

Appendix 4: Culture Project Grant Program 2025

Theme: *"Animating Urban Spaces"*

The 2025 Culture Projects Grant Program supports organizations, collectives and BIAs to create temporary, site-specific arts and culture projects that reimagine and activate urban spaces throughout the City of Mississauga.

Themed "Animating Urban Spaces," the goal of the grant is to support the presentation of art outside of traditional galleries, venues, and presentation spaces. Applicants can be working in any artistic medium (i.e. theatre, dance, music, visual arts, digital arts, Indigenous arts, etc.) and priority will be given to projects whose meaning is intrinsically connected to the space it occupies. The grant encourages artists to explore and integrate art into urban surroundings in creative ways. This can include art and/or performances in outdoor spaces and repurposing buildings/indoor spaces not associated with art to creatively accommodate art. The grant encourages the activation of private, non-residential spaces that otherwise do not host artistic activities.

The Peer Assessment Committee reviewed ten applications and recommended nine applications for funding. The total Culture Projects funding recommended is \$ 40,700.

Organization Name	Project	Funding Recommended
Blackwood Gallery	"In a Manner of Speaking" (IMS) is a three-part exhibition series displayed across four large-scale outdoor lightboxes on the UTM campus from January 8 to June 30, 2025. Featuring eight Canadian, international, and Indigenous artists—Scott Benesiinaabandan (Winnipeg), Emily Cook (Toronto), JJJJerome Ellis with the People Who Stutter Create (East Lansing/New York City/Norfolk/London/Swannanoa), Wieteke Heldens (New York City), Seo Hye Lee (London), Logan MacDonald (Waterloo/Toronto), Stephen Proski (Kansas City), and RA Walden (Berlin)—the series explores the deep-seated longing to be understood, addressing the limitations of language and traditional vocabularies. Many artists identify as part of the disability community, offering underrepresented perspectives.	\$5000
Canadian Arabic Orchestra	The 2025 Pop Up Festival is a free, interactive music festival designed to animate urban parks across Mississauga with live performances of Arabic Fusion and world music genres. Held over two weekends in July 2025, the festival will feature eight performances across four parks,	\$5000

	including Meadow Glen Park, Parkway Green, and Port Credit Memorial Park. Each park will host two performances per day, offering immersive experiences that invite casual spectators and park-goers to connect with diverse musical traditions. The lineup will include Arabic, Latin American, South Asian, Indigenous, and other world music styles, primarily featuring local Mississauga artists.	
Crane Creations Theatre	Crane Creations Theatre Company will animate one of Mississauga's most iconic urban landmarks, Kariya Park, by performing a newly created "paper play" about Mississauga's history. The Paper Play (Kamishibai in Japanese) started as a storytelling technique in 16th century Japan, and is today used as a project presentation tool around the world. The play will be created with input from a Heritage Mississauga historian and feature performers narrating a story using original illustrations housed in a miniature replica of a historic building in Mississauga, The Grange House.	\$5000
Frog in Hand	"Harbour Lights: A Celebration of Art in Port Credit," is a creative placemaking partnership between Frog in Hand (FH) and the Port Credit BIA. It will engage artists to create a new promenade-style, site-specific production inspired by Port Credit. Our creative team will be in residence in local spaces and at small businesses to research, create and rehearse in full public view for four weeks from July 2nd-23rd. The project will culminate in 4 evening performances on July 24th (7:30pm and 9:30pm), and July 25th (7:30pm and 9:30pm), with rain dates on August 1st and 2nd.	\$5000
Indus Community Services	Our project, "Art in the Park(ing Lot): Cooksville Community Festival 2025," is a free arts and culture festival, open to the public, that will take place at 67 Hillcrest Ave, a parking lot adjacent to the Cooksville GO Station. This festival has been occurring for some years, and the 2025 iteration will see a celebration of the diverse heritage of our local community via food and a wider range of artistic mediums than ever before, also paying homage to Cooksville's rich	\$5000

	culture by engaging artists representative of our community's demographics.	
Kaleidoscope Chinese Performing Arts Society	Continuing using the stage, to perform the Chinese dances, choirs, drama and other martial arts to show the multicultural environment in Mississauga. Tradition and modernity collide, the performers from Mississauga who have lived in the city for many years perform traditional oriental cultural programs.	\$5000
monstrARTity Creative Community	100 seniors will participate in visual art workshops to create unique artwork for a public arts showcase coinciding with the major South Asian holiday of Deepavali (AKA Diwali). Led by professional artists, they'll explore various techniques like mandalas, rangoli, and Warli art, all inspired by traditional South Asian themes. This project will showcase seniors' creativity while celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the South Asian community in Mississauga and the valuable contributions of seniors.	\$5000
Sheridan Homelands Ratepayers' Association	Dufflebag Theatre is our version of Theatre in the Park. We host this event in the summer and invite all neighbours to attend. It is held outside, and we encourage our guest to bring their blankets and chairs. The audience is usually families of all ages. Every year we have a different theme. Our themes try to encompass all ages. We have had Shakespeare productions to Peter Pan, serious themes and mostly, fun themes. We find that the lighter themes are more conducive to our demographic. Thornlodge Park is the venue in which we hold this production, and it is always well attended.	\$700

Studio 89	<p>Our 'Senior and Youth Connect (SYC): Impact Arts Program' will transform the Creditvale Community Wellness Hub and a nearby park into a dynamic artistic venue that will foster intergenerational connections for Seniors and Youth. This 10-week program will bring 30 isolated seniors and 10 newcomer youth together for collaborative art projects, designed to activate non-traditional urban spaces and engage the broader community.</p> <p>Through visual arts, memoir writing, seed-paper making, painting and pottery, participants will explore creative expression while cultivating meaningful relationships.</p>	\$5000
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