

SUSTAINABLE CULTURAL FACILITIES

Adequate cultural spaces and infrastructure are essential for the health of Ontario art and communities

DID YOU KNOW?



- Despite the growth of Ontario’s cultural sector, many institutions are struggling with **failing or inadequate facilities**.
- Challenges include rapidly **aging** facilities, space **limitations**, failing environmental systems, and a lack of **accessibility**.
- Ontario gallery directors now mention **facility challenges** more frequently than financial ones.*

Only 5 out of 10 Canadians believe their community’s existing facilities are good or very good.**

WHY DO WE NEED SUSTAINABLE ART FACILITIES?



Diverse audiences

Aging facilities struggle to support **increased attendance** rates and impede efforts to make collections **more accessible**.

These challenges are **drastically amplified** in Indigenous, rural, remote and minority-language communities.**



Preservation

Increased funding for storage & preservation is needed to deliver **broadened mandates** and to better serve all communities.***

OAGG RECOMENDATIONS

The provincial government must make specific and timely commitments to the improvement of Ontario’s cultural infrastructure. Steps to strengthen arts infrastructure can include: investing in a recurring cultural infrastructure fund, increasing investment to Ontario Trillium Foundation’s Capital Fund, expanding the Infrastructure Ontario Loan Program eligibility to all non-profit arts groups, and increasing investment to the Ontario Arts Council.



Strengthen culture

Better facilities will support The Ontario Culture Strategy, promoting **cultural engagement** and inclusion.

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ADDITIONAL READINGS

- Environics Research Group (2017). *Arts and Heritage Access and Availability Survey 2016-2017*. Prepared for the Department of Canadian Heritage and Canada Council for the Arts.
- Government of Ontario. (2017). “Enhancing Tourism and Sport while Promoting Ontario’s Culture and Heritage” in *Building Better Lives: Ontario’s Long-Term Infrastructure Plan 2017*. Ottawa, ON: Queen’s Printer for Ontario.
- Creative City Network of Canada (2008). *Cultural Infrastructure: An Integral Component of Canadian Communities*. Creative City News: Special Edition 5.

REFERENCES

* Hill Strategies Research Inc. (2014). *Statistical Profile of Art Galleries in Ontario Based on the 2013 Data Exchange*. Prepared for the Ontario Association of Art Galleries.

** Community Foundations of Canada and CAPACOA (2017). *Vital Signs: Arts & Belonging*.

***Communications MDR (2016). *Environmental Scan of the Culture Sector: Ontario Culture Strategy Background Document*. Prepared for the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.



Ontario Association of Art Galleries (OAAG)
401 Richmond Street West, Suite 395
Toronto, ON M5V 3A8
t: 416.598-0714 | f: 416.598.4128
e: members@oaag.org
w: www.oaag.org
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