



NEIGHBOURHOOD ARTS 150:

Celebrating Ottawa's Communities



Canada

BACKGROUNDER
OCT. 2. 2016

Ottawa's AOE Arts Council is pleased to announce **NEIGHBOURHOOD ARTS 150, *Celebrating Ottawa's Communities*** as an official Canada 150 initiative recognizing the 150th anniversary of Confederation. This special one-time community arts-engagement opportunity is for artists and residents in neighbourhoods across the city to join in celebration of what it means to be Canadian in 2017. The project is made possible with lead support from the Government of Canada's Canada 150 Fund. Other partners will be announced at a launch event in late March 2017 when the selected community arts projects are unveiled.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ARTS 150, *Celebrating Ottawa's Communities* will maximize opportunities for inclusive participation from Ottawa residents of all ages and backgrounds. It will also enhance the visibility of our local arts scene. This program will highlight some of Ottawa's original artistic talent, bring artists and communities together, create a variety of memorable arts experiences, and help build communities through the Arts.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ARTS 150, *Celebrating Ottawa's Communities* will enable professional artists and arts groups of all disciplines to lead the creation of free, community-specific arts experiences in 10 of this city's diverse neighbourhoods all across Ottawa, from Cumberland to Kanata. Ottawa is the epicentre for Canada's Birthday celebrations and we are excited to be able to provide opportunities for the Arts to spark festivities in local communities outside the downtown core and provide opportunities for residents to celebrate this milestone in their community.

This project will see local youth, seniors, families, newcomers, students, community associations and more, come together to co-create and participate in everything from mass community choirs, to musical performances, to theatrical storytelling, art installations, outdoor murals and sculptures.

AOE Arts Council is launching an open Call the second week of October for local professional artists and arts groups to submit proposals based on established criteria (www.artsoe.ca). Encouraging advance consultation with groups from the 10 indicated neighbourhoods, a peer assessment jury will select the most inspired and innovative proposals.

Partnerships are being encouraged from local BIA's, community associations, businesses and other supporters to provide unique local, non-traditional venues, logistics, financial and marketing resources, and garner participation in the community.

Once artists, neighbourhoods and partners are matched, projects will run between late March and October 2017.

These collaborative arts projects will be recorded and shared on an online component that will serve as a lasting legacy of community participation, arts leadership and positive outcomes in celebrating Ontario's and Canada's 150th year.

Community arts-engagement programs like **NEIGHBOURHOOD ARTS 150, Celebrating Ottawa's Communities** help people get to know their neighbours and encourage the sharing of dreams, creating healthier, vibrant communities.

AOE Arts Council is an arts service organization with a 30-year track record of engaging Ottawa's artists with the community. We strongly believe that the Arts are creative catalysts that help build strong neighbourhoods through both community and economic development. We partner with local artists and local businesses to make arts experiences happen and are excited to do so for 2017.

We recognize the diversity of Ottawa's residents, both official languages and that the city was built on unceded Algonquin Anishinabe Territory.

Please join us in 2017 to celebrate Canada through the arts, it's our community, with our artists, it's our Canada to Celebrate!

For more information:

Patrice Stanley, Special Project Manager

AOE Arts Council

T 613.580.2767

C 613.983.0518

patrice@artsoe.ca