




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

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| TO: | Mayor and Council |
| DATE: | November 26, 2025 |
| SUBJECT: | City of Hamilton's 50 th Arts Awards (City Wide) |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | City Wide |
| SUBMITTED BY: | Lisa Abbott Director, Tourism and Culture Planning and Economic Development |
| SIGNATURE: |  |

This communication update is to provide information on the City of Hamilton's 50th Arts Awards. The Hamilton Arts Awards are an opportunity to celebrate Hamiltonians for their artistic excellence or community leadership in the arts. 2026 marks the 50th anniversary of the Hamilton Arts Awards – one of the oldest municipal arts awards programs in Canada.

The public is invited to nominate outstanding artists and arts community champions for the 2026 City of Hamilton Arts Awards. Nominations will be accepted until Friday, January 16, 2026, via www.hamilton.ca/artsawards. Hard copy nomination forms are available by emailing artsawards@hamilton.ca or by calling (905) 546-2424 ext. 7612.

It is now easier than ever for the public to nominate artists in the following three categories:

Creator Awards (Up to nine awards, \$2,500 per award) – recognizes excellence amongst artists, arts managers or artistic collectives (including bands) working in any artistic discipline and at any career level.

Arts Champion Awards (Up to four awards, gift of recognition) – acknowledges the essential work of arts sector volunteers, advocates, or board members.

Lifetime Achievement Award (One awarded annually, \$2,500) – recognizes those who have contributed substantially to the artistic vitality of the city over the course of a career.

Recipients in all categories will be announced in July 2026, as part of Hamilton Arts Week at a public celebration marking 50 years of Hamilton's artistic legacy. Nominators are required to submit a brief statement outlining why they feel the artist or community champion should be nominated. Public nominations will be ranked by a review panel of artists and arts sector experts to generate a short list, and award winners will be determined by a selection panel of leading arts professionals.

Established in 1976, the Arts Awards profiles and honours nominees while the annual awards event showcases dynamic arts programming, continuing a tradition of celebration and recognition of Hamilton's creative culture. The City of Hamilton and program sponsors and partners have awarded \$377,500 and 261 awards since 2011.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Please share via social media channels and Ward newsletters. Social media graphics and nomination poster attached.

1. Instagram and X graphic
2. Facebook graphic
3. Poster

Contact

If you require any further information on this matter, please contact Jen Anisef, Program Manager, Planning and Economic Development at (905) 546-2424 ext. 7612 or by email at Jen.Anisef@hamilton.ca.