



Current Year Activity List 2023/2024

INTRODUCTION

EC3 provides grant programs that strengthen and sustain arts activity in Peterborough, encouraging a thriving and resilient environment for artists and arts organization to create, produce and present art to public audiences.

Our strategic leadership and advocacy work, represents the interests and concerns of the local arts community at municipal, provincial, and federal levels of government. EC3 facilitates networking and partnership building by connecting artists, arts lovers, businesses, and other not for profits, donors, funders and initiating collaborative projects with arts supporters. EC3 represents the arts community and provides information on the sector, conducting research, sharing knowledge on our website, through social media posts, bulletins, public speaking engagements and work on committees and in focus groups and other public consultations. We represent the arts community to the municipality in multiple advisory and consultation situations and successfully advocate for the maintenance of funding, increased funding, and new funding for new programs.

We also design and deliver multiple awards programs, professional development, internships, mentorship, and residency programs, along with arts awareness and professional advice and guidance, dedicated arts programming, and other special projects. Our work benefits artists directly through the advancement of their careers and the development of their practice in workshop and performance opportunities, by paying them fees and recognizing their value through awards, organizing mentorships, providing resources, and making connections for additional presentation and creation opportunities. Wherever possible, EC3 hires *artists* to deliver other kinds of services. EC3 brings arts programming of all kinds to the people of Peterborough live and in person, and online as well as arts activities that may be in traditional venues or pop up on street corners, in malls or at outdoor markets. Our direct expenditures and the grants we provide bolsters our economy by hiring local staff, designers, technicians, accountants, purchasing a wide variety of supplies, goods, and services, including design, printing, catering, photography, venue rental etc.

Our specialized arts programming provides additional opportunities for artists and increases arts awareness through its ties to alternative sites and links to other organizations, culture celebrations

and remembrances.

Our professional development workshops, mentorships and internships build hard skills, confidence, connections, and knowledge.

GRANTS AND AWARDS PROGRAMS: DEVELOPMENT, DESIGN, WORKSHOPS, DELIVERY, ARTIST SUPPORT, COMMUNICATIONS, AND MARKETING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION (LAUNCH CALENDAR)

1. Poet Laureate Program: April 2023: (\$2,500 artists fees +)

EC3 is responsible for developing and delivering this program, now entering its 3rd year. Sarah Lewis was named as Peterborough’s first-ever Poet Laureate in 2021-22. Ziysah was appointed for 2023/24. EC3 is currently conducting the process for the next Poet Laureate. This is now an “every other year” program. \$2,000 per year plus additional artist fees (\$500) from EC3 and several additional fee-paying community engagements per year, including additional support for emerging artists.

2. Bierk Art Fund Bursary Program: April 2023 (2x \$1,000)

The Bierk Art Fund Bursary Program provides two bursaries of \$1,000.00 each to graduating high school students in the City or County of Peterborough whose work demonstrated great promise and artistic merit and who demonstrated a serious commitment to pursuing further studies in the visual arts, media arts or architecture. EC3 manages all aspects of researching, developing, managing the jury, and delivering these bursaries. (2x \$1000)

3. Grants to Individual Artists: June 2023: (\$57,425 artists fees to 24 artists)

Creation and financing of this program was a landmark achievement for EC3. It is now going into the 2nd year of a 3-year program funded by the City. EC3 is responsible for the first ever local program of municipal funding for individual artists, to complement their ongoing funding for arts organizations. A total of \$57,425 was awarded through two components:

- Mini Development Grants for Individual Professional Artists — Grants of up to \$1,500 awarded to 13 artists, totalling \$19,500, for research, development, workshopping of original new works, as well as for professional development and mentorship opportunities.
- Project Creation, Production and Presentation Grants for Individual Professional Artists — Grants of up to \$3,500 awarded to 11 artists, totalling \$37,925 for the creation, production

and presentation of specific projects and supports costs such as artist fees, production materials, venue rentals, technical equipment, costumes, publication, etc.

4. Grants to Professional Arts Organizations: Completing work on research, consultation, design, workshops, artist support, administrative structures, communications, and marketing, reporting and evaluation, final Council approval launch and delivery: January 2024 – April 2025. Grant budget TBD
5. Peterborough Arts Awards/Mayor’s Luncheon for the Arts: October 2024: Relaunch post Covid, sponsor development and new site planning and branding initiatives (6 x\$2,500)

ARTSWEEK 2023 GRANTS PROGRAM AND FESTIVAL (MAY)

This program provided over \$50,000 in artist fees, grants, and commissions for Artsweek, a 10-day multidisciplinary arts festival in Peterborough. EC3 designs, promotes, produces, reports on, and evaluates the bi-annual festival. 100 artists (25% BIPOC), 11 programs, 83 events, 6,000 audience members. This was a massive and fabulously successful undertaking.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

“How to Apply” Grant Workshops (6)

- Two for Poet Laureate Program Applicants
- Three for Grants to Individual Artists Program Applicants
- One for Artsweek

Arts Programming: Dedicated days or recognition of “official: months

- National Poetry Month: Curated online activities or small events
- National Indigenous Day: June 2023: Curated programming
- PRIDE: September 2024 (Bulletin and programming), also in June
- Truth and Reconciliation Day: September 2024 (Bulletin and programming)
- Black History Month: Communications and social media activities, small live event

- Other art and social/cultural “Days of Significance” x 2 (Bulletins and dedicated on-line and live arts programming):

Spotlight on Local Black Artists

EC3 has a dedicated a permanent website presence presenting profiles of Black artists living and working in Peterborough featuring an artist’s image and statement about their experience as a Black artist and a statement about the project, encouraging program bookers, curators and audience members to support these artists. <https://www.ectthree.org/program/spotlight-on-local-artists/>

- Each profile is shared on EC3’s social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- The Spotlight project is also always featured heavily in EC3’s Black History Month work, including altering people to the project on social media, in Bulletins, and in resource lists.
- EC3 supports each profile with editorial work or photography when requested and paid each artist \$250.
- In the current year EC3 added more artists to the Spotlight, bringing the total to eight and revamped the web page, gathering more accessible contact information on the artists.
- Partners: Community Race Relations Committee, Black Lives Matter Nogojiwanong, Zora, Borderless Festival
- Location: online, via Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Activity date: ongoing

ARTS IMPACT AND AWARENESS

Arts in the Examiner

EC3 has partnered with our local daily newspaper The Peterborough Examiner (the traditional ‘newspaper of record’ in town, that also has a full online component) to present a series of articles about the state of the arts and culture sector in Peterborough. An EC3 Arts Awareness Project, these articles highlight the challenges local artists and arts organizations demonstrate how they are being overcome and promote local arts activities. They also discuss contemporary issues in the arts, such as municipal cultural planning and the value/impact of the arts. These articles play a valuable role in gaining financial support for the arts.

- EC3 published 2 articles in the current year.

- EC3 is responsible for the editorial direction of the project, selecting topics, interviewing subjects, writing, editing, and submitting completed articles to the Examiner.
- The Peterborough Examiner provides space for the articles in their paper and website, as well as layout, art, and final editorial.
- EC3 promotes the articles through our social media channels, in Bulletins, and in ‘Dear Colleagues’ letters to local stakeholders and arts leaders.

KawarthaNOW Partnership

EC3 forged an ongoing partnership with local online news website KawarthaNOW during the COVID-19 pandemic, as KawarthaNOW worked to bolster their coverage of the local arts scene, and EC3 worked to do the same. This partnership continued in the current year to be an important part of EC3’s communications and arts awareness strategy. KawarthaNOW has since published multiple articles about EC3 projects, including coverage of Artsweek the Peterborough Poet Laureate, and multiple mentions of EC3’s role in supporting the arts community throughout the pandemic and our ongoing advocacy to support the arts.

EC3 Bulletin Program

Starting during the pandemic, EC3 launched an additional series of Bulletins focused on COVID-19. Branded as “Peterborough Arts Alive Bulletins,” they focused on pandemic-related aid, resources, and public health information. Last year these reverted to simply “EC3 Bulletins,” as the scope expanded to include general arts and culture sector news, research, local arts events, webinars, resource lists, grant deadlines, and EC3 programming updates.

- These Bulletins go out to the 1,700 people on EC3’s Mailchimp mailing list, are uploaded to EC3’s website, and are shared through EC3’s Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram platforms.
- A graphic designer was commissioned to create unique EC3 Bulletin art assets and to provide advice to improve the overall ‘look and feel’ of the Bulletins in early 2023.
- Currently upgrading accessibility in terms of photo captions and video.
- Bulletins provide info on grant deadlines, upcoming programming, arts impact etc.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

FUZE

FUZE is an ongoing professional support and advice service that is provided free on request to

both individuals and organizations, both within the region and outside of it. One measure of EC3's growing profile in the community as a resource for the arts, culture, and heritage sectors is the rapidly increasing frequency with which the office receives requests for information and support. EC3's professional staff function as an advisory service, providing resources, referrals, connections, best practices, and professional standards expertise. The range of requests stretched from individual artists calling up and inquiring about project grants and residencies, organizations wondering how to get charitable status, and organizations or ad hoc project managers wondering what to pay in artist fees. EC3 staff also frequently functioned as a connector: if we didn't have the resources or information, we were able to connect the query to individuals or organizations who do.

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

As the official voice of the arts and culture community, EC3 serves as the antenna of the sector, monitoring issues, challenges, and opportunities, policy and program initiatives, etc. that might impact artists and arts organizations. We stay in touch with key decision-makers and stakeholders, monitor media reports and organize proactively or in response to changes in our environment. This is one of the reasons why we have been asked to develop and deliver the Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program.

Strategic Leadership and Advocacy

EC3 is recognized as the official, representative voice of the arts and culture sector in community consultations with municipal bodies, local businesses, and other diverse sectors, including economic development, education, environment, and health, among others. EC3 is an active advocate and leader, which is essential to the health and vibrancy of the arts community as a whole. EC3 Board and staff members sit on multiple advisory committees and in numerous focus groups on an annual basis. Our interventions have had a direct impact on funding to individual artists and arts organizations, the generation of new policies (property tax incentives, for example), and increased opportunities for public art projects. These accomplishments have introduced more sustainable models for living and making work in Peterborough and demonstrate our ability to provide trusted information and perspectives to complex audiences. Some of our work is preventative, some is visionary, and some is a question of seizing unexpected moments and opportunities. We work to connect arts community members to each other and to create public awareness of who they are, what they do and what they need to be successful. This results in more opportunities for artists to create work, receive fees for their

work,

City Hall/Municipal Policy and Programs

EC3 advocates for advancements and improvements in City of Peterborough's arts programs and policy decision-making that have an impact on the arts and culture sector, including organizing educational and letter-writing campaigns to City Council members, phone call campaigns, delegations, and presentations. In the current year EC3 continued advocacy to increase the budgets for the Community Investment, Project, and Service Grant programs overturning 5% cuts to some grant programs and protecting budgets for all the existing arts programs. Our work included being prepared for a more conservative and less arts-friendly City Council. We monitor upcoming agendas for every Council meeting and our Board is organized to swing into action when there is an unanticipated problem.

Arts & Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC)

EC3 has a permanent representative on this municipal committee that advises the Arts, Culture and Heritage Division for the City of Peterborough. It sits monthly. Since November 2022 we have been working regularly with two new City Councillors who represent Town Ward in the City's core and who have been assigned the ACH portfolios.

Other Activities

Culture Lab etc., please see our web site.

DEDICATED PROGRAMMING/DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

EC3 developed and delivered on line and live event programming for several "days of significance" artistic, cultural and social projects/initiatives. We paid artists and curators fees, undertook marketing and communications campaigns.

National Poetry Month, National Indigenous Day, PRIDE, Truth and Reconciliation Day, Black History Month, and others.