

# ARTS IN RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES

Cultural institutions can celebrate and make visible the diverse stories and histories of all Ontarians

## DID YOU KNOW?



- 1 in 4 Canadian artists live in small and rural municipalities. This number is greater than artists living in Toronto and Montreal combined.\*
- Cultural work in rural communities brings greater social cohesion, economic development, and economic diversification.\*\*
- Facilities such as galleries are “gathering places” essential for community cohesion. They are key factor in culture-led regeneration.\*\*

The arts foster a collective sense of belonging. This correlation is especially pronounced for newcomers and in rural, remote, Northern, Indigenous, and minority-language communities.\*\*\*

## WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS?



### Accessibility

People who live outside of urban centers consistently rate the availability of art facilities and activities lower than individuals residing in cities.\*\*\*

Arts organizations also operate with limited capacity and resources, and face declining volunteer rates.\*\*



### Funding

Access to funding and resources is limited, and often artists cannot participate fully in the cultural life of the province.\*\*\*\*



### Connectivity issues

Broadband Internet is needed for collaboration, accessing markets, and art promotion.\*\*\*

## OAG RECOMENDATIONS

Studies have concluded that the government can assist in the cultural development of rural, remote, and Northern communities through policy implementation, requiring community buy-ins, promoting youth engagement and leadership development. This includes capacity building through partnerships between for-profit and non-profit organizations, providing resources for education and training, as well as increased funding in order to achieve community sustainability.\*\*

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## ADDITIONAL READINGS

- Community Foundations of Canada and CAPACOA. (2017). *Vital Signs: Arts & Belonging*.
- Duxbury, N. & Campbell, H. (2009). *Developing and Revitalizing Rural Communities Through Arts and Creativity: An International Literature Review and Inventory of Resources*. Creative City Network of Canada.
- Ministry of Culture Tourism and Sport. (2016). *Culture Talks: A Summary of What We Heard from Ontarians*. Ministry of Culture Tourism and Sport.

## REFERENCES

- \* Hill Strategies Research. (2010). *Artists in Small and Rural Municipalities in Canada*.
- \*\* Duxbury, N., Campbell, H., & Keurvorst, E. (2009). *Developing and Revitalizing Rural Communities*. Creative City Network of Canada.
- \*\*\* Community Foundations of Canada and CAPACOA. (2017). *Vital Signs: Arts & Belonging*.
- \*\*\*\* 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.
- \*\*\*\*\* Ministry of Culture Tourism and Sport. (2016). *Culture Talks: A Summary of What We Heard from Ontarians*.



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