

2025 Culture Update

Achievements & Highlights



Festivals and Events

Every year the City organizes and supports a wide range of events that promote community engagement, demonstrate our cultural vibrancy and foster civic pride. This year, the City was proud to produce more than 20 events and support over 50 third-party events.

2025

City-run Events

2025 City-run events included Doors Open, Public Works at Work, Indigenous Cultural Celebration, Peony Festival, Canada Day, Events in the Park, Kars on King, Culture Days, Bright and Merry Market, Oshawa Celebrates and more!



Events Highlights

Public Works at Work: Trucks, Tools & More!

This year the City was excited to deliver a new event - Public Works at Work: Trucks, Tools & More! This family-friendly event took place during Public Works Week and invited community members to go behind the scenes to learn about the City's Community & Operations Services Department and the important work they do within the City.

Barns2Beaches Music Tour

In partnership with Durham Tourism, we hosted the first performance of the Canadian Musicians Co-operative's Barns2Beaches Music Tour as part of our Events in the Park 2025 programming. This electrifying live performance featured an emerging Oshawa artist opening the programming with a lively musical performance, joined by a collection of Canada's brightest emerging artists playing their own songs alongside ear-catching medleys and re-imaginings of classic Canadian hits at Ed Broadbent Waterfront Park.



Convergence

The City of Oshawa offered free family-friendly arts activities as part of this year's Convergence Music and Art Festival led by Oshawa Tourism. Local artists Danielle Alexander, Jamaica Bridgett, Vicky the Real Artist, Vidhya Sriresh, Ally Wang and Theresa Wyatt painted Muskoka chairs live during the day, allowing attendees to watch their paintings come to life.

Culture Days

The City's 2025 Culture Days activities honoured National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a time to reflect, learn and come together through culture and community. The City presented free drop-in art activities and a viewing of the documentary *Birth of a Family*, provided by the National Film Board of Canada.



Event Awards

The City of Oshawa is thrilled to announce that this year the Indigenous Cultural Celebration, Peony Festival, Canada Day and Kars on King were named as Top 100 Festivals and Events for 2024 by Festivals and Events Ontario (FEO). In addition to being named among the Top 100 Festivals, the Indigenous Cultural Celebration also received two awards: Best New Festival and the FEO Impact Award.

Culture Plan

The City of Oshawa recognizes the importance of arts and culture in building a vibrant city. The City's Culture Plan helps to direct and organize our key arts, culture and heritage goals and projects to maintain and build upon Oshawa's cultural vitality. This year the City began community engagement to help inform the development of the next iteration of our culture strategy.

Sign up for the Events & Culture newsletter:
oshawa.ca/Subscribe

oshawa.ca/Culture
 905-436-3311
culturecounts@oshawa.ca



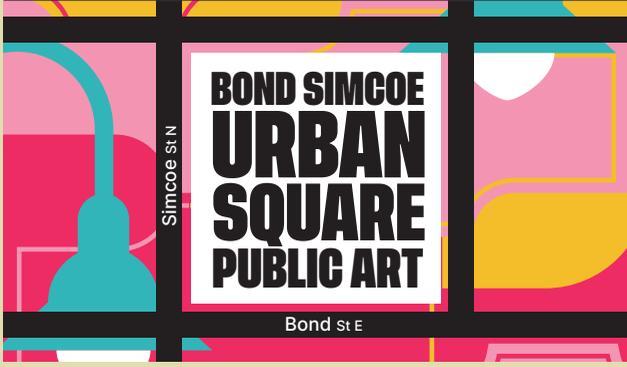
If this information is required in an accessible format, contact Service Oshawa.
 Office: 905-436-3311 | Email: service@oshawa.ca.

The Culture Update is produced by the City of Oshawa's Economic & Development Services Department.



Public Art

The City of Oshawa is proud to have a Public Art Master Plan which guides the ongoing implementation of the City's public art program. It outlines a vision statement for public art in Oshawa: *“Oshawa will be a community where Public Art is innovative, diverse and accessible to create vibrant public spaces and meaningful connections.”*



Bond Simcoe Urban Square Public Artwork

In honour of Oshawa's centennial anniversary in 2024 the City announced the commission of a new public sculpture for the forthcoming Bond Simcoe Urban Square, coming in 2026.

The City is excited to be developing this project with significant community engagement. Two public open house events have been held, in addition to a community feedback form that was released in early 2025. This project marks the City's first independent sculpture commission, signifying a meaningful step toward enhancing the creative fabric of our downtown.



Art and Culture in the Hall

Art and Culture in the Hall is an exhibition program that celebrates local heritage and artistic talent. Exhibitions are updated throughout the year, showcasing artworks, projects and collections from artists, cultural organizations and groups in Durham Region.

In 2025, exhibits were presented by students in Ontario Tech University's Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies program, students in Durham College's Fine Arts Advanced program, the Legacy of Hope Foundation and local artists Danielle Alexander, Diana Lawryshyn, Mac Peters and Leequette Santiago-Hinds.



Oshawa Culture Counts Awards

The Oshawa Culture Counts Awards celebrate and honour the creative and cultural achievements of the community.

In 2025 the City recognized:

- **Professional Artist Award:**
Keisha "Keysha Freshh" Fanfair
- **Emerging Artist Award:**
Danielle Alexander
- **Innovation and Creation Champion Award:**
Oshawa Museum



TeachingCity

TeachingCity brings together the City of Oshawa and its education and research partners – Durham College, Ontario Tech University, Trent University Durham GTA and the University of Toronto's Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering.

The 2024/2025 arts and culture projects included:

Environmental Sustainability Artworks: Fine art students from Durham College's Community Collaborations course were invited to create artworks for installation at the Civic Recreation Complex, Delpark Homes Centre, Donevan Recreation Complex, Northview Community Centre and the South Oshawa Community Centre. The student artworks were developed on the theme of environmental sustainability.

Ed Broadbent Waterfront Park Wayfinding: A multi-disciplinary team of Media, Art and Design students from Durham College has expanded on the City's past wayfinding projects with a focus on Ed Broadbent Waterfront Park. Students developed a wayfinding application that includes general park information and details on features within the park.

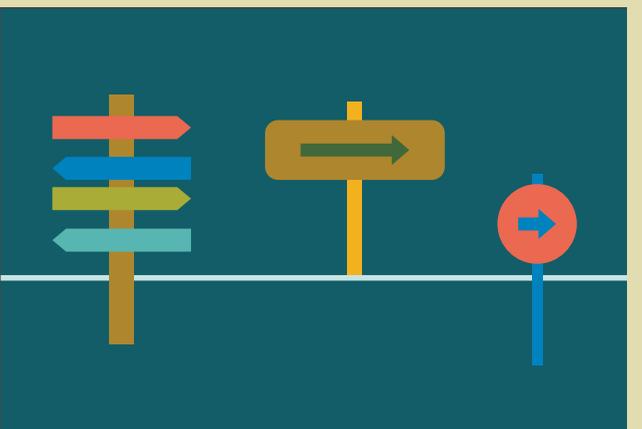
Community Building & Neighbourhood Identity in Downtown Oshawa: A research team comprised of students from Ontario Tech University partnered with the City of Oshawa and Mitacs to research how local governments and other community entities can help grow community and vibrancy downtown.



Volunteers

Thank you to the 50+ volunteers who supported the City of Oshawa's events and initiatives this year!

If you're interested in volunteering for future programs please visit oshawa.ca/Volunteer.



Cultural Leadership

The City is proud to work collaboratively with volunteer committees that support the implementation of Culture Counts: Oshawa's Arts Culture and Heritage Plan.

- Cultural Leadership Council
- Public Art Task Force

Thank you to all members for your support and extraordinary contributions.