




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Council
DATE:	January 9, 2026
SUBJECT:	Downtown Hamilton Creative Placemaking Grant Program 2026-2027 (Wards 2 and 3)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Wards 2 and 3
SUBMITTED BY:	Lisa Abbott Director, Tourism and Culture Planning and Economic Development
SIGNATURE:	

This communication update is to provide information about a grant program that will support community-led placemaking activities in Downtown Hamilton in 2026 and 2027.

The Downtown Hamilton Creative Placemaking Grant Program will provide funding for new, community-led placemaking projects that temporarily animate outdoor public spaces in a designated area of Downtown Hamilton (Victoria Avenue to Queen Street and from Strachan Street to Duke Street/Young Street). Applications will be accepted from groups of residents and local non-profit organizations.

Placemaking is a hands-on approach for making a meaningful change or impact in a neighbourhood or area. Placemaking interacts with the unique geography, culture and heritage of a place and is a way for residents to feel ownership of public space and use it in a way that is specific to community need. Placemaking activities will help create positive experiences in downtown Hamilton's outdoor public spaces that contribute to an active, engaging, and welcoming public realm that encourages people to spend more time downtown and to visit more frequently.

Approximately 7-10 grants from \$500 to \$15,000 will be awarded through this grant program to support new and temporary events and creative installations projects. It is expected that the majority of grants awarded will be \$5,000 and under. Applications for funding are due by 4:00pm on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. Information about the grant program including the funding guidelines which outline the eligibility requirements, the application form, and a placemaking toolkit are available on the City's website at www.hamilton.ca/PlacemakingGrant.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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The Downtown Hamilton Creative Placemaking Grant Program, now in its second year, aligns with the 2021-2025 Economic Development Action Plan, the Tourism Strategy 2024-2028, the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 and supports the intent of the draft 10-Year Downtown Revitalization Plan.

Please share via social media channels and Ward newsletter.

Contact

Please contact Claire Calnan, Cultural Project Specialist, with any questions at Claire.Calnan@hamilton.ca or by phone at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2036 or Sarah Ehmke, Senior Project Manager – Placemaking and Animation, at Sarah.Ehmke@hamilton.ca or by phone at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 7505.