth and sustainability for our organization and its distinctive programming. We proudly supported event organizers across the province in hosting Ontario Culture Days activities, as part of the 15th annual nation-wide Culture Days celebrations. We successfully produced and promoted this popular event in collaboration with our national, provincial, and municipal partners.

With 12% of Ontarians participating in the festival, our outreach and promotional efforts have delivered outstanding results, further increasing recognition among audiences.

As we approach our 15th year, we're excited to announce that the Ontario Culture Days festival will return from September 20 to October 13, 2024, once again offering diverse and inclusive arts and culture experiences.

At Ontario Culture Days, our commitment to supporting Ontario's arts and culture sector remains strong. We achieve this through our Creatives in Residence series, which supports local artists in developing new works, and our official provincial Festival Hubs, which serve as vibrant centres of activity during the festival, offering unique programming and opportunities for community engagement.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, board members, and team for their unwavering commitment to promoting arts and culture in Ontario. We also offer our sincere thanks to our sponsors and funders, whose generous support has been crucial to achieving our goals.

Together, let's continue to celebrate creativity and inspire meaningful engagement with arts and culture in our communities.

**Ruth Burns, Executive Director**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Burns'.

**Gary Filan, Chair and President**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Filan'.



## 2023 Overview

Ontario Culture Days celebrates the diverse arts and culture of Ontario. Here's a look at our recent accomplishments:

### FESTIVAL AND ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING

- ▶ Expanded our regional Festival Hubs program, highlighting locations across Ontario and promoting Festival attendance to these regions.
- ▶ Produced 8 Creatives in Residence programs to create new community engaged artworks, including dance workshops, hands-on crafts, site-specific installations, and more.
- ▶ Presented the fourth annual Spotlight Recognition Program, highlighting exemplary programming produced for the Festival, and introduced the Warren Garrett Inclusive Programming Award.

### YEAR-ROUND CONTENT

- ▶ Produced 6 ON Culture Guides in partnership with local travel and tourism partners.
- ▶ Produced 26 original blog posts, including things to do, artist profiles, and sector stories.

### PROFESSIONAL AND NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ Kicked off the ON Topic Speaker Series, featuring online and in-person workshops and webinars for the arts and culture sector.





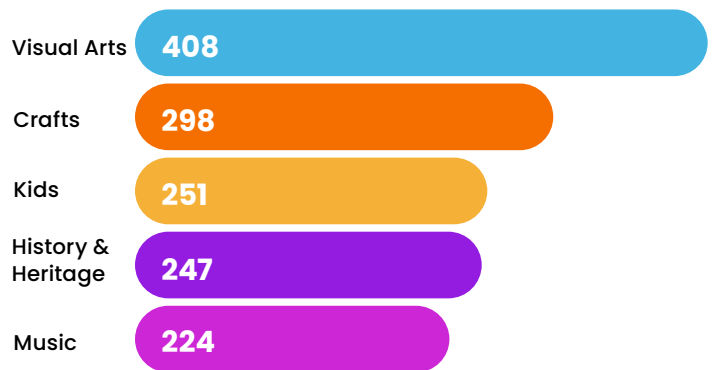
# Ontario Culture Days Festival

In 2023, the Ontario Culture Days festival ran from September 22 to October 15. We supported 486 organizers in producing 1288 events in 97 municipalities in Ontario.\* Events were offered in 42 languages – a record breaking number!\*

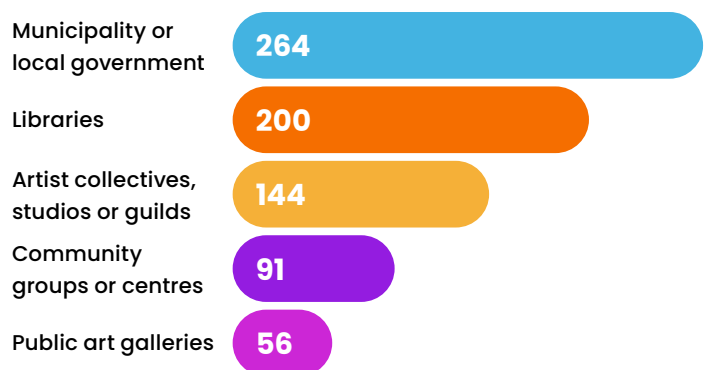
Ontario Culture Days worked with artists to produce 8 key artistic programs to anchor the 3-week festival.

- ▶ **12% of Ontarians** attended Ontario Culture Days – that’s more than **a million people!\*\***
- ▶ The economic impact of the festival was over **\$44 million.\*\*\***
- ▶ **25 events** were identified as **events dedicated** to National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (NDTR)\*
- ▶ **93 events** were tagged as **Indigenous events\***
- ▶ **Northern Ontario** had the **highest percentage** of NDTR events in relation to the total events presented in the region.\*

## TOP EVENT TAGS IN 2023 (BY NUMBER OF EVENTS)\*



## TOP ORGANIZER TYPES (BY NUMBER OF ORGANIZERS)\*



\*2023 Culture Days Registration Data  
 \*\*2023 Culture Days Report – Maru Matchbox  
 \*\*\*Tourism Regional Impact Model – Province of Ontario



# Festival Participation and Engagement

When asked how they perceived Culture Days, respondents from across the country answered the following:

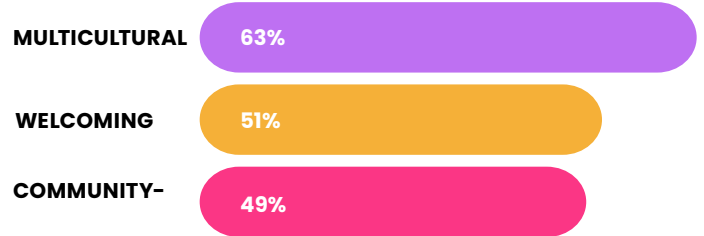
## REPRESENTATION\*\*

Ontarians feel represented or somewhat represented in Ontario Culture Days arts and culture programming by age group.



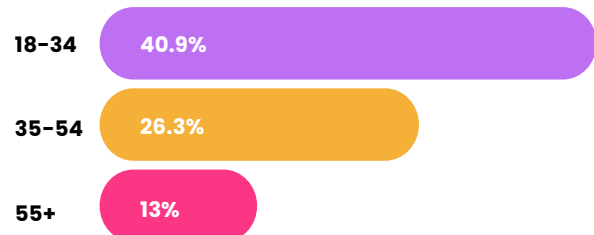
## POSITIVE PERCEPTIONS\*

Nationally, Culture Days continues to be perceived as multicultural, welcoming, and having a community focus.



## AWARENESS\*\*

Awareness is higher among younger Ontarians than older Ontarians.

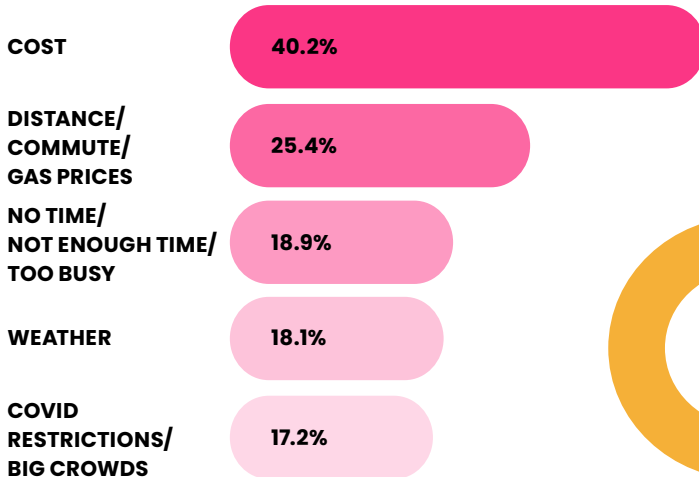




# Festival Participation and Engagement

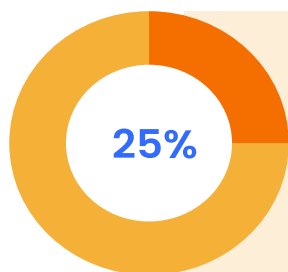
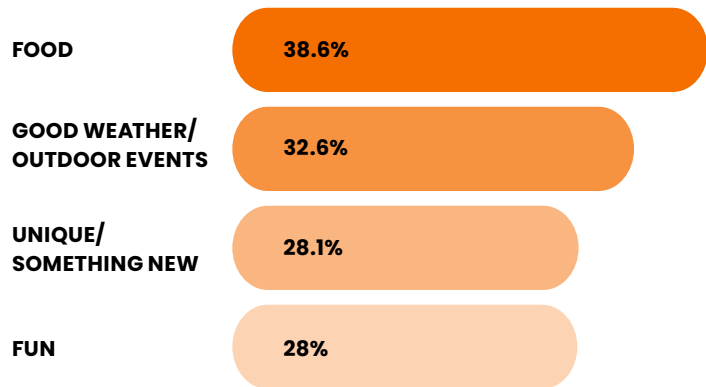
## BARRIERS TO ATTENDANCE\*

Increasingly, cost is a top barrier to attending arts and culture in Ontario. ONCD provides free, accessible arts and culture to the public year after year.



## PROGRAMMING OF INTEREST\*

Non-attendees said they would like to see programming related to:



► In 2023, **one in four** Ontarians reported being **aware of Ontario Culture Days.\***





## Organizer Insights

Ontario Culture Days supports festival organizers throughout the province to help them present their arts and culture programming. We provide outreach and support via communication tools, webinars, research, and roundtables.

### DRIVERS OF FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE

A new experience – either through visiting new parts of their province or experiencing something new – are the top drivers of attendance in 2023.

### MOTIVATORS TO ATTEND CULTURE DAYS (RANKED 1/2/3) ATTENDED CULTURE DAYS (N=102)\*



↑ significantly up YaY at 95% confidence



## Festival Hubs

In 2023, Ontario Culture Days continued the successful regional Festival Hub program, featuring local partners in communities across the province.

The program continues to drive Ontario Culture Days marketing and communications, and is popular with partners and local media, increasing visibility of events, and expanding audience reach.

In 2023, ONCD placed Creatives in Residence programming within several Hub communities.

The Hub program will continue in 2024. The ONCD team will focus on the sustainability of this program, nurturing partnerships and supporting Hub organizers for growth



**13**  
Regional Festival Hubs\*

**883**  
Events Presented events  
hosted in Festival Hub locations\*

**48,519**  
Estimated attendees to events  
hosted in Festival Hub locations\*



The Ontario Culture Days regional Festival Hub program was sponsored by OLG.

## The 2023 Festival Hubs Were:

- 1. ELORA/ FERGUS**  
Partners Centre Wellington and Elora Fergus Arts Council
- 2. 1,000 ISLANDS & GANANOQUE**  
Partner Gananoque Arts Network
- 3. GUELPH**  
Partner City of Guelph
- 4. HALTON**  
Partners Arts Milton, Town of Halton Hills, Town of Oakville, City of Burlington
- 5. OTTAWA REGION**  
Partners Ottawa Art Gallery, National Arts Centre, and Conseil des arts Prescott-Russell Arts Council
- 6. SAULT STE. MARIE**  
Partner Art Gallery of Algoma
- 7. SCUGOG**  
Partner Scugog Arts
- 8. SOUTH GEORGIAN BAY**  
Partner South Georgian Bay Arts Network
- 9. ST. CATHARINES & NIAGARA**  
Partners City of St. Catharines and Lincoln Museum & Cultural Center
- 10. THUNDER BAY**  
Partner City of Thunder Bay
- 11. TORONTO QUEEN WEST**  
Partner Queen West Art Crawl
- 12. VAUGHAN**  
Partner City of Vaughan
- 13. WINDSOR**  
Partners Arts Council Windsor & Region and Art Windsor-Essex



### FESTIVAL HUB ATTENDANCE\*

Attendance at Festival Hub events more than doubled since the program's inception.

2022

23,369 ATTENDEES

2023

48,519 ATTENDEES

[ONCULTUREDAYS.CA/HUBS-2023](https://ONCULTUREDAYS.CA/HUBS-2023)

# Creatives in Residence

In 2023, ONCD presented our fourth lineup of residents to the Creatives in Residence program. Creatives work across artistic disciplines and are active in regions across the province. We worked with eight artists to develop new multidisciplinary, community-engaged projects to be presented during the fall festival. This year, the series is inspired by themes of material culture.

These programs were promoted through blog features, video profiles, and other digital content, as well as through strategic press opportunities.

[ONCULTUREDAYS.CA/2023-CREATIVES-IN-RESIDENCE](https://ONCULTUREDAYS.CA/2023-CREATIVES-IN-RESIDENCE)



**Alisa McDonald (Guelph & Toronto) | *Fables in Yarn***

Alisa created colourful, contemporary punch-needle wall-hangings featuring themes of folklore, fables and the esoteric, which were shown at the Guelph Civic Museum and Toronto Reference Library. She facilitated a large-scale collective art piece during the 2023 Queen West Art Crawl where art lovers were invited to contribute to this collaborative art piece.

*Partners: Queen West Art Crawl, Toronto Reference Library, Guelph Civic Museum*



**Betty Carpick (Thunder Bay) | *The Land is Dancing***

Betty collaborated with community participants to make ink blots (Boreal Forest inks made by Betty) that were photographed and assembled as patterns in a galaxy for a digital projection. Following an Artist Talk at the Co. Lab Gallery, the projection went live as an outdoor public installation in Thunder Bay during the Ontario Culture Days Festival. A Maker Session at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery gave people of all ages a chance to play with inks.

*Partners: Co. Lab, Thunder Bay Art Gallery*



**Chelsea Smith (Temiskaming) |  
Maawanji'idiwag: They Come Together**

Chelsea grew her own plants to create natural dyes that were used to tint natural fabric, which was then made into a traditional hand-tied quilt through a series of community quilting and story sharing sessions. She exhibited the resulting artwork and hosted an artist talk and participatory workshop at Temiskaming Art Gallery, where attendees experimented on paper with natural pigments created by the artist.

*Partners: Temiskaming Art Gallery*

**26,950**

Estimated attendees at ONCD-produced artistic programming.\*



**Juliane Foronda (Ottawa) | Notes on Play**

Juliane researched the board game archive at the Canadian Museum of History, and selected phrases from a variety of historic board game instruction manuals. She then created a text-based installation scattering the selected phrases throughout the city of Ottawa, where she also hosted an artist talk and workshop at the Ontario Art Gallery.

*Partners: The Canadian Museum of History, Ottawa Art Gallery (OAG), OC Transpo, SAW*



**Kevin A. Ormsby & Kashe Dance (Toronto) |  
Kultcha Live Yah**

Kevin, along with KasheDance, drew from Pan-Africanist based movement and hosted the 'Kultcha Live Yah' series at Citadel + Compagnie during the festival. The series included in-person and online workshops leading up to a final performance, which featured a spectrum of dancers performing against a backdrop of digital artwork.

*Partners: Citadel + Compagnie, Toronto Public Library Oakwood Branch*



**Mushtari Afroz (Pickering) | Choreo-Xperience Public Spaces**

Mushtari worked with dancers to surprise and engage the audience through a series of dance performances that interacted with Pickering's public spaces and invited public participation. The intention of the project was to raise awareness of the importance of these shared spaces as gathering points and places of pride within diverse communities.

*Partners: City of Pickering*

**Myung-Sun Kim (Toronto) | Rituals for Belonging**

Myung-Sun Kim presented a series of vessels intended to evoke heirlooms of kinship and as containers for time and space to hold conversations and human connections towards belonging as part of her ongoing project 'Rituals for Belonging'. She also provided various rituals that were offered to visitors so they could reinterpret and respond to the rituals' call for belonging and care.

*Partners: Toronto Public Library*



**Owen Marshall (Toronto) | Six and a Half Flags Over Queen Street West**

Owen presented a series of printed flags which used humour to challenge and undermine the perceived authority of flags and the significance they carry. The works were shown at the Queen West Art Crawl, the Drake Hotel, 401 Richmond and Parkdale Toronto Public Library, where an artist talk and workshop were also held.

*Partners: Queen West Art Crawl, Queen West BIA, Toronto Public Library*

## ON Culture Days @ the Library

Ontario Culture Days' ongoing partnership with Toronto Public Library brought free and accessible artistic programming into three local library spaces throughout the festival:

- ▶ Toronto Reference Library
- ▶ Parkdale Library
- ▶ Lillian H. Smith Branch

Produced in partnership with:




# Spotlight Recognition Program

The Spotlight Recognition Program celebrates exemplary programming taking place each year as part of the Ontario Culture Days festival. This year's categories celebrated the creativity and ingenuity of local organizers who have brought events to Ontario audiences. Both event organizers and festival attendees nominate programs that they feel have exemplified the Spotlight themes.

*The winners of the 2023 Spotlight Recognition Program were awarded a VIA Rail travel gift certificate.*



 **BEST COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM**  
*A Place I Call Home Halton – Organized by artist Faisal Anwar with Town of Oakville, Town of Halton Hills, Town of Milton, Museums of Burlington & Halton Region, Halton Region, ON*


A Place I Call Home Halton was a community-driven artwork created and led by Oakville-based artist Faisal Anwar exploring the concept of “HOME” in the context of migration, societal changes, and instability. Participants were invited to share their interpretations of home through images on social media, contributing to a large-scale installation projected on walls and monitors in prominent locations within the Halton Region.

**Runner-Up:** *World Beats, Organized by Arts Milton, Milton, ON*

# SPOTLIGHT

## RECOGNITION PROGRAM



 **BEST IN-PERSON PROGRAM**  
*Dance Together Festival – York Region, Organized by Dance Together Festival, York Region, ON*

The Dance Together Festival transforms public spaces and celebrates community through diverse and inclusive dance workshops, vibrant visual art and live music. The festival offers free workshops and events that centre on positive and accessible dance experiences.

**Runner-Up:** *Animal Forms, Organized by Miki Tambllyn & the City of Guelph, Guelph, ON*

[ONCULTUREDAYS.CA/SPOTLIGHT-2023/](https://ONCULTUREDAYS.CA/SPOTLIGHT-2023/)



### **WARREN GARRETT INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING AWARD**

*Daniel's Cafe, Organized by Daniel Xia with City of Vaughan, Vaughan, ON*

Daniel's Café (created by a youth living with disabilities), which took place at Pierre Berton Heritage Centre in Vaughan, was an interactive social club where participants could enjoy live music performances and play games specially designed for youth with intellectual disabilities, fostering social interaction and mental health awareness. The program aimed to provide services to the marginalized population with disabilities including Autism, Down Syndrome, and others with mental disabilities.

**Runner-Up:** *From One Queer To Another, Organized by Jude Akrey with City of Guelph, Guelph, ON*



### **PEOPLE'S CHOICE**

*Winner: World of Threads, Organized by World of Threads Festival with Town of Oakville, Oakville, ON*

World of Threads Festival was an international showcase of local, national and international contemporary fibre and textile art and featured 426 artworks by 115 artists from 15 countries. There were thematic group exhibitions, solo shows and installations throughout Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre in Oakville.

**Runner-Up:** *South Asian Mommies of Milton Cultural Hour, Organized by Arts Milton, Milton, ON*





## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

As an organization, Ontario Culture Days is committed to incorporating Reconciliation within our work. We strive to create and maintain meaningful relationships and practices that recognize, amplify, and celebrate Indigenous arts and culture.

On September 30, Canadians observed the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, honouring the lost children and Survivors of residential schools, their families, and their communities' resilience. This day reserved space exclusively for events commemorating NDTR, highlighting First Nations, Métis, and Inuit experiences and celebrating Indigenous creative and cultural expressions.

Northern Ontario had the highest percentage of NDTR events relative to its total activities.\*



### Programs included:

- ▶ *A Walk to Remember the Children*, organized by Grandmothers Voice, Halton Region
- ▶ *Celebrate Indigenous Voices with James Gordon*, organized by Guelph Public Library, City of Guelph
- ▶ *Lacey Hill and Guest Artists*, organized by Town of Oakville, Town of Oakville
- ▶ *Sisters of the Drum*, organized by Loyalist Township - Heritage Culture and Tourism, Township of Loyalist
- ▶ *The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation with Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig and ITO*, organized by Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig & Indigenous Tourism Ontario, City of Sault Ste Marie
- ▶ *Wayne Simpson and the Aamjiwnaang First Nation: A story of re-discovering culture*, organized by Elora Centre for the Arts, Township of Centre Wellington



4

6

2

5

1

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## ON Culture Guides

ON Culture Guides are self guided travel itineraries with a focus on arts, culture, and heritage tourism, featuring diverse cultural experiences, local businesses, and community histories throughout Ontario. In 2023 ONCD produced **6 ON Culture Guides** in partnership with travel partners throughout the province. This brings the **total number of Guides to 28**.

[ONCULTUREDAYS.CA/GUIDES/](https://ONCULTUREDAYS.CA/GUIDES/)

### GUIDES PRODUCED IN 2023

- 1. HAMILTON**  
Partner: Heart of Ontario
- 2. MILTON**  
Partner: Town of Milton
- 3. ST. CATHARINES**  
Partner: City of St. Catharines
- 4. STRATFORD**  
Partner: Destination Stratford
- 5. OAKVILLE**  
Partner: Town of Oakville
- 6. CALEDON**  
Partner: Town of Caledon



**HAMILTON**



**MILTON**



**ST CATHARINES**



**STRATFORD**



**OAKVILLE**



**CALEDON**

# Year-Round Editorial Content

ONCD's year-round content includes 'Stories and More' blog posts. In 2023, Ontario Culture Days produced **26 original blog posts**, including artist features, things to do, and resources for festival organizers and the broader arts and culture sector. These articles were disseminated through digital ads, social media, and e-newsletters to engage public and sector audiences.

Some popular stories published in 2023 were:

- ▶ **Cultivating Connections: Pikangikum to Toronto**, by Chyler Sewell  
*Highlighting the long-term cultural exchange between two Ontario communities.*
- ▶ **Uncover Ontario's History This Museum Month**, by Ontario Culture Days staff  
*Featuring unique things to do all across Ontario for the month of May.*
- ▶ **NOTES ON PLAY**, by Juliane Foronda  
*A reflection of project processes and themes from this 2023 Creative in Residence.*
- ▶ **Creating Inclusivity: 8 Tips To Enhance Festival Access**, by Rachel Marks  
*A resource for Ontario Culture Days organizers to help put accessibility at the forefront of programming.*
- ▶ **Spotlight on Black History and Black Futures in Ontario**, by Ontario Culture Days staff

[ONCULTUREDAYS.CA/STORIES-AND-MORE](https://onculturedays.ca/stories-and-more)



**CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS**



**UNCOVER ONTARIO'S HISTORY**



**NOTES ON PLAY**



**CREATING INCLUSIVITY**



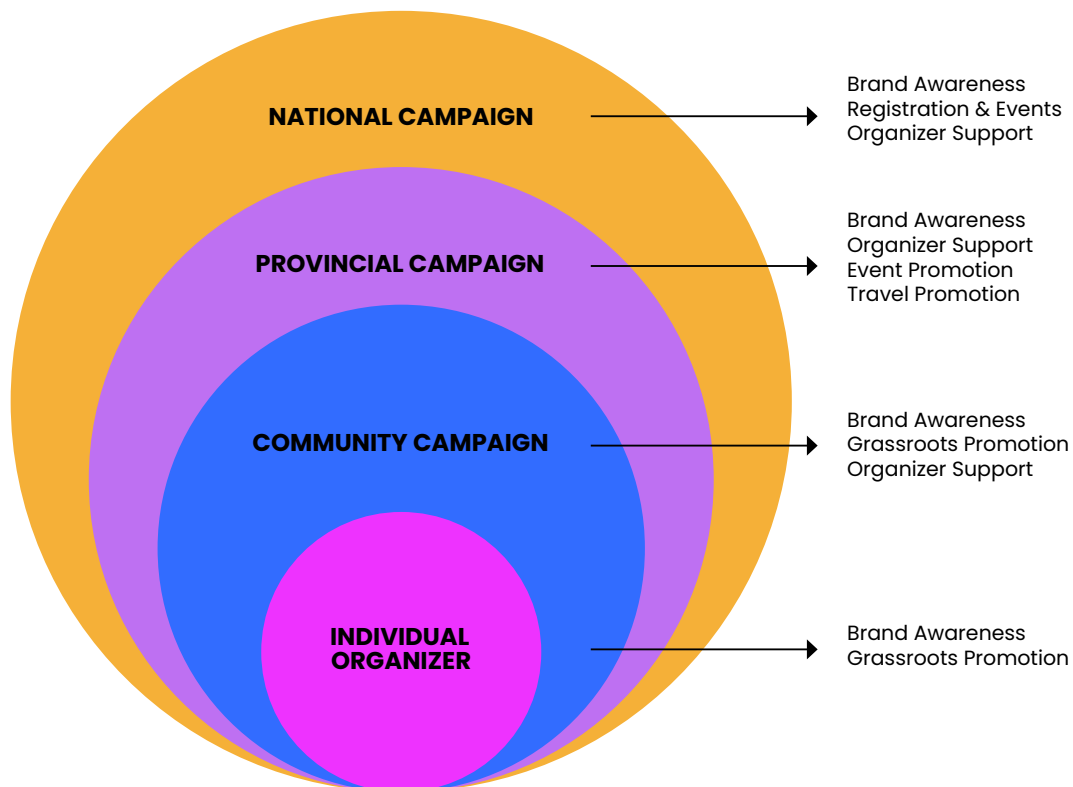
**SPOTLIGHT ON BLACK HISTORY**



## Marketing and Outreach

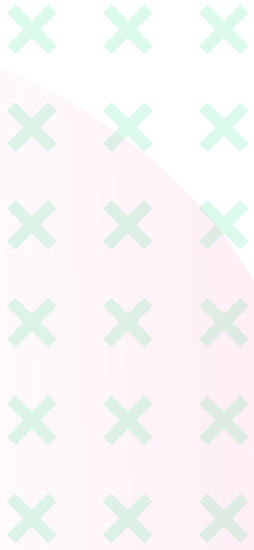
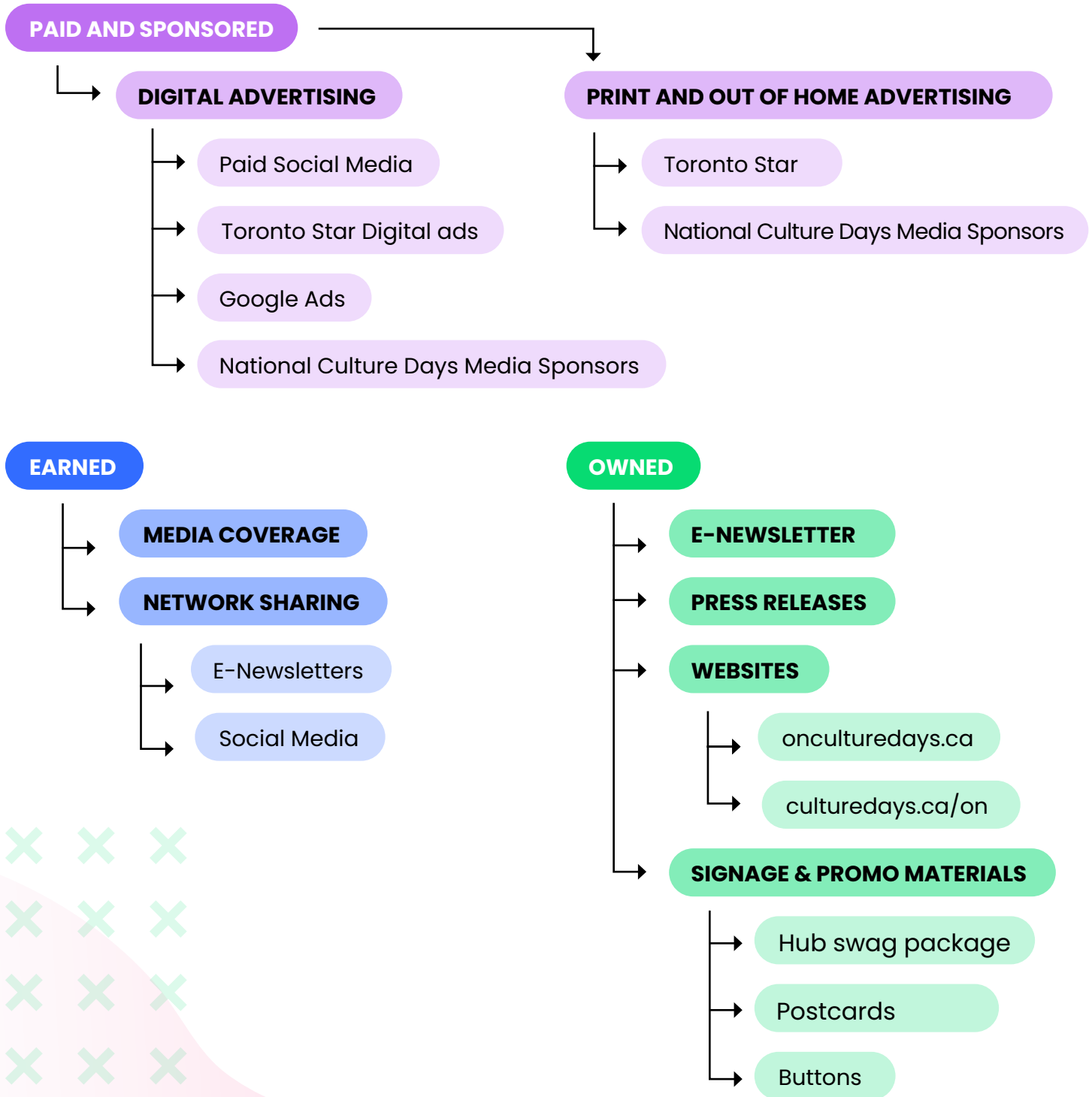
Ontario Culture Days participates in and facilitates a tiered marketing and outreach strategy coordinated between the national, provincial, and local levels.

### Campaign Tiers



# Promotional Strategy

Ontario Culture Days employs paid, sponsored, earned, and owned promotional strategies, including advertising and network partnerships, and utilizes a year round content strategy that drives interest in arts and culture across Ontario. We leverage long-term advertising partnerships that provide consistent results year-over-year.





# Marketing & Communications

Ontario Culture Days employs a year-round arts, culture, and heritage content strategy. This strategy, along with engagement-focused marketing campaigns continued to garner strong results across channels.

**87,975**

E-news impressions in 2023\*

## ADVERTISING IMPRESSIONS\*



## WEBSITE PAGEVIEWS\*



## EMAIL NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS\*



## FOLLOWERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA\*



## SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS\*



# Media

In Ontario in 2023, the PR campaign generated by ONCD, and our National and municipal Culture Days partners, resulted in **460 pieces of unique coverage** including notable mainstream broadcast, radio and online news.\* This media coverage resulted in **130,138,110 combined impressions**.\*

## Notable Media Coverage

**THE PETERBOROUGH EXAMINER**  
SINCE 1847

Englehart artist relies on dyes that come from nature

Englehart resident Chelsea Smith has been exploring the use of natural materials to produce pigments for dyes that can be used in art projects. A display of her experiments and materials is now at the Temiskaming Art Gallery in Halleybury.

By Darlene Wroe, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter Temiskaming Speaker  
Wednesday, October 4, 2023 | 2 min to read

Englehart resident Chelsea Smith has been exploring the use of natural materials to produce pigments for dyes that can be used in art projects. A display of her experiments and materials is now at the Temiskaming Art Gallery in Halleybury.

**The Peterborough Examiner: Englehart artist relies on dyes that come from nature**

Reporter: Darlene Wroe Total Impressions: 35,200,490

**GUELPH TODAY .com**

Guelph artist featured in Ontario Culture Days Festival

The Ontario Culture Days Festival runs Sept. 22 to Oct. 15

GuelphToday Staff  
Sep 4, 2023 9:00 AM

**Guelph Today: Guelph artist featured in Ontario Culture Days Festival**

Reporter: Staff Total Impressions: 350,000

**the walleye**  
Thunder Bay's arts & culture alternative

The Walleye Magazine | 1 Sep 2023

**The Land is Dancing**  
Betty Capcik and the Ontario Culture Days Festival

By Emily Turner

The world needs more ink. Or rather, the world needs more people who care and appreciate the art that surrounds us. Betty Capcik is one of those people gifted with the ability to see the beautiful potential of what she found in nature, and who can make something out of it. And what she makes, she gifts to others so they may cherish their understanding of, and connection to, our natural environment. As Capcik says, "I am not an artist who makes material or products to sell [...] My knowledge, experience, and time in the gift I give."

For the past few months, Capcik has been working on a special outdoor art installation as part of the Ontario Culture Days Festival. Capcik is one of the eight artists in the Ontario Culture Days Festival program who will be presenting their art in their home communities in September and October. Capcik is using the natural ink that she has created out of the local environment. The installation has been titled 'The Land is Dancing', a name that captures the living, moving nature of the ink she created.

Inspired from natural resources in a previous and intricate artwork that Capcik has been engaging in for close to 10 years, Capcik's research and knowledge of the wild, wild, and hybrid ecosystems of our region, she harvests different plants and extracts the colours from them with water from natural sources such as creek beds, rivers or even of ink, which means that "when a batch is done, it's done and it's like capturing a moment in time." Capcik explains, "Each ink is an essence of a certain time and place, and [...] it can't be duplicated."

Close to 100 volunteers, Capcik brings in to workshop and classroom for people to try with, in the ink, appears and hopes that people have created at her installation during the Land is Dancing, the Temiskaming inkless proposition, added by Marc Cloutier and composed of hundreds of photographs taken by Sarah McIlwain, captures the various ways people have played with Capcik's ink. The project reflects how Capcik has reflected on all of the natural art that holds in our home forest, and has learned more about the environment in the process.

Capcik's installation will be on display September 28-30 from 4-7 pm outside the west end of the Ontario Co. Market building, across from Main Crossing. Her art will be from 4-6 pm on Sunday, Sept. 24 in the Co. Lab Gallery & Book Centre, and will be at her workshop on October 1 at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery from 1-3 pm.

"[Each ink] is an essence of a certain time and place, and [...] it can't be duplicated."

A Betty Capcik gathering water from Millar Creek to create essence of the waterway.

\* Goodland, one of the algal-ink color North American plants used for ink-making.

**The Walleye: The Land is Dancing**

Reporter: Emily Turner Total Impressions: 35,000

**now.** NEWS CULTURE REVIEWS REAL ESTATE LIFESTYLE EVENTS

Ontario Culture Days Festival returns with 1,000+ arts and culture events provincewide

SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 / RACHEL GOODMAN

ADVERTISEMENT

**Built to Tame Tough Terrain**  
2023 Ford Bronco Sport with up to 7 Available GOAT Modes™

**Now Toronto: Ontario Culture Days Festival returns with 1,000+ arts and culture events provincewide**

Writer: Rachel Goodman Total Impressions: 3,788,992



# ON Topic Speaker Series



## ON Topic Speaker Series

Throughout 2023, Ontario Culture Days presented the ON Topic Speaker Series, conducted both in-person and online.

This series of ongoing talks and workshops brought together arts and culture workers from across the province to discuss timely societal and economic issues impacting their sector, and to provide opportunities for cross-sector collaboration. The sessions covered a wide range of questions related to: sustainable development, the impact of AI technologies, the role of the tourism sector, and growing capacity for the production of inclusive arts programming.

[ONCULTUREDAYS.CA/ON-TOPIC/](https://ONCULTUREDAYS.CA/ON-TOPIC/)

### ON TOPIC SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS

- ▶ Lindsey Lickers, Onkwehon:we (Kanien'kéha)/Anishinaabe (Ojibwe- Mississauga's) artist and community developer
- ▶ Rosanna Lewis, Culture & Development and Climate Creative Commissions lead, British Council (Presenter)
- ▶ Paolo Granata, Associate Professor, Book & Media Studies Program Coordinator, University of Toronto; Faculty Affiliate, Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society (Respondent)
- ▶ Frederic Dimanche, Professor and Director at the Ted Rogers School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Toronto Metropolitan University
- ▶ Shawn Newman, tourism and project consultant
- ▶ Michael Murray, CEO, Ontario Arts Council, in conversation with Kathleen Sharpe, Executive Director, Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund
- ▶ Matthew R. Hills, Executive Director, Thunder Bay Art Gallery

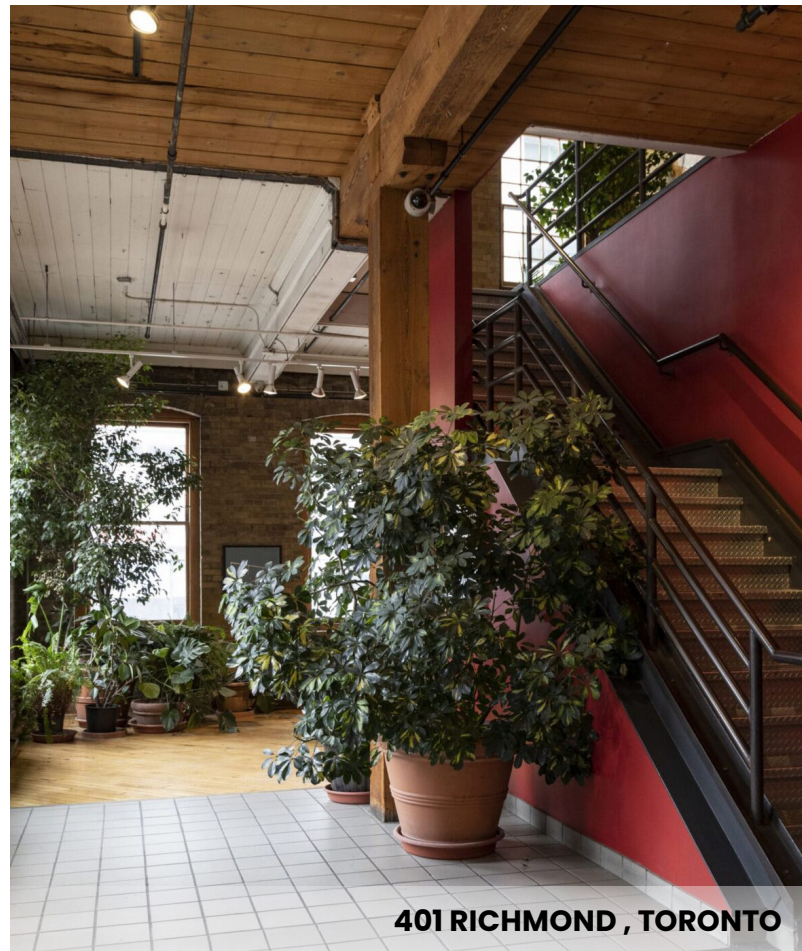


**SAULT STE. MARIE MUSEUM, SAULT STE. MARIE**

## The Ontario Culture Days' Offices

Our team now has a presence in Northern Ontario, with an office based in the Sault Ste. Marie Museum – a cultural hub housing a number of other arts organizations. This office allows us to engage with event organizers and audiences, foster new partnerships, and contribute to the arts sector in communities across Northern Ontario. By establishing a presence here, we aim to support local artists, celebrate unique regional cultures, and enhance the arts landscape of Northern Ontario.

Our Toronto office has also moved – but not far! We're staying at 401 Richmond St W, but have moved to a larger suite, providing us with more space to accommodate our growing team and to host meetings and events.



**401 RICHMOND , TORONTO**

## **SECTOR PARTNERS**

Town of Milton  
City of St. Catharines  
Destination Stratford  
Town of Oakville  
Town of Caledon  
Destination Northern Ontario  
Destination Toronto  
Durham Tourism, Region of Durham  
Nanos Research  
Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund  
The Heart of Ontario (Hamilton Halton Brant)  
Tourism Industry Association of Ontario  
Tourism Thunder Bay  
Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island

## **CORPORATE AND MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS**

Arterra Wines Canada  
Ivy Charging Network  
Destination Northern Ontario  
Destination Toronto  
Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation  
Star Metroland  
Toronto Star  
VIA Rail Canada

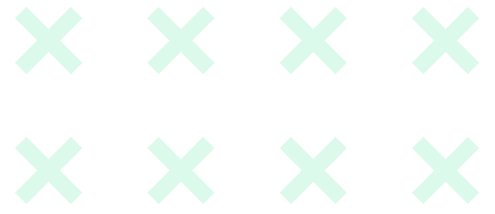
## **FESTIVAL PARTNERS**

Art Gallery of Algoma  
Art Windsor-Essex  
Arts Council Windsor & Region  
Canadian Museum of History  
Centre Wellington  
Citadel + Compagnie  
Co.Lab  
Destination Northern Ontario  
Gananoque Arts Network  
Guelph Museums  
KasheDance  
Lincoln Museum & Cultural Centre  
OC Transpo  
Ottawa Art Gallery (OAG)  
Prescott-Russell Arts Council /  
Conseil des arts Prescott-Russell  
Queen West Arts Crawl  
SAW  
Scugog Arts  
South Georgian Bay Arts Network  
Temiskaming Art Gallery  
The City of Guelph  
The City of Pickering  
The City of St. Catharines  
The City of Thunder Bay  
The City of Vaughan  
The West Queen West Business  
Improvement Area (BIA)  
Thunder Bay Art Gallery  
Toronto Public Library  
Town of Halton Hills  
Town of Oakville

## **NATIONAL AFFILIATE**

Culture Days National





# Our Team

## STAFF

**Kyrstiana Bourdage**, Programs and Operations  
Coordinator and Northern Ontario Lead

**Ruth Burns**, Executive Director

**Noor Khan**, Producer, Artistic Programs

**Keira Park**, Marketing Manager

**Kaitlyn Patience**, Partnerships &  
Outreach Manager

**Samantha Woo**, Marketing &  
Communications Assistant

**Claudia Zilstra**, Communications &  
Outreach Assistant

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Gary Filan**, Chair and President

**Jasmina Jovanovic**, Vice-Chair

**Marsha McFadgen**, Secretary

**Isabelle de Bruyn**, Treasurer

**Thiva Arumarajah**

**Tim Jennings**

**Marnie Lapierre, CTIS**

**Gallant Law**

**Amanda Scriver**

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**Carolyn Bennett**, Writer

**Leni Brem**, Consultant

**DM Public**, Media Relations

**Dave Dymont**, Consultant

**Francois Girard**, Translation

**Rachel Marks**, Writer

**Dr. Shawn Newman, Dr. Louis-Etienne Dubois**  
and **Dr. Frederic Dimanche**

**Newlight Agency**, Translation

**Sandbox Software**, Website Development

**Chyler Sewell**, Writer

**Li Robbins**, Writer

**Laura Ward**, programming consultant

# Our Supporters

## GOVERNMENT FUNDERS



Canada Council  
for the Arts  
Conseil des arts  
du Canada



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



ONTARIO CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS FUND  
LE FONDS POUR LES MANIFESTATIONS  
CULTURELLES DE L'ONTARIO



FUNDED BY  
THE CITY OF  
TORONTO

## CORPORATE SUPPORTERS & MEDIA PARTNERS



# Photography

- Cover** Milton Chinese Arts Society Dancers, Milton Culture Days. Courtesy of Sarah Arfan.
- Page 2** Partner Dance 101 with Katya Kuznetsova, Dance Together Festival York Region, Vaughan Culture Days. Courtesy of Mirna Chacín.
- Page 4** Ruth Burns, courtesy of Claudia Zilstra.  
Gary Filan, courtesy of Sara Elizabeth Photography.
- Page 5** World of Threads Exhibition, Oakville Culture Days. Courtesy of Sarah Arfan.
- Page 6** Arts and Culture Under the Lights Launch Event, Thunder Bay Culture Days. Courtesy of the City of Thunder Bay.
- Page 7** Windsor Neighbourhood Arts Tour, Windsor Culture Days. Courtesy of Alejandro Tamayo.
- Page 8** South Asian Mommies of Milton, Milton Culture Days. Courtesy of Sarah Arfan.
- Page 9** Music Venue, Gananoque Culture Days. Photo courtesy of Gananoque Arts Network.
- Page 10** Top: *"Rituals For Belonging"* exhibition tour & Ritual Sharing with Myung-Sun Kim, Toronto Culture Days. Photo courtesy Sarah Hassanein.  
Bottom: Elora Studio Tour, Elora-Fergus Culture Days. Photo by Sarah Arfan.
- Page 12** Left: Alisa McDonald Booth Queen West Art Crawl, Toronto Culture Days. Courtesy of Kevin Jones.  
Right: Betty Carpick, Thunder Bay Culture Days. Courtesy of Marc Doucette
- Page 13** Top: Chelsea Smith Exhibition, Temiskaming Culture Days. Courtesy of Felicity Buckell  
Left: Juliane Foronda, *NOTES ON PLAY* bus shelter, Ottawa Culture Days. Courtesy of Claudia Zilstra  
Right: KasheDance Showcase at Citadel + Compagnie, Toronto Culture Days. Courtesy of Kevin Jones
- Page 14** Top Left: Choreo-xperience Public Spaces - Dance Takeover by Mushtari Afroz in Pickering, courtesy of Dewan Karim  
Top Right: *"Rituals For Belonging"* exhibition tour & Ritual Sharing with Myung-Sun Kim, Toronto Culture Days. Photo courtesy Sarah Hassanein.  
Bottom: Owen Marshall at Queen West Art Crawl, Toronto Culture Days courtesy of Kevin Jones.
- Page 15** Left: *A Place I Call Home*, Halton Region (photo taken at Oakville Culture Days). Photo by Sarah Arfan.  
Right: Cuban Fusion with Dailyn Martinez, Dance Together Festival York Region, Vaughan Culture Days. Courtesy of Mirna Chacín.
- Page 16** Top: Daniel's Cafe, Vaughan Culture Days. Photo Courtesy of Lynne Xia  
Bottom: *World of Threads*, Oakville Culture Days. Photo by Sarah Arfan.
- Page 17** Top: The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation with Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig and ITO, Sault Ste. Marie Culture Days. Courtesy of Kyrstiana Bourdage.  
Bottom: KasheDance Showcase at Citadel and Compagnie, Toronto Culture Days. Courtesy of Kevin Jones.
- Page 19** Top right: Young Milton couple, Nicole Sylvester and Jonathan Sylvester, enjoy a walk along Mill Pond trail. Photo courtesy of Town of Milton  
Top left: Hamilton - Theatre Aquarius, photo courtesy of Felix Vlasak  
Middle right: Stratford Confederation Park Waterfall, photo by Erin Samuell. Courtesy of Stratford Festival.  
Middle left: Port Dalhousie, photo courtesy of City of St. Catharines.  
Bottom right: GoodLot Stage, courtesy of GoodLot Farmstead Brewing Co.  
Bottom left: Erchless Estate Exterior, photo courtesy of Oakville Museum.
- Page 20** Top: Workshop at Pikangikum First Nation. Photo by Isorine Marc.  
Upper middle: Guelph Civic Museum. Photo by Brandon Marsh Photography  
Lower middle: *Notes on Play*, courtesy of Juliane Foronda.  
Bottom left: Photo credit: Mirna Chachin. Event: Dance to Music with Katya Kuznetsova.  
Bottom right: TESSEL: A Community Conversation at Kuumba. Photo courtesy of the artist.
- Page 21** ONCD Buttons, Ottawa. Courtesy of Claudia Zilstra.
- Page 23** Town of Oakville Flag Making Event, Oakville Culture Days. Courtesy of Sarah Arfan.
- Page 26** Top: Sault Ste. Marie Office, courtesy of Samantha Pine-Bennett.  
Bottom: 401 Richmond, Toronto. Photo courtesy of 401 Richmond.

**ONTARIO CULTURE DAYS**  
**401 Richmond St W, Suite 403**  
**Toronto, ON M5V 3A8**  
**[onculturedays.ca](http://onculturedays.ca) | [info@onculturedays.ca](mailto:info@onculturedays.ca)**