



The  
Robert  
McLaughlin  
Gallery

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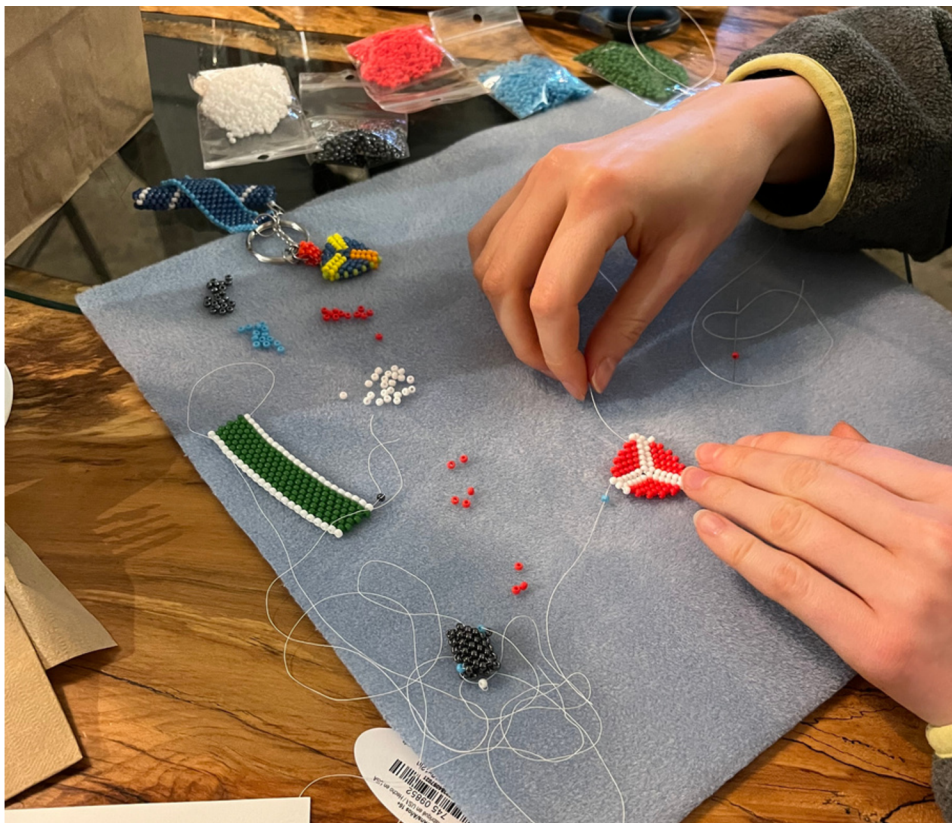
**ANNUAL REPORT 2025**



The Robert McLaughlin Gallery is located on 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 our responsibility to redress the ways it has helped shape our organization. We work to address structural inequities and amplify Indigenous voices in the gallery.



Learn to Bead: Peyote Stitch Workshop with Olivia Whetung, December 6, 2025.



Installation of *We are ten thousand hands that plant seeds*, 2025. Photo by Toni Hafkenschaid.

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# VISION

**Art cultivates caring communities.**

# MISSION

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

# VALUES

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## **Care**

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

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## **Artists**

We centre artistic practices, perspectives, and voices.

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## **Equity**

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

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## **Collaboration**

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

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## **Accessibility**

We welcome everyone and find ways for all to participate.

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## **Accountability**

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

# STAFF TEAM



RMG Staff, 2025.

## Learning + Engagement Support Staff

Taleeya Wall  
Theone Kadurugamuwa  
Salam Bachir  
Madison Borg  
Avery Snelling

\*Denotes team members that worked part of the year

## Full-Time Staff

Alix Voz*	Sonya Jones
Lauren Gould*	Hannah Keating
Roanna Green*	Leila Timmins
Rose Rockbrune*	Jennifer Morrison
Farah Hoosain	Brendan McGowan
Sara Rodriguez	Jennifer Welch
Bradley Isaacs*	Carole Blackburn*
Blair Claxton*	

## Visitor Engagement Support Staff

Brigitte Sampogna  
Heather Riley  
Anna Kissoon  
Jody-Ann Anderson  
Giulianna Taccone

# 2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aileen Fletcher	Nicole Gibson
Annie Pinet	Paola Beci
Audrey Forbes	Philip Marmina
Michael Brown	Reema Chopra
Councillor Bradley Marks	Steve Maddiss
Kelly McKenzie	Steven Laurie
Lory Drusian	Wendy Vincent



RMG Board of Directors, 2025.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



**Aileen Fletcher**  
Chair  
Board of Directors

As Chair of the Board, I am honoured to reflect on a year that has reaffirmed the essential role the Robert McLaughlin Gallery plays in our community. More than a place to experience art, the Gallery is a space for connection, dialogue, and discovery—where diverse perspectives are welcomed and creativity is celebrated. Under the new Leadership of Alix Vos and the support of our exceptional staff we have seen the Gallery continue to evolve with purpose. Through thoughtful exhibitions, engaging programs, and meaningful outreach, we have expanded access to art while deepening our connection with the communities we serve.

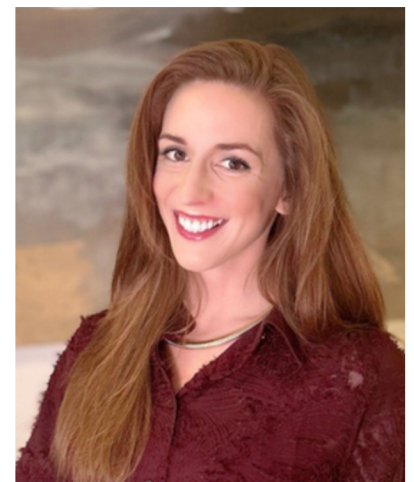
As a Board, we are committed to responsible stewardship—honouring the Gallery’s legacy while ensuring it remains dynamic, inclusive, and responsive to the future. We believe strongly in the power of art to inspire, to challenge, and to bring people together. Like many public institutions, we navigated pressures this year—but we did so with creativity, discipline, and a shared sense of purpose. Restructuring has begun and we anticipate creating a new strategic plan with a team committed to thoughtful leadership that listens carefully, plans wisely, and acts with integrity.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend deep gratitude to our staff, volunteers, and donors whose dedication keeps our mission alive every day in small and large ways. I leave this year feeling hopeful—not because challenges are behind us, but because of the people who stand ready to meet them. The future of our gallery is not something we wait for, it is something we will continue to actively shape, together, with your support.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

In 2025, the Robert McLaughlin Gallery entered a period of renewal, momentum, and shared purpose. As I joined the RMG team, I was struck by the depth of this institution’s history, the strength of its collection, and the commitment of the people who care for its future. The RMG is more than a gallery. It is a civic and cultural space where artists help us see differently, where communities gather, and where learning, belonging, and connection are made possible through art.

This year’s work reflects both stewardship and ambition. We continued to honour the RMG’s significant place in Canadian art while asking what this gallery can become for Durham Region today and into the future. As we look ahead, our responsibility is clear: to strengthen the RMG as a place of public trust, creative exchange, and community wellbeing. Thank you for being part of this work.



**Alix Vos**  
Chief Executive Officer



# CURATORIAL

Installation of *Painters Eleven: Abstract Bonds*, 2025. Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.



## OVERVIEW

In 2025, the Curatorial department presented a dynamic program of contemporary exhibitions that highlighted emerging and established artists, showcased our remarkable permanent collection, and fostered strong community partnerships. We also welcomed Blair Claxton as our new Preparator + Exhibition Lead.

Our first exhibition of 2025 featured photographs by the Oshawa Camera Club. Founded in 1938, the club is the oldest camera club in Canada. This exhibition highlighted the winners of the City of Oshawa's Centennial Photography Contest and marked the first partnership between the OCC and the RMG.

In the spring, we opened two major exhibitions: *Tom Dean: GOOD-BYE* and *we are ten thousand hands that plant seeds*. *Tom Dean: GOOD-BYE*, curated by Leila Timmins and Yan Wu, revisited the artist's work from the early 1970s, bringing together conceptual artworks and archival materials that document his active engagement with Montreal's alternative art scene.



Installation of *Artists by Artists*, 2025. Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.

*We are ten thousand hands that plant seeds*, curated by Abedar Kamgari and co-presented with the South Asian Visual Arts Centre, borrows its title from the final poem written by Chilean singer and activist, Víctor Jara. The exhibition featured works by Megan Feheley, Maureen Gruben, Sharmistha Kar, Gloria Martinez-Granados, Soledad Fátima Muñoz, and Nazzal Studio. Drawing on “an embodied language of textiles,” the artists responded to lived and inherited experiences of colonialism, displacement, and genocide.

In March, we presented two exhibitions from the Permanent Collection: *Painters Eleven: Abstract Bonds* and *Artists by Artists*. While *Abstract Bonds* highlighted the RMG's significant holdings of Painters Eleven, *Artists by Artists* explored portraits of artists created by their peers. Ranging from intimate sketches to formal representations, these works move beyond likeness, to reflect admiration and creative kinship.

In late spring, new acquisitions of novelty postcards to the Thomas Bouckley Collection were featured in a fun exhibition titled *Wish You Were Here!*. Humorous and scenic, the postcards give us a glimpse into the shared experiences, personalities, and cultural identity of historical Oshawa.

In the summer, we presented a solo exhibition by Pickering-based artist, Georgia Fullerton. Titled *Being In and Moving*

*Through*, the exhibition showcased Fullerton's abstract expressionist watercolours and collages, demonstrating how art can serve as a vital tool for processing emotion and fostering personal transformation.

In the fall, we launched two additional Permanent Collection exhibitions: *Homage* and *Hortense Gordon: Towards the New*. Featuring a wide range of works, *Homage* explored how artists pay tribute—to individuals, pivotal events, and shared experiences—inviting reflection on what, and who, we choose to remember. *Hortense Gordon: Towards the New* highlighted the work of Painters Eleven member, Hortense Gordon, tracing her stylistic evolution and enduring commitment to experimentation.

A standout exhibition that attracted many visitors in the fall was *Building Black Civilizations: Journey of 2,000 Ships*, featuring LEGO sculptures by Scarborough-based artist, Ekow Nimako. Curated by Alyssa Fearon and organized by the Dunlop Art Gallery, the exhibition explores the fourteenth-century sea voyage of Mansa Abu Bakr II, ruler of the Mali Empire. Nimako's fluid building style, combined with Afrofuturist themes, transcend the geometric qualities of the medium to evoke organic, imaginative forms.

Later in the fall, we presented *inawendiwok*, a solo exhibition by Olivia Whetung, member of Curve Lake First Nation and citizen of the Nishnaabeg Nation. Curated by Mona Filip and organized by the Art Gallery of Mississauga, the exhibition draws on Whetung's experiences working with the land, emphasizing interdependence and relationality within ecosystems. Working with Whetung, the RMG commissioned a work for its collection that was featured in the exhibition, titled *Reckless Optimism*. Complimentary to the exhibition *inawendiwok* was the Backyard installation of Scott Roger's *Mutualism (Fixed Assets)*, a temporary public artwork of a bird feed station made from broken and re-assembled auto parts.



Installation of Olivia Whetung: *inawendiwok*. Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.



Scott Rogers: *Mutualism (Fixed Assets)*, 2025.

Community partnerships remained central, including collaborations with the Durham Catholic District School Board (*Into the Horizon*), Oshawa Art Association, Durham College (*Emerging Visions*), Oshawa Senior Community Centres and Oshawa Public Libraries (Seniors Art Competition and Exhibition), Cultural Expressions for CHANGE Inc., Oshawa Camera Club, the Cultural Development Council Durham, and the LivingRoom Community Art Studio (The Neighbour's Art Hive).

Overall, the 2025 program underscored the RMG's commitment to community engagement, cultural diversity, and critical discourse. We thank the participating artists and visitors for their continued support.

Sonya Jones  
Interim Senior Curator



*Wish You Were Here!*, 2025.



Opening of Couzyn van Heuvelen: *CAMP* at Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG), 2025. Photo by Scott Lee.

# EXHIBITIONS

**Oshawa Camera Club: Celebrating 100 Years of Oshawa with Pictures**  
December 12, 2024 – June 15, 2025

**Karen Kar Yen Law: Beyond Bitter**  
February 25 – April 19, 2025

**Durham Catholic District School Board Biannual Exhibition: Into the Horizon**  
February 28 – March 16, 2025

**Artists by Artists**  
March 8 – August 10, 2025

**Painters Eleven: Abstract Bonds**  
March 8 – August 24, 2025

**Tom Dean: GOOD-BYE**  
April 5 – September 7, 2025

**Oshawa Art Association's 57<sup>th</sup> Juried Art Exhibition**  
May 1 – May 18, 2025

**Emerging Visions: Durham College Thesis Exhibition 2025**  
May 2 – June 8, 2025

**We are ten thousand hands that plant seeds**  
June 7 – October 4, 2025

**Pixel Heller: Northern Shadows, Northern Spirits**  
June 14 – August 10, 2025

**Wish You Were Here!**  
June 21, 2025 – January 11, 2026

**Adventure: Seniors Art Competition and Exhibition 2025**  
August 15 – September 25, 2025

**Georgia Fullerton: Being In and Moving Through**  
August 15, 2025 – January 11, 2026

**Hortense Gordon: Towards the New**  
September 6, 2025 – March 1, 2026

**Homage**  
September 6, 2025 – August 26, 2026

**Building Black Civilizations: Journey of 2,000 Ships**  
September 20, 2025 – February 16, 2026

**Par Nair: the place from my grandma's dreams**  
October 4 – November 30, 2025

**Unity Through the Arts: Juried Exhibition 2025**  
October 16 – November 2, 2025

**Scott Rogers: Mutualism (Fixed Assets)**  
November 15, 2025 – April 12, 2026

**Olivia Whetung: inawendiwok**  
November 15, 2025 – April 12, 2026

**The Neighbour's Art Hive**  
December 11, 2025 – February 16, 2026

## Travelling Exhibitions

**Couzyn van Heuvelen: CAMP**

Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery  
May 24 – August 31, 2025

Art Gallery of Peterborough  
October 11, 2025 – January 4, 2026

## Publications

**Tim Whiten: Elemental**

Co-published with McMaster Museum of Art, Art Gallery of Peterborough, and The Goldfarb Gallery, 2025

## GOOD-BYE

Tom Dean

April 5, 2025 – September 7, 2025

Curated by Leila Timmins and Yan Wu

In 1970, artist Tom Dean presented his first public work by hanging a 23-foot canvas outside his Montreal studio, emblazoned with “GOOD-BYE” in blue and gold sequins. This bold gesture launched his career. Spanning over five decades, Dean’s practice is defined by fluid, boundary-defying works that challenge conventional artistic categories.

Guided by the questions why “GOOD-BYE” then, and why Tom Dean now, the exhibition revisited his early works from this period in Montreal. It brought together rarely seen conceptual works and archival materials, highlighting his engagement with the alternative art scene, while reassessing his work’s significance from a contemporary perspective.



Installation of Tom Dean: *GOOD-BYE*. Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.

## ***Building Black Civilizations: Journey of 2,000 Ships***

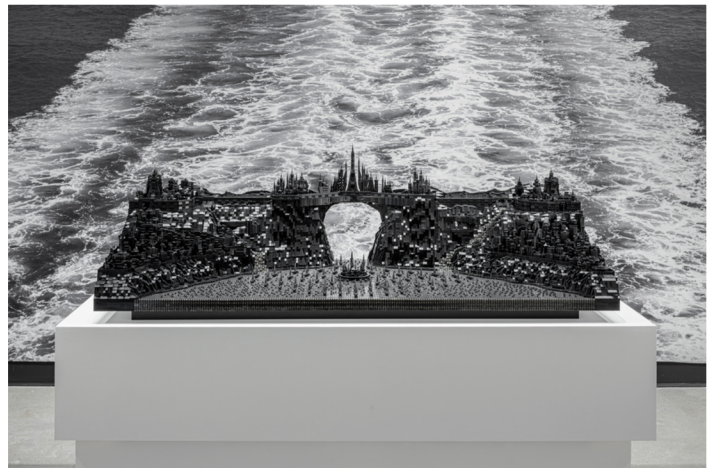
Ekow Nimako

September 20, 2025 – February 15, 2025

Curated by Alyssa Fearon

Organized by the Dunlop Art Gallery

*Building Black Civilizations: Journey of 2,000 Ships* continues artist Ekow Nimako’s Afrofuturistic reimagining of ancient African kingdoms. Using LEGO bricks as his medium, Nimako explores the mysterious fourteenth century sea voyage of Mansa Abu Bakr II, predecessor of Mansa Musa, ruler of the ancient Mali Empire. Combining architecture, historical accounts, and fantastical possibilities, Nimako transcends the geometric form of LEGO to recreate the epic voyage. The resulting sculptures are both futuristic and whimsical, presenting an uninterrupted and unco-opted narrative of Black civilizations and imagined liberated futures.



Installation of Ekow Nimako: *Building Black Civilizations: Journey of 2,000 Ships*. Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.

# ACQUISITIONS

**Christina Leslie**

Jamaica Star, 2021  
from “Sugar Coat” series  
digital photo reprint of sugar skin on  
sugar cane paper  
Gift of the artist, 2025

**Christina Leslie**

Hope and Present, 2021  
from “Sugar Coat” series  
digital photo reprint of sugar skin on  
sugar cane paper  
Gift of the artist, 2025



Christina Leslie, *Hope and Present* 2021.

**Christina Leslie**

Hope and Present: Pause, 2021  
from “Sugar Coat” series  
digital photo reprint of sugar skin on  
sugar cane paper  
Gift of the artist, 2025

**Christina Leslie**

Sugar Estate, 2021  
from “Sugar Coat” series  
digital photo reprint of sugar skin on  
sugar cane paper  
Gift of the artist, 2025

**Christina Leslie**

Bwoy on Bike, 2023  
from “St. Thomas, JA” series  
digital photograph  
Purchased with the financial support of the  
Isabel McLaughlin Acquisition Fund, 2025

**Christina Leslie**

Untitled, 2024  
from “Pinhole Parish” series  
digital photograph  
Purchased with the financial support of the  
Isabel McLaughlin Acquisition Fund, 2025



Christina Leslie, *Jamaica Star* 2021.



Patricia Deadman, *Giardino dei Semplici* 2013.

**Couzyn van Heuvelen**

Artic Char Steaks, 2021

Steel

Purchased with the financial support of the Isabel McLaughlin Acquisition Fund and the Elizabeth L. Gordon Art Program, 2025

**Jay Issac**

Untitled, 2001

Oil on canvas

Gift of Paul Petro, 2025

**Jay Issac**

Untitled (from The Zone of No Ideas), 2001

Oil on canvas

Gift of Paul Petro, 2025



Couzyn van Heuvelen, *Artic Char Steaks* 2021.

**Christina Leslie**

Untitled, 2024

from "Pinhole Parish" series

digital photograph

Purchased with the financial support of the Isabel McLaughlin Acquisition Fund, 2025

**Patricia Deadman**

Giardino dei Semplici, 2013

part of "Blanket" series

black and white 33mm negative printed on Fujicolour Crystal Archive Matte,

lamine, dry mount on dibond

Gift of the artists' estate, 2025



**Stephen Andrews**

Cartoon (selection of drawings), 2007  
 125 graphite and coloured pencil drawings on paper  
 Selection from the original 400 drawings comprising the animation Cartoon  
 Gift of the artist, 2025

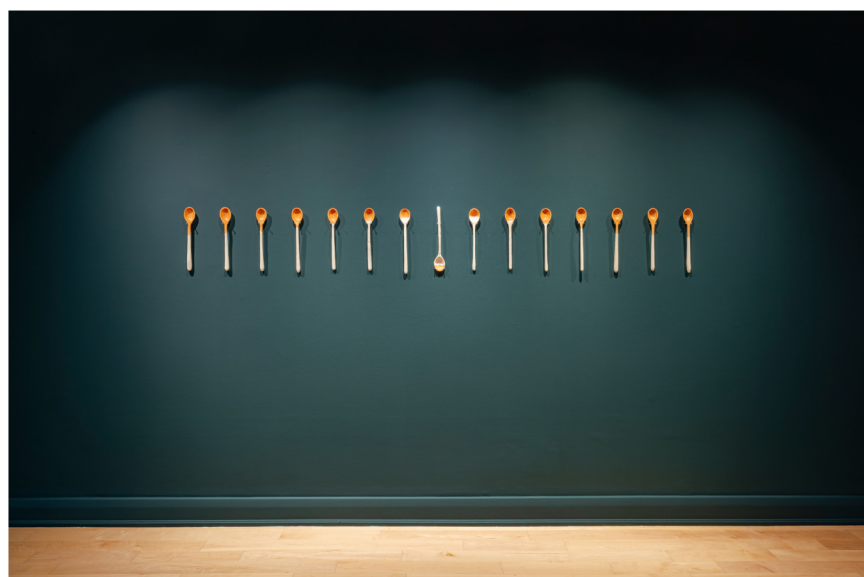
Stephen Andrews, *Cartoon (selection of drawings)* 2007. Installation at McMichael Canadian Art Collection.

**Olivia Whetung**

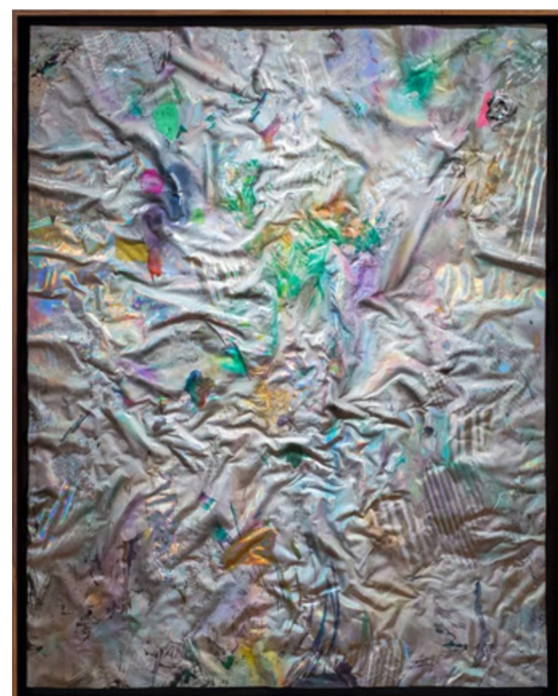
Reckless Optimism, 2025  
 15 hand carved spoons (storm felled sugar maple), varathane, Tremont square-cut steel nails  
 Purchased with the financial support of the Isabel McLaughlin Acquisition Fund, 2025

**Sandy Plotnikoff**

Foil Problem, 2014  
 foils and acrylic on Mylar  
 Gift of Paul Petro, 2025



Installation of Olivia Whetung: *inawendiwok*.  
 Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid.



Sandy Plotnikoff, *Foil Problem* 2014.



# RBC EMERGING ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Opening of Karen Kar Yen Law: *Beyond Bitter*, 2025.



## RBC EMERGING ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The gallery was pleased to support three emerging artists in the residency program this year. Pixel Heller, Par Nair, and Haley Uyeda brought their skills and vision to the studio, producing new bodies of work informed by personal histories, embodied memories, and interdisciplinary approaches to their two- and three-dimensional practices.

Pixel Heller is a multidisciplinary artist and performer working within the tradition of Caribbean masquerade. Undertaking research and travel alongside her time in the studio, Heller augmented her residency experience with local and global collaborations. Her final exhibition included an installation of handmade garments and accessories with images of the artist exploring Oshawa in costumed performances. Visiting public sites, like Club Carib and Lakeview Park, the work conjured spaces of connection and tension, extending masquerade as a tool for building community and infusing the everyday with ancestral presence.



Installation of Par Nair: *The place from my grandma's dreams*, 2025. Photo by Toni Hafkenschied.

Through the summer, Par Nair produced a new series of paintings and embroidered works inspired by her family home in Kerala, India. While she had previously painted scenes of family members indoors, Nair used the residency to experiment with new techniques and subject matter, rendering the garden landscape of her family home with loose brushstrokes and bold colours. This work became a visual expression of how Nair views her own work and life as the manifestation of her grandmother's dreams for freedom and abundance.

Near the end of the year, Haley Uyeda took up residence in the studio to produce photo-based works and site-specific paintings. Investigating how personal sensibilities are formed, Uyeda developed a methodology for making work that mirrored the interplay of predestination and cultivation she has noticed in the formation of her own sensibility. Her project unfolded with bold, intuitive explorations of new materials and processes, spurring her practice into exciting new directions.

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



In Conversation with Christina Leslie, 2025.



# PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

**The Neighbour's Art Hive with the LivingRoom Community Art Studio**

January 10-February 14, 2025

**Curatorial Tour: Christina Leslie: Likkle Acts**

January 16, 2025

**IG Live: Residency Update with Karen Kar Yen Law**

January 24, 2025

**Expressive Arts Workshop**

January 30, 2025

**In Conversation with Christina Leslie**

February 8, 2025

**Karen Kar Yen Law: Opening and Artist Talk**

March 1, 2025

**Show and Tell with Christina Leslie: Photo Emulsion**

**Transfers and Gallery**

**Representation Workshop**

March 22, 2025

**IG Live: Welcome to the Studio with Pixel Heller**

March 24, 2025

**Curatorial Tour: Resistance**

March 27, 2025

**RMG Friday: Oshawa Music Week**

April 4, 2025

**Tom Dean: GOOD-BYE Opening Reception**

April 5, 2025

**Seniors Art Competition and Exhibition Info Session**

April 15, 2025

**Oshawa Art Association Juried Exhibition Opening Reception**

May 1, 2025

**RMG Friday: EMERGING VISIONS**

May 2, 2025

**Doors Open**

May 3, 2025

**Durham College Artist Talks**

May 14, 2025

**Artist Residency Information Session + Application Workshop**

May 22, 2025

**Art Historical Lecture: A.Y. Jackson: Before the Group of Seven**

May 29, 2025

**RMG Friday: Bingo in the Backyard**

June 6, 2025

**Tom Dean: Roundtable Discussions**

June 7, 2025

**Noticing and Sensing: An Experimental Exhibition Tour with Abedar Kamgari**

June 12, 2025

**Summer Exhibitions Opening + Launch of the Star Glyph Garden**

June 21, 2025

**Backyard Story Time with the Oshawa Public Library**

July 16 and August 20, 2025

**IG Live: Welcome to the Studio with Par Nair**

July 18, 2025

**Birch Bark Biting Workshop with Megan Feheley**

July 19, 2025

**RMG Friday: From the Ground Up**

August 8, 2025



Live performance with artist in residence, Pixel Heller, September, 2025.

**Seniors Art Competition and Exhibition: Opening Reception and Awards**

August 20, 2025

**Mapping with Embroidery: Hands-on Workshop with Sharmistha Kar**

September 13, 2025

**Sounds of Resistance: Sound Talk and Listening Session with Soledad Muñoz**

September 13, 2025

**Courtyard Concert**

September 17, 2025

**Opening Reception: Ekow Nimako: Building Black Civilizations: Journey of 2,000 Ships**

September 20, 2025

**Program Orientation and Guided Exhibition Tour with CDCD**

September 23, 2025

**IG Live: Residency Update with Par Nair**

September 26, 2025

**Opening Reception: Georgia Fullerton**

September 28, 2025

**Par Nair: Exhibition Opening + Artist-led Tour**

October 3, 2025

**Photos 101 Workshop with CDCD**

October 15, 2025



Stronger Together: Celebrating our Cultures, December, 2025.  
Hosted in partnership with the City of Oshawa.

**IG Live: Welcome to the Studio with Haley Uyeda**

November 13, 2025

**Winter Exhibitions Opening Reception**

November 15, 2025

**Learn to Bead: Peyote Stitch Workshop with Olivia Whetung**

November 22 and December 6, 2025

**Reflections on an Emerging Art Career with Karen Kar Yen Law**

December 4, 2025

**The Neighbour's Art Hive Opening Party**

December 11, 2025

**Stronger Together: Celebrating our Cultures**

December 11, 2025

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Art Gallery of Mississauga  
Art Metropole  
Bawaajigewin Aboriginal Community Circle  
Canadian Music Incubators  
Centre for Community Resource Services  
City of Oshawa  
Cultural Development Council Durham (CDCD)  
Cultural Expressions Inc.  
Dunlop Art Gallery  
Durham Alliance Outreach  
Durham Catholic District School Board  
Durham College  
Durham District School Board  
Durham Homeschoolers Association  
Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board  
Making Music Together  
Nini's Ice Cream Truck  
Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences  
Ontario Tech University  
Oshawa Art Association  
Oshawa Camera Club  
Oshawa Public Libraries  
Oshawa Senior Community Centres  
Oshawa Tourism  
Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington  
Catholic District School Board  
Pride Durham  
Rukus Art Collective  
South Asian Visual Arts Centre (SAVAC)  
Starapples  
The LivingRoom Community Art Studio  
the plumb  
Top Top Projects  
Toronto District School Board  
Town Brewery  
Winchester Glen Retirement

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT



The Neighbour's Art Hive Opening Party, December 11, 2025. Hosted in partnership with the LivingRoom Community Art Studio.

In 2025, in partnership with the LivingRoom Community Art Studio, the gallery was proud to renew and deepen its commitment to inclusive, low barrier art experiences through The Neighbour's Art Hive with support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Together, we have set out on a three-year collaborative journey to connect with our community through welcoming, supportive art making sessions. In 2025, the annual Art Hive relaunched in Gallery A with the LivingRoom hosting drop-in sessions every Friday through January and February. The RMG-fuelled art bus also attended events throughout the summer and fall, drawing new audiences into moments of joy and creativity.

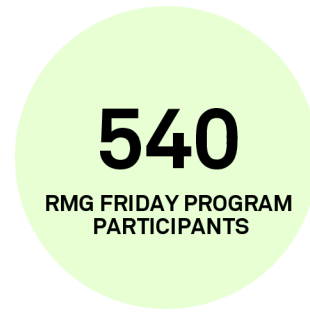
We're excited to continue offering accessible art experiences over the next three years, and we are grateful for the support of our friends, partners, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation who share in our vision for a connected, caring community.

# AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

## ONSITE VISITORS



## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



**92.7K**  
WEBSITE  
VISITORS



**14**  
COLLECTION  
ACQUISITIONS



**1**  
PUBLICATION



**16**  
VENUE  
RENTALS



**73**  
NEW  
MEMBERS



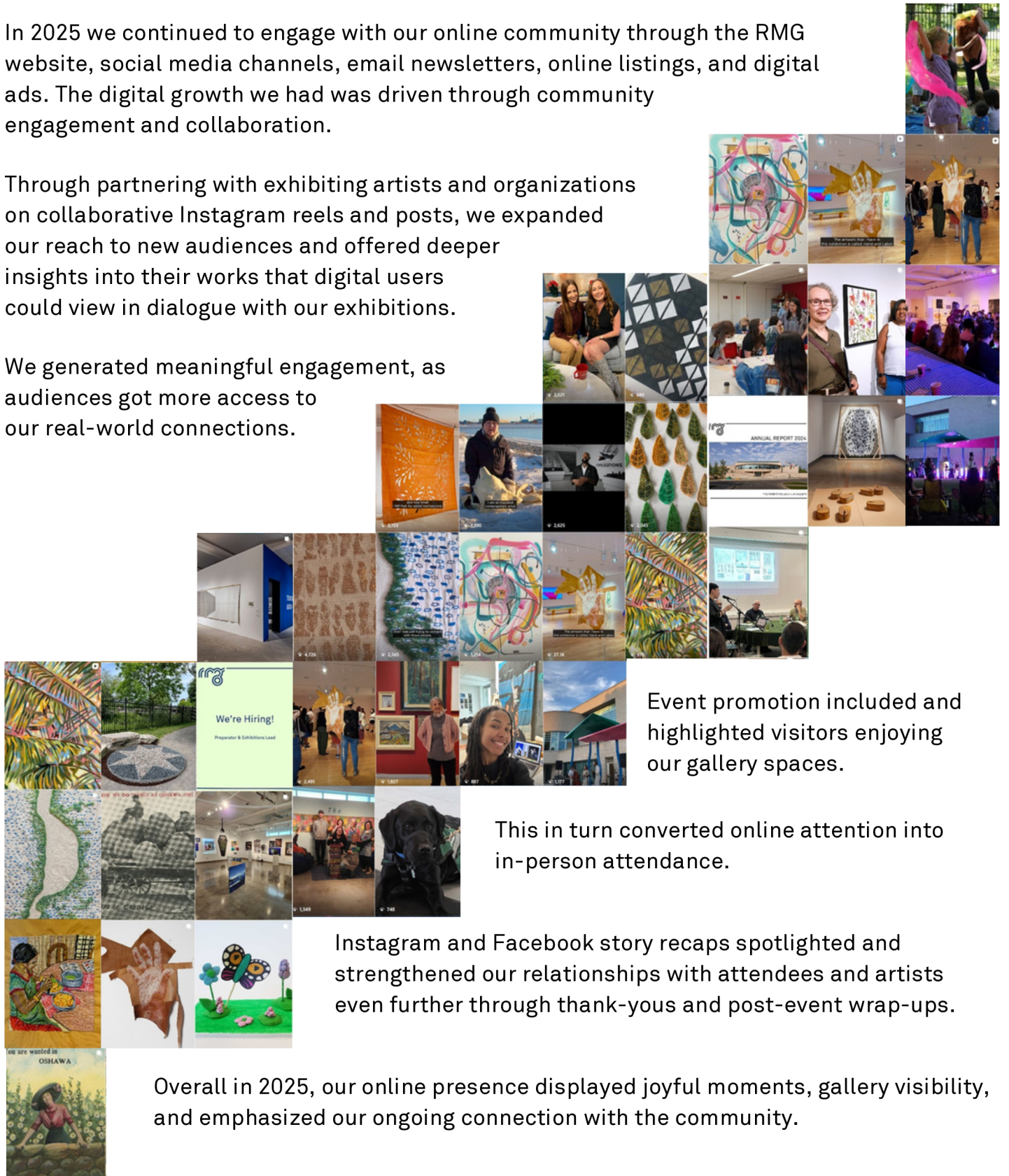
**3**  
ARTISTS IN  
RESIDENCE

# ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

In 2025 we continued to engage with our online community through the RMG website, social media channels, email newsletters, online listings, and digital ads. The digital growth we had was driven through community engagement and collaboration.

Through partnering with exhibiting artists and organizations on collaborative Instagram reels and posts, we expanded our reach to new audiences and offered deeper insights into their works that digital users could view in dialogue with our exhibitions.

We generated meaningful engagement, as audiences got more access to our real-world connections.



Event promotion included and highlighted visitors enjoying our gallery spaces.

This in turn converted online attention into in-person attendance.

Instagram and Facebook story recaps spotlighted and strengthened our relationships with attendees and artists even further through thank-yous and post-event wrap-ups.

Overall in 2025, our online presence displayed joyful moments, gallery visibility, and emphasized our ongoing connection with the community.

Images of RMG Instagram Posts and Reels, 2025.

**WEBSITE GUESTS**  
**92.7K**

30% increase  
from 2024

**19**  
**EXHIBITIONS**

**13**  
**NEW NEWS POSTS**

**E-NEWS SUBSCRIBERS**  
**2,543**

20% increase  
from 2024

**65**  
**EVENTS**

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## SOCIAL MEDIA



### FACEBOOK

6167 followers  
7% increase from 2024  
4.91% engagement rate



### INSTAGRAM

7818 followers  
15% increase from 2024  
4.26% engagement rate



### LINKEDIN

833 followers  
18% increase from 2024  
12.47% engagement rate



### TIKTOK

577 followers  
3.7% increase from 2024



### YOUTUBE

123 followers  
1.5k views

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# VISITOR TRENDS + STATISTICS

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Total Visitors</b>	2,013	12,386	19,387	19,208	22,890
<b>% Change Total Visitors</b>	-78%	515%	57%	-1%	28%
<b>Average Daily Visitor</b>	16	45	67	66	84
<b>Days Open</b>	128	275	307	291	273
<b>% Change Days Open</b>	-39%	115%	12%	-6%	-13%

Attendance at the RMG was up in 2025 by over 3000 visits – a 28% overall increase. Popular events like Doors Open and the OAA Opening brought hundreds through our doors. The stand-out event of 2025 was the City of Oshawa’s Bright and Merry Market which brought 1341 guests into the gallery, breaking attendance records for the RMG. Big thanks are extended to the City of Oshawa who worked to increase our visibility in marketing and signage during the event, the talented students and faculty of O’Neill CVI who provided dance performances and face painting, and the RMG staff who made the entire event possible.

Due to an increase in inclement weather and City infrastructure improvements, we were open for fewer days in 2025. Fortunately, the popularity of our camps, school programming, community art exhibitions, and our participation in City of Oshawa events made the days we were open that much more impactful.

# RMG SHOP STATISTICS

TOTAL SALES  
**\$11,068.65**

HIGHEST SALES  
MONTH  
**DECEMBER  
2025**

TOTAL  
NUMBER OF  
SALES  
**371**

## 2025 New Vendors:

- Kyla Vitek Jewelry
- Pre & Peri
- Jennifer Knits a Lot
- Desbarres Chocolate
- Equanimity Ceramics
- Briar & Sage
- Catherine & Co
- Little Cedar & Pine
- The Spring Moon
- Mythical Matters
- ViV Jewelry
- Hen + Bear



Bright and Merry Market, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025



# LEARNING + ENGAGEMENT

Summer Camp Art Show, 2025.



## LEARNING + ENGAGEMENT



OPG Sunday, 2025.

The Learning and Engagement department is committed to offering engaging and educational activities for schools and the community. In 2025, the department continued to grow its audience, with steady increases in attendance across programs including art classes, camps, OPG Sundays, elementary school programs, and social events for seniors.

## ART CLASSES

Art classes in 2025 included homeschool workshops and Saturday Studio classes, all of which were offered in winter, spring, and fall. These programs were well received, with most sessions reaching full or near-full enrollment.

The RMG's partnership with Durham's Homeschool Association continued to grow, with expanded age-specific classes for ages 5–7 and 8–12. Enrollment was stronger among children aged 8–12, largely due to students continuing from younger programs into the next age group—an indicator of parents' confidence in the gallery's ability to support and challenge their children's fine art learning. Art history workshops for ages 10–14 and homeschool high school classes also saw increased interest. These programs encourage the use of fine art materials while connecting to art historical movements and Ontario curriculum requirements.

In total, 112 homeschooled children participated. Feedback surveys were highly positive, with special thanks to Jennifer Morrison for planning and delivering these programs.

The Saturday Studio program for children aged 5–12 remained popular, with a 94% enrollment rate. Instructors, Avery Snelling and Theone Kadurugamuwa, encouraged participants to imagine, explore, and experiment with a variety of materials.

Monthly Teen Art Zone workshops, organized by Farah Hoosain, continued to build a dedicated audience. In August, the RMG's Teen Art Zone partnered with Ruckus Collective, inviting youth to learn about the collective and the process of making zines.

In total, 203 youth participated in hands-on workshops, including Teen Art Zone, homeschool art history workshops, and two high school class trips.

## PA DAY CAMPS, MARCH BREAK AND SUMMER CAMPS

PA Day Camps, March Break Camp, and Summer Camps were highly successful, reaching 97% enrollment with waitlists for many sessions. Campers enjoyed exhibition-related activities and fine art projects while developing new skills and social connections. Guest instructor Melissa Dipchand joined the team for March Break Camp.

The RMG also secured four summer staff facilitators: Young Canada Works Summer Education Assistant, Taleeya Wall, and Canada Summer Jobs Summer Learning Facilitators, Salam Bachir, Madison Borg, and Theone Kadurugamuwa.

Summer Camp 2025 offered eight weeks of programming across the studio, Lookout, Backyard, and gallery spaces, encouraging creativity, self-expression, and fine art skill development.

This year, the RMG partnered with Future Achievers and their camp in Jamaica, for the Postcards to Happiness project, inspired by the exhibition *Wish You Were Here!*. Campers created postcards based on the theme of happiness, which were exchanged with participants in the R.O.C.MIN Summer Camp program in Jamaica. The returned postcards were displayed in the Munnings Lounge through the summer and into September, promoting cross-cultural understanding and creativity.



Postcards to Happiness Program, 2025.



OPG Sunday, 2025.

## OPG SUNDAYS

Sponsored by Ontario Power Generation, these free monthly events encourage families to create art together and connect with others. In 2025, 632 participants attended eight events. One of the most popular was *Be Bold*, inspired by the *Go Big* exhibition. The department also partnered with Making Music Together (Ajax) for the October event.

## ELEMENTARY TOURS

This year’s gallery programs were inspired by the exhibitions *Resistance*, *Homage*, *Go Big*, and the Painters Eleven exhibitions. Special programming was introduced for Ekow Nimako’s *Building Black Civilizations: Journey of 2,000 Ships*. From January to June, students created paintings, mixed media works, and relief clay tiles focused on social and environmental themes. In the fall, students created clay portraits, lego printed structures, mixed media portraits, and clothing.

In total, 2,770 students participated in school programming this year.

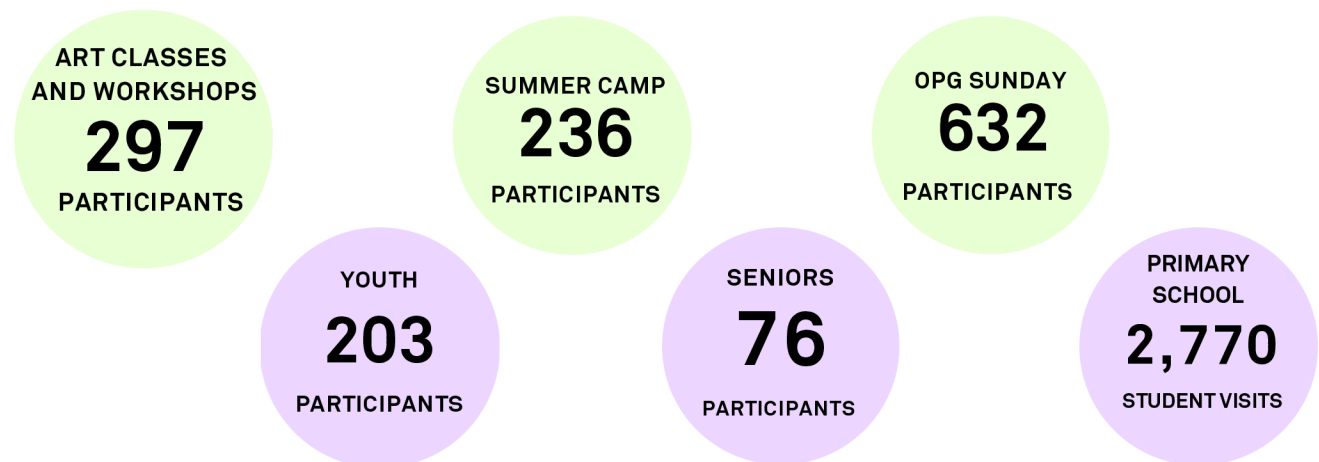
## SENIOR SOCIAL EVENTS

Initiatives for local seniors continued in 2025 with support from the Sienna for Seniors Foundation. These events encouraged seniors to curate their own two-hour experience through drawing workshops with guest artist Jade Wysotski, acrylic painting, printmaking, gallery tours, and light refreshments at Arthur’s on the 4th.



School Tour, 2025.

# LEARNING + ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS





Opening reception for *Emerging Visions: Durham College Fine Arts Thesis* exhibition, May 2025.

# VOLUNTEERS

## Learning + Engagement

Aiden Mendoza  
Alexandra Bennett  
Anna Carrier  
Ava Bedford  
Carolyn Chan  
Charlotte Bennett  
Eleanor Divincezo  
Elizaeh Malik  
Ellisheva Dayrit  
Ethan Treleven  
Francis Kondzior  
Gabriela Ferrada

Gabrielle Williams  
Gian Aguilan  
Hope Conyne  
Inaya Ali  
Isabella Sardo  
Charlie Sumant  
Jacklyn Tran  
Jackson Lai  
Julia Delbel  
Kayla Viray  
Kingston Robinson  
Leiah Aventova

Lena Gimou  
Mehwish Ahmed  
Naiya Kelly  
Noah Hedges  
Pearl Jones  
Rowen Goddard  
Sarah Al-Hamadani  
Shelanne Augustine  
Shemeul Cross

## Curatorial

David Lamb  
Simone Lawrence  
Grace Csizmadia

## Events

Anara Dorfman  
Cam Lloyd  
Ethan Dorfman  
Faith Abrahams  
Jordan McKenzie  
Nylah Burnett  
Olivia Mar  
TD Bank Volunteers



Summer Camp Staff and Volunteers, 2025.

# DONORS + SUPPORTERS

## Individual Donors

Sarah Chate  
Maureen O'Reilly  
United Way Hamilton  
Neil Newton  
Margaret Rodgers  
Myra Collins  
Arlene Sosna  
Miles Goacher  
Sandra Goodwin  
Susan Leeder  
Christopher Bredt  
Gary Hutchinson  
Elizabeth Clarke  
Opal Rosamond  
Daniel Reisler  
Victoria Ferguson  
Terry Rosamond  
Brandon Greer  
Barbara Stewart  
Miriam and Walter Beach  
Murray Lapp  
David Brandy  
MA Bridge  
Nicole Goncalves  
Janine Lavallee  
Natasha Allen  
Jocelyn Shaw  
JD Cherkas  
Marjorie Sorrell  
Laura Marquez  
Mary Soye

Allan Walkinshaw  
Aubrey Adams  
Sandra McQuade  
Rebecca Robinson  
Maryke Rowlands  
Elenna Monchesky  
Emily Posteraro  
Linda Jansma  
Arthur Lovell  
Sonya Jones  
Melanie Kitchen  
Virgina McLaughlin  
Cheryl Blackman  
Barbara Johnston  
Kelly McKenzie  
Manulife  
Michael Brown  
Judge Donald and  
Patricia Dodds  
Jeanne Dumont

## Major Gifts

Virgina McLaughlin  
Cheryl Blackman  
Barbara Johnston  
Kelly McKenzie  
Manulife  
Michael Brown

## Donations to Permanent Collection

Paul Petro  
Fred Deadman  
Christina Leslie

## Corporate Donations

Corp Leadership City of Oshawa  
Peacock Lumber Ltd Donation  
Leuwebb Projects Corporate Donation  
Partners In Art  
Ontario Tech BHM Programming

## Foundation Supporters

Elizabeth Gordon Foundation  
Sienna for Seniors Foundation

## Corporate Sponsors

Ontario Power Generation

## Monthly Donors

Judge Donald and Patricia Dodds

**Government Funders**

Canada Council for the Arts  
Government of Canada  
Department of Canadian Heritage  
Young Canada Works  
Canada Summer Jobs

**Province of Ontario**

Ontario Arts Council  
Ontario Trillium Foundation

**The City of Oshawa**

**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 May 12, 2026, and to the best of our abilities. If you notice any errors or omissions, please contact memberships@rmg.on.ca.

