Arts Awards 2027

Nomination Package



Hamilton

City wards together,
reflecting on a year in the arts.

Submit by 10 January 2027
hamilton.ca/artsawards

INTRODUCTION

Celebrating artistic legacy and vision in Hamilton.

Award Categories 2027

Lifetime Achievement Award

1 awarded · $2,500 Award, All Disciplines

Creator Awards

Up to 9 awarded · $2,500 Award, All Disciplines

Arts Champion Awards

Up to 4 awarded · Gift of Recognition, Volunteers and Community Builders

See page 4 for Detailed Awards Categories

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HAMILTON ARTS AWARDS 2027
ARTIST STATEMENT

Reflections – HAA 2027

Reflecting on a year in the arts means looking at where art happens. In every ward of the city, painted brush strokes stand for art coming alive, moving between wards and casting its colour on each one. Fifteen wards, shown as equals, held together by the people who make art here.

About the Artist

Veronica Dyer is an artist and designer combining visual practice and systems thinking for projects civic, climate, arts, and nonprofit. Visit www.veronicadyer.art to see more.

Submit by 10 January 2027 | Hamilton Arts Awards

Submission Deadlines

2027 Nomination Package Deadline: Sunday 10 January 2027

Online

Access the online nomination form at the website below.

Digital submissions will be accepted until 11:59PM EST

www.hamilton.ca/artsawards



Mail or Drop Off to Reception

Attn: Hamilton Arts Council
City of Hamilton Arts Awards
120 Hughson Street South
Hamilton, ON L8N 2B2

Hard copy submissions will be accepted until 4:00PM EST.

See page 8 for Drop Off Hours

CITY OF HAMILTON ARTS AWARDS

Commitment to Inclusion and Representation

The City's arts sector encompasses diverse individuals and groups who represent many demographics and intersections of lived experiences. They include individuals and collectives at different stages in their artistic careers, working in a wide diversity of disciplinary practices across Hamilton's 15 wards.

Hamilton's municipal Arts Awards strives to represent the diversity of this sector through all aspects of the program including:

- Composition of Arts Sector Review Panel and Award Selection Panel
- Outreach to key individuals, organizations and community groups to encourage public nominations
- Commissioning of artist programming for the Arts Awards event/celebration

Detailed Awards Categories

Lifetime Achievement Award

1 Award, $2,500

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes living artists, arts professionals and artistic collectives who have contributed substantially to the city's artistic vitality over the course of a career and have inspired others through their leadership, creativity and artistic excellence. These individuals' experiences and impact may be local, national or international in scope.

Creator Awards

Up to 9 Awards, $2,500 per award

The Creator Awards recognize living artists, arts professionals and artistic collectives working in any artistic discipline and at any career level. 9 Creator Awards will be given each year to recognize that year's artistic excellence and/or innovations that contribute to artistic growth in the city, progress the artform, and express the cultural vitality and diversity of Hamilton's current art scene.

Arts Champion Awards

Up to 4 Awards, Non-Monetary

The Arts Champion Awards recognize 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 adults and youth 14 years of age and older. Note: The Arts Champion Award is intended for volunteer recognition. Practicing artists and arts professionals should be nominated in the Creator Awards category.

Additional Opportunities for Recognition

Shirley Elford Emerging Artist Commission Prize

This prize awards paid commissions to two (2) emerging artists (any discipline) to create an artwork that will be presented at the 2027 Arts Awards event.

There is a separate application process for this commission. For more information, please visit **www.hamilton.ca/artsawards**

Celebration of Life (Posthumous Recognition)

We welcome the opportunity to celebrate the life and contributions of Hamilton arts community members who have passed away in the previous year (2026). These individuals may be honoured in a special presentation at the Arts Awards event.

The process for recognizing artists and arts community leaders posthumously is distinct from the nomination process. Please contact **artsawards@hamilton.ca** or (905) 546-2424 ext. 4463 for more information.

Eligibility Criteria (1 of 2)

Nominees and Nominators (All Award Categories)

Nominees may be individuals currently residing in Hamilton (including Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough, Glanbrook, Stoney Creek, Waterdown), Six Nations of the Grand River, and/or Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Nominees must have lived in Hamilton, Six Nations of the Grand River, and/or Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation consecutively for the past two (2) years or longer.

Nominees must be a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident (Landed Immigrant), or have an application pending for Permanent Residency.

Nominators must be 18 years of age or older.

Nominators can be an individual, organization or business residing in any city.

Nominators cannot be an immediate family member of the nominee.

Nominators who are artists cannot self-nominate.

Nominators cannot be a member of the Arts Awards Selection Panel, Hamilton Arts Council staff or City of Hamilton staff, elected officials or representatives of their offices.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Individual artist or arts professional who is 18 years of age or older.

Artistic collectives (e.g., band, duo, troupe, collective, etc.) are eligible for nomination provided that a minimum of 75% of the collective has lived in Hamilton, Six Nations of the Grand River and/or Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation consecutively for the past two (2) years or longer.

Has been practicing professionally for a minimum of fifteen (15) years.

May be self-taught or have art training through formal education, apprenticeship, or with a mentor or elder.

Full-time students (high school or post-secondary) are not eligible.

Past award winners (in other categories) may be nominated for a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Open to all artistic disciplines including, but not limited to, dance, performing arts, fine craft, visual arts, media arts, music, theatre and writing.

Open to arts professionals including, but not limited to, arts education and community arts, arts management, artistic directors, arts programmers, curators, marketing and communications professionals, fundraising and development staff, and facility managers.

Eligibility Criteria (2 of 2)

Creator Awards

Individual artist or arts professional who is 18 years of age or older.

Artistic collectives (e.g., band, duo, troupe, collective, etc.) are eligible for nomination provided that a minimum of 75% of the collective has lived in Hamilton, Six Nations of the Grand River and/or Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation consecutively for the past two (2) years or longer.

Must be actively producing work (within the last three (3) years).

May be self-taught or have art training through formal education, apprenticeship, or with a mentor or elder.

May be an artist and arts professional at any career level (i.e. emerging, mid-career, established).

Full-time students (high school or post-secondary) are not eligible.

Individuals who have received a Lifetime Achievement or Creator Award through the City of Hamilton Arts Awards in the past five (5) years are not eligible. For a list of past winners, visit www.hamilton.ca/artsawards.

Open to all artistic disciplines including, but not limited to, dance, performing arts, fine craft, visual arts, media arts, music, theatre and writing.

Open to arts professionals including, but not limited to, arts education and community arts, arts management, artistic directors, arts programmers, curators, marketing and communications professionals, fundraising and development staff, and facility managers.

Arts Champion Awards

Individual who is 14 years of age or older.

Must be a current volunteer (activity within the last three (3) years) with an arts-based organization, event or ad hoc group.

Full-time students (high school or post-secondary) are eligible for this award.

Past award winners (in other categories) may be nominated for an Arts Champion Award.

Volunteer activities may include, but are not limited to: Boards of Directors, events staff, administrative/operational assistance, arts community advocates, etc.

Note: The Arts Champion Award is intended for volunteer recognition. Practicing artists and arts professionals should be nominated in the Creator Awards category.



About the Arts Awards

About

The mission of the City of Hamilton Arts Awards is to recognize the achievements of our local arts community, the individual artists, collectives and organizations who are its ambassadors, and the community members who support and engage in this work. Award recipients will be announced at a public event in July 2027 in conjunction with Hamilton Arts Week Festival.

Our Vision

To promote the City of Hamilton's pride in its arts community, to inspire and enhance success, to foster growth in the sector, and to develop the talent that drives this vital part of our City.

Our Values

The Arts Awards will consistently promote the values of:

Inclusivity and diversity

A transparent and open process

Community building and public engagement

The core principle that the arts are central to our community's identity, economy, civic pride and sustainability

Share in the City of Hamilton's pride in its arts community.

Nominations are due on or before Sunday 10 January 2027 and can be submitted digitally or by hard copy.

How to Submit

Online

Access the online nomination form at the website below.

Digital submissions will be accepted until 11:59PM EST

www.hamilton.ca/artsawards

Mail or Drop Off to Reception

Attn: Hamilton Arts Council
City of Hamilton Arts Awards
120 Hughson Street South
Hamilton, ON L8N 2B2

Hard copy submissions will be accepted until 4:00PM EST.

Drop Off Hours

Mon-Fri 9:00AM to 5:00PM

Holiday Closure:
20 December 2026 to
3 January 2027

Questions? Contact Us
Placemaking and Public Art,
Tourism and Culture Division
905-546-2424 ext. 4463
artsawards@hamilton.ca

Connect with us online

Get updates and useful tips for completing your nomination.

City of Hamilton Arts Awards

Facebook: @cityofhamiltonartsawards

Instagram: @hamartsawards

Check out #HAA2027 on social media platforms to join in the conversation and anticipation for the 2027 Arts Awards!

Submit by 10 January 2027 | Hamilton Arts Awards

Nomination and Selection Process

1
PHASE ONE

Public Nominations (Longlist)

Members of the public are invited to submit an Arts Awards nomination in any award category. Submit a brief statement outlining why you feel the individual or collective should be nominated. Use one nomination form per nomination. Nominees are scored based on the content of the nominations rather than number of nominations they receive.

2
PHASE TWO

Arts Sector Review Panel (Shortlist)

Public Nominations will be reviewed by a multi-disciplinary panel of artists and arts professionals to create a shortlist of approximately 40 nominations (across the three (3) award categories). Shortlisted nominees and their nominators will be contacted directly to provide supporting documents.

3
PHASE THREE

Final Selection Panel (Award Selection)

A Final Panel will score the Shortlist to select the 2027 Arts Awards Recipients in all award categories. The Final Panel will be composed of arts community leaders who reflect the diversity of Hamilton's arts sector. The panel will evaluate the nominations based on the artistic excellence, career and impact of the artists, arts professionals or artistic collectives.







Public Nomination Form

(Fill in on screen or print)

Nominate online at **www.hamilton.ca/artsawards**, or use this form: fill it in on screen and email it to **artsawards@hamilton.ca**, or print it and submit by mail or drop off. Contact us for a paper copy if you do not have access to a printer.

Nominee Information

Name (first, last):

Organization (if applicable):

Company, employer, or collective/group nominee belongs to

This nominee meets the eligibility criteria (see pages 5 and 6)

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ Not Sure

Please fill in this nominee information to the best of your ability:

Phone Number:

Email:

Website:

Instagram:

X (formerly Twitter):

Facebook:

Award Category (check one)

- ◯ Lifetime Achievement Award
- ◯ Creator Award
- ◯ Arts Champion Award

Nominee's Primary Disciplines

For nominees in Lifetime Achievement or Creator categories. Select a maximum of two (2).

- ☐ Arts Management
- ☐ Arts Education & Community Arts
- ☐ Fine Craft
- ☐ Media Arts
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Theatre
- ☐ Visual Arts
- ☐ Dance & Performing Arts
- ☐ Writing
- ☐ Other (please provide details):

Nomination Statement

Why have you nominated this individual/collective?

Please provide, in your own words, a brief, point-form overview with specific details of your nominee's activity as an artist, arts professional or arts community supporter (250 words maximum, attached as a separate document). This is your nomination statement.

Category specific instructions:

> Lifetime Achievement Award: Nominee's career and their impact on Hamilton's community and beyond.
>
> Creator Awards: Nominee's current body of work and what impact you think it has on Hamilton's current arts scene and cultural moment.
>
> Arts Champion Awards: Nominee's contributions to supporting Hamilton's arts sector.

Writing Your Nomination Statement

Include:

> Short, concise sentences that provide specific details about why your nominee deserves recognition.
>
> Enough information for the panel to gain familiarity with your nominee's career and/or volunteer work. Where possible, describe examples of their involvement with organizations, projects, exhibitions, shows, etc.
>
> Highlight your nominee's accomplishments by not only stating what they did, but also describing why it matters.

Avoid:

> Generalities (e.g. "Nominee is an amazing painter").
>
> Unnecessary or excessive information.

Nominator Information

Name (first, last):

Organization (if applicable):

Address (include postal code):

Phone Number:

Email:

Date (DD/MM/YYYY):

Signature:

The nominator agrees to the Terms of Nomination included in this package (see page 12).

Terms of Nomination

All nomination materials submitted to the City of Hamilton Arts Awards program must be true and accurate. Falsified information will result in disqualification from the Arts Awards process.

Phone numbers, emails and mailing addresses will not be made public as part of the Arts Awards program. All other content submitted as part of the Lifetime Achievement, Creator and Arts Champion Awards processes including but not limited to nominee and nominator names, website and social media information (where applicable) and Nomination Statement (hereinafter referred to as "personal information") may be used on the internet, in print publications or in other methods of communication (whether verbal or written) for the purpose of organizing and administering the Arts Awards program, including evaluating the nominations and communicating with awards recipients and for the purpose of promoting the Arts Awards program. Personal information of successful nominees will be used to promote future Arts Awards programs. Nominator contact information will not be made public by the City of Hamilton.

Personal information collected on the nomination form, or as part of the nomination process, is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25 s.227 (b). Information collected is subject to the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56. By providing your email address, you are consenting to receive emails from the City of Hamilton and/or their agents/contractors for information provision purposes. Information collected for this initiative may be stored on servers located in Canada and the United States and may be subject to Canadian and/or American laws. Questions about the collection of personal information should be directed to: Manager, Placemaking and Public Art, Tourism and Culture Division, Planning and Economic Development Department, City of Hamilton, P.O. Box 2040, Hamilton, ON, L8P 4Y5, telephone (905) 546-2424, ext. 6281.

A nominee or nominator may withdraw consent to the collection, use or disclosure of this personal information by providing written notice prior to the nomination closing date of Sunday 10 January 2027 at 11:59PM EST to the City's Manager of Placemaking and Public Art, Tourism and Culture Division, City of Hamilton, P.O. Box 2040, Hamilton, ON, L8P 4Y5, in which case the nomination will no longer be eligible for consideration.

We're here to help!

Ask questions or get assistance with the 2027 nomination process.

Contact Our Team

Placemaking and Public Art Section
Tourism and Culture Division
City of Hamilton
905-546-2424 ext. 4463
artsawards@hamilton.ca