



**INVEST BARRIE  
CREATIVE ECONOMY DEPARTMENT  
MEMORANDUM**

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**TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN, AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**FROM: A. DYKE, CULTURE OFFICER, DEVELOPMENT**

**NOTED: K. DUBEAU, DIRECTOR, CREATIVE ECONOMY DEPARTMENT**  
**Z. LIFSHIZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INVEST BARRIE**  
**M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**RE: YOUTH ARTS DROP-IN PROGRAM**

**DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019**

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update concerning the 2018 Youth Arts Drop-in Program and the current progress of the program in 2019. The Youth Arts Drop-in program is free for all youth under the age of 19, featuring local artists and arts organizations offering monthly workshops introducing a variety of art forms. Youth are invited to come and try their hand at art and art-related activities across all disciplines, giving them a chance to try various art forms outside of school and scheduled, registered courses. The program was created in an effort to connect local artists and organizations with young people, as well as open up the Five Points Theatre to a new audience through free arts-based programming.

### **2018 Youth Arts Drop In Program**

One Wednesday per month throughout the year of 2018, the Youth Arts Drop-in Program hosted a variety of experts at the Five Points Theatre to lead youth through arts-related activities. Activities spanned a variety of disciplines, including paper marbling, stage combat acting, Mandala stone painting, Hip Hop dance, cell phone photography, multi-instrument musical jams, and cartooning. Guests included local talents such as Shawn Steinhart, Samantha Boyle, Ian McIntosh, and Kristen Keller.

### **The Events**

Each drop-in workshop was attended by an average of 20-30 youth. Comments recorded by the instructors all noted the success of the afternoon, and some inquired about making the events a more regular occurrence. The program has developed its own following with new participants often returning for the next month's drop-in. Local media attended on several occasions to capture footage and speak to facilitators.

### **Sponsorship**

The Youth Arts Drop-in Program is fortunate to partner with local businesses looking to support youth-based programming and expand their market reach. In 2018, local drum company JoJo Cajons donated \$600 in musical instruments through an in-kind sponsorship. This year, Alectra Utilities sponsored the program for \$3,000 through their Community Support Program, allowing it to expand and reach more youth in the community.



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### **2019 Expansion**

In 2019, the Youth Arts Drop-ins Program is going on tour, visiting community centres, parks and local small businesses. By branching out further than downtown, this program will bring accessible, hands-on experiences to neighbourhoods, connecting youth and families with artists and creatives from a wide range of backgrounds and art forms. Not only will the program introduce youth to, and expand upon, their understanding of a broad range of arts activities, it will provide income to artists, organizations and venues across Barrie, developing the local economy.

We have already hosted three drop-ins in 2019: a music jam with Shawn Steinhart at the Five Points Theatre, a poetry jam with newly appointed Poet Laureate, Victoria Butler at the Painswick branch of the Barrie Public Library, and a paint party with Jenny Chen at ArtWonderfull. Upcoming drop-in workshops will partner with the Recreation Department for National Youth Week, feature recent Barrie Arts Awards nominees and winners, and will explore animation, gaming, fibre arts, street art and more. A full schedule for 2019 is listed in Appendix "A". Further, promotion of the program can be found at [www.barrie.ca/Workshops](http://www.barrie.ca/Workshops).

**APPENDIX “A”**

**Youth Drop-in 2019 Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Facilitator / Theme</b>
January 9	Five Points Theatre presented by Pratt Homes and Development	Shawn Steinhart – Music Jam
February 6	Barrie Public Library – Painswick Branch	City of Barrie Poet Laureate Victoria Butler – Poetry Jam
March 6	ArtWonderfull	Jenny Chen – Paint Party
April 10	Five Points Theatre presented by Pratt Homes and Development	Theatre by the Bay's Iain Moggach – Drama and Theatre
May 1	Holly Community Centre	Loc Nguyen – Character Development & Design - Creating characters for Animations, Comics and Games
June 5	Tyndale Park	Katie Green of Green by Hand – Urban Sketching
July 3	St. Vincent Park	Simcoe Contemporary Dancers – dance workshop
August	Summer Break	No workshop
September 11	Lampman Lane Community Centre	Street Art
October 2	Dorian Parker Centre	Don Wright - Stop Motion Animation
November 6	Music Pro	Barrie Arts Award winner Megan Anne – Ukulele
December 4	Creative Bean	Crafted spaces – Fibre Art