



PRESS RELEASE

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Art Gallery of Burlington Ensures Kids Have Access to Arts with Bursary Fund

Burlington, ON – Children should have the chance to explore their creativity, make friends, and enjoy experiences at the Art Gallery of Burlington (AGB), regardless of their financial means. To ensure this opportunity, the Gallery created the **AGB Arts Fund for Kids**, held at the Burlington Community Foundation (BCF).

The **AGB Arts Fund for Kids**' bursary program allows children to be financially supported to attend the AGB, including camps that run throughout the year, such as on PA Days and during the summer.

The camp bursary program was piloted after receiving seed funding from BCF's annual Community Granting Program. A bursary program was then expanded by the Gallery through a generous major gift of \$250,000 from the Joyce Family Foundation. This is distributed as \$50,000 annually for five years, with \$35,000 directed toward program delivery and \$15,000 invested in the Fund with a matching call to the community for donations to help sustain the program long-term.

To support the fund, BCF fundholders, Ralph and Susan Sgro, provided the first \$15,000 matching grant in 2025, through [*The Lindsay's Loves Fund*](#), created in honour of the Sgro family's late daughter, Lindsay.

"The arts are an invaluable experience for children, and we want to ensure that kids who want to take part in AGB camps and programming are never prohibited from doing so because of cost," says AGB Executive Director Emma Sankey. "We are grateful to the generous donors who have enabled us to create the AGB Arts Fund for Kids and look forward to providing many more creative opportunities for children through community generosity."

Throughout 2025, the AGB received over 100 applicants, with 50 bursaries awarded for campers to attend AGB PA Day and summer camps, helping children and youth build confidence and express themselves.

The AGB is uniquely positioned to offer immersive art experiences beyond the typical school classroom. This fund supports local classrooms accessing subsidized school visits and art programming, allowing hundreds of children to visit the Gallery and benefit from the creative, social, and emotional opportunities that arts education provides.

During the camps, environmentally friendly art supplies are used to create, and nutritional lunches are provided for campers awarded bursaries.

The ***AGB Arts Fund for Kids*** invites 2026 community donations of all sizes from people and businesses wishing to help more children and youth gain access to arts programming. This fund is a vital step toward dismantling the financial barriers that prevent low-income youth from participating in arts education—fostering resilience, well-being, and a creative, empowered next generation.

Donations can be made directly to the ***AGB Arts Fund for Kids*** online.

About the Art Gallery of Burlington

For over 50 years, the Art Gallery of Burlington (AGB) has been a hub for artistic excellence and community connection in downtown Burlington. The AGB presents thought-provoking exhibitions, hands-on learning opportunities, and public programs that invite visitors to see, think, and create in new ways. Home to the largest collection of contemporary Canadian ceramics in the world, the AGB champions a unique artistic perspective that challenges traditional boundaries and celebrates innovation.

By creating an endowment to support this bursary program, the AGB is establishing a sustainable model for equitable access to arts education—ensuring ongoing support for children and youth in need for years to come. The ***AGB Arts Fund for Kids*** is designed to become a self-sustaining initiative, operated annually through a growing endowment fund. This program is a vital step toward dismantling the financial barriers that prevent low-income youth from participating in arts education—fostering resilience, well-being, and a creative, empowered next generation.

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