

Staff Memorandum



To	Mayor A. Nuttall and Members of Council
Subject	Barrie Arts Awards 2025 Winners
Date	November 26, 2025
Ward	All
From	S. Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Development
Executive Member Approval	B. Araniyasundaran, P. Eng, PMP, General Manager, Infrastructure and Growth Management
CAO Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update concerning the winners of the 2025 Barrie Arts Awards.

Nominations for the 2025 Barrie Arts Awards opened in July and were promoted via social media, radio, the Culture Pop newsletter, facility screens and by email, with 168 nominations being received from the community. A selection panel of third-party culture workers from outside of Barrie reviewed all completed nominations and selected finalists and award winners.

The 2025 Barrie Arts Awards took place on Tuesday, November 18 at the MacLaren Art Centre. Invitations were shared via email, the Culture Pop newsletter, and on social media. The gala event was emceed by Rachel Detta from Rock 95 and featured performances by Aanchal Nanavati, Alan Mallory, Rogan Mei, and member of the UPlift Black Artist Collective, emmm, Bianca Bridge, Ali Star, Jon Spirit, and Cesario Dope Only. The award statuettes were created by local artist Max Lupo.

Community members enjoyed live entertainment and refreshments, came together to celebrate the arts, and honoured the following award winners:

- Artist Beyond Barriers Award presented by City of Barrie Seniors and Accessibility Advisory Committee – [Alayna Kellet](#)
- Business Champion Award – [Brad Ferguson](#)
- Contribution to the Community Award – [UPlift Black Artist Collective](#)
- Emerging Artist Award presented by Georgian College Design and Visual Arts (DVA) – [Omar Chris Canales-Cisneros](#)
- Excellence in the Arts Award – [Kim Brett](#)
- Most Promising Youth Award presented by Larissa Mair Casting & Associates – [Tia Nova](#)

The 2025 Barrie Arts Awards were generously supported by the MacLaren Art Centre, Rhubarb Media, Multi Tech Audio Visual, Rock 95, 107.5 KOOL FM, Barrie 360, Georgian College Design and Visual Arts, City of Barrie Seniors and Accessibility Advisory Committee, Larissa Mair Casting & Associates, Allegra Barrie, Ted Handy and Associates, and Stephen Elliott Photography. Thank you to our sponsors!

Memo Author:

Amanda Dyke, Culture Development Officer

File #:

C11: ECDM11-25

Pending #:

Not applicable