

Communication Update

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

Date: August 11, 2026

Subject/Report No.: Downtown Hamilton Creative Placemaking Grant Program Update

Ward(s) Affected: Ward # 2 & 3

Submitted By: Emma Kitchen
Acting Director, Tourism and Culture
Planning and Economic Development Department

Signature: *Emma Kitchen*

Summary

This Communication Update provides Council with an update on the projects awarded funding through the 2026 Downtown Hamilton Creative Placemaking Grant Program.

Background

Placemaking is a hands-on approach for making meaningful change or impact in a neighbourhood or area. Placemaking activities 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. Applications to the second year of the Downtown Hamilton Creative Placemaking Grant opened on January 12 and closed on February 24, 2026. The program set out to award approximately 7-10 grants from \$500 - \$15,000 to support new and temporary events and creative installation projects.

Details

The Downtown Hamilton Creative Placemaking Grant Program has awarded funding to 11 new, community-led placemaking projects that will 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 were accepted from groups of residents and non-profit organizations.

A total of \$80,880 in funding has been awarded with most grant amounts being \$5,000 and under. Funding for the grant program has come from two sources, demonstrating a shared interest in supporting innovative community-led initiatives in Downtown Hamilton that help residents feel ownership of public spaces and to allow residents to use the spaces in ways that are specific to community need. Funding sources include \$65,880 from the Economic

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Development Initiatives capital project 3621708900 and \$15,000 from the City of Hamilton's Municipal Accommodation Tax.

All projects were reviewed for technical feasibility and ranked using the published assessment criteria. The projects are all temporary and expected to take place by June 2027.

Please refer to Appendix "A" attached to this Communication Update, for a list and description of the funded projects.

Next Steps

If you require any further information on the above matter, please contact Claire Calnan, Senior Project Manager – Placemaking and Animation (Acting), by email at Claire.Calnan@hamilton.ca or at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2036.

Appendices and Schedules Attached

Appendix "A" – Downtown Hamilton Creative Placemaking Grant Program 2026 Funded Projects