



Hamilton

# City of Hamilton 2025 Arts Awards Nomination Package

**Deadline: Monday, December 9, 2024**

Nominate Your Favourite Artist, Arts Community Leader  
or Supporter!

## Award Categories

- Lifetime Achievement Award (1)  
\$2,500 Award  
All Disciplines
- Creator Awards (9)  
\$2,500 Award  
All Disciplines
- Arts Champion Awards (4)  
Gift of Recognition  
Volunteers and Community Builders

**Submit your nomination package online:**

[www.hamilton.ca/artsawards](http://www.hamilton.ca/artsawards)

#HAA2025

# 1. About

The mission of the City of Hamilton Arts Awards Program is to recognize the full breadth of achievement 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 throughout our community. Award recipients will be announced publicly in June 2025 in conjunction with Hamilton Arts Week (event date TBD).

## Vision

The Arts Awards will serve 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.

## Values

The Arts Awards program will consistently promote the values of:

- inclusivity and diversity,
- a transparent and open process,
- community building and public engagement,
- and the core principle that the arts are central to our community's identity, economy, civic pride, and sustainability.

## City of Hamilton Arts Awards Commitment to Inclusion and Representation

As Hamilton has seen many demographic, economic and cultural shifts over the past few decades, so has the city's arts sector and communities. The individuals and groups who make up this sector are diverse among many lines. They include Black, Indigenous, People of Colour, people with disabilities, LGBTQ2SI+ 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 program strives to represent the diversity of this sector through all aspects of the program including:

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

## **2. Arts Award 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' experience and impact may be local, national or international in scope.

### **Creator Awards (9 Awards, \$2500 per award)**

The Creator Awards recognize living artists, arts professionals and artistic collectives working in any artistic discipline and at any career level. Nine Creator Awards will be given each year to recognize artistic excellence and/or innovation that contributes to artistic growth in the city, progresses the artform and expresses the cultural vitality and diversity of Hamilton's art scene.

### **Arts Champion Awards (4 Awards, non-monetary award)**

The Arts Champion Awards recognizes 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 over 14 years old.

**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**

The Shirley Elford Emerging Artist Commission Prize awards paid commissions to two emerging artists (any discipline) to create an artwork that will be presented at the 2025 Arts Awards event.

There is a separate application process for this commission. Please visit [www.hamilton.ca/artsawards](http://www.hamilton.ca/artsawards) for more information.

### **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 (2024). These individuals will be honoured in a special presentation at the award ceremony event.

The process for recognizing artists and arts community leaders posthumously is distinct from the nomination process. Please contact [artsawards@hamilton.ca](mailto:artsawards@hamilton.ca) or (905) 546-2424 Ext.7612 for more information.

## **3. Eligibility Criteria**

### **All Nominees (All Award Categories)**

- Open to 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. The nominee must have lived in Hamilton, Six Nations of the Grand River and/or Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation consecutively for the past two years or longer.
- Must be a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident (Landed Immigrant) or have an application pending for Permanent Residency.

### **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 years or longer.
- Has been practicing professionally for a minimum of fifteen years.
- Nominees may be self-taught or have art training through formal education, apprenticeship, or with a mentor or elder.
- Full-time students are not eligible (high school or post-secondary).
- 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.

### **Creator Awards**

- Nominee must be actively producing work (within the last three years).
- 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 years or longer.
- Nominee may be self-taught or have art training through formal education, apprenticeship, or with a mentor or elder.
- Artists and arts professionals at all career levels (i.e. emerging, mid-career, established) may be nominated.
- Full-time students are not eligible (high school or post-secondary).
- Individuals who have received an Established Artist, Lifetime Achievement, Arts Innovation Award or Creator Award through the City of Hamilton Arts Awards in the past five years are not eligible. Past Emerging Artist Award recipients may be nominated.
- 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**

- Nominee must be a current volunteer (activity within the last three years) with an arts-based organization, event or ad hoc group.
- Individual who is 14 years of age or older.
- Full-time students (high-school or post-secondary) are eligible for this award.
- Volunteer activities may include, but are not limited to: Boards of Directors, events staff, administrative/operational assistance, arts community advocates, etc.

## **Nominators (All Award Categories)**

- 18 years of age or older.
- Can be an individual, organization or business residing in any city.
- Cannot be an immediate family member of the nominee.
- Artists cannot self-nominate.
- Cannot be a member of the Final Jury, Arts Advisory Commission, Cobalt Connects staff, or City of Hamilton staff, elected officials and representatives of their offices.

## **4. Nomination and Selection Process**

### **Phase One: Public Nomination (Long List)**

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. You can nominate more than one person or collective for an award. Nominees are adjudicated based on the content of the nominations rather than number of nominations they receive.

### **Phase Two: Arts Sector Review Panel (Short List)**

Public Nominations will be reviewed and augmented by a multi-disciplinary panel of artists and arts professionals to create a short list of approximately 45 nominations (across the three award categories.) Shortlisted nominees and their nominators will be contacted directly to provide supporting documents.

### **Phase Three: Final Jury (Award Selection)**

A Final Jury will adjudicate the Short List to select the 2025 Arts Awards Recipients. The Final Jury will be comprised of arts community leaders who reflect the diversity of Hamilton's arts sector. The jury will evaluate the nominations based on the artistic excellence, career, and impact of the artist, arts professional or artistic collective. A member of the Arts Advisory Commission will audit the jury session to ensure that a fair and transparent selection process is followed.

## 5. How to Submit a Nomination

Nominations are due on or before **Monday, December 9, 2024** (11:59 pm) and can be submitted by the following methods:

1. **Online:**

Visit [www.hamilton.ca/artsawards](http://www.hamilton.ca/artsawards) to access the online nomination form

2. **Mail:**

City of Hamilton Arts Awards  
Attn: Jen Anisef  
Tourism and Culture Division  
28 James Street North, 2nd floor  
Hamilton, ON L8R 2K1

3. **Drop Off:**

28 James Street North, 1st floor (Visitor Experience Centre\*)  
Hamilton, ON L8R 2K1  
Attn: Jen Anisef

*\*Hours: Tuesday to Saturday – 10am to 4pm;*

*Closed: Sundays, Mondays and all statutory holidays*

### **We are here to help!**

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or need assistance with the nomination process.

If you require accommodation in the nomination process, please contact us to discuss your needs.

### **Contact:**

Placemaking, Public Art and Projects Section,  
Tourism and Culture Division

E: [artsawards@hamilton.ca](mailto:artsawards@hamilton.ca)

T: (905) 546-2424 ext. 7612

### **Connect with us online**

Get the latest information and useful tips for completing your nomination by following the City of Hamilton Arts Awards on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram. And don't forget to check out **#HAA2025** on Twitter to join in the conversation and anticipation for the 2025 Arts Awards!

Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/CityofHamiltonArtsAwards">CityofHamiltonArtsAwards</a>
X	<a href="https://twitter.com/HamArtsAwards">@HamArtsAwards</a>
Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/hamartsawards">@hamartsawards</a>

## 6. Public Nomination Form

An online nomination form can be completed by visiting [www.hamilton.ca/artsawards](http://www.hamilton.ca/artsawards).

If you wish to submit your nomination by mail, please print and fill out the form below. Please contact us if you do not have access to a printer and would like a hard copy Public Nomination Form.

### A. Nominee Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Please confirm that the nominee is a current resident of Hamilton (including Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough, Glanbrook, Stoney Creek, Waterdown), Six Nations of the Grand River and/or Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The nominee must have lived in Hamilton, Six Nations of the Grand River and/or Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation consecutively for the past two years or longer.

Yes  Not Sure

*Please fill out the following information for the nominee to the best of your ability:*

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Instagram: \_\_\_\_\_

X / Twitter: \_\_\_\_\_

Facebook: \_\_\_\_\_

### Award Category

- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Creator Award
- Arts Champion Award

**If you are nominating an individual in the Lifetime Achievement or Creator category, what is the artist's primary discipline(s)? Select a maximum of 2.**

- Arts Management
- Arts Education & Community Arts
- Fine Craft
- Media Arts
- Music
- Theatre
- Visual Arts
- Dance & Performing Arts
- Writing

Other (please provide detail): \_\_\_\_\_



## B. Nomination Statement

### Why have you nominated this individual/collective for an Arts Award?

Please provide a brief, point-form summary that contains specific details of the nominee's activity as an artist, arts professional or arts community supporter (**250 words maximum, attached as a separate document**). Please see below for category-specific instructions:

**Lifetime Achievement Award:** Provide an overview of the nominee's career and the impact of their contributions on Hamilton's community and beyond.

**Creator Awards:** Provide an overview of the nominee's current body of work, why you find their work to be excellent, unique, or moving, and what impact you think their work has had on Hamilton's art scene.

**Arts Champion Awards:** Provide an overview of the nominee's contributions to supporting Hamilton's arts sector and why you think they deserve to be recognized as a champion of the arts in Hamilton.

### Tips for Writing a Great Nomination Statement

- Write short sentences that are concise and give specific details on why the nominee deserves recognition.
- Avoid generalities (i.e., Sabina is an amazing painter).
- Include enough information for the panel to become familiar with the nominee's career and/or volunteer work. Where possible, include examples of organizations, projects, exhibitions, shows, etc. that the nominee has been involved with.
- Highlight your nominee's accomplishments by not only stating what they did, but also describing why it matters.

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## C. Nominator Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address, City, Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Signature

This nomination meets all the Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines outlined in Section 3. The nominator agrees to the Terms of Nomination listed in Section 7.

Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. 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, email, and mailing addresses will not be made public as part of the Arts Awards program. All other content submitted as part of the **Creator, Lifetime Achievement 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 names and 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, Public Art and Projects, 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 may withdraw consent to the collection, use or disclosure of this personal information by providing written notice prior to the nomination closing date of Friday December 6, 2024 at 11:59 pm to the City’s Manager of Placemaking, Public Art and Projects, 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.