

## BACKGROUNDER

AOE Arts Council (AOE) is a vibrant, pro-active not-for-profit community-based organization dedicated to promoting, supporting and developing the arts in Ottawa. AOE supports Ottawa artists and arts organizations through programs, resources and services in both English and French.

Over its 20-year history, AOE has become vital to the quality of life in Ottawa and established itself as the significant supporter and partner to the local arts community. AOE is at the heart of innovative programming and partnerships that inspire and assist hundreds of arts organizations and individual artists. These artists and organizations exhibit and/or present the visual, performing, media, and literary arts in our community and contribute to our cultural landscape.

AOE believes that the arts are an essential element of community life, and this belief forms the basis of its mission. The Council works with the community to develop partnerships and enhance the visibility and support for local artists and arts organizations. For more than 20 years, AOE worked tirelessly to make the dream of a purpose-built arts facility in Ottawa's east end a reality.

AOE launched the ARTicipate Endowment Fund Campaign (\$5 million) in September 2007, with the goal of helping to ensure the rich, bilingual and accessible programming within the Shenkman Arts Centre. The fund will guarantee a viable source of annual funding for the artists and arts organizations who will contribute to the Centre's programming.

Through the fund, AOE offers an opportunity to establish a means of critical, long-term funding for the arts in Ottawa, and to make a profound lasting impact on the cultural life in the community. It will provide a reliable stream of annual funding and form a base of support for the myriad of activities that will take place within the new Centre. The ARTicipate campaign has raised 85% of its goal to date.

As corporate and community support continues to grow, AOE looks forward to celebrating further achievements in its new home in the Shenkman Arts Centre.

Visit [www.artsoe.ca](http://www.artsoe.ca) to learn more about AOE and [www.articipate.ca](http://www.articipate.ca) to learn more about the ARTicipate Endowment Fund.

### Contact:

Cristiane Doherty  
*Director of Communications*  
C 613.799.9277  
T 613.580.2767  
[cristiane@artsoe.ca](mailto:cristiane@artsoe.ca)