



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



THE ROBERT MCLAUGHLIN GALLERY



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Installation of Tony Romano: *The Big Hat*, 2024. Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.



Speculative Mapping for the Star Glyph Garden at The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, August 19, 2023.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Robert McLaughlin Gallery is in the treaty lands of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation. This land has been the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg and was stewarded by various communities belonging to the Haudenosaunee and Wendat confederacies. It is covered under the Williams Treaties and the Dish with One Spoon Wampum.

This area continues to be home to many Indigenous people from across Mishiike Minisi. We recognize the sovereignty of all Indigenous nations and acknowledge the cultural history of this place and its people.

We have a collective responsibility to protect and nurture the land. We recognize the continuing impacts of colonialism and have a responsibility to redress the ways it has helped shape our organization. We work to address structural inequities and amplify Indigenous voices in the gallery.

VISION

Art cultivates caring communities.

MISSION

We build relationships with diverse artists and communities to present collections, exhibitions, and programs.

VALUES

Care

We believe well-being is vital and demonstrate care through compassion, kindness, and patience.

Artists

We centre artistic practices, perspectives, and voices.

Equity

We integrate anti-oppressive and anti-racist practices in all facets of the organization working towards systemic change.

Collaboration

We bring together multiple people and perspectives to learn, create, and connect with each other.

Accessibility

We welcome everyone and find ways for all to participate.

Accountability

We take responsibility for our actions and communicate clearly, promoting safety and openness for all.

“A fantastic place for people of all ages.
The gallery’s exhibits are excellent, and there are
activities for kids to experiment and make
their own art.” - XK Lin

Comment on Google reviews



1/1



Kegan Winters
Chair, Board of Directors

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2024 was a year for continued growth as well as big changes at the RMG.

It was another exceptional year for programming. In addition to the highlights called out in our CEO's message, it was tremendous to see the impact of the RMG on our broader community through various larger scale initiatives. We welcomed people into our space with over 1200 participants for our free family drop-ins, and RMG Fridays were buzzing with energy throughout the year. Moving beyond the boundaries of the gallery, in the fall we partnered with the City of Oshawa to present ARTBLOCK as part of the CONVERGENCE Art and Music Festival, where over 3500 people visited our public art exhibition in the former Oshawa GO Bus Station.

In June, we welcomed five new members to our Board of Directors: Audrey Forbes, Nicole Gibson, Steve Laurie, Steve Maddiss and Wendy Vincent. Each Director brings their own unique, diverse strengths and abilities and they have immediately pitched in and driven impact to our various committees.

I am proud of the hard work of the staff and board, achieving the goals set out in our 2022-2024 Strategic Plan. I would also like to thank them for their efforts in creating our next Strategic Plan: Art, Community, and Care, 2025-2027. Over the summer we were able to bring together the staff and Board for a Strategic Visioning session to reflect on past successes, outstanding opportunities, and began to ideate our collective vision for the future. I would like to extend a special thank you to Hannah Keating and Ashley Marshall who led this work with our CEO and consultants.

Finally, as the year ended we said good-bye to Lauren Gould, the RMG's CEO since 2020. Lauren is a caring, strategic, impactful, and inspiring leader and her passion for the arts were deeply felt by the staff, Board and the entire community. She accomplished many great things during her tenure with the RMG, and she has left the organization better positioned to thrive in the future. While Lauren will most certainly be missed, we wish her well and look forward to seeing what new challenges she takes on next!

As we prepare to welcome Lauren's successor, I would like to thank in particular:

- Leila Timmins: in addition to her day job as our Senior Curator, Leila has been doing a wonderful job as our Interim CEO, providing strong leadership and stability during this time of transition
- Our amazing staff: leadership changes can be a time of uncertainty, and our team has continued to execute amazingly on our key priorities while supporting and caring for each other
- My fellow Directors: and especially to the members of the Board that have volunteered their time to contribute to our CEO search
- All those stakeholders of the RMG who provided their input to the search process in service of finding the best individual to steward the RMG through the next phase of our journey

It's hard to believe as I write this that I am approaching the end of my 2nd term as an RMG Director. The RMG is truly a special place and it has been a privilege to be able to be a part of its good work in the communities it serves. The staff and my fellow board members, past and present, are exceptional and I look forward to seeing the continued growth and evolution of the RMG in the years to come!



Leila Timmins
Interim CEO

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

2024 was a remarkable year for The Robert McLaughlin Gallery—a year of growth, creativity, and deepened connections. As we completed our 2022-24 strategic plan, *Connected, Creative and Caring*, we continued to reflect on the lessons learned in recent years while embracing new opportunities to support artists, engage our community, and reimagine the role of the gallery as a civic space.

I have immense pride in what the RMG team has accomplished this year. Their dedication, care, and creativity have continued to move the gallery forward in meaningful ways.

Some of the year's key highlights include:

- The Backyard at the RMG came to life in its first full season of programming. Designed by LeuWebb Projects and Brook McIlroy, this vibrant outdoor space has become a welcoming extension of the gallery—hosting workshops, performances, and gatherings that brought hundreds of community members together throughout the summer.
- The Neighbours Project, led by Hannah Keating exemplified our commitment to care. With the support of our partners at The Back Door Mission, The Gap Committee, and The LivingRoom Community Arts Studio, we explored meaningful ways to connect with and support neighbours experiencing housing precarity and homelessness through collaborative art-making.
- Our Teen Art Studio, led by Farah Hoosain, continued to flourish—offering a welcoming and creative space where youth can explore art, build skills, and connect with peers.
- We saw a significant increase in visitor numbers this year, a testament to the growing interest in our exhibitions, programs, and community events. It's been exciting to feel the energy and curiosity of both returning and first-time visitors throughout the gallery.
- We presented an incredible range of exhibitions, from solo shows by artists Tony Romano and Christina Leslie, to the engaging, interactive group exhibition *Contemporary Kids*, as well as bold Permanent Collection exhibitions *GO BIG* and *Kenatentas*, which presented beadwork by Kanien'kehá:ka beadworker Rachel Wastesicoot inspired by Painters Eleven works in the collection.

Throughout this report, you'll read more about these initiatives and the many ways our team has continued to bring our mission to life. I am deeply grateful to our exceptional staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, donors, community partners, and the City of Oshawa. Your support and belief in the RMG's vision make all of this possible.

AUDIENCE + VISITOR STATISTICS

ONSITE VISITORS

19,208

ONSITE VISITORS

BUSIEST DAY:
DOORS OPEN ON MAY 4TH

545

VISITORS

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

4,905

STUDIO PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS

6,436

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING
PARTICIPANTS

1,027

RMG FRIDAY PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS

404

VIRTUAL PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS



49.6K

WEBSITE
VISITORS



4

COLLECTION
ACQUISITIONS



1

PUBLICATIONS



3

ARTISTS IN
RESIDENCE



23

NEW
MEMBERS



30

VENUE
RENTALS

“Amazing facility that is active and supportive with its community. There is great care and energy about the staff that makes it an absolute joy to visit every time.” - Gabriel

Comment on Google reviews





CURATORIAL

Installation of *RESISTANCE*, 2024. Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.

OVERVIEW

In 2024, the Curatorial department presented a diverse range of contemporary exhibitions, highlighting the work of both emerging and established artists, activating our permanent collection in various ways and fostering community partnerships.



Installation of *Contemporary Kids*, 2024. Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.

Our first new exhibition of 2024, *Oshawa: 100 Years*, was launched as part of the City of Oshawa's centennial celebrations. Featuring historical photographs from the Thomas Bouckley Collection, the exhibition explored daily life in Oshawa in 1924.

The 2023 exhibition Couzyn van Heuvelen: *CAMP*, curated by Leila Timmins and Erin Szikora, went on tour in 2024, traveling to the Yukon Arts Centre and the Kenderdine/College Art Galleries in Saskatoon.

In the spring, we opened two major exhibitions *Tony Romano: The Big Hat* and *Contemporary Kids*. Tony Romano's whimsical video and installation told an anti-capitalist fairy tale that CBC Arts reporter, Chris Hampton described as "conceived as a problem so rudimentary, yet so grand and fantastical, that it's best told in the form of a children's story." This colourful and imaginative exhibition was complemented by *Contemporary Kids*, a group show featuring artists Hannah Jickling + Reed H. Reed, Leisure (Meredith Carruthers and Susannah Wesley), Amy Wong, and Rudi Wong. The exhibition celebrated the unique ways children see and engage with their environment. Celebrating the ways children perceive and engage with their world, the exhibition transformed the gallery into a creative playground for all ages—encouraging joy, play, and collaborative problem-solving.

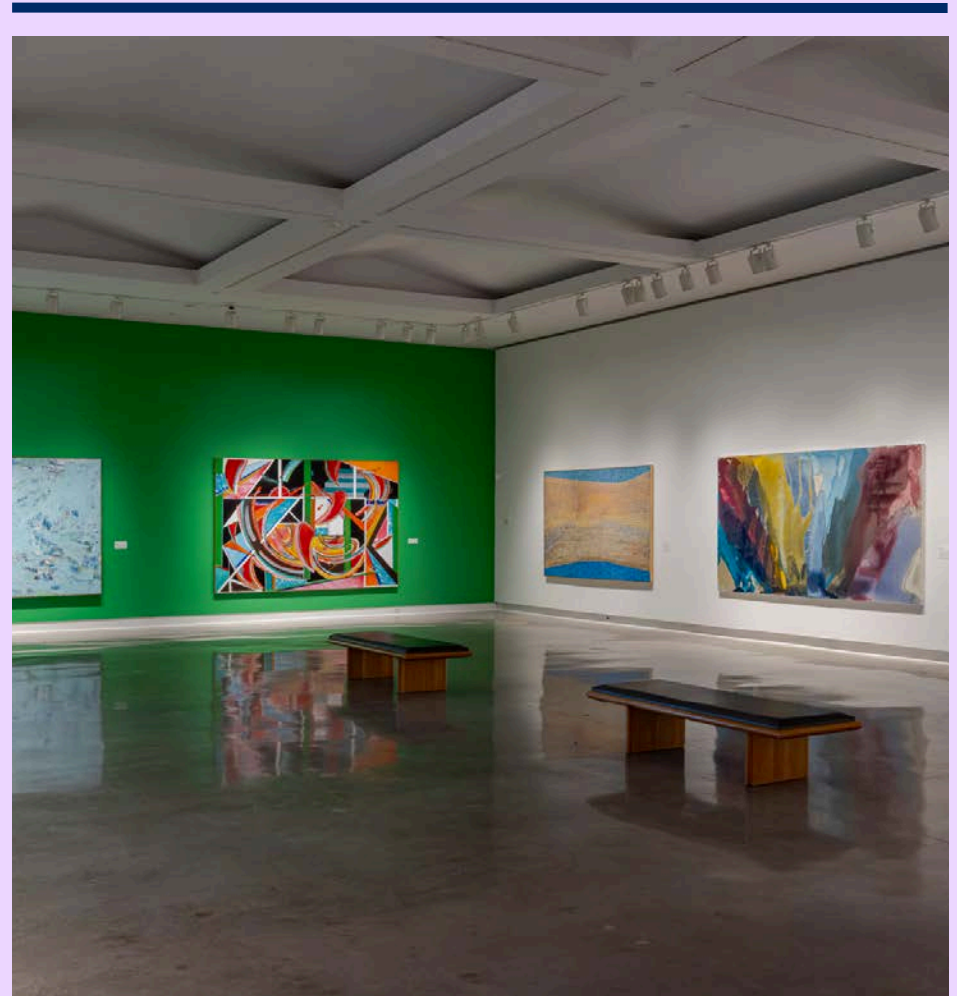
Our Permanent Collection was activated in a unique way by Raechel Wastesicoot, a mixed Kanien'kehá:ka beadworker born and raised in Oshawa. In her debut exhibition *Kenatentas*, Wastesicoot created 12 beaded works in response to paintings and drawings by Painters Eleven from the RMG's Permanent Collection. Displayed alongside the works that inspired her as a child, Wastesicoot's pieces assert both her personal voice and the role of contemporary Indigenous beadwork in the evolving narrative of Canadian abstraction.

In March, we opened *Painters Eleven: The Greenberg Effect*, a Permanent Collection exhibition that explored the influence a visit by the famed American art critic, Clement Greenberg, may have had on members of Painters Eleven. In June, we highlighted the unique vision of Canadian artist Pegi Nicol MacLeod's in the Permanent Collection exhibition *Pegi Nicol MacLeod: Unforgettably Hers*.

In the Fall, we launched three Permanent Collection exhibitions *RESISTANCE*, *Jack Bush: Breakthrough* and *Go BIG*. Featuring a wide variety of work, *RESISTANCE* explored how artists throughout history have used art to resist and disrupt social and political structures — including within the art world. The exhibition *Jack Bush: Breakthrough* highlighted Bush's artistic development and celebrated his ability to express powerful emotions through his iconic paintings. *Go BIG* showcased rarely exhibited large-scale abstract paintings from our collection, notable for their monumental size.

On September 21st, the RMG and the City of Oshawa co-presented ARTBLOCK, a zone of art-based programming, as part of the CONVERGENCE Music and Arts Festival. A highlight of ARTBLOCK was *Points of Connection*, a public art exhibition in the former Oshawa GO Bus Terminal. The exhibition featured works by local artists Christina Leslie, Geordie Lishman, Brigitte Sampogna, Malik McKoy, LeuWebb Projects, and Andil Gosine—attracting 3,462 visitors in just one day.

Later in the fall, we opened *Likkle Acts*, a solo exhibition by Pickering-based artist Christina Leslie. The show brought together four photographic series, including her latest body of work *Sugar Coat*, which is informed by her research into the history of the sugar industry and the Transatlantic slave trade.



Installation of *Go BIG*, 2024. Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.



Installation of Kendra Yee: *Commonplace*, 2024. Photo by Toni Hafkenschied.

The RBC Emerging Artist Residency continued to provide a collaborative and experimental platform for emerging artists. In 2024, the program featured compelling exhibitions by Kendra Yee, Ioana Dragomir, and Vanessa Godden, all curated by Associate Curator Hannah Keating.

Community partnerships remain a vital part of the Curatorial department's exhibition programming.

We were pleased to continue our relationships with the Durham District School Board with their student exhibition *For Art's Sake*, the Oshawa Art Association's annual juried exhibition, the Durham College's Fine Arts Advanced program thesis show *EMERGING VISIONS*, the Seniors Art Competition and Exhibition co-hosted with Oshawa Senior Community Centres and the Oshawa Public Libraries, Cultural Expressions for CHANGE Inc., as well as The Neighbours Art Hive presented with the LivingRoom Community Art Studio. We also welcomed a new community partnership with the Oshawa Camera Club.

Our curatorial programming in 2024 presented a dynamic array of exhibitions that underscored the RMG's commitment to community engagement, cultural diversity, and critical discourse. Thank you to all of the incredible artists for their generous and thoughtful work, and to our visitors for your ongoing support of our programming.

Sonya Jones
Interim Senior Curator

EXHIBITIONS

Oshawa: 100 Years

January 13 – December 1, 2024

Raechel Wastesicoot: Kenatentas

January 27 – June 9, 2024

Kendra Yee: Commonplace

February 27 – April 21, 2024

***Durham District School Board Biannual
Exhibition: For Art's Sake***

February 29 – March 17, 2024

Painters Eleven: The Greenberg Effect

March 9 – August 25, 2024

Tony Romano: The Big Hat

April 6 – September 8, 2024

***Oshawa Art Association's
56th Juried Art Exhibition***

April 25 – May 12, 2024

***Emerging Visions: Durham College
Thesis Exhibition 2024***

April 25 – May 12, 2024

Contemporary Kids

June 1 – October 6, 2024

Ioana Dragomir: not quite ever only

June 15 – August 11, 2024

Pegi Nicol MacLeod: Unforgettably Hers

June 15, 2024 – March 2, 2025

***Reflect: Seniors Art Competition
and Exhibition 2024***

August 17 – September 29, 2024

Jack Bush: Breakthrough

September 7, 2024 – March 2, 2025

RESISTANCE

September 7, 2024 – August 24, 2025

***Points of Connection: Convergence
Music & Arts Festival*** (Offsite)

September 21, 2024

Go BIG

September 28, 2024 – February 17, 2025

Vanessa Godden: Transgressive Passages

October 12 – December 8, 2024

***Unity Through the Arts: Cultural Expressions
Juried Exhibition 2024***

October 24 – November 10, 2024

Christina Leslie: Likkle Acts

November 23, 2024 – April 13, 2025

***Oshawa Camera Club: Celebrating 100 Years of
Oshawa with Pictures***

December 12, 2024 – June 15, 2025

The Neighbours Art Hive

December 21, 2024 – February 17, 2025

2024 Travelling Exhibitions

Couzyn van Heuvelen: CAMP

Yukon Art Centre

June 5 – August 30, 2024

Couzyn van Heuvelen: CAMP

Kenderdine/College Art Galleries, Saskatoon

October 11 – December 20, 2024

2024 Virtual Exhibitions

The Machine Age, May 2024

Publications

Annie Macdonell: The Beyond Within

Co-published with SFU Galleries, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, Illingworth Kerr Gallery and Art Metropole, 2024



Installation of *The Big Hat*, 2024. Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.

THE BIG HAT

Tony Romano

April 6, 2024 – September 8, 2024

Curated by Leila Timmins and Erin Szikora

Rooted in a family tradition of carpentry and ironwork, Tony Romano's practice reimagines found objects and transforms raw and recycled materials into playful works that explore cultural narratives. In *The Big Hat*, Romano presents a new series of sculptures and video works that tell a cautionary tale about an imagined whirligig community. The story follows their encounter with a greedy professor who persuades them to abandon their simple way of life in exchange for one centered on labor. Romano envisions whirligigs as autonomous beings, complete with their own dreams and memories. Their entire world is built upon a stage of scrap, raw, and recycled metal—infused with character and meaning.



Installation of *Contemporary Kids*, 2024. Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.

CONTEMPORARY KIDS

**Hannah Jickling + Reed H. Reed,
Leisure (Meredith Carruthers and
Susannah Wesley), Amy Wong,
and Rudi Wong**

June 1, 2024 – October 6, 2024

Curated by Leila Timmins and Hannah Keating

The exhibition *Contemporary Kids* brought together contemporary artists who create art with and for children. Within the context of contemporary art, children's interests and cultural contributions are often overlooked. The artists in this exhibition embraced the fresh, imaginative perspectives that children offer, viewing play as a vital entry point into artistic exploration. *Contemporary Kids* is a celebration of the many ways children see and engage with the world around them. Designed as a playground for all ages, the exhibition invites visitors to rediscover joy, connection, and the power of creative problem-solving in an ever-changing world.



Installation of Christina Leslie: *Likkle Acts*, 2024. Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.

LIKKLE ACTS

Christina Leslie

November 23, 2024 - April 13, 2025

Curated by Hannah Keating

Likkle Acts brought together four photographic series by Pickering-based artist Christina Leslie. Set in Jamaica, each body of work explores her familial relationships alongside the complex, layered history of the Caribbean. Through themes of memory, migration, and the legacy of the sugar industry, Leslie employs a range of photographic techniques to illustrate the interconnectedness of past and present. The exhibition's title, in Jamaican Patois, references an African proverb popularized by Bob Marley's *Small Axe*: "If you are the big tree / We are the small axe." This idea of the cumulative power of small gestures runs throughout the exhibition, underscoring how even the smallest actions—when multiplied—can spark meaningful change.

ACQUISITIONS

Jane Eccles

Margaret's Dress, 2009
acrylic on canvas
Gift of the artist, 2024

Dana Claxton

Defiance 1 (Rezthetics for Skeena), 2021
metallic lightjet print, mounted
Gift of the artist, 2024



Jaspal Birdi, *16h57m* (detail), oil paint and photo transfer on thermal blanket, 2020.
Gift of Dr. Parambir Kella and Anjil Patel, 2024.



Jane Eccles, *Margaret's Dress* (detail), acrylic on canvas, 2009. Gift of the artist, 2024.

Jaspal Birdi

16h57m, 2020

oil paint and photo transfer on thermal blanket

Purchase made possible thanks to the generous donation of
Dr. Parambir Keila and Anjli Patel, 2024

Julia Dault

Jazz Hands, 2014

acrylic and oil on canvas in painted wood frame

Gift of Robert Desjardins and Pamela Dinsmore, 2024



RBC EMERGING ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Opening of Kendra Yee: *Commonplace*, 2023. Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.



Vanessa Godden: *Transgressive Passages*, 2024. Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.

RBC EMERGING ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM

In 2024, the gallery was pleased to host three inspiring artists through the RBC Emerging Artist Residency Program. Our sixth residency cohort since 2019—Ioana Dragomir, Vanessa Godden, and Karen Kar Yen Law—introduced new perspectives to the residency studio, experimenting with materials and processes not yet seen in this program. Whether drawing on content from the gallery's archives, choreographing a performance, or developing a new series of multi-media artworks, the artists created excellent exhibitions and memorable opportunities for connection.

Starting off the year, Dragomir embarked on a focused, but open-ended exploration of material from the gallery's archive. With care, she deftly pulled fragments from promotional materials, correspondence between artists and curators, and other miscellaneous ephemera, gradually constructing drawings, collages, and textile artworks that spoke to the human connections contained in institutional archives. Her final installation was an immersive experience full of quiet details and rewarding surprises that shed new light on the generative potential of the archive.

Through the summer, Godden collaborated with other artists and friends to craft a love letter to their queer and trans kin in the Caribbean diaspora through photos and a new performance.



Ioana Dragomir: *not quite ever only*, 2024. Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.

With water taken up as a symbol for migration, fluidity, and transformation, the project addressed the complexity of intersectional identity and the participant's embodied experiences with culture and myth. Tender and loving, their work highlighted the importance of intergenerational kinship in the queer community.

At the end of the year, Law embraced the scrappy creativity of a chef to create a new body of work in an ongoing series inspired by the five essential flavours of Chinese cuisine. Mediating on bitterness, she collaged paper stencils repurposed from other projects with a range of abstract mark-making techniques, all embedded in layers of glossy resin. Drawing connections between food and human emotion, Law considered how one might tend to bitter pains or truths interpersonally while rejecting the bitterness elicited by anti-Asian racism in contemporary society.

From concept to realization, the RBC Emerging Artist Residency Program gives artists the time, resources, and curatorial support to develop and present new work. It continues to be an important way for the RMG to support artistic practice in our community and enrich the cultural ecosystem. The RMG is grateful to receive funding for this program from the RBC Foundation through the Emerging Artist Project.

-Hannah Keating
Associate Curator



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Putting People First: Community BBQ hosted by CDCD, The Region of Durham, the Gap Committee, and The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, August 22, 2024.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

**The Neighbours Project ART HIVE
with the LivingRoom**

January 12 – February 16, 2024

**Raechel Wastesicoot: *Kenatentas*
Opening Reception**

January 27, 2024

IG Live: Residency Update with Kendra Yee

February 2, 2024

**Curatorial Tour: Raechel Wastesicoot +
*World-builders, shapeshifters***

February 8, 2024

**Exhibition Walkthrough with
Couzyn van Heuvelen**

February 10, 2024

DDSB Exhibition Opening

February 19, 2024

**Kendra Yee: *Commonplace*
Opening and Artist Talk**

March 3, 2024

RMG Friday: International Women's Day

March 8, 2024

**Artist Round Table: *World-builders,
shapeshifters and Kenatentas***

March 17, 2024

**IG Live: Welcome to the Studio with
Ioana Dragomir**

March 21, 2024

**Curatorial Tour: *About Time and
The Greenberg Effect***

March 28, 2024

RMG Friday: *The Big Hat*

April 5, 2024

**Curatorial Tour:
Tony Romano: *The Big Hat***

April 18, 2024

**Seniors Art Competition and Exhibition:
Info Session & Exhibition Tour**

April 24, 2024

OAA opening reception

April 25, 2024

RMG Friday: Emerging Visions

May 3, 2024

**IG Live: Residency Update with
Ioana Dragomir**

May 14, 2024

Durham College Artist Talks 2024

May 15, 2024

**Artist Residency Information Session +
Application Workshop**

May 16, 2024

How to Document Your Artwork Workshop

May 23, 2024

Contemporary Kids: Family Party

June 1, 2024

**Bead with us! An Online Artist Talk
with Raechel Wastesicoot**

June 5, 2024

RMG Friday: Bubbles in the Backyard

June 7, 2024

The Losing Art of Plating

June 7, 2024

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

Ioana Dragomir: *not quite ever only*

Opening Reception

June 15, 2024

Curatorial Tour: *Contemporary Kids*

June 20, 2024

RMG Friday: Salsa Night

July 5, 2024

IG Live: Welcome to the Studio

with Vanessa Godden

July 10, 2024

Backyard Story Time

July 17 and August 14, 2024

RMG Friday: Backyard Bliss

August 9, 2024

Seniors Art Competition and Exhibition:

Opening and Awards Reception

August 20, 2024

Putting People First: Community BBQ

with CDCD, The Region of Durham

and Gap Committee

August 22, 2024

IG Live: Residency Check in

with Vanessa Godden

September 13, 2024

RMG Friday: CONVERGENCE Launch

September 20, 2024

Cultural Expressions Opening Reception

October 24, 2024

RMG Friday: Passages

November 1, 2024

Transference: A Performance

by Vanessa Godden

November 1, 2024

Cultivating Artist-Curator Relationships

and Collaboration Workshop

November 6, 2024

Jack Bush Lecture: Dr. Sarah Stanners

November 7, 2024

IG Live: Welcome to the Studio with

Karen Kar Yen Law

November 22, 2024

Curating Climate Change: Sustainable

Exhibition Making Workshop

November 26, 2024

Christina Leslie: *Likkle Acts*

Exhibition Opening

November 30, 2024

Oshawa Camera Club: Celebrating

100 Years of Oshawa with Pictures

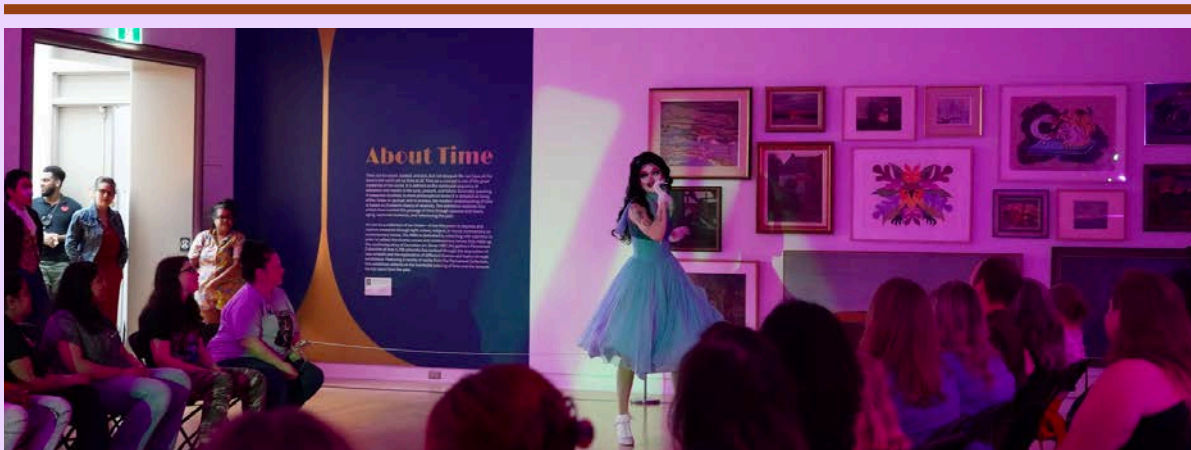
Opening Reception

December 12, 2024

RMG FRIDAYS

In 2024, we focused on the idea that RMG Fridays can be inclusive of the many public holidays, cultural celebrations, and new audiences who gather within our spaces. Although we anticipated this revisioning may have caused growing pains, and potentially impacted attendance numbers, we entered the city's Centennial with hope and excitement for new opportunities and experiences.

We began the season with an International Women's Day Celebration, followed by a hugely successful Oshawa Music Week and, Big Hat Exhibition Opening. The summer saw our annual Pride celebration, Salsa Night, and Backyard Bliss, and we wrapped the season with Passages in November, showcasing performances from artist-in-residence Vanessa Godden and students from O'Neill CVI.



RMG Fridays: Pride, June, 2024

Thoughtful, diverse, and intriguing programming will continue to be our goal for the RMG Fridays in the future. Durham Region presents many new options for audiences to choose from. We promise to make these curated RMG Fridays experiences unique and memorable for new and returning guests.

March 8: International Women's Day

Featuring: Liz Oke, Mathilda Irawan, and Georgia Fullerton

April 5: *The Big Hat*

Featuring: Oshawa Music Week performances

May 3: Emerging Visions

Featuring: BoluSings and Simmone Mariah

June 7: Bubbles in the Backyard

Featuring: Kali Kontour, Dank Sinatra, El Experimento and Vital!
Contemporary Circus

July 5: Salsa Night!

Anabella Cabrera and Farrucas Duo

August 9: Backyard Bliss

Featuring: Moonfruits and Cale Crowe

September 20: CONVERGENCE

Featuring: Joel Anderson and Christina Smith

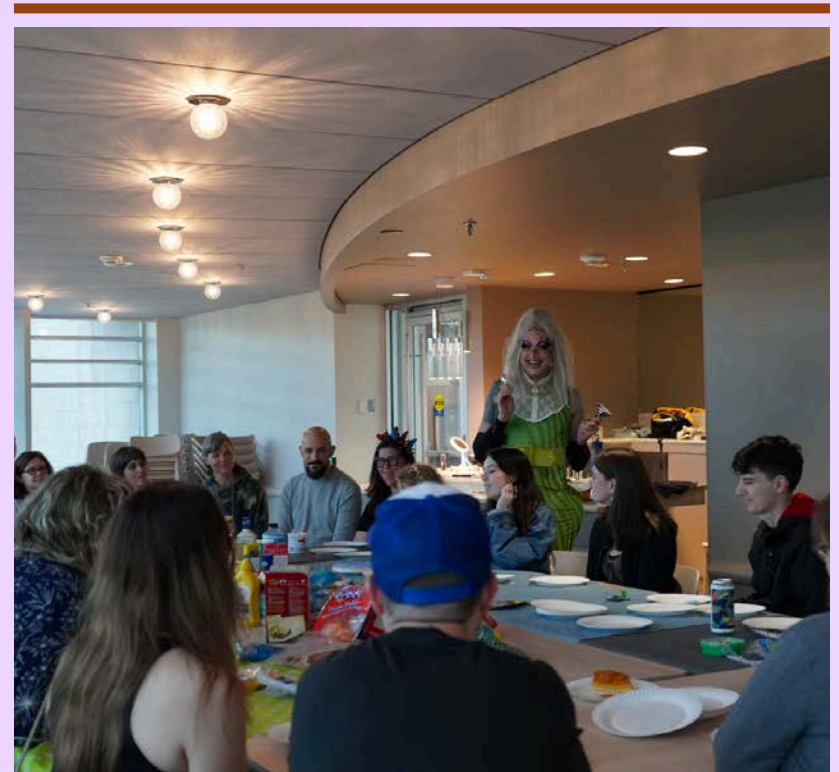
November 1: Passages

Featuring: Vanessa Godden and O'Neill CVI Dance and Movement Studies students

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

AIDS Committee of Durham Region
Back Door Mission
Canadian Blood Services
City of Oshawa
Community Development Council Durham
Community Resource and Support Services
Convergence Music & Art Festival
Cultural Expressions for CHANGE Inc.
Durham Catholic District School Board
Durham District School Board
DRIFF (Durham Region International Film Festival)
Durham College
Fleming College
Gap Committee
Inferno Pole Dance Studio
Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board
Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation
Ontario Tech University
Oshawa Senior Community Centres
Oshawa Art Association
Oshawa Camera Club

Oshawa Museum
Oshawa Public Libraries
Oshawa Tourism
Parkview Place
The Living Room Community Art Studio
The Region of Durham
Womxn of Colour Durham Collective



Workshop facilitator Mikiki leads *The Losing Art of Plating* on June 7, 2024.

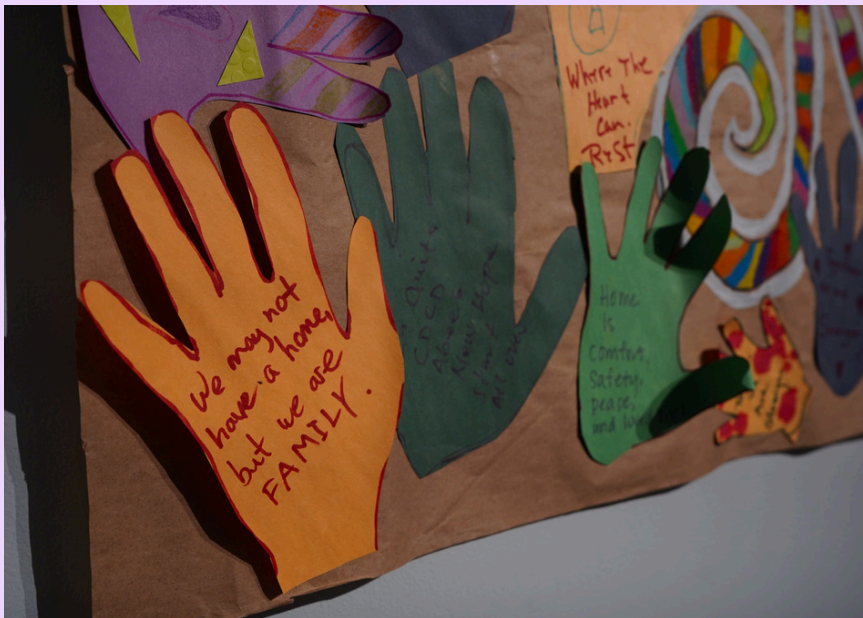


Participants make art in The Neighbours Project ART HIVE with the LivingRoom, February 2, 2024.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT

In recent years, the gallery has been developing relationships with community organizations that provide essential support to our neighbours, including those experiencing poverty and housing precarity. Throughout 2023, we nurtured familiarity and trust with staff, volunteers, and community members at the Back Door Mission and the Gap Committee through private programming and community engagement. Inspired by the relationships and lessons that came from that work, we launched “The Neighbours Project Art Hive” in late-2023 in partnership with the LivingRoom Community Art Studio, which saw Gallery A transformed into a free drop-in art studio that allowed us to sustain and grow new friendships in 2024.

The LivingRoom Community Art Studio also partnered with us to support an event developed by the Community Development Council Durham (CDCD), The Region of Durham, and the Gap Committee, which was hosted at the gallery in August 2024. The event invited asylum seekers and locally unhoused folks to enjoy a community barbeque, sharing circles, and creative activities. LivingRoom volunteers facilitated a banner making project, which asked participants to trace and cut out their hands on paper and write what home means to them. The banner was exhibited in Gallery A during the second iteration of *The Neighbours Art Hive*, which opened in December 2024 and would be animated once more by LivingRoom volunteers in the year to come.



The Neighbours Art Hive, exhibition banner (detail), installed at The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, December 21, 2024 – February 17, 2025.



Putting People First: Community BBQ hosted by CDCD, The Region of Durham, the Gap Committee, and The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, August 22, 2024.

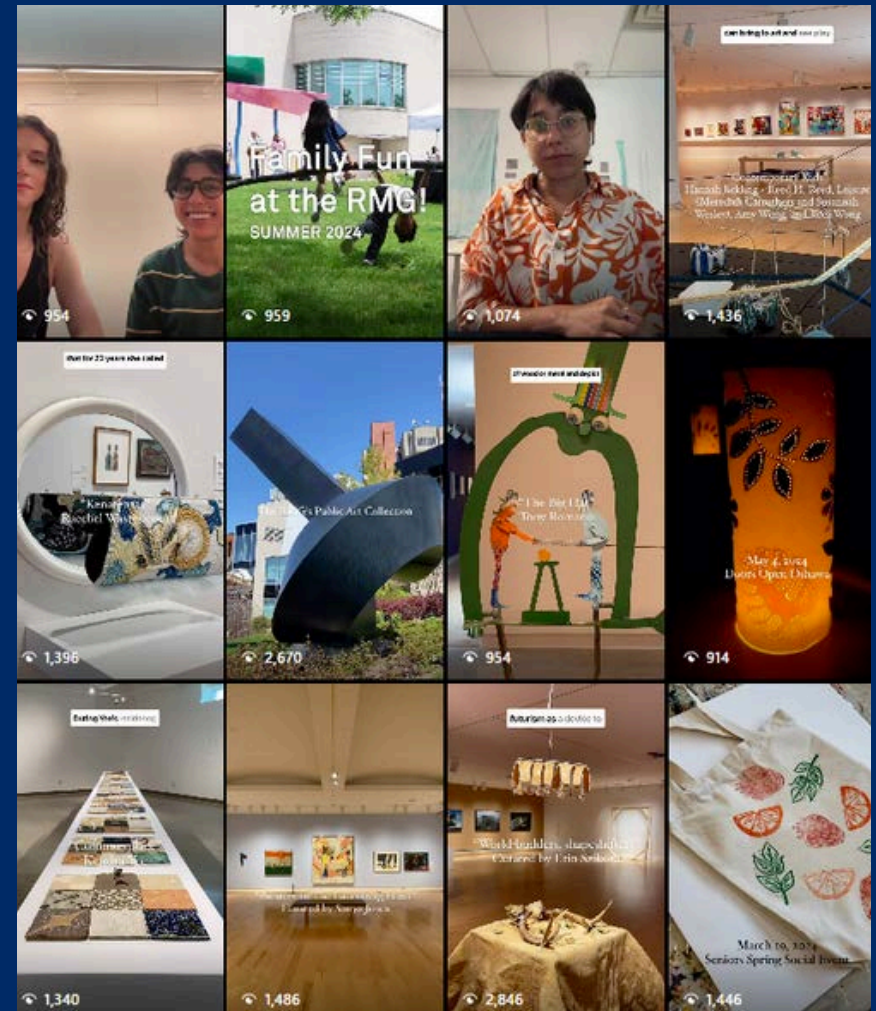
Thanks to our community partners, we are meeting new people and creating accessible art experiences for all. We intend to deepen these relationships into the future.

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

In 2024 we continued to engage with our online community through the RMG website, social media channels, and email. We extended our reach through digital ads (akimbo.ca, cmagazine.com, etc.), and online listings (Oshawa.ca, durhamregion.ca, summerfunguide.ca, etc.), these sources accounted for over 6.8% of traffic to the website.

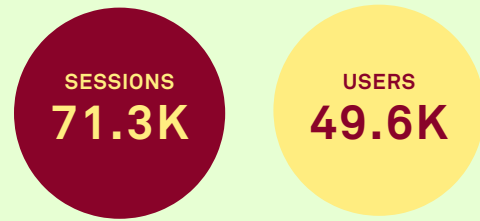
In 2024 we launched our first paid search campaigns using Google Grants, this generated over 5K new sessions on the website, engaging over 3.8K users.

Instagram and Facebook continued to be a significant source of traffic, generating over 3.7K website sessions throughout 2024. All channels saw growth over the year, Instagram surpassed Facebook in followers with engagement outperforming all other channels.



Instagram Reels, 2024

Website



Content published



Most visited pages



Email



Social Media



* Compared to last years stats

VISITOR TRENDS + STATISTICS

2024 saw a plateau in visitor numbers with minimal change in total and average daily visitors. However, the RMG was not open for as many days as we were in 2023, which is encouraging seeing that our numbers remained consistent. Continuing our popular events like the OAA and DDSB exhibition openings, as well as Bougie Bites presented in partnership with Oshawa Tourism, helped keep visitor numbers on par with the previous year. Reflecting on the year, we are glad to see that current programming is well attended, but we will need to try new strategies in 2025 to reach a wider audience.

With no significant statistical change in visitors, we have been able to establish our post-pandemic baseline for engagement, which can be used to measure the success of future programming, tours, events, and general visits. As Oshawa's population grows and events such as CONVERGENCE and the Bright and Merry Market continue to bring more people to the downtown core, we expect to see steady growth in our attendance.

| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total Visitors | 9,243 | 2,013 | 12,386 | 19,387 | 19,208 |
| % Change Total Visitors | -66% | -78% | 515% | 57% | -1% |
| Average Daily Visitor | 44 | 16 | 45 | 67 | 66 |
| Days Open | 209 | 128 | 275 | 307 | 291 |
| % Change Days Open | -41% | -39% | 115% | 12% | -6% |

Notable popular events from 2024 include:

| EVENTS | VISITORS |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Doors Open | 545 |
| OAA Exhibition Opening | 355 |
| May RMG Friday | 290 |
| Cultural Expressions Opening | 272 |
| DDSB Exhibition Opening | 256 |
| Bougie Bites | 246 |

STRATEGIC PLAN

We are thrilled to share the RMG’s Strategic Plan for 2025–2027: Art, Community & Care.

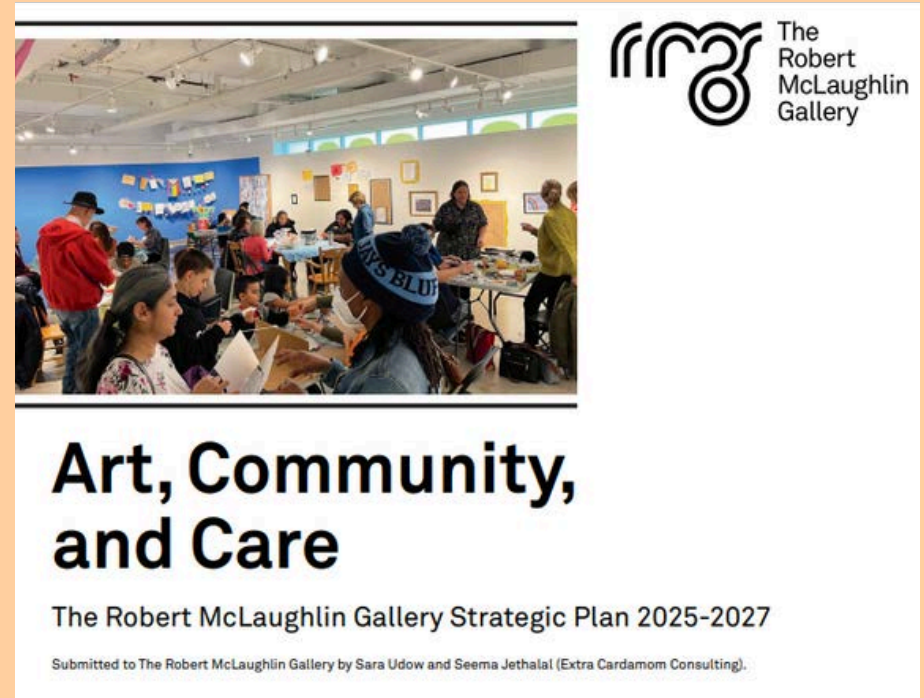
From May to November 2024, our staff and Board worked closely with consultants Sara Udow and Seema Jethalal of Extra Cardamom Consulting to refine our vision, mission, and values, and to shape a renewed set of strategic pillars to guide us forward.

Our previous plan, Connected, Creative and Caring (2022–2024), set important foundations—broadening our support for artists, deepening community connections, and reimagining the role of a gallery. Now, we’re building on that momentum, with a focus on expanding our reach and ensuring that everyone in our community feels welcome and represented.

As we look ahead, our 2025–2027 strategic priorities are to:

- Deepen support for artists
- Nurture meaningful relationships
- Be a truly welcoming space
- Amplify awareness and broaden our reach
- Strengthen sustainability and responsiveness

Thank you to everyone who contributed—survey respondents, focus group participants, staff, Board members, and the ad-hoc strategic planning committee. A special thanks to Sara and Seema for guiding us through a process rooted in joy, creativity, and open dialogue.



Strategic Plan Cover 2025

RMG SHOP

The RMG Shop began a new sales strategy in 2024. After seeking advice from former staff and retail experts, we made the decision to drop most of our consignment items and venture into wholesale. We anticipated increased costs and decreased revenue for 2024 as we transitioned our business plan and built up our new stock from scratch.

Identifying our primary audience as a younger one than other galleries due to the exceptional work of our Learning and Engagement Department, we began bringing in items we hoped would appeal more to children, young adults, new parents, the young at heart, and the “fun-at-every-age”. Temporary tattoos, stickers, buttons, bookmarks, candy, colouring books for kids AND adults, markers, pencil crayons, small notebooks, fun socks for all ages, magnets and more now make up the store inventory.

The RMG Shop strengthened connections with Native Northwest and Oscardo, two companies that promote and pay royalties to Indigenous artists, and brought back old local favourites like Aide Bodycare.



2024 New Vendors:

1. Aide Bodycare
2. Angel's Craft
3. Bazic
4. Eat My Shortbread
5. Ifs, Ands, or Buttons
6. Jukebox
7. Paper Pattern Silk
8. Party Mountain Paper Company
9. Seracon
10. Sundried Peach



RMG Shop

We welcomed new vendors with a commitment to buy Canadian before it was cool. A renewed focus on creating items in-house to celebrate and share works from our Permanent Collection has yielded new RMG magnets, postcards and stickers. We even have a line of staff-designed stickers with the best-selling sticker of the year “Pride Sloth” designed by Jennifer Morrison.

This move has also been coupled with actions to make the shop more financially accessible. We identified that the RMG Shop’s pricing was more inline with larger metropolitan museums where the mark up on most items is often well over 60-70% and geared toward the upper middle class and above. Oshawa is a well-known “blue collar” community, welcoming people from every economic circumstance. The RMG Shop is committed to being affordable for their own community, not Toronto, New York, or London’s, and the mark up has been reduced to put what we sell within more people’s reach.

We move forward with the goal of increasing sales and not prices, representing our collection more fully, and offering colourful and fun Canadian items for the people of Oshawa.



LEARNING + ENGAGEMENT

School group visit at the RMG, 2024.



Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) recognition event with Jennifer French, MPP for Oshawa, May 2024

LEARNING + ENGAGEMENT

The Learning and Engagement department offers a wide range of interactive educational activities for schools and the community. In 2024, the department continued to grow our audience, and saw increased attendance across all programming. This included art classes, camps, OPG Sundays, seniors' events, workshops, and a robust offering of full and half-day elementary school programs.

Art Classes

Art Classes in 2024 included our **Homeschool Classes/Workshops** and **Saturday Studio** classes, and were offered in winter, spring and fall. These programs were incredibly well received and our attendance was at 94% capacity.

The RMG's partnership with Durham's Homeschool Association continued to flourish in 2024. We expanded our programs that were geared to specialized age specific **Homeschool Classes** for ages 5-7, and ages 8-12. We also continued our art history workshops for students ages 10-14 and high school-aged homeschool classes. These programs encourage the use of fine art materials in new and exciting ways to help build individual creativity and self-confidence while fulfilling Ontario curriculum requirements.

Feedback from surveys was very positive with high praise for the instructors. Special thanks to Jennifer Morrison, Farah Hoosain and Avery Snelling for their planning and delivery.

The **Saturday Studio** program (art classes for children ages 5-12) continues to be popular, with instructors Chelsea Frattura, Giulianna Taccone, Jennifer Morrison and Avery Snelling. These classes encourage students to imagine, explore and experiment with different art materials.



Summer Camp 2024

The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation supported 2024's **Teen Art Zone** (formally Teen Afterschool program). These workshops continued to build a dedicated audience with 142 participants. Teens enjoyed the relaxed and social atmosphere created by Farah Hoosain in the studio. The workshops included felt appliqué, linocut printmaking, altered books pages, and large abstract painting.

PA Day Camps, March Break and Summer Camps

PA Day Camps and **March Break Camp** were tremendously successful, and were at 100% capacity with waitlists. Campers enjoyed exhibition related interactives and fine art making activities. These camps provide opportunities for children to learn new art skills and to socialize with others who share an interest in art. Guest instructors Melissa Dipchand and Diana Von Schwerin joined the Learning and Engagement Team to support March Break Camp.

Summer Camps

In early Spring 2024, new streamlined processes using Shopify and Asana were introduced for summer camp registrations. Spaces filled quickly and were completely sold out by May. The RMG secured 3 summer staff facilitators to assist with summer camp, welcoming Young Canada Works Summer Education Assistant, Giuliana Taccone, Canada Summer Jobs Facilitators, Avery Snelling and Loren Asquith and returning Learning Facilitator, Judith Vijayasanen. Summer Camp 2024 offered eight weeks of programming that inspired campers to create masterpieces in the studio, the Lookout, in the backyard as well as within the gallery spaces. These camps support freedom of expression, build fine art skills within a relaxed social setting. Summer staff did a tremendous job! Once again, **Summer Camp** surpassed previous attendance with the new highest camp attendance on record with 237 campers.



March Break Camp 2024

OPG Sundays

Ontario Power Generation has been generously sponsoring **OPG Sunday** events for over 10 years. These free monthly events not only encourage families to create art together but to interact and socialize with other visiting families. This year, we welcomed 705 participants, an increase of 20% from 2023. The most popular events were February's Family Day and April's Rain Resist events. L&E department partnered with two community members, The Oshawa Museum in January and the Oshawa Public Library (Main Branch) in November.



At-gallery school program, 2024

Elementary School Tours

2024 closed with the completion of the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Resilient Communities grant. This grant provided support for the Learning and Engagement department to build its post pandemic school programming to include gallery programming, programming within schools, and a full complement of teacher resources available through our website. The grant also funded a full-time contract Learning and Engagement Coordinator's position. The in-gallery programs were inspired by the permanent collection exhibitions, *About Time* (Jan-June) and *Resistance* (Sept-Dec), *Painters 11* exhibitions, *Greenberg Effect*, and *Jack Bush: Breakthrough*. Gallery interactives also included programming in *World-Builders*, *shapeshifters* and *Go BIG* exhibitions. From January to June, students created abstracted landscapes using a variety of materials or they created relief clay structures in the studio. In the fall, painting, mixed media and relief clay tiles art activities focused on social and environmental messaging.

In all, 2717 students participated in 2024 **school programming**, an increase of 12% from 2023. As part of the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant's successful outcome, the RMG was able to make the L&E Coordinator's position permanent as of October 2024.



Flower pot painting at the Fall Seniors Social Event, October 24, 2024.

Community Events

The Learning and Engagement Department's community engagement events included **Canada Day celebrations, Doors Open activities, RMG Friday Studio** activities and **Convergence Art and Music Festival**.

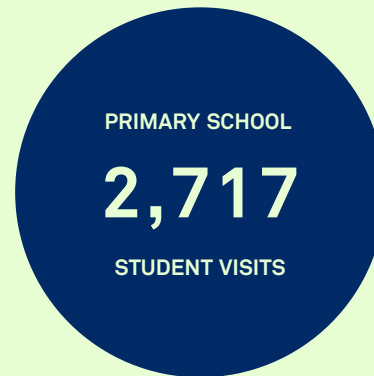
Senior Workshops and Events

Continuing in 2024 were the seniors' event initiatives made possible by Seniors Community grant followed by Sienna for Seniors Foundation. These two funders allowed the department to work with two local senior residences to create a series of fine arts art making workshops hosted offsite. Feedback from our surveys and participant comments were tremendously positive.

The Learning and Engagement department also held two **Seniors Social events**, in the spring and fall. These events encourage visiting seniors to "curate" their own experience over the course of two hours. The offerings included a birch tree landscape drawing instructed by guest artist, Chrissie Wysotski, a canvas printmaking activity, a Pyrography workshop instructed by guest Indigenous artist, Victoria Grant, an acrylic flowerpot painting workshop, gallery tours and light refreshments in Arthurs on the 4th.

The Learning and Engagement department fulfilled onsite programming needs with continued support from fellow staff, artist instructors, volunteers, audience and partners.

LEARNING + ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



“Upon entering The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, I was immediately greeted by two very attentive individuals. As I ventured further into the space, I had the pleasure of speaking with Heather, who was not only kind and professional but also exceptionally knowledgeable. Despite the gallery not being at full capacity during my visit, the experience was nonetheless quite enjoyable. It was calm, thought-provoking, and stimulating—full of artistic talent for anyone who appreciates fine art as much as I do. I would highly recommend taking the time to explore and savor the experience.”

- Arlo Brake

Comment on Google reviews





**SUPPORTER
+ DONORS**

Exhibition tour of Tony Romano: *The Big Hat*, 2024.

VOLUNTEERS

Events

Miguel Bautista

Nylah Burnett

Ethan Dorfman

Yu Gu (TD Bank)

Alini Kumari (TD Bank)

Cam Lloyd

Olivia Mar

Jordan McKenzie

Taiwo Oyedeji (TD Bank)

Varshitha Ravindranath

Curatorial

Dave Lamb

Simone Lawrence

Catherine Lopes

Learning & Engagement

Logo Aganga

Aryan Arun

Sophia Asquith

Charlotte Bennett

Madison Borg

Sydney Calvo

Hope Coyne

Guenavere (Gwen) Yvone

P. Dizon

Jaeda Fletcher

Noah Hedges

George Hong

Mason Hunter

Sana Imran

Abeeda Islam

Aruba Kashif

Justina (Tina) Laing

Olivia "Liv" Lobo

Logan Meadows

Torren Morrison

Rachna Pandya

Divya Patel

Winy Patel

Spencer Pacheco

Celeste Smith



RMG volunteers and staff, 2024.

2024 ACTIVE MEMBERS

The Robert McLaughlin Gallery is grateful to its many members, community supporters, corporate and foundation donors, sponsors, and government agencies for their donations. Our sincere thanks.

General Members

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ronald & Helen Lambert | Jane Dixon | Ray Mead | Anne Labelle-Johnson |
| Mallory Morris Sartz & John Sartz | Gerald & Brenda Carrigan | Jean Mercer | George & Judith Marlow |
| Kegan Winters | Mrs. Mae Nurse | W. Nurse | LeuWebb Projects |
| Keith Campbell | Madeleine Rose | Herm Pincombe | Stefanie Brennan |
| Kelly McKenzie | Ruth Sedgewick | William Ronald | Stephen Gregory |
| Denise Branton | Helen Taylor | J. Murray Speirs | Mary Ellen McQuay |
| Karen Brown | Sylvia Armstrong | Gladys Stanley | Lory Drusian |
| Rebecca Fortin | Thomas Bouckley | P. Waxer | Betty Pulsifer |
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| Mary Jane Monteith | Oscar Cahan | Ramona Marquez-Ramraj | Elenna Monchesky |
| Reema Chopra | Kathleen Elliot | Robert Ashby | Karen McCartney |
| Mrs. Belinda Masters | Hortense Gordon | Renate Belzing | Karen McCartney |
| Lisa Weiss | Gretta Hastings | Janet Chartrand | Mahi Chopla |
| Elizabeth Wolfe | Tom Hodgson | Nancy Mueller | Natasha Allen |
| Arthur & Judy Lovell | Ada Kelly | Isabella's Chocolate Cafe | Jacquie Severs |
| Kay Hopkins | Trudi Lancaster | Judy & Donald O'Leary | Stanley Epstein |
| Miss Florence Hart | Jock Macdonald | Paige Dwight | Sally Wildman |
| Gordon Hare | E.R.S McLaughlin | Wendy Moses | Roxann Brown |

2024 ACTIVE MEMBERS

Steve Maddiss

Marie Chenier

Cheryl Blackman

MaryAnne Bridge

Aileen Fletcher

Audrey Forbes

Mary Simpson

Monika Donnelly

PHILIP MARMINA

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Roanna Green

Leila Timmins

Sonya Jones

Hannah Keating

Heather Riley

Sara Rodriguez

Brianne Hunte

Jennifer Welch

Jennifer Morrison

Farah Hoosain

Brad Isaacs

Brendan McGowan

Carole Blackburn

Anna Kissoon

Giuliana Taccone

Lauren Gould

Miles Clarke

Annie Pinet

Grace Downer

Nicole Gibson

Wendy Vincent

Steven Laurie

Lory Drusian

Raj Mosur

Lucas Cabral

Ashley Arriola

Colleen Knight

Irja Ketola

Dave Hendrix

Nesrin Blair

Nancy Mueller

Kathleen Sherba

Elizabeth Thompson

Mary Sallay

Lionel Collier

Elizabeth Brighton

Esther Forde

Michael Brown

Gayle Fowlie

Joshua Bowman

John Osbourne

Sabrina Muench

Kayla Brown

Jonathan Hines

Loreen Greer

Scott Henderson

Reynaldo Cantu-Llanos

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Gary Greenwood

Loreen Greer

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Catherine Hass

Ronald Haynes

Scott Henderson

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Nancy Mueller

Sabrina Muench

Marion Multgrew

Morasutti

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Gerard O'Neill

John Osbourne

Annie Pinet

Betty Pulsifer

Sofya Raginsky

Mary Sallay

Eric Sangwine

Mallory Morris Sartz &

John Sartz

Jacquie Severs

Kathleen Sherba

Mary Simpson

Marjorie Sorrell

Christina Stuewe

Elizabeth Thompson

Benoît Tremblay

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Government of Canada

Department of Canadian Heritage

Community Services Recovery Fund

Young Canada Works

Canada Summer Jobs

Province of Ontario

Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

Tourism Relief Fund

The City of Oshawa



Conseil des Arts
du Canada

Canada Council
for the Arts



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

The Backyard @ the RMG

Government of Canada

Ontario Trillium Foundation

The City of Oshawa

Preferred Partners

Berry Hill Food Co.

Brew Wizards Board Game Café

Isabella's Chocolate Café

Oshawa House Café

Spicy Affairs Indian Cuisine

Starapples Restaurant

The Portobello Road

The Second Wedge Brewing Co.

This recognition list is accurate to April 19, 2024, and to the best of our abilities. If you notice any errors or omissions, please contact memberships@rmg.on.ca.

STAFF TEAM

Full-Time Staff

Carole Blackburn
Lauren Gould
Roanna Green
Farah Hoosain
Brienne Hunte*
Bradley Isaacs
Sonya Jones
Hannah Keating
Brendan McGowan
Jennifer Morrison
Heather Riley
Sara Rodriguez
Erin Szikora*
Leila Timmins+
Jennifer Welch

Curatorial Support Staff

Timothy J Ediger*

Fundraising Support Staff

Josh Bowman*

Learning + Engagement Support Staff

Loren Asquith*
Avery Snelling
Judith Vijayaseenan*

Visitor Engagement Support Staff

Jody Anderson*
Miles Clarke*
Anna Kissoon
Heather Riley
Brigitte Sampogna
Giuliana Taccone



RMG staff, 2024.

*Denotes team members that worked part of the year
+Denotes team members on parental leave for part of the year

2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Leila Timmins, Interim Chief Executive Officer



RMG Board of Directors, 2024.

