

SUBJECT: Burlington Arts and Culture Fund Grant 2026 Recipients

TO: Council Information Package

FROM: Community Services
Recreation, Community and Culture

Report Number: CSS-09-26

Wards Affected: all

Date to Committee: N/A

Date to Council: N/A

CIP Date: 4/10/2026

Memo Details

This memo provides an update on the Burlington Arts and Culture Grant program, including successful projects and funding allocation for 2026.

Background:

Approved by Council in 2017 with Report PB-58-17, the Burlington Arts and Culture Grant (BACG) provides support to local artists, multicultural groups, and arts and culture organizations to foster creativity and enrich how Burlington residents experience and engage with arts and culture.

Since 2018, the BACG has provided \$573,343 to support the creation of 136 arts and cultural projects across the city. This investment has played a meaningful role in strengthening Burlington's cultural sector, supporting emerging and established artists, cultural professionals, and multicultural groups, while contributing to a vibrant, inclusive community.

Details:

The 2026 BACG accepted applications from January 5 to February 2, 2026. The program received 29 applications with a total funding request of \$180,557. Applications were evaluated by a peer assessment jury and internal staff, based on program and artistic merit, inclusion, community impact, and project delivery. Peer assessment jury members included: Lana Button, Alexander Chorny, Dianne Pearce, Quintin Teszeri, and Hayley Verrall (Jury Chair).

A total of \$75,000 was awarded to 15 projects, reflecting a range of disciplines and a balance of geographic and cultural representation across the city.

Grant support emerged as one of the key themes identified through community engagement for the Culture Plan. In parallel with the recently approved Community Investment Policy, staff are actively exploring opportunities to strengthen and enhance support to the community.

Project descriptions can be found online at burlington.ca/artsandculturegrant

Approved Projects - 2026/2027

Project Name	Applicant
Burlington Latin Festival	Latin Legacy Association
Elizabeth Gardens Art Walk	Elizabeth Gardens Creative Collective
Broadway Comes to Burlington	Burlington Symphony Orchestra
So You Think You Can't Dance	Burlington Footnotes
Summer Break Seniors' Showcase	Voices Music Collective
The Artist's Mark 2026	Burlington Fine Arts Association
Lunar New Year Celebration Gala	Redleaf Cultural Integration
Spellbound Immersive Choral Concert	Myriad Ensemble
Telling Tales Festival	Telling Tales
Walking Through the Fire - Indigenous Collaborations Culture Days Celebration	Chris McKhool, Sultans of String
Love in the time of Shadia and Layla Murad	Sounds from Damascus
Voice of Burlington 2027	Greater Burlington Tamil Association
Burlington Inspired Paint by Numbers	Hope Flynn
Opera in a Trunk	Southern Ontario Lyric Opera
Halton Freedom Celebration Festival	Halton Black History Awareness Society

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Attachments:

N/A

Memo Approval:

All memos are reviewed and approved by the Commissioner, Head of Corporate Affairs, Chief Financial Officer, and Commissioner of Legal and Legislative Services/City Solicitor.