



ART GALLERY  
BURLINGTON

VISIONING FOR  
OUR FUTURE

# Our Beginnings



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The Burlington Art Centre opened its doors on June 3, 1978, as a purpose-built Community Centre for community art groups.



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*"The secret of change  
is to focus all of your  
energy, not on fighting  
the old, but on  
building the new."*

*- Socrates*

# Drivers for Change

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## AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Our facility's critical aspects are reaching the end of their lifespan and need replacing.

- Capital expenditures over the next five years are expected to be in the realm of \$2 million.
- Of immediate importance are HVAC repairs, estimated at \$700,000, parking lots repairs estimated at \$400 - \$500,000, and roofing repairs of more than \$500,000.

# Drivers for Change

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## CHANGES TO OUR FUNDAMENTAL FRAMEWORK

The building's fundamental framework remains as a purpose-built community center.

- We host six Guilds and Arts Burlington, each with their own independent boards, mandates, identities and programs. We all compete for access to studio spaces.
- Of the 45,000 square foot building, 6% of our footprint is dedicated to exhibitions.
- Boasting the worlds largest collection of contemporary Canadian ceramics, we do not have a permanent collection gallery.
- Our child and youth programming, including camps and PA days, is extremely popular and often sells out within days, with long waiting lists. However, the lack of space limits our ability to service the waiting list.

# AGB Partners with Many Organizations

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## EXAMPLE OF SECTORAL PARTNERS

Art Gallery of Hamilton  
Arthouse Halton  
Art Lab  
Centre for Sustainable Curating -  
Western University  
Craft Ontario  
Critical Distance Centre for Curators  
(CDCC)  
EMMEDIA  
G44  
Gallery TPW  
Imagine In the Park  
The Bows (formerly Untitled Art  
Society)  
Workers' Art & Heritage Centre  
Xspace Cultural Centre

## EXAMPLE OF COMMUNITY

### PARTNERS

Polycultural Immigrant and Community  
Services  
Positive Space Network (PSN)  
Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG)  
Telling Tales  
YWCA Hamilton, Burlington, Brantford  
Halton United Way  
Hamilton Community Fridges  
Joseph Brant Hospital (JBH)  
McMaster University  
Neighbour2Neighbour  
Reach Out Centre for Kids (ROCK)  
Evergreen Brick Works

Food For Life Halton  
Halton Black Voices  
Halton Community  
Halton District School Board  
Halton Catholic District School Board  
Elizabeth Fry Society  
Artist Material Fund

## CULTURE BOARDS

Burlington Public Library  
Burlington Performing Arts Center  
Museums Burlington  
Tourism Burlington

## ARTS BURLINGTON

Burlington Fine Arts Association  
Burlington Handweavers and Spinners  
Guild  
Latow Photographers Guild  
Burlington Potters Guild  
Burlington Rug Hooking Guild  
Burlington Sculptors and Carvers Guild

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERS & FUNDERS

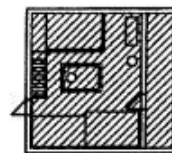
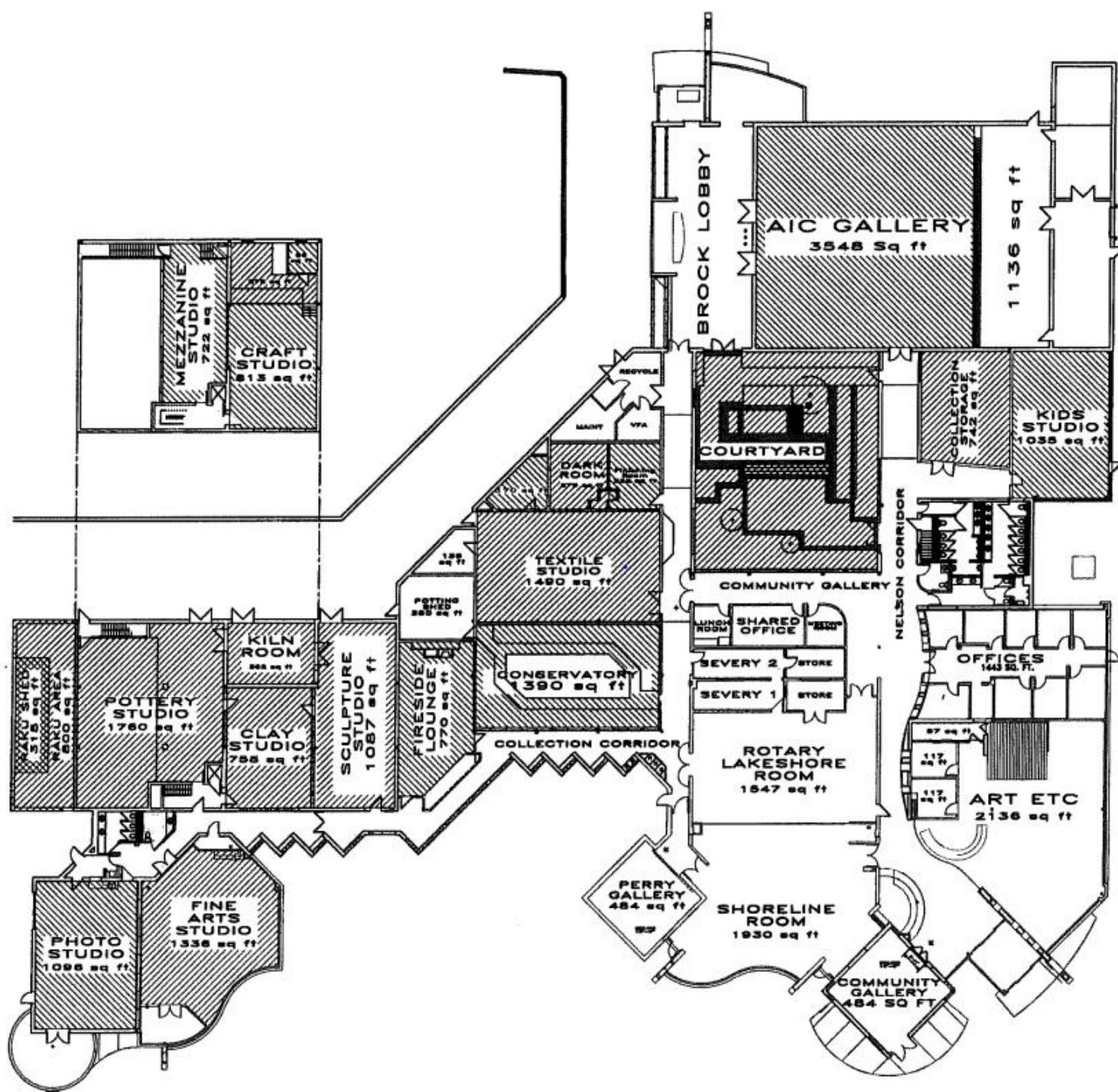
City of Burlington  
Canada Council for the Arts  
Canadian Heritage  
Digital Museums Canada  
Ontario Trillium Foundation  
Halton Region Community Investment  
Fund  
Canada Council for the Arts

Ontario Arts Council

## EXAMPLE OF RENTAL CLIENTS

Burlington Wine Club  
Rotary Club of Burlington  
Emergency Care Instructions Services  
Probus Club of Burlington  
Stoa Co Op  
North Burlington Women's Probus  
Club  
Burlington Central Women's Probus  
The Mixed Probus Club of Burlington  
Probus Women's Club of Burlington  
Young Yoga Masters  
Ikea  
City of Burlington  
Elections Canada  
BNI Executive Network  
Hypnosis Training Canada  
Appleby Women's Probus Club





MECHANICAL ROOM



# Drivers for Change

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## GROWTH IN VISION

*Our vision is to be known and respected as a place of intersection where creators, cultures and communities meet and share in the wealth of human creativity.*

Goals for gallery expansion:

- Increase floor area for programs and collection growth.
- Create new gallery and exhibition space.
- Enhance public image and brand identity.
- Establish artist-in-residence program.
- Expand studio spaces and access for artists.
- Develop education center for lifelong learning.
- Create public space for visitors to immerse themselves in art, reflection, and community.
- AGB to become a beacon for culture in the city

# *How Does Cultural Identity Influence Art*

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Art has a significant impact on society by:

- forming opinions
- instilling values
- and unravelling experiences in the real world

Art and culture:

- bring communities together
- feed creativity
- support vibrant communities
- encourage healthy populations
- showcase knowledge and talent
- fight stress and anxiety
- promote the tourism industry
- and express emotions.

By A. Reynolds <https://adrianreynolds.ie/cultural-identity-influence-art/>

## THE ARTS PROVIDE VALUE TO ONTARIANS...



### The arts contribute to a strong economy

Arts and culture in Ontario directly contribute **\$27.5 billion** annually to the provincial economy, representing **3.3%** of Ontario's GDP.<sup>1</sup>

There are more than **288,306 culture jobs** in Ontario or **4.1%** of total Ontario employment.<sup>1</sup>

### The arts revitalize Ontario communities and build local economic development

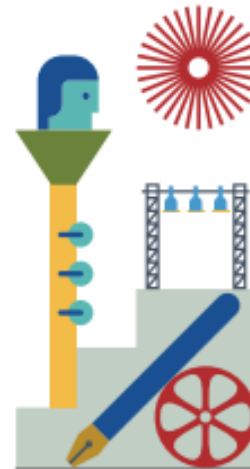
In a 2010 survey of 18 mid-sized Ontario cities, **all municipalities** reported using cultural and recreational amenities as a tool for downtown revitalization. **83%** deemed this strategy to be an effective tool.<sup>2</sup>

According to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, "arts, culture and heritage improve the ability of municipal governments to **influence local economic development** by attracting and retaining a skilled and talented workforce."<sup>3</sup>

**88%** of Ontarians agree that arts and cultural activities are important to a community's economic well-being.<sup>4</sup>



### The arts help communities attract and retain employees



**65%** of Ontario business leaders say that a thriving arts and culture scene is something that would make it easier to attract top talent to their community.<sup>5</sup>

**65%** of skilled workers agree that a thriving arts and cultural scene is something they would look for when considering moving to a new community.<sup>6</sup>

**80%** of Ontarians agree that an active local arts scene helps communities attract business.<sup>7</sup>

### The arts help drive tourism across Ontario

**9.5 million overnight tourists** participate in arts and culture activities while visiting Ontario, generating **\$3.7 billion** in GDP province-wide.<sup>8</sup>

Arts and culture tourists spend more and stay longer: the average Ontario arts/culture tourist **spends twice as much per trip** as a typical tourist and **stays more than one night longer**.<sup>8</sup>



Download the report [here](#).

## ...AND ONTARIANS VALUE THE ARTS.



### Ontarians support public funding of the arts

79% of Ontarians believe that the government should spend public dollars to support the arts.<sup>7</sup>

### Ontarians link the arts with improved quality of life

93% of Ontarians believe that arts activities help enrich the quality of our lives.<sup>7</sup>

90% of Ontarians agree that an active local arts scene helps make a community a better place to live.<sup>7</sup>

88% of Ontarians believe that if their community lost its arts activities, people living there would lose something of value.<sup>7</sup>

92% of Ontarians agree that exposure to arts and culture is important to individual well-being.<sup>4</sup>



### Ontarians show their support for the arts in many ways

86% of Ontarians attend live arts events or performances (such as music concerts, plays or visual arts exhibits) at least once a year.<sup>4</sup>

Over **280,000** Ontarians volunteer in arts and culture organizations.<sup>9</sup>

Over **380,000** Ontarians donate money to arts and culture organizations annually.<sup>9</sup>



### Canadians recognize how arts education can foster creativity and positive outcomes

84% of Canadians agree that engaging children in the arts helps them be more creative and expressive.<sup>10</sup>

97% of Ontarians agree that engaging children in the arts is important to their overall development.<sup>7</sup>

78% of Canadians believe that the arts help children from disadvantaged communities succeed.<sup>10</sup>

### Ontarians believe that the arts enhance shared community identity and belonging

88% of Ontarians agree that participating in arts activities builds a shared sense of community identity.<sup>7</sup>

90% of Ontarians agree that arts experiences help bring people from diverse backgrounds together as a community.<sup>7</sup>

86% of Ontarians agree that the arts help us express and define what it means to be Canadian.<sup>7</sup>



# Request to the City of Burlington

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The Art Gallery of Burlington requests \$100,000 from the City of Burlington to support the engagement of a consultant to facilitate a Facility Master Plan and Future Needs Feasibility Study between March 2024 - March 2025.

- The anticipated cost of the study is \$250,000.
- \$125,000 will be sought from Canadian Heritage - Cultural Spaces Canada.
- The balance of the proposed funding (\$25,000) will be obtained from other sources.

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The study will consider two scenarios: renovating our current space, which may involve expanding our footprint, or building a new building.

Its recommendations will serve as a roadmap for aligning the existing or future building with our evolving vision and help achieve institutional and community goals.



# Key Components

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Anticipate future needs of the organization and facility, considering growth projections for programs, attendance, and revenue, changing technologies, sectoral trends, and community needs.

Incorporate a stakeholder engagement plan to involve key stakeholders throughout the planning process for buy-in, inclusivity, and alignment of diverse perspectives.

Develop a comprehensive plan to meet future facility needs. Options include renovating, relocating, or constructing a new building. Prioritize current needs for long-term success.

Consider sustainable practices such as energy-efficient design, waste reduction, water conservation, and use of environmentally friendly materials.

Prioritize equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility as integral components.

Develop a financial model with preliminary capital cost estimates and funding levels from public and private sources. Include an operational plan outlining maintenance costs, revenues, and staffing considerations for 3-5 years.

# Timeline

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- Release Call for Proposals: October 2023
- Deadline for submissions: January 2024
- Tentative Short-list of Consultants: Late January - Early February 2024
- Tentative Consultant Selection and Negotiations: February 2024
- Cultural Spaces Funding Request: February to May 2024
- Award Consultant: May/June 2024
- Deadline for project completion: May 2025

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# Thank you

Emma (Quin) Sankey, Executive Director, Art Gallery of Burlington

Susan Busby, Chair, Board of Directors, Art Gallery of Burlington