

Guelph Arts Council Announces First Research & Renewal Award

Guelph, ON – October 6, 2021 – This fall Guelph Arts Council will offer a new award program. Called **Research & Renewal**, the award creates opportunities for local creatives to engage with archives, collections, and resources in developing story- or research-based art projects. The call for submissions is posted at guelpharts.ca/gac-awards-funds and the deadline is **Monday, November 1**.

In early 2021 Guelph Arts Council was approached by supporter and volunteer Jason Nadon, who shared an idea for an award for regional artists that would bring together artistic creation with themes of heritage, storytelling, and community. His idea became this pilot project, which will facilitate new creative initiatives by artists across disciplines through project grants and access to community resources.

Anyone living or working in the creative sector in the Guelph-Wellington area is invited to submit proposals for creative projects that engage community resources in researching and interpreting local stories. Guelph Arts Council is currently securing resource partners and is grateful to those who have expressed interest so far. Artists may work with GAC's confirmed partners or propose other resource partners suited to their specific projects. Creatives' submissions to the call will be for art projects that involve research (broadly defined), and may also include concept development, creation, performance, exhibition, and/or community engagement.

An online Q&A session for potential applicants is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 26** at 6 pm. The Zoom link is posted at guelpharts.ca. Award(s) of \$500 to \$1500 will be selected by an independent award jury with relevant experience and announced in December 2021.

In announcing the award, GAC Executive Director Patti Broughton said: "Communities are enriched by artists' curiosity and the diverse perspectives they bring to the stories and collections that recount our human experience. Support for artists' exploration and discovery – so fundamental to the creative process – is important, and we're so grateful for Jason's vision and generosity in supporting this new GAC award."

About Guelph Arts Council:

Since 1975, Guelph Arts Council has been dedicated to supporting, stimulating, and promoting arts and culture in Guelph. Guelph Arts Council is funded in part by **The Guelph Community Foundation** and **City of Guelph**. We also acknowledge the support of the **Ontario Arts Council**, an agency of the Government of Ontario.

For more information, please contact:

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