



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City's *Brightening Barriers* art installation receives IEDC Excellence Award

(Barrie, ON) – The City of Barrie's temporary public art project, *Brightening Barriers*, received an International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Excellence Award in the Neighbourhood Development category. The awards were presented on September 20, 2022, during the IEDC Annual Conference.

Each year, IEDC, the largest nonprofit professional association for professional economic developers in the world, recognizes organizations for exemplary economic development marketing campaigns, projects, and programs. 25 award categories honour organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

Organized by the Barrie Public Art Committee, *Brightening Barriers* is where public art meets local business. The project brings original works by local and regional artists to patios throughout downtown Barrie, turning a "barrier" of imposed separation into a collective artistic experience.

"Projects like *Brightening Barriers* offer a shared cultural experience not only by beautifying our public spaces, but also by providing an opportunity to support local artists, and by encouraging residents and tourists to visit downtown Barrie and support its local businesses," comments Stephannie Schlichter, Director of Economic & Creative Development at the City of Barrie. "The project invites the public to experience the artistic and talents that exist in Barrie."

The 2022 temporary installation features nine restaurant patios for residents and visitors to explore, supporting local business and appreciating original works of art. The installations are on display until September 30, 2022.

For more information about Barrie's Public Art including the *Brightening Barriers* temporary public art project, visit barrie.ca/PublicArt.

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