

MEDIA RELEASE

September 19<sup>th</sup> 2024

## **Art Gallery of Mississauga Celebrates Two Major Projects Thanks to \$157,200 in Funding from Ontario Government**

**Mississauga, ON** – On Thursday, local MPP Natalia Kusendova met with the team at the Art Gallery of Mississauga (AGM) to celebrate the successful of two significant projects which were made possible by \$157,200 in funding they received through two grants from the provincial government's Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). These projects, funded by the Resilient Communities Fund and a Capital Grant, have greatly enhanced the gallery's visibility, accessibility, and technological infrastructure.

"The \$107,600 Capital grant from the Ontario Government will allow the Art Gallery of Mississauga to foster deeper connections with the community," said Natalia Kusendova-Bashta. "By investing in billboards, this initiative will bring greater visibility to the Art Gallery and its free arts programming, ensuring that even more people can discover, participate in and enjoy the arts. Art should be accessible to all, regardless of the ability to pay and this investment helps to achieve this goal."

Thanks to a \$49,600 Resilient Communities Fund grant awarded in May 2023, the AGM was able to complete a critical IT upgrade project. Over the past year, this grant has enabled the gallery to significantly boost its resilience and sustainability by modernizing its technology infrastructure and gaining independence from the city of Mississauga's tech infrastructure. These upgrades have already improved the delivery of programming, service delivery, data capturing, and community accessibility.

The AGM has also successfully wrapped up a year-long initiative funded by a \$107,600 Capital Grant from the OTF. This project focused on wayfinding and improving the gallery's visibility and accessibility within the community by installing new signage and digital billboards around the Mississauga Civic Centre.

This strategic enhancement addressed a long-standing community need by making it easier for residents and visitors to locate and engage with the gallery's offerings, including free admission and diverse arts programming. Key installations include two digital billboards, a vinyl wayfinding sign at the north end of the Civic Centre, and additional signage on the south side, all designed to draw attention to the gallery as a vibrant cultural hub in Mississauga.

"We are incredibly grateful to OTF and the Ontario Government for these grants. For a long time, the AGM has been Mississauga's hidden gem, but we don't want to be hidden anymore," said Anna Gulbinski, Executive Director for the Art Gallery of Mississauga. "These grants have been game-changers for the AGM, allowing us to modernize how we deliver our programs and ensure that our gallery stands out and draws in the community. We're excited to welcome more visitors and be more visible as a vibrant cultural hub in Mississauga."

These two projects underscore the AGM's commitment to serving the Mississauga community by providing free access to a variety of exhibitions, workshops, and events that highlight local, national, and international contemporary artists. As a hub for community connection, the gallery supports and inspires artists while offering a welcoming space for everyone to enjoy and engage with visual arts.

The Art Gallery of Mississauga (AGM) is a public, not-for-profit art gallery and charity located in the Mississauga Civic Centre. Focusing on contemporary art, the AGM offers a diverse range of exhibitions, programs, and events that engage the community and foster an appreciation for the arts. Admission to the gallery is always free.

"Whether it's helping people learn new things, connect with their community, or simply have fun, organizations like the Art Gallery of Mississauga deliver experiences that make a difference," said Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming. "That's why grant support through the Ontario Trillium

Foundation is so important. This funding will help ensure they remain at the heart of the community for decades to come."

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Ontario government with a mission to build healthy and vibrant communities across the province. Last year, OTF invested more than \$110M into 1,044 community projects and multi-sector partnerships. Projects aim to enhance economic well-being, foster more active lifestyles, support child and youth development, provide spaces for people to come together and connect, and create a more sustainable environment. Visit [otf.ca](http://otf.ca) to learn more.

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