

Community Arts Program

Routhier Community Centre
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Website: www.ottawa.ca/city_services/culture/arts/arts_comm_en.shtml

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Nearing its fourth year, the Community Arts Program aims to increase community participation in the arts by providing a community context and venue for professional artists in dance, music, theatre, visual, literary and media arts.

The major areas of the Community Arts Program include:

Residency | Touring | Training | Animation

Residency

Professional artists/arts groups participate in one to three month residencies, working with members of a given community on a collaborative, community-based arts initiative within a municipal venue including community centres, cultural facilities, and/or city parks.



Photo: Roger Lalonde

Special Needs Arts Initiative

Launched as a pilot project in 2001, this innovative arts initiative continues to offer visual arts, music, literary, and multi-disciplinary arts programs to people with physical and developmental disabilities through partnerships with the City's Community Services Branch and other agencies.

As we approach 2003, the two programs for people living with mental illness continue: a weekly 'drop in' Art Studio at Hintonburg Community Centre, and a Literary Mentorship Program at Jack Purcell Community Centre (off Elgin Street), involving local writers and poets. As well, the project-based studio programs for people living with developmental and physical disabilities offered at Hintonburg and Jack Purcell Community Centres continue with new programs this fall.

Touring



Photo: Roger Lalonde

Theatre, dance, music and literary events provide audiences with an opportunity to participate in a cultural experience within their own community.

Summer Lunchtime Performing Arts Series

Watch for the 2003 edition of the Lunchtime Performing Arts Series in various parks throughout the city, featuring many of Ottawa's finest

performing artists.

Writers in the Community

Readings by Ottawa Authors: Some of Ottawa's best authors present readings from their books in various neighborhood settings.

Writing Workshops for Children: Children develop their writing skills with some of Ottawa's award winning authors at local community centres.

Training

City of Ottawa staff receive professional instruction in the performing, visual and literary arts from local artists. These acquired skills provide the basis for the quality cultural activities offered in municipal venues.

Arts Leadership Training Program

A summer Arts Leadership Training program provides youth with the skills to work in an arts environment through hands-on arts creation, internships in arts venues and core leadership training.



Photo: Roger Lalonde

Animation

Dynamic artists "animate", i.e. offer their creativity, techniques and specialized arts disciplines to the community through children and youth summer camps, after school programs and various special projects.

Community Arts Program Highlights

Aspiring young writers learn from local authors, (September - December, 2001)

During the fall of 2001, children were invited to take part in workshops on various aspects of writing and illustrating as part of the *Writers in the Community Workshops for Children* series. *Mystery Writing, Making a Storybook and Producing a Mummies Play* were among the topics facilitated by a stellar cast of local children's



Photo: Roger Lalonde

authors including national favourites Janet Lunn and Brian Doyle. The workshops, organized as part of Community Arts' Touring Program, provided wonderful mentoring opportunities for aspiring young writers to work with established local authors within their own communities.

15 lbs Artist Collective interacts with disabled youth, (November - December, 2001)



Photo: Roger Lalonde

The Community Arts Program Special Needs Arts Initiative kicked-off in the fall of 2001 with several pilot programs for people living with physical and developmental disabilities. On November 23, 30, and December 6, Hintonburg Community Centre was the site for three action-packed evenings of "performance

painting"-led by the 15 lbs. Artist Collective of Juan Carlos Noria, Julian Garner and José Garcia Lozano. Inspired by a multi-media presentation of projected slides and film, enhanced with techno/electronica music by a turntable DJ, the three groups of youth participants (ages 13 -21 years) created 4ft. x 16ft. abstract paintings. The paintings have been installed in the foyer areas of the Hintonburg Community Centre and may be viewed during Centre hours at 1064 Wellington (798-8874).

Creating the Self Portrait (February - March, 2002)

Creating the Self Portrait, an eight-week workshop for young adults with developmental disabilities, was designed to enable the participants to create their own self-portraits by learning to portray their individuality. Led by a professional artist and a special needs facilitator, the 8 participants engaged in identity games as a mode of revealing individual characteristics and personal preferences-with the goal of increasing self-awareness. The group participated in a discussion of

the creative process and a visual history of portrait painting. Working from Polaroid photographs and individualized guidance, the participants chose how they wished to be posed, learned how to mix colours, and created a background setting of their own choosing. The final workshop session was a vernissage, where parents and guardians were invited to view the portraits and partake in refreshments and a short presentation by the participants.

Visualizing Music (April - June, 2002)

Visualizing Music, an eight-week (2 hours per week) multidisciplinary arts workshop for young adults with developmental disabilities, provided a mode of creating original works of art inspired by listening to music. Participants were introduced to the concept of interpretive listening, visualization, and emotional response to several musical genres. Three of the sessions were devoted to listening to Pink Floyd's *The Wall* from which they created interpretive paintings based their personal responses to the lyrics and music. In addition, the group worked on several drawings using a response-to-materials technique-which encourages creative freedom and personal expression.

During the series of workshops, some of the participants photographed the activities; others conducted audio-taped interviews describing their experiences. All these activities were amalgamated into a musical/slide presentation shown during a post-program vernissage for the participants, their parents, caregivers and friends.

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