

To: Economic and Development Services Committee

From: Anthony Ambra, P.Eng Commissioner,
Economic and Development Services Department

Report Number: ED-24-40

Date of Report: April 3, 2024

Date of Meeting: April 8, 2024

Subject: Oshawa Culture Counts Awards 2024 Recipients

Ward: All Wards

File: 03-05

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to present recommendations for the award of the 2024 Oshawa Culture Counts Awards as provided by the sub-committee of the Cultural Leadership Council (“C.L.C.”).

Attachment 1 provides the procedure and selection criteria for the Oshawa Culture Counts Awards.

Attachment 2 lists the Culture Counts Award recipients from 2018 – 2023.

Confidential Attachment 3 contains the nominations for the 2024 Oshawa Culture Counts Awards and the recommendations from the sub-committee of the C.L.C. for the Economic and Development Services Committee to consider.

2.0 Recommendation

That the Economic and Development Services Committee recommend to City Council:

1. That, pursuant to Report ED-24-40 dated April 3, 2024, Nominee Number 1 listed in Confidential Attachment 3 of the Oshawa Culture Counts Professional Artist nominations presented in Report ED-24-40 be selected as the winner of the 2024 Oshawa Culture Counts Professional Artist Award.
2. That, pursuant to Report ED-24-40 dated April 3, 2024, Nominee Number 2 listed in Confidential Attachment 3 of the Oshawa Culture Counts Emerging Artists nominations presented in Report ED-24-40 be selected as the winner of the 2024 Oshawa Culture Counts Emerging Artist Award.

3. That, pursuant to Report ED-24-40 dated April 3, 2024, Nominee Number 1 listed in Confidential Attachment 3 of the Innovation and Creation Champion Award nominations presented in Report ED-24-40 be selected as the winner of the 2024 Innovation and Creation Champion Award.

3.0 Executive Summary

In its meeting on February 18, 2014, City Council approved CS-14-16, Culture Counts: Oshawa's Arts, Culture and Heritage Plan. Culture Counts identifies the Strategic Direction to "Build a Strong, Vital and Connected Arts, Culture and Heritage Sector" with the strategy to "Build and Sustain Partnerships across the Arts, Culture and Heritage Sector". Within this Strategic Direction and Strategy is the specific action item to "Consider the development of a Civic Arts, Culture and Heritage Award Program".

In its meeting on October 16, 2017, City Council approved CS-17-82, Development of Arts, Culture and Heritage Awards Program which proposed the creation of the 'Oshawa Culture Counts Awards', in three categories:

- Oshawa Culture Counts Professional Artist
- Oshawa Culture Counts Emerging Artist
- Innovation and Creation Champion Award

In its meeting on June 24, 2019, City Council approved CS-19-81 which provided a proposal to streamline the process of multiple awards, including the Oshawa Culture Counts Awards.

In its meeting on May 29, 2023, City Council approved ED-23-102 which revised the selection process of the Oshawa Culture Counts Awards program to align the process with other City award programs.

4.0 Input From Other Sources

Not applicable.

5.0 Analysis

5.1 Background on Culture Counts Awards and Current Selection Process

The Culture Counts Awards were created in 2017 to celebrate and honour the creative and cultural achievements of the arts, culture and heritage community. This celebration and promotion will build capacity in the cultural sector by identifying and showcasing exemplary work and allow for Oshawa to be broadly positioned as a leader in creative and cultural initiatives.

The selection process approved in Report ED-23-102 is as follows:

- A sub-committee of the C.L.C. will review and evaluate the nominations received and make a recommendation for each award to the Economic and Development Services Committee.

- The Economic and Development Services Committee will review the recommendations of the sub-committee of the C.L.C. and make a recommendation to City Council.
- City Council will approve the award winners.

Only one nomination is awarded per category. In the event that the C.L.C. subcommittee deems a second nomination to be of relevant distinction, the sub-committee will have the ability to recommend one Honourable Mention per category.

Awards are presented at a City Council Meeting and each recipient is awarded with a certificate and honorarium.

5.2 2024 Nominations and Options

Confidential Attachment 3 contains the nominations for the 2024 Oshawa Culture Counts Awards and the recommendation from the sub-committee of the C.L.C. for the Economic and Development Services Committee to consider.

6.0 Financial Implications

There are no additional financial implications resulting from the recommendations contained in this Report. The cost of administering the program are covered within the annual operating budget of Culture Development.

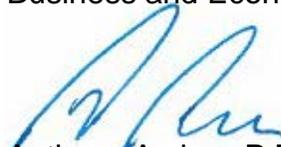
7.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan

This Report advances the Cultural Vitality goals of the Oshawa Strategic Plan.

This Report addresses Oshawa's Cultural Strategic Plan, Culture Counts: Arts Culture and Heritage by responding to the strategic direction "Build a Strong, Vital and Connected Arts, Culture and Heritage Sector" and related strategy of "Continue to look for opportunities to leverage partnerships in the arts, culture and heritage sector".



Hailey Wright, BA Hons, Director,
Business and Economic Development Services



Anthony Ambra, P.Eng, Commissioner,
Economic and Development Services Department

Current Culture Counts Awards Criteria and Selection Process

1.0 Background

In February 2014, City Council approved the Culture Counts: Oshawa's Arts, Culture and Heritage Plan. Developed through in-depth community and stakeholder consultation, the plan provides Oshawa City Council, City staff and the community with a set of strategies and action items to strengthen and encourage growth in the sector.

The fourth strategic direction entitled “Build a Strong, Vital and Connected Arts, Culture and Heritage Sector,” recommends “the creation of a civic arts, culture and heritage award program.”

Each year, the City of Oshawa will present three awards to community members. This awards program is called the Oshawa Culture Counts Awards in acknowledgment of the plan that suggested their creation.

2.0 Award Categories

2.1 Culture Counts Professional Artist Award

This award recognizes an established artist of any arts discipline (including performing, visual, cinematic, design, architecture and literary arts) who has demonstrated creativity, originality, professional maturity and artistic leadership in the community.

The following criteria will be used to select award recipients:

- Artistic merit/interest
- Critical acknowledgments of the artist's work (i.e., exhibition/performance opportunities, publications, reviews, articles, etc.)
- Recognition by local arts community

2.2 Culture Counts Emerging Artist Award

This award recognizes an artist in the early stages of their career in any arts discipline (includes performing, visual, cinematic, design, architecture and literary arts) who is both skilled and determined to advance their artistic capabilities. This individual understands the value of their gift within the community, and leverages these skills to inspire and enrich the lives of fellow citizens.

The individual must be between 12 to 30 years **or** have begun their artistic practice within the past five years.

The following criteria will be used to select award recipients:

- Artistic merit / interest

- Evidence of commitment to artistic practice
- Career path in artistic discipline
- Critical acknowledgments of the artist's work (i.e., exhibition/performance opportunities, publications, reviews, articles, etc.)
- Recognition by local arts community

2.3 Innovation and Creation Champion Award

This award honours an individual, collective and/or organization in the creative and cultural industries who has created or enhanced an event, product, program or partnership in the past year. In addition, the award recognizes work that is unique, transformative, and positive in its impact on arts, culture and heritage in Oshawa.

The following criteria will be used to select the award recipient:

- The level of creativity and innovation of the event, product, program or partnership
- The community impact of the event, product, program or partnership
- Notable achievements relevant to event, product, program or partnership

3.0 General Eligibility for Awards

- Applicants and nominees must be current or former residents of the City of Oshawa, work in the City of Oshawa, or collaborate with an Oshawa-based organization
- An applicant or nominee may be the recipient of only one award per year
- City of Oshawa staff are not eligible for an award, but may nominate individuals
- An individual cannot be nominated posthumously

4.0 Selection Process and Timeline

All eligible nominations are received by the Economic Development Services Branch and undergo a two-step jury process. First, an internal review by Culture staff to determine eligibility of the applicants is conducted. Secondly, an external review by a sub-committee of the C.L.C determines to what degree the nominees meet the criteria of the awards and recommends recipients to the Economic and Development Services Committee.

The selection review and recommendation process involves the following general timeline:

January:

- Launch of Awards Programs.

February:

- Nominations deadline and all submissions by the public are due.

March:

- C.L.C. sub-committee recommends the Culture Counts Awards recipients to the Economic and Development Services Committee.

April:

- The Economic and Development Services Committee recommends Culture Counts Awards recipients to Council.

May:

- Recognition of all awards recipients at City Council Meeting.

As outlined in Report CS-17-82:

“Nominations will be reviewed by a sub-committee of the Cultural Leadership Council. This peer review process will enable specialists and experts to evaluate the nominations and determine the appropriate recipient.

Only one nomination will be awarded per category. In the event that the C.L.C. subcommittee deems a second nomination to be of relevant distinction, the sub-committee will have the ability to award one Honourable Mention per category.”

Oshawa Culture Counts Recognition Program

1.0 Previous Recipients

1.1 Oshawa Culture Counts Professional Artist

- Susan Campbell (2023)

Susan Campbell is an Oshawa-based interdisciplinary artist. She obtained a Masters of Fine Arts, Media and Design from OCAD University after extensive studies in design and digital media in Ireland. Susan now teaches art and design at OCAD University and at Durham College. Her artwork investigates signs and patterns of urban intensification as played out on development sites, parking lots and sidewalks. Susan has exhibited her artwork across Canada and internationally.

- Margaret Rodgers (2022)

Margaret Rodgers has been a leader in the contemporary art community of Durham since the 1990s. Founder of The IRIS Group, taught at Durham and Centennial Colleges, was Director/Curator of Visual Arts Centre of Clarington, exhibited at the Robert McLaughlin Gallery and published author including books and articles for visual art journals.

- Marissa Sweet (2021)

Marissa Sweet is an elected member of the Society of Canadian Artists and Ontario Society of Artists who integrates the principles of Feng Shui into her artwork. Marissa facilitates art workshops in the Durham Region and at her home studio. In 2019, she was one of the 18 selected artists to participate in the inaugural Landscape Artist of the Year Canada TV show on CBC and Makeful TV.

- Dani Crosby (2020)

Dani Crosby is an artist, commercial illustrator, art instructor and community collaborator. Dani teaches at Durham College in the Fine Arts Department and has participated in various group exhibitions including at the Visual Arts Centre of Clarington, Station Gallery and Robert McLaughlin Gallery.

- Grant Cole (2019)

Grant Cole graduated from the University of Toronto's Architecture Program and is a visual and conceptual artist. Through his work as a Branding Design Specialist and his participation in regional exhibitions, festivals, academic enterprises, etc. Grant has contributed significantly to the landscape of visual arts in Oshawa.

- Ron Lambert (2018)

Ron Lambert was a student of Painter's Eleven member Alexandra Luke as an eight year old, studied with A.Y. Jackson as a teenager, and trained under American artist Hans Hoffman in his early 20s. He returned to painting later in life and in 2014 was an invited guest for Space Invaders. He had a solo exhibitions at Visual Arts Mississauga and the Kent Farndale Gallery in Port Perry. Lambert's work can be found in the collection of the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Robert McLaughlin Gallery.

1.2 Oshawa Culture Counts Emerging Artist

- Diana Nadia Lawryshyn (2023)

Diana Nadia Lawryshyn is a Ukrainian-Canadian multi-disciplinary artist from Oshawa. Diana is a multi-instrumentalist and composer, blending traditional and modern technological methods. She attended Queen's University, where she obtained her undergraduate degree in music, education and visual art. She is continuing her studies of the arts at the University of Toronto. Her works have been featured at the Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Whitby's Station Gallery and Kingston's Storefront Gallery.

- Bolu Adefemi (2022)

Bolu Adefemi is a Canadian signer/songwriter based in Oshawa who emerged as an important new artist. Her internationally acclaimed song "Make It Right", is a powerful call to action about social injustices.

- Leequette Santiago (2021)

Leequette Santiago was a student at Durham College and Lakeridge Health Centre, while studying and attending a placement, Leequette taught fine art classes at Michael's. One of Leequette's artworks was chosen for the Lakeview Park 100th Anniversary Banner Program.

- Meaghan Kehoe (2020)

Meaghan Kehoe has created over 40 murals that can be enjoyed in Starbucks cafes across southern Ontario as well as in other commercial and private spaces like Food Basics and Brickworks Cider House. She was a member of the Oshawa Art in the Park working group in 2018.

- Joaquin Manay (2019)

Joaquin Manay is an emerging vocal and visual artist having worked as an exhibiting artist, instructor and performer. He has exhibited at Unity Charity, Art Gallery of Ontario, The Station Gallery, Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Turn-Around Project, Rodman Hall Art Centre, Beatbox Canada, Durham Art Gallery and the City of Oshawa.

- Crown Lands (Cody Bowles and Kevin Comeau) (2018)

Formed in 2015, Crown Lands, brings classic psych-rock into the modern music landscape. They are renowned for their enteric live-shows. As a product of Oshawa, Crown Lands reflect the city's culture in their music. After releasing their Mantra EP in 2016 they set off on tour. In 2018, they signed with APA Booking agency.

1.3 Innovation and Creation Champion Award

- Anushka and Arushi Bhattacharjee (2023)

Anushka Bhattacharjee, 10 years old, and Arushi Bhattacharjee, seven years old, at the time they received the award, are published authors from Oshawa. Anushka's love of reading at a very early age led to her becoming a young author. Anushka published her first book, "My Magic Mirror" at eight years old and won the Readers' Favorite Gold Award. Inspired by her sister, Arushi started writing her own book when she was five years old. Her book, "T-Rex Trouble!!!" is a first place Firebird Book Award winner. The Bhattacharjee sisters hope to inspire many young readers to become authors by visiting local schools.

- Oshawa Museum (2022)

In the fall of 2021, the Oshawa Museum developed a video project, highlighting the rich Hanukkah celebrations as told by members of Oshawa's Jewish community. The Oshawa Museum partnered with Empty Cup Media to film and produce a 'mircodoc', "Traditions & Celebrations: The Story of Oshawa's Jewish Community".

- Bawaajigewin Aboriginal Community Circle (2021)

The Bawaajigewin Aboriginal Community Circle was developed through numerous community partnerships and consultations in the Durham Region. Their mandate is to build a strong sense of community, awareness and cultural pride by empowering Indigenous voices, supporting family and community development, and celebrating the diversity of their knowledge, perspectives and teachings.

- Oshawa Public Libraries (2020)

Oshawa Public Libraries partners with several local organizations and groups to promote the arts in Oshawa. Each year it partners with the Robert McLaughlin Gallery and the Oshawa Seniors Community Centre to hold a Seniors Art Contest as well as a Short Story Contest. In 2019, the Library's Writer in Residence for 2019, provided workshops on how to get published, and one-on-one sessions for novice writers.

- Laura Suchan (2019)

As Executive Director, Laura Suchan has led the Oshawa Museum through three decades of progress, supporting the staff and encouraging participation

and engagement in the heritage sector. This has raised the profile of the Oshawa Museum and the work the museum does in the community and beyond.

- Mary Krohnert and the LivingRoom Community Art Studio (2018)

Mary Krohnert is the founder and Executive Director for The LivingRoom Community Art Studio, a registered non-profit that provides a safe space where people from all walks of life can gather and express themselves and connect with others through the experience of art making, skill sharing and dialogue at no or little cost. Mary played a key role in the creation of the City of Oshawa's Art Park, the "Tell Us About Your Tattoo" Exhibition and the "Handmade with Heart" Holiday Marketplace, and more.