



**ECONOMIC AND CREATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
MEMORANDUM**

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**TO: MAYOR A. NUTTALL AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

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

**NOTED: S. SCHLICHTER, DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC AND CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**  
**B. ARANIYASUNDARAN, P.ENG, PMP, GENERAL MANAGER,  
INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

**RE: CULTURE DAYS 2024 PROGRAMMING**

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2024**

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The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with a status update on Culture Days programming for 2024, which runs from September 20 to October 13, 2024.

Background

Culture Days is a national celebration of arts and culture. Each fall, millions of people attend thousands of participatory arts and culture events across the country. Culture Days programs invite the public to engage in activities to highlight the importance of arts and culture in our communities. The Culture Days organization supports a Canada-wide network of arts, culture, and heritage organizers to facilitate free public events in their communities every year.

For the past 15 years, Barrie has participated in Culture Days, partnering with local arts, culture, and heritage organizations in Barrie to offer free, interactive, and unexpected experiences for residents and visitors. Each year, the event has taken a different shape, harnessing the energy and initiatives that exist within our community and the broader culture sector.

Culture Days 2024 features an inclusive and interactive three-week schedule of activities in partnership with the Downtown Barrie Business Association's Open Air Dunlop, UPlift Black, and the MacLaren Art Centre. Kicking off on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and running until Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Culture Days invites residents and visitors to participate in and celebrate Barrie's diverse and rich arts and culture community.

Programming for 2024 is a result of a public call-out through social and traditional media. The result is a diverse group of artists and cultural groups sharing their works during Culture Days.

Culture Days Programming

There are several ways that residents and visitors can participate in Culture Days. Below is an outline of key programs being delivered. A full schedule is posted at [barrie.ca/culturedays](http://barrie.ca/culturedays).

*Friday, September 20*

Culture Days Flag Raising – Join Mayor Nuttall, staff from the Economic and Creative Development Department, and program partners at 1:00 pm on Friday, September 20 for the raising of the Culture Days flag and a reading of a special proclamation at City Hall.



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### *Saturday, September 21*

Create Mini Nature Terrariums – Join local artist Selina Pizza in creating your very own living mini terrarium using local, hand-sourced natural materials including sand, rocks, bark, and moss. Taking place from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Blueberry Moon in Downtown Barrie.

Open Air Meridian – Join the Downtown Barrie BIA and local artists for free arts activities between 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Featuring cultural, artistic and scientific activities hosted by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Barrie Chapter, the opportunity to create your own artwork that will be a part of a community exhibition in the MacLaren's Rotary Education Centre, hosted by the MacLaren Art Centre, and a collaborative art installation, where participants work together to weave large circular webs to showcase interconnectedness we share through an inheritance from our past and our intention for the future. Inspired by Métis Artist Tracey Mae Chambers' Hope and Healing works and coordinated by artist Monica Loney.

My Little Ogichidaa – A Special Reading and Craft - Ogichidaa means Warrior in Anishinaabemowin. Join producer Samantha Loney of the Métis and Me podcast from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Barrie South Simcoe Métis Council office for a special reading of My Little Ogichidaa by Willie Poll. Children will be asked to think about the future for Indigenous youth and illustrate their ideas to share with each other. Snacks and gifts provided.

### *Wednesday, September 25*

The Seeds of Stories – The Steel Spirit - This webinar from 7:00 to 8:00 PM will showcase the talents and stories of four Steel Spirit artists. The last third of our webinar will invite all online guests to grab a pen and paper and engage in drafting an art concept inspired from their own personal stories of inspiration. The Steel Spirit is a platform for individuals from the services (Military, First Responder and Hospital Practitioners) to share their artwork and personal stories. Over Zoom – register at <https://thesteelspirit.ca>.

### *Thursday, September 26*

Culture Night Out – Join the City's Economic & Creative Development team and other members of the arts community for special arts presentations and activities and to celebrate Culture Days! Taking place from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Flying Monkeys Attic Lounge, this event will feature henna hand designs by Madiha Moazam from Magic of Henna, a musical performance by Alexei Kazak & Anaida Isakhanova, and a poetry reading by Barrie's Poet Laureate, Tyneisha Thomas.

### *Saturday, September 28*

Bookbinding Workshop – Grab your bookbinding kit at the MacLaren Art Centre in advance and join this virtual workshop from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM to learn step-by-step how to create a book and unique book cover. Organized by Lewis the Artist. Register at [barrie.ca/culturedays](http://barrie.ca/culturedays).

### *Monday, September 30*

Truth and Reconciliation Vigil – Join the Barrie South Simcoe Métis Council at their office from 6:00 to 7:00 PM for their Annual Truth and Reconciliation Vigil. Wear an orange shirt to raise awareness about the history and legacy of the residential school system. The council will provide candles to attendees as we take a moment to reflect. This is a family friendly event with food and activities for children who attend.



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### *Saturday, October 5*

Honouring Joey Hollingsworth – In Tap Dance and Conversation - To honour renowned Canadian tap dancer and performer Joey Hollingsworth, who broke racial barriers, join a discussion with Mr. Hollingsworth and public historian Zahra McDoom, titled “Tap in the Era of Big Bands and Civil Rights,” at the Downtown Library from 12:30 to 3:00 PM. Then, join a live jazz music and tap dance jam, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at CW Coop’s.

### *Sunday, October 6*

Mapleton Plaza Palooza – Visit the plaza at 500 Mapleton Avenue from 12:00 to 5: PM to learn about the culture and history of tattoos and piercings, participate in an interactive art piece, enjoy free goodies from local businesses, and take in live performances by Lisa Geroux (Executive Director at Shawanaga First Nation Healing Centre) and Data Organa (a local band).

### *Tuesday, October 8*

Express Yourself with Empower Simcoe – Incorporate movement and exercise with upbeat music in an inclusive environment for all abilities. Experience the freedom of self-expression! Organized by Empower Simcoe from 1:30 to 3:30 PM at the downtown branch of the Barrie Public Library.

### *Thursday, October 10*

Culture Days SBX Social Takeover – On Thursday afternoons from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, the Sandbox Centre hosts a social that provides lively networking, fun, and the opportunity for members of the community to engage in casual conversation about challenges or opportunities. As part of Culture Days, Creative Barrie is taking over, bringing you live music and an interactive arts activity.

### *Saturday, October 12*

Discover, Draw, Dance – Join Simcoe Contemporary Dancers from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM for a special workshop centred on a positive and accessible dance and creation experience. Create an artwork inspired by the Seeds to Sow exhibition artwork at the Lion's Pavilion, and then participate in creating a unique choreography inspired by the artwork.

Silk Screening Co-Lab – Participants will witness and have a chance to participate in the artistic/business process of a “co-lab” utilizing the medium of silk-screening. Artist Sean-William Dawson will lead participants in the creation of silk-screening on t-shirts provided at the event, or those brought by attendees. Hosted at Chasing New York Menswear Boutique in Downtown Barrie from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

### *Ongoing and Partner Programming*

September and October - First Floor Gallery Exhibition by The Steel Spirit - Featuring artwork created exclusively by serving and retired Military, First Responders and Hospital Practitioners. The First Floor Gallery is located at City Hall. It is open weekdays from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

September 20 & 27 - Play the Parks - The City of Barrie, in partnership with Canada's Music Incubator and the Canadian Musician's Cooperative brings you Play the Parks! Every Friday evening in September, visit Centennial Park between 5:00 and 8:00 PM for a free concert featuring local and regional artists whose stars are on the rise.



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Friday, September 27 – Sunday, October 13 - Seeds to Sow Temporary Public Art Exhibition - Seeds to Sow will feature six installations of site-specific artwork that will change Barrie's landscape. Artworks by four nationally recognized artists and two regionally based artists will draw on local ecologies, history, and stories.

Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> - Public Art Walking Tour: 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Starts at the MacLaren Art Centre.

### **UPlift Black Programming**

UPlift Black and UP Beatbox Studio Drop-In Nights - Wednesdays, September 25, October 2, October 9 from 5:00 to 9:00 PM

After Hours Cafe - Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 10:00 PM

Movie Night! - Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 10:00 PM

Collage Workshop Dance Party - Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 10:00 PM

ListenUP! New Music Drop Event - Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 10:00 PM

### **Programming at the MacLaren Art Centre**

Courtyard Concerts - Sundays, September 22 & 29 from 1:30 to 3:00 PM

Family Sunday: All in Line - Sunday, September 29 from 1 to 2 PM & 2:30 to 3:30 PM

Fall Native Plant Sale + Native Seed & Plant Collage Workshop - Wednesday, October 2 (Rain date October 9) | 3:00 to 7:00 PM

Fall Opening Reception: "Structural Integrity" & "Homage" - Friday, October 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Animations: Dance Performances with Simcoe Contemporary Dancers - Saturday, October 5 from 2 to 3:00 PM

Indigenous Mini-Drum Making Workshop & Knowledge Sharing – Sunday, October 6 from 12:30 to 3:30 PM.

Art Crawl - Thursday, October 10 from 10 AM to 1:00 PM (Registration encouraged via [maclarenart.ca](http://maclarenart.ca))

### **Talk is Free Theatre Programming**

I DO, I DON'T, I DARE! A festival of theatre that celebrates (and subverts!) marriage, weddings and commitment! - Friday, September 20 to Sunday, September 29

### How to Participate

All programming and information can be found on the City's Culture Days website at [barrie.ca/culturedays](http://barrie.ca/culturedays). Follow @creativebarrie on Instagram, Facebook, and X for festival highlights.