



FINAL ADJUDICATION LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT & ARTS CHAMPION AWARDS

AWARD SELECTION PANEL REPORT

May 29, 2026

BACKGROUND

This report is an overview of the discussion and decision of the citizen selection panel that met on the afternoon of Friday, May 29, 2026 to determine which of the shortlisted 2026 City of Hamilton Arts Awards nominees should be selected to receive awards in Lifetime Achievement and Arts Champion categories. An annually rotating selection panel - composed of discipline-specific artists, arts professionals and community leaders – is key to the selection of recipients in each category. The 2026 Award Selection Panel is listed at the end of this report.

The adjudication session was facilitated by Hamilton Arts Council. The conflict of interest policy was reviewed, and no conflicts were declared. The adjudication process was outlined, wherein aggregate scores are shared as a starting point for discussion and final decisions are made through consensus.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

One (1) Lifetime Achievement Award is conferred annually to recognize living artists or arts managers who have contributed substantially to the artistic vitality of the city over the course of a career, and have inspired others through their leadership, creativity and artistic excellence. These individuals' experience and impact may be local, national or international in scope.

SELECTION PANEL COMMENTS

The selection panel appreciates the 13 public nominations in this category and recognizes the work of the Arts Sector Review Panel in developing a strong shortlist. The selection panel would also like to recognize all shortlisted nominees in this category for

their substantial accomplishments and unique contributions that have had a lasting impact in Hamilton.

After a detailed discussion of the nominees' careers and influence, the selection panel decided to confer the 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award to **Jude Johnson**.

The selection panel awarded **Jude Johnson** for an extraordinary lifetime of artistic achievement and community impact, reflected in 45 years of continuous work in the arts. Jude has consistently brought high-level professional experience directly into the community, ensuring accessibility, mentorship, and meaningful engagement across generations. Jude's longevity in the music field—sustaining a full-time artistic career for more than four decades - is remarkable and deserving of recognition within Hamilton's cultural landscape. The scope of Jude's work is impressive, marked by leadership, artistic excellence, and a legacy of inspiring others. Their commitment to the evolution of the local music scene, combined with a demonstrated ability to maintain a rigorous professional practice throughout their career, makes Jude an exceptional and highly deserving recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

ARTS CHAMPION AWARDS

The selection panel appreciates the 8 public nominations in this category. Up to four (4) Arts Champion Awards may be conferred annually to living individuals who are outstanding supporters of the arts in Hamilton as volunteers, advocates, or board members. This is a non-monetary award and recipients will be given a special gift of recognition. This award is open to students and youth over 14 years old.

SELECTION PANEL COMMENTS

The selection panel reviewed the Shortlisted nominees' history of work in the community and considered their impact. The panel have awarded four 2026 Arts Champion Awards to: **Margaret Fong, Teresa Gregorio, Karen Logan, and Ann Pirvu**. Their rationale for selecting these individuals is outlined below.

Margaret Fong

The selection panel awarded Margaret Fong for their longstanding and unwavering commitment as a volunteer within the Hamilton arts community, particularly through their extensive service at the Art Gallery of Hamilton (AGH). Margaret is a consistent and dependable presence - supporting events, engaging with children's programming, and representing the AGH at major community gatherings such as Supercrawl. Margaret brings deep experience, enthusiasm, and energy to every role, along with invaluable institutional knowledge built over many years. Their passion for the arts and their steady, generous involvement make Margaret a pillar of the AGH and the arts community.

Teresa Gregorio

The selection panel awarded Teresa Gregorio for their consistent leadership in Hamilton's arts sector. Teresa has demonstrated over 2 decades of commitment in various roles supporting the arts. Teresa's work at Campus & Community Engagement at the McMaster Museum of Art demonstrates a passion for meaningful arts-based engagement in Hamilton. They have been a foundational resource of knowledge to Museum Educators in order to ensure the arts are accessibly shared, contributing to Hamilton-Area Museum Educators (HME) for 13 years. Their background in Gender and Social Justice has informed an approach founded upon social justice principles, interconnection, and empathy, developing and supporting experiences and programs that are collaborative, equitable, and empowering. The selection panel believe Teresa serves Hamilton's art scene notably by combining art curation with social justice.

Karen Logan

The selection panel awarded Karen Logan for their exceptional dedication to revitalizing and sustaining the Women's Art Association, one of Hamilton's longstanding cultural organizations. Karen has guided the organization through major challenges - including the digital transition during COVID - while actively working to make the Association more relevant and accessible to new audiences. Karen's leadership has strengthened connections between the arts and environmental organizations, broadening the Association's reach and impact. As an exemplary volunteer, Karen has served as president, secretary, public speaker, and advocate, consistently moving the organization forward. Their efforts to reduce barriers to membership, including opening the Association to all genders, and their role in facilitating juried exhibitions demonstrate a deep commitment to inclusivity, growth, and community engagement.

Ann Pirvu

The selection panel awarded Ann Pirvu for their dedication to film in Hamilton and their contributions as a founding member of the Hamilton Film Board. Ann identified a gap within the community and film sector and worked tirelessly to build the Board into the valued organization it is today. Beyond recognizing this need, Ann continues to challenge the Hamilton Film Board to grow, while inspiring the broader community to actively participate in its success. Through their leadership, Ann has cultivated a space that supports collaboration and celebrates a diversity of talent across the city.

THE SELECTION PANEL

Andrea Jackman	Visual Arts / Curator
Angela DeMontigny	Fashion / Public Art
Astrid Hepner	Arts Management / Music
Diana Moser	Theatre / Arts Management
Dope Chief	Visual Arts / Arts Management
Evelyn Myrie	Arts Management / Arts Education / Dance
Jamie Tennant	Writing / Arts Journalism / Broadcasting
Kyle Robinson (Karma Kameleon)	Drag Arts
Khadija Hamidu	Arts Management / Arts Champion / Curator
Queen Cee Robinson	Music / Visual Arts / Community Arts
Setareh Masoumbeiki	Arts Education / Community Arts / Arts Management / Visual Arts
Trevor Copp	Dance and Performing Arts / Arts Management / Theatre
Vania Pagnello	Community Arts / Visual Arts / DIY

Advisors to the Selection Panel:

Megan Divecha, Hamilton Arts Council (Facilitator); Jen Anisef, City of Hamilton (Recorder)