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AOE Arts Council invites Ottawans to participate in free arts experiences

NEIGHBOURHOOD ARTS 150 - Celebrating Ottawa's Communities is launched

Ottawa, Ontario – AOE Arts Council is proud to bring twelve of Ottawa's most inspiring professional artists and arts groups together with neighbourhoods from all corners of Ottawa to celebrate their communities and express what it means to be Canadian. Through a special community-engaged arts project, **NEIGHBOURHOOD ARTS 150 – Celebrating Ottawa's Communities**, Ottawans will be able to participate in free arts experiences, from April to October in over 20 communities outside the downtown core.

The official launch will take place at the Innovation Centre (Bayview Yards) on Friday, April 7, 2017 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm and feature live performances and interactions with the jury-selected artists.

"I am delighted that the project **NEIGHBOURHOOD ARTS 150 – Celebrating Ottawa's Communities** by AOE Arts Council is giving residents and visitors the opportunity to celebrate the region's cultural and artistic diversity. For Canada 150, I invite everyone to discover the talents of our artists. It's an event you won't want to miss," says the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage.

As an official Canada 150 and Ontario150 initiative, **NEIGHBOURHOOD ARTS 150** offers residents of all ages and backgrounds an opportunity to participate in special community arts experiences from Cumberland to Kinburn, Britannia to Greely and places in between. Local youth, seniors, families, newcomers, BIA's, community associations and more are taking part in artist-led activities including everything from dance, theatre, art installations, sculptures, storytelling, puppetry, murals and more in non-traditional venues.

"The **NEIGHBOURHOOD ARTS 150** program will bring people together to celebrate and be inspired by talented artists in their communities and across the Ottawa region. I am proud that through the Ontario150 Community Celebration program, our government is supporting unique events like this that provide wonderful opportunities to celebrate Ontario's 150th anniversary," says Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ARTS 150 is a way to activate Ottawa’s dynamic arts community to provide residents with moments to share stories and create memories during this festive year.

Neighbourhood Arts 150 Local Artists	Neighbourhood Arts 150 Communities	
BETH MCCUBBIN	BARRHAVEN	MANOTICK
BRENDA DUNN ARTINJEST	BEACON HILL	ORLÉANS
CLAUDIA SALGUERO	BELLS CORNERS	OVERBROOK
DANDELION DANCE	BRITANNIA	PINECREST
MARGIT HIDEG	CARP	RIVERSIDE
HOUSE OF PAINT	CENTREPOINTE	ROCKCLIFFE
MASC	CUMBERLAND	STITTSVILLE
NAOMI TESSLER	ELMVALE	VANIER
ODYSSEY THEATRE	GREELY	WELLINGTON WEST
RAG AND BONE PUPPET THEATRE	HUNT CLUB	
THÉÂTRE BELVÉDÈRE	KANATA	
THUNK! THEATRE	KINBURN	

For a detailed list of the projects, descriptions and schedule of free arts experiences visit www.150ArtsOttawa.ca

“I am excited that AOE Arts Council has developed a project where Ottawa Communities will be able to celebrate Canada’s artistic and cultural diversity through the rich and unique contributions of their population,” says the Honourable, Andrew Leslie, MP Orléans.

Following a call for submissions from artists, projects were selected by a jury of arts professionals for their artistic merit and their ability to engage an inclusive and diverse group of participants.

“As Ontario celebrates its 150th anniversary, we want to support communities in laying the groundwork for strong economic, social and cultural legacies across the province,” says Marie-France Lalonde, MPP, Ottawa-Orléans. “Through the Ontario150 Community Celebration program, I am proud that we are able to support organizations like the AOE Arts Council and their Neighbourhood Arts 150 initiative, in which 12 of Ottawa’s most talented artists will receive the opportunity to showcase their talents in celebration of this milestone!”

Some of the arts experiences will culminate in a final tangible artwork such as a book, a performance, an installation or mural. Other activities invite residents to have fun by making bread, planting trees or creating local interactive theatre.

“House of PainT is super excited with the opportunity to bring our project to life in collaboration with AOE Arts Council and our community partners from the Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre and the Britannia Woods Community House. This project will insert Hip-hop and Urban Arts presentations, workshops and public murals in two urban communities further invigorating, inspiring and beautifying these already vibrant neighbourhoods, says Patrick McCormack, House of PainT General Manager. “Seizing this chance to bring people together to celebrate our communities via the arts is not only a great fit for this project but a wonderful way to reach out and build a strong and equitable city.”

These collaborative arts projects will be recorded and shared online at www.150ArtsOttawa.ca that will serve as a lasting legacy of community participation and artistic celebration of Canada's and Ontario's 150th year.

Through this special inclusive project, AOE Arts Council sees unprecedented potential to enhance the visibility of our vibrant and diverse local arts scene and help build strong communities through the arts.

"We wanted to make sure that our local arts community had opportunities to create, in memorable ways, what it means to be Canadian during Canada's sesquicentennial. We thank all those who are participating and those who have enthusiastically lent their support," said Lisa Cruickshank, President of AOE Arts Council.

The Arts Council also hopes to see a legacy of helping to build new audiences and establish relationships with community groups and businesses by fostering collaborative initiatives.

"The ability to come together as a community, to celebrate Canada 150 and to celebrate our roots perfectly embodies my view of Canadian culture. We are open. We are kind. We are compassionate people, says Jenna Sudds, President and Executive Director of the Kanata North Business Association. This project enables us to come together as a community and celebrate everything that we as a nation have accomplished in 150 years."

"Art enriches our lives. It entertains us and helps us define who we are. Through the variety of art forms represented in the **NEIGHBOURHOOD ARTS 150** project, conversation will be stimulated. We can break away from our day-to-day routines, even if for a short while, to pause, talk, listen and come together in a very personal way, adds Andrea Steenbakkers, Executive Director of the Barrhaven BIA.

AOE Arts Council recognizes the diversity of Ottawa's residents, both official languages and that the city was built on unceded Algonquin Anishinabe Territory.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ARTS 150 – *Celebrating Ottawa's Communities* is supported by Funders: Government of Canada, Ontario 150; and Partners: Ottawa 2017, Community Foundation of Ottawa, Metroland Media, Trinity Development Foundation, the Danbe Foundation and Jewel 98.5 FM, and many community partners working alongside the twelve arts activities.

All are invited to share their Neighbourhood Arts 150 experiences by following and sharing on **Facebook Twitter and Instagram: @150ArtsOttawa #150ArtsOttawa**

Read artist blog posts, see project descriptions and community partners, and plan your arts experiences using the interactive calendar at www.150ArtsOttawa.ca

About Canada 150

The goal of the Canada 150 Fund is to create opportunities for Canadians to participate in local, regional, and national celebrations that contribute to building a sense of pride and attachment to Canada. [Make the most of your Canada 150!](#)

About Ontario150

2017 is the 150th anniversary of Ontario as a province. This year is filled with exciting events and initiatives to celebrate the qualities and values that define us. 2017 is a festive year where Ontarians have the opportunity to come together and celebrate the incredible province we live in.

[Find out what's happening near you](#)

About AOE Arts Council

AOE Arts Council strongly believes that the Arts amplify voices and help build strong communities. The Arts Council is a 30-year-old arts service organization whose mission is to connect, champion and collaborate to bring resources together that build a thriving local arts community in the Ottawa region. We actively work with arts, government, business and non-profit partners to enable arts experiences and are proud to do so for the 150th celebrations.

www.artsoe.ca

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