



**ECONOMIC AND CREATIVE
DEVELOPMENT
MEMORANDUM**

Page: 1
File: REF C11
Pending #:

TO: MAYOR A. NUTTALL AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: A. DYKE, CULTURE OFFICER - DEVELOPMENT

NOTED: S. SCHLICHTER, DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC AND CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT
B. ARANIYASUNDARAN, P.ENG, PMP, GENERAL MANAGER,
INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

RE: CULTURE DAYS 2023 PROGRAMMING

DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with a status update on Culture Days programming for 2023, which runs from September 22, 2023 to October 15, 2023.

Background

Culture Days is a national celebration of arts and culture. Each fall, millions of people attend thousands of participatory arts and culture events across the country. Culture Days programs invite the public to engage in activities to highlight the importance of arts and culture in our communities. The Culture Days organization supports a Canada-wide network of arts, culture, and heritage organizers to facilitate free public events in their communities every year.

For over 10 years, Barrie has participated in Culture Days, partnering with local arts, culture, and heritage organizations in Barrie to offer free, interactive, and unexpected experiences for residents and visitors. Each year, the event has taken a different shape, harnessing the energy and initiatives that exist within our community and the broader culture sector.

Culture Days 2023 features an inclusive and interactive three-week schedule of activities in partnership with the Downtown Barrie Business Association's Open-Air Dunlop, the Barrie Public Library, and the MacLaren Art Centre. Kicking off on Friday, September 22, 2023, and running until Sunday, October 15, 2023 Culture Days invites residents and visitors to participate in and celebrate Barrie's diverse and rich arts and culture community.

Programming for 2023 is a result of a broad recruitment from prior Culture Days participants and a public call-out through social and traditional media. The result is a diverse group of artists and cultural groups sharing their works during Culture Days.

Culture Days Programming

There are several ways that residents and visitors can participate in Culture Days. Below is an outline of key programs being delivered. A full schedule will be posted at barrie.ca/culturedays.

Culture Days Flag Raising – Join Mayor Nuttall, staff from the Economic and Creative Development Department, and program partners at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, September 22, 2023, for the raising of the Culture Days flag at City Hall. Immediately following the flag raising, join a guided walking tour of Brightening Barriers, the downtown patio art project starting at 1:00 p.m.



Culture Days Kick-Off Concert – From 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 23, 2023 Meridian Place will be alive with culture. Take in live entertainment on the stage, engage with one of many artists and arts organizations offering free arts activities, and explore Open Air Dunlop for Culture Days themed programming all day long!

All-day programming in the square includes en plein air painting with the Barrie Art Club, local authors alley with Barrie Public Library, the launch of the Nature Play Trailer with Barrie Parks and the MacLaren Art Centre, and public art walking tours of downtown Barrie.

Kick-Off Entertainment Schedule:

- 10:00 A.M.: Live Theatre singalong to songs from We Will Rock You with Kempenfelt Community Players
- 10:45 A.M.: Lasya Indian Folk Dance workshop
- 11:15 A.M.: Tai Chi and Square-Dancing workshop with the Simcoe Chinese Association
- 11:45 A.M.: Poetry Reading by Barrie’s Poet Laureate, Ty the Poetess
- 12:00 P.M.: Choir performance and workshop with Bravado!
- 12:45 P.M.: Dance Party with DJ Cachet
- 2:00 P.M.: Musical Performance by Megan Anne
- 2:30 P.M.: Salsa Dance workshop with Salsa Beats
- 3:30 P.M.: Caribbean Music Performance by Freez’ Careeb
- 5:00 P.M.: Musical performance by Zaki Ibrahim, presented by the Downtown Barrie Business Association

Barrie Folk Artists at the Transit Terminal – On Saturday, September 23, 2023, take the bus to downtown Barrie for the Culture Days Kick-off, and catch a performance or two by Barrie Folk Society artists at the downtown Barrie Transit Terminal! Performances take place from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Guided Forest Bathing accompanied by music – On Saturday, September 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., local Nature and Forest Therapy Guide Beth Foster will lead participants on a slow, easy walk in Sunnidale Park, accompanied by music to introduce them to the therapeutic healing benefits of spending time in nature.

Cultural Tile Mosaic Project – Join Making Change on October 7, 2023, at the MacLaren Art Centre for an all-ages collaborative art experience. Participants will create personalized artwork on wooden tiles that reflects what makes them special through their cultural lived experience. Completed tiles will be assembled and displayed to show the cultural mosaic that we have in Barrie. The same activity is taking place across some Simcoe County communities with all mosaics adding to a grand mosaic display.

The launch of Art on Transit – This public art project will see unique digital artworks installed on Bus Shelters across all ten wards of the City of Barrie. The artworks are by regional visual artists, inspired by an original poem by Barrie’s Poet Laureate, Tyneisha Thomas. Citizens are encouraged to ride Barrie Transit to view the entire series of images and consider the new perspectives presented in each shelter. Artwork Installation is expected to take place September 29., 2023.

Write For Your Life with Lewis the Artist – Youth 12+ are invited to share a message or statement that is close to their hearts. Participants will engage with one another and share their poetry to build compassion and empathy. This activity takes place at UPlift Black studio on Sunday, September 24, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Sandbox Social Takeover and Printmaking Activity - Every Thursday evening, the Sandbox Centre at 14 Maple Avenue hosts a social from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. On Thursday, October 5, 2023, Culture Days will be taking over. This social will feature a printmaking activity by local artist Kim Brett designed to engage all levels of skill. Tour the Sandbox Centre's state-of-the-art business incubator, connect, and make a unique art print to take home.

Live Digital Portraits with Linda Laforge – On Friday, October 6, 2023, visit the Wheeled Brew Bottle Shop, 19 Clapperton Street from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and watch live art on a big screen as portraits of attendees are drawn digitally by local portrait and caricature artist Linda Laforge. You'll receive your one-of-a-kind art by email after the event.

The Story of the Giving Tree - Métis and Non-Métis children aged 4 to 9 are invited to participate in an interactive storytelling and arts activity on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the South Simcoe Metis Council at 64 Cedar Pointe Drive. The story being read is the traditional Métis story of The Giving Tree, a tale from a Métis grandfather who travels with his family stopping at a tree to receive and give gifts to fellow travelers teaching the importance of reciprocity. Participants will be invited to take craft supplies from the tree, make a craft, and return it to the tree.

First Floor Gallery Exhibition by The Steel Spirit - Featuring artwork created exclusively by serving and retired Military, First Responders and Hospital Practitioners, this special exhibition is on display all of September and October. The First Floor Gallery is located at City Hall. It is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Partner-hosted programming – Many community organizations are supporting Culture Days and providing unique programming throughout the month. Partners include: the Barrie Public Library, Downtown BIA, MacLaren Art Centre, City of Barrie 55+ Centres, The Campus Gallery at Georgian College, Barrie Public Art Committee, City of Barrie Community Events, and more. Be sure to visit their websites for programming details.

How to Participate

All programming and information can be found on the City's Culture Days website at barrie.ca/culturedays. Follow @creativebarrie on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter for festival highlights.

Given the event is a three-week long celebration, there is still opportunity for artists and businesses that are interested in engaging and supporting Culture Days to participate and can reach out to the Cultural Development officer at Amanda.Dyke@barrie.ca.