



**City of Barrie
Circulation List**

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

A. STAFF INFORMATION MEMORANDUM(S)

- A.1 Memorandum from M. Banfield, Executive Director of Development Services dated April 15, 2026, concerning the Development Services Summary Report 2025 - Development Applications and Planning Policy Initiatives.
- A.2 Memorandum from M. Banfield, Executive Director of Development Services dated April 15, 2026, concerning a Notice of Community Engagement - Waterfront Park Redevelopments,
- A.3 Memorandum from K. Datema, Director of Recreation and Culture Services dated April 15, 2026, concerning the 2026 Arts and Culture Investment Program Results.
- A.4 Memorandum from K. Datema, Director of Recreation and Culture Services dated April 15, 2026, concerning the 2025 Poet Laureate Activities and Programming Report.

B. MEETING AGENDA(S)

- B.1 Agenda for Youth Council Committee meeting to be held on April 13, 2026.
- B.2 Agenda for Communities in Bloom Committee meeting to be held on April 14, 2026.
- B.3 Agenda for the International Relations Committee meeting to be held on April 14, 2026.
- B.4 Agenda for the Affordability Committee meeting to be held on April 15, 2026.

C. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- C.1 Correspondence from the Barrie Pipes and Drums dated February 23, 2026, concerning a request for a municipal endorsement and sponsorship support.
- C.2 Media Release dated April 8, 2026, entitled "Smoother roads ahead as City crews tackle pothole repairs".

Staff Memorandum



To	Mayor A. Nuttall and Members of Council
Subject	Notice of Community Engagement - Downtown Waterfront Park Redevelopments
Date	April 15, 2026
Ward	All
From	M. Banfield, RPP, Executive Director of Development Services
Executive Member Approval	M. Banfield, RPP, Executive Director of Development Services
CAO Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise Members of Council of the upcoming community engagement activities to support the redevelopment of two downtown waterfront parks: Heritage Park (Phase 1) and Sam Cancilla Park.

The joint redevelopment of the two adjacent parks allows for a more cost-effective and coordinated project delivery. With consideration of the adjacency of the two parks and that they share similar design objectives, completing the work as a single project ensures a unified waterfront identity through complementary design, enhanced community programming and events through co-location opportunities, and an overall improved visitor experience across both spaces.

The scope of work is in alignment with the Council approved Heritage Park Master Plan (2022) and Waterfront Strategic Plan (2023). The Heritage Park work is solely focused on the reconstruction of the water play feature and immediate area. The scope for the Sam Cancilla Park encompasses the full extent of the park including the adjacent portion of the North Shore Trail and is being coordinated with the Sam Cancilla Park Reservoir Decommissioning project led by the Infrastructure Department.

To enhance the overall Sam Cancilla Park redevelopment, the long-closed public washroom facility and the associated Kiwanis Pavilion are recommended for removal due to their poor physical condition, public safety concerns, and the need for improved public space. Staff met with the Kiwanis Club in January 2026 who expressed support for this approach with the understanding that the City will continue to recognize the Club's contributions through the park redevelopment. Staff remain committed to working closely with the Club and will be attending a Club meeting in May 2026 to discuss ideas to honour the Club and explore partnership opportunities in the redevelopment project.

Community engagement for this project will run from mid- to late April through mid- to late May. During this period, residents and visitors will be encouraged to visit the project webpage and complete an online survey on buildingbarrie.ca. The webpage will serve as the central hub for project information, including background materials, project objectives, engagement opportunities (such as informal pop-up events), updates, and the survey itself. Feedback collected through the survey will help shape the preferred design concepts for Heritage Park (Phase 1) and Sam Cancilla Park, ensuring the project reflects community needs, priorities, and aspirations.

Item A.

Appendix:

No appendices attached

Memo Author:

K. Lilienthal, Supervisor of Landscape Architecture, Development Services

File #:

FIN2025-018P

Pending #:

Not Applicable

Staff Memorandum



To	Mayor A. Nuttall, Deputy Mayor R. Thomson and Members of Council
Subject	Development Services Summary Report 2025 - Development Applications and Planning Policy Initiatives
Date	April 15, 2026
Ward	All
From	M. Banfield, RPP, Executive Director of Development Services
Executive Member Approval	M. Banfield, RPP, Executive Director of Development Services
CAO Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide members of Council with an overview of the development application activity and planning policy initiatives of the Development Services Department in 2025.

Overview

Development Services received a steady volume of development applications in 2025 and staff delivered strategic initiatives and community consultation on projects such as: the City initiated Official Plan Amendment for consistency with the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024; the Conservation of Built Heritage Community Improvement Plan (CIP); and the Community Planning Permit System (CPPS). Staff have also continued work on the Housing Implementation Plan. A separate memorandum will be provided to Council to report on the progress of the Housing Action Plan, Housing Strategy, and Municipal Pledge.

Additionally, staff provided support to Committees of Council such as: the Sustainability Advisory Committee; Heritage Barrie; Parking Advisory Ad-Hoc Committee; Town & Gown Committee; and the Committee of Adjustment. The delivery of core services continues to be a priority in supporting economic activities and investment interests throughout the City.

Development Services Application Activity

Development application activity remained steady throughout 2025. The review and approval of development applications involves input from various branches of the Department, including Development and Policy Planning, Engineering Approvals, Parks Planning and Transportation Planning, as well as input from other internal departments and external agencies. Development Services field staff continue to deliver timely inspection services in association with projects on private property to ensure project timelines are met for industry partners and to allow building permits to be issued across the City.

The following tables demonstrate application activity per quarter for 2025 and do not include applications such as telecommunications towers, removals of holds, or deeming by-laws that were also processed by staff this year.

While the applications received and approved demonstrate steady development activity in the City, this does not necessarily correlate with registrations or construction activity, which is generally driven by favourable economic conditions and is impacted by many external factors the City has little to no control or influence over, such as economic challenges.

Housing starts and construction activity in 2026 will be dependent on economic conditions becoming more favourable and stable for home builders and purchasers.

Table 1: Applications Received in 2025 by Quarter and Type

Application Type	2025				Total	Historical Comparison				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Pre-Consultation*	16	9	20	12	57	62	81	83	112	62
Official Plan Amendments	2	0	1	2	5	3	1	8	3	7
Zoning By-law Amendments	2	3	3	5	13	27	11	31	25	18
Site Plan Approval	3	8	4	15	30	37	18	26	29	28
Draft Plan of Subdivision	2	0	0	2	4	7	6	6	9	4
Site Plan Exemption	1	5	6	2	14	19	15	52**	71**	62**
Consent***	9	11	6	17	43	60	33	48	35	34
Minor Variance***	14	24	14	21	73	102	69	32	61	40
Redline Revisions	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	2	5
Draft Plan Extensions	2	2	5	1	10	5	8	12	14	7
Site Plan Extensions	1	2	2	7	12	7	4	4	0	6
Site Alteration	0	3	2	3	8	12	16	14	9	-
Condominiums	0	0	0	1	1	9	17	-	-	-
Part Lot Control	9	15	7	3	34	44	101	-	-	-
Total	61	82	70	91	304	396	383	317	370	273

*Pre-Consultation applications became optional under *Bill 185 – Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024*

**Increase from the Patios Everywhere Program, 2020-2022

***Based on when the public hearing occurred, not when the file was received. Also, excludes requested deferrals.

Table 2: Applications Approved in 2025 by Quarter and Type

Application Type	2025				Total	Historical Comparison				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Official Plan Amendment	0	1	1	0	2	2	2	4	2	3
Zoning By-law Amendment	4	8	5	0	17	23	24	18	8	25
Site Plans & Amendments	4	10	8	14	36	14	25	19	9	17
Draft Plan of Subdivision & Redlines	2	2	0	4	8	7	6	5	2	3
Total Applications Approved	10	21	14	18	63	46	57	46	21	48
Total Residential Units					4,908	3,141	710	3,173	577	1,574

Table 3: Applications Registered in 2025 by Quarter and Type

Application Type	2025						Historical Comparison							
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Units	2024	2024 Units	2023	2023 Units	2022	2022 Units	2021	2021 Units

Site Plan	3	4	3	3	13	918	10	314	12	1397	11	416	17	1,137	Item A.1
Draft Plan of Subdivision	1	1	1	-	3	42	7	1,314	2	316	6	1,852	5	575	
Pre-Servicing	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	-	2	-	2	-	7	-	
Total	4	6	4	3	17	960	20	1,628	14	1,713	19	2,268	29	1,712	

The Development Services Department’s zoning enforcement team continues to receive a high volume of zoning enforcement cases, as illustrated in Table 4. The Department has noted an increase in the complexity of files across the City, as the City grows and becomes denser and more developed. Zoning enforcement staff continue to work with property owners through an educational and remedial approach before proceeding with enforcement and legal action. This approach has proven to work well and is appreciated and respected by all.

Table 4: Zoning Enforcement Cases in 2025

ENFORCEMENT TYPE	2025				Total	Historical Comparison			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		2024	2023	2022	2021
Total Received	250	284	300	206	1040	981	981	964	921
Under Investigation	115	130	299	473	473	424	256	386	319
Resolved (same period)	118	125	123	66	432	372	309	356	381
Resolved (from previous periods)	91	58	168	51	368	283	362	333	199
No Violation (same period)	17	29	51	35	132	129	205	201	221
No Violation (from previous periods)	15	13	5	3	36	30	94	87	59

Public and Neighbourhood Meetings

Meeting participation has continued through virtual platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams for public consultation and technical development review meetings. Table 5 provides an overview of the number of public meetings that occurred in 2025.

Zoom continues to be used to host Committee of Adjustment and neighbourhood meetings, while public information sessions have been hosted in-person. Microsoft Teams is used for technical and pre-consultation meetings with applicants, consultants, internal staff and external agencies. Council and Committee meetings are held in a hybrid format giving residents the option to attend in person or virtually. Recordings of neighbourhood meetings can be accessed through the City’s Development Projects webpage and Council/Committee recordings can be accessed via the City’s YouTube channel and some meetings are available to watch live on Rogers TV.

Participation levels have remained strong, as the public has been able to attend and provide input at each meeting. Positive feedback continues to be received from the public, applicants and consultants on virtual meetings, including increased accessibility and convenience for participants and efficiencies in time and resources.

Table 5: Number of Virtual Public Engagements in 2025

Meeting	Number of Engagements
Committee of Adjustment Meetings	12
Neighbourhood Meetings	11

Planning Policy Initiatives and Programs

City Initiated Official Plan Amendment to be Consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement (PPS), 2024

Development Services staff advanced a City-initiated Official Plan Amendment (OPA) to ensure the Official Plan 2051 (May 2024) is consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 (PPS 2024), which came into effect on October 20, 2024 and replaced the former Provincial Policy Statement (2020) and Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2019). Under the *Planning Act*, all municipal official plans and planning decisions are required to be consistent with the PPS. In this regard, the purpose of the amendment was to update the 'Employment Area' designations and definitions to ensure that the future integrity of both 'Employment – Industrial' and 'Employment – Restricted Industrial' lands are preserved for prime employment uses. The amendment was approved by Council on March 25, 2026.

Draft Comprehensive Zoning By-law

Staff are currently reviewing feedback received at the Public Meeting held on November 14, 2024, as work continues on the Draft Comprehensive Zoning By-law. To ensure the new Zoning By-law implements the vision of the Official Plan and is consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), employment zones will be realigned in accordance with the designations in the City-initiated Official Plan Amendment. An additional public meeting is anticipated prior to the comprehensive Zoning By-law being brought forward for Council's consideration.

Conservation of Built Heritage Community Improvement Plan

The Conservation of Built Heritage Community Improvement Plan (CIP) was adopted by City Council on April 16, 2025. It is a City-wide incentive program intended to support the conservation and long-term viability of Barrie's built heritage resources. The Heritage CIP provides financial incentives to owners of listed and designated heritage properties to assist with the costs associated with conservation, restoration, renovation, and eligible upgrades. The program is designed to encourage good stewardship of heritage properties, support reinvestment in existing buildings, and ensure that Barrie's historic character is conserved as the City continues to grow.

City-Initiated Bulk Heritage Designations

The City initiated a Bulk Heritage Designation Project in response to legislative changes requiring that listed properties on the Municipal Heritage Register either be designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* or removed from the Register by 2027.

In this regard, the Heritage Barrie Committee made a request of City Council to designate nine properties under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Staff in Development Services facilitated this request, and retained MHBC Planning Ltd., who produced the Cultural Heritage Evaluation Summary Report, to inform the designation of these properties. The nine properties included 14 Cumberland Street, 84 Cumberland Street, 88 Cumberland Street, 97 Cumberland Street, 250 Dunlop Street West, 90 William Street, 87 Owen Street, 126 Burton Avenue, and 22 Granville Street.

Designation requires the passing of a by-law, which sets out the historical value, attributes, and reason(s) for heritage conservation. All nine properties met the minimum criteria of Ontario Regulation 9/06, a mandatory test when determining cultural heritage value or interest. City Council passed the designating by-laws for all properties on June 18, 2025, through motion 25-G-151.

Staff in Development Services were directed to act on the recommendation from the Heritage Barrie Committee, by City Council. This included answering questions, and providing clarity to those property owners involved, managing the retained consultant team, and ensuring all legislative timelines, and requirements, were met throughout the process.

Housing Community Improvement Plan (CIP)

In 2025, Council allocated \$5 million in funding to the Housing CIP Reserve to support a Per Door Grant intake. The 2025 intake was highly competitive, with applications requesting funding well in excess of the available budget. Following evaluation, funding was awarded to projects that demonstrated readiness to proceed, alignment with affordability objectives, and the ability to deliver units within required timelines. The full per door grant budget was conditionally awarded to two (2) projects, which in total will support the construction of 262 new rental housing units, including 55 affordable units. Staff are working with the property owners to execute legal agreements.

The Barrie Bonus for Additional Residential Units (ARUs) program was implemented with an initial budget of \$195,000 from the Housing CIP Reserve to create new affordable ARUs within the City of Barrie.

The Housing CIP Homeownership Forgivable Loan program was implemented with an initial budget of \$281,160 from the Housing CIP Reserve to provide forgivable downpayment loans to qualifying Barrie residents for downpayment assistance when purchasing a qualifying home within the City of Barrie.

Housing Development Concierge Program

Development Services staff administered the Housing Development Concierge Program throughout 2025, strengthening its role as a key support mechanism for strategic housing delivery. The program has provided targeted guidance to non-profit and private developers across the full development lifecycle by supporting site selection, pre-submission due diligence, funding and incentive navigation, partnership development, and streamlined approvals. This hands-on approach has helped accelerate a diverse range of projects, including affordable rental and ownership housing, transitional housing, and purpose-built rental developments.

Demand for the program has remained strong, and it is currently operating at full capacity. The program's continued uptake demonstrates both the value it provides to the development community and its effectiveness in advancing housing supply. The program remains focused on improving access to housing and expanding the range of housing options available to residents as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Community Planning Permit System (CPPS)

The Community Planning Permit System (CPPS) launched in June 2025 as part of the City's Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) Action Plan. The CPPS is intended to streamline development approvals by integrating zoning, site plan control, and minor variances into a single, predictable permitting system, with a target approval timeline of 45 days once applications are deemed complete.

Throughout the summer and fall of 2025, the consultant team undertook extensive background review and technical analysis, including an assessment of the CPPS study areas, market and housing feasibility analysis, community design and built form analysis, and heritage considerations and policy alignment. Engagement activities during 2025 focused on education and early consultation and included stakeholder and opinion-holder interviews, as well as internal and external workshops.

In December 2025, the City publicly launched CPPS engagement through an online survey hosted on Building Barrie, supported by comprehensive public-facing educational materials explaining the CPPS framework and its intended benefits.

Conclusion

Staff in the Development Services Department continue to be dedicated to delivering core services, including delivering more housing, built faster by streamlining the development approvals process, while continuing to respond to a robust and steady stream of development applications with increasing complexity, along with an evolving legislative and economic environment. Additionally, staff continue to advance and deliver core policy initiatives to advance the strategic priorities of the City.

For any questions, please contact Carlissa McLaren, Manager of Planning at carlissa.mclaren@barrie.ca or Jennifer Roberts, Manager of Strategic Initiatives, Policy and Analysis at jennifer.roberts@barrie.ca.

Appendix:

Appendix A – Development Application Registrations (2025)

Memo Author:

Andrew Gameiro, RPP, Supervisor of Planning and Zoning Enforcement, Development Services

File #:

Not Applicable

Pending #:

Not Applicable

Appendix A - Development Application Registrations (2025)

Item A.1

	File Number	Address/ Development Name	Description	Date Registered	New Residential Units	Location
Site Plan Registrations						
Q1	D11A-013-2024	383 Cundles Road West	A second storey addition to an existing school to facilitate the addition of 8 new classrooms, together with the renovation of 2 existing classrooms	02/11/2025	-	Built Boundary
Q1	D11-029-2022	400 Bayfield Street	Commercial building with six (6) commercial units and a drive through restaurant (Popeyes) with a total GFA of 14,000m ²	3/12/2025	-	Built Boundary
Q1	D11-017-2024	19 Lennox Drive	Six (6) storey hotel building containing 101 rooms	3/12/2025	-	Built Boundary
Q2	D11-002-2024	315 & 323 Mapleview Drive West	Three (3) commercial buildings with a total GFA of 5,988m ² with 205 parking spaces and 6 loading spaces	4/24/2025	-	Greenfield Area
Q2	D11-026-2024	210 Dean Avenue	Three (3) storey elementary school	5/23/2025	-	Built Boundary
Q2	D11-021-2024	800 Yonge Street	Three (3) to twelve (12) storey long term care/retirement home comprising 192 long-term care beds, 485 retirement suites, 120 senior's units and two (2) 18 and 26 storey market residential apartment buildings comprising a total of 360 units	5/29/2025	480	Greenfield Area
Q3	D11A-002-2023	111 Caplan Avenue	A 2,095 m ² addition to an existing industrial building	03/09/2025	-	Built Boundary
Q4	D11-007-2024	20 Rose Street	An institutional and residential development including one building with 2 towers (9 and 11 storeys in height), a parking structure, outdoor amenity area and green space to accommodate approximately 215 affordable rental units and 4,750m ² of leasable community and social space	7/25/2025	215	Built Boundary
Q4	D11A-006-2024	222 Mapleview Drive West	A one (1) storey building with a GFA of 655 m ² for a childcare use	7/29/2025	-	Built Boundary
Q4	D11-001-2023	545 Dunlop Street West	A 30,948m ² warehouse with 1,353m ² of office space	11/25/2025	-	Built Boundary
Q4	D11-010-2024	582 Essa Road	An eight (8) storey mixed-use building containing	11/25/2025	101	Built Boundary

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			101 residential units				Item A.1
Q4	D11-003-2025	60 Dean Avenue	Seven (7) storey residential apartment building with 122 purpose-built rental units, 15 percent of which are to be affordable units	12/4/2025	122		Strategic Growth Area
Subdivisions Registrations							
Q1	D30-012-2021-3	620 Lockhart Road	Phase 3 of the overall development. Consists of 30 street townhouse units	3/19/2025	30		Greenfield Area
Q2	D12-452	428 Little Avenue & 237 Foster Drive	Multi-residential condominium development consisting of 56 townhouse units including 6 affordable units	5/1/2025	-	Units counted through associated site plan D11-004-2020	Built Boundary
Q3	D30-018-2021	108, 116, 122 Harvie Road	131 residential units in total, including 12 single detached units, 67 townhouse units and a four (4) storey building with 52 units.	7/7/2025	12		Built Boundary
Total Number of New Residential Units					960		

Staff Memorandum



To	Mayor A. Nuttall, Deputy Mayor R. Thomson and Members of Council
Subject	Notice of Community Engagement - Downtown Waterfront Park Redevelopments
Date	April 15, 2026
Ward	All
From	M. Banfield, RPP, Executive Director of Development Services
Executive Member Approval	M. Banfield, RPP, Executive Director of Development Services
CAO Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise Members of Council of the upcoming community engagement activities to support the redevelopment of two downtown waterfront parks: Heritage Park (Phase 1) and Sam Cancilla Park.

The joint redevelopment of the two adjacent parks allows for a more cost-effective and coordinated project delivery. With consideration of the adjacency of the two parks and that they share similar design objectives, completing the work as a single project ensures a unified waterfront identity through complementary design, enhanced community programming and events through co-location opportunities, and an overall improved visitor experience across both spaces.

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Community engagement for this project will run from mid- to late April through mid- to late May. During this period, residents and visitors will be encouraged to visit the project webpage and complete an online survey on buildingbarrie.ca. The webpage will serve as the central hub for project information, including background materials, project objectives, engagement opportunities (such as informal pop-up events), updates, and the survey itself. Feedback collected through the survey will help shape the preferred design concepts for Heritage Park (Phase 1) and Sam Cancilla Park, ensuring the project reflects community needs, priorities, and aspirations.

Item A.2

Appendix:

No appendices attached

Memo Author:

K. Lilienthal, Supervisor of Landscape Architecture, Development Services

File #:

FIN2025-018P

Pending #:

Not Applicable

Staff Memorandum



To	Mayor A. Nuttall, Deputy Mayor R. Thomson and Members of Council
Subject	2026 Arts and Culture Investment Program Results
Date	April 15, 2026
Ward	All
From	K. Datema, Director of Recreation and Culture Services
Executive Member Approval	J. Schmidt, General Manager Community and Corporate Services
CAO Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update concerning the City of Barrie's Arts and Culture Investment Program, including funding allocations for the 2026 intake period.

Background

The Arts and Culture Investment Program, formerly known as the Cultural Grants Program, has been in operation since 2005. All program guidelines are in alignment with Council's direction from 2021.

The Application and Decision-Making Process:

The program guidelines and application forms were made available online for all interested applicants to review and applications were submitted online via APLI. The general public were notified by various communication channels including City of Barrie social media, Culture Pop newsletter, posters on city-owned facility screens and an official press release. Also coinciding with the program launch, two information sessions were offered, with 19 organizations in attendance.

At these sessions staff supported interested organizations by reviewing the program guidelines, discussing eligibility, and making recommendations on application best practices based on evaluation criteria to support success in their 2026 submissions. Staff supported several applicants through calling, emailing and scheduling one-on-one meetings with staff to discuss their applications.

The deadline for applications was Monday, January 19th. Applications were then reviewed for eligibility by staff and sent to the diverse and experienced five-member adjudication panel. The panel is selected through a process that included an open call for adjudicators advertised through Work in Culture and the Culture Pop newsletter. Each adjudicator was selected based on their arts expertise, career history, and adjudication experience in similar grant and funding programs. To ensure impartiality, four of the five adjudicators were

selected from outside the Barrie arts community. Please see Appendix A for the 2026 adjudicators' biographies. Item A.3

After careful review, the adjudication panel was convened virtually to discuss the applications and score each application based on the organizations and projects' sustainability, artistic merit, community impact and audience development efforts. Adjudicators utilized a consensus model and determined the level of funding investment. To support the impartiality of the selection process, the Cultural Development Officer and City staff only provide administrative support, document the feedback from the adjudicators, and communicate back to the applicants but do not participate in the decision-making process.

Successful recipients then agree to the City's conditions for funding which include eligible and ineligible uses of the funding and how to acknowledge the City for its support. All applicants are provided with constructive feedback from the adjudication panel to improve future applications and have the opportunity to meet directly with City staff to discuss their application results and future applications to support growth and development of the organization in their ability to apply for future funding.

City Investment and Recipients:

For 2026, the council-approved Arts and Culture Investment Program budget is \$235,000. The fund received 27 applications requesting a combined total of \$431,593 in funding. Based on the process above, 19 community organizations/projects will receive funding for the 2026 funding year.

The adjudication panel would like to commend the diversity of applications and how they demonstrated Barrie's vibrant arts and cultural community. Please see below for the final list of recipients and their funding amounts from the 2026 Arts & Culture Investment Program.

2026 Operating Funding Recipients

Organization	Amount Awarded
Barrie Concert Band	\$1,500
Barrie Film Festival	\$49,000
Bravado! Show Choir	\$10,000
Canadian Musicians Cooperative, Inc.	\$17,000
Huronian Symphony Orchestra	\$10,000
Kempfenfelt Community Players	\$6,500
King Edward Choir	\$3,500

Simcoe Contemporary Dancers	\$20,000
Talk Is Free Theatre	\$63,000
Theatre by the Bay	\$15,000*
Total	\$195,500

The \$15,000 in operating funds awarded to Theatre by the Bay will not be distributed as cash funding directly to Theatre by the Bay, but rather will be allocated as the first of five repayments to the City of Barrie Theatre Reserve for Theatre by the Bay's loan allocation of the cultural grant budget, per motion 24-G-107, approved by Council on May 15, 2024.

2026 Project Funding Recipients

Organization	Amount Awarded
Barrie Film Festival	\$5,000
Expo Brasil Barrie	\$5,000
La Cle	\$5,000
Making Change	\$4,500
Metis & Me	\$5,000
Simcoe Contemporary Dancers	\$4,000
South Asian Association of Simcoe County	\$5,000
Spare Room	\$4,000
Ukrainian National Federation - Barrie	\$2,000
Total	\$39,500

The Arts and Culture Investment Program enhances Barrie's social, economic, and cultural prosperity by supporting Council's Strategic Priorities:

- Investment in local not-for-profit arts and culture organizations supports the strategic priority of making Barrie an affordable place to live by encouraging and supporting job creation in the arts and culture sector and by attracting talent to support employers through the support of cultural tourism initiatives and the cultural industries.

- The Arts and Culture Investment Program supports the strategic priority of maintaining a thriving community by championing equity, diversity, and inclusion in applicants and funded programs, by fostering creative and cultural programs that support community wellness, by fostering growth in arts and culture, by supporting events and initiatives that expand and maximize access to parks and recreation opportunities, and by supporting a vibrant downtown through the funding of artistic programs and projects set in the city's core.

Appendix:

Appendix A – 2026 Arts and Culture Investment Program adjudicators' biographies

Memo Author:

Amanda Dyke, B.Sc., Cultural Development Officer, Recreation and Culture Services

Pending #: Not Applicable

Appendix A

2026 Arts and Culture Investment Program Adjudicators' Biographies

Jessica Allen

Jessica Allen is a Barrie resident and artist who serves on the Board of Directors at the Orillia Museum of Art and History, where she also chairs the History Committee. Professionally, she works in the Executive Office at the Town of Newmarket, supporting seven councillors in municipal governance and community engagement. Jessica is a writer, public speaker, and public artist, with installations in Collingwood and Orillia, and upcoming works in Barrie and Wasaga Beach.

Carrie Brooks-Joiner

Carrie Brooks-Joiner is a lifelong supporter and advocate for the culture and heritage sector, with extensive leadership experience across federal, provincial, municipal, and private-sector environments. Throughout her career, Carrie has held senior roles that bridge strategy, public service, and community impact. Prior to her recent retirement, Carrie's leadership experience includes serving as Director of Tourism and Culture and Director of Continuous Improvement and Customer Experience for the City of Hamilton. Carrie brings deep expertise in the creation, administration, adjudication and evaluation of grant and investment programs within not-for-profit and public-sector organizations. Her work reflects a strong commitment to strengthening cultural institutions, fostering sustainable community development, and enhancing the impact of public investment in arts, culture, and heritage.

Farah Fancy

Farah Fancy is an artist, arts business consultant, and international public speaker whose practice sits at the intersection of embodied performance, socially engaged art, and

decolonial cultural work. Working across performance, facilitation, and community-based creation, Farah designs and leads artistic projects that engage questions of identity, power, belonging, and social transformation. Her artistic work has been presented internationally, and she has created and produced over 30 performances alongside leading more than 300 programs and cultural initiatives for social change. In parallel, her trauma-informed public speaking and facilitation work has reached over one million people in engagements in North America, the Caribbean, Central America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Farah is a co-founder of Le Groupe Herencias, the CanAsian Arts Network, and the Dance Movement Therapy Association in Canada, organizations dedicated to strengthening artistic practice, professional pathways, and cultural ecosystems. Her work is grounded in pluriversal design, relational and trauma-informed practice, and a deep commitment to equity, care, and collective potential within professional artistic and community contexts.

Item A.3

Anya Gansterer

Anya Gansterer is a curator, arts advocate and promoter of rural cultural, tourism and economic development in the unceded and unsundered Ancestral territory of the Algonquin Peoples, now known as the Ottawa Valley. Through her advocacy and consulting practice, she supports businesses and organizations to engage with art and culture as a means to social, environmental and economic sustainability. Anya holds the position of Artistic Director for the nonprofit organization Ottawa Valley Community Arts (OVCAOS), where she works collaboratively to promote the integration of art into the lives of individuals, families, and communities across the Ottawa Valley.

Nawfal Sheikh

Nawfal Sheikh is a purpose-driven arts administrator with over 20 years of experience supporting equity-deserving communities through public arts funding, community grant programs, and cultural initiatives. He brings deep experience in adjudication and peer assessment processes, working collaboratively with committees, artists, and arts organizations to ensure public investments are stewarded with fairness, transparency, and care. Nawfal is committed to fostering inclusive and respectful processes and approaches his work with integrity, compassion, and a strong sense of accountability to community. He holds a Graduate Diploma in Journalism from Concordia University and a BA (Honours) in Mass Communications and Humanities from York University.

Staff Memorandum



To	Mayor A. Nuttall, Deputy Mayor R. Thomson and Members of Council
Subject	2025 Poet Laureate Activities and Programming Report
Date	April 15, 2026
Ward	All
From	K. Datema, Director of Recreation and Culture Services
Executive Member Approval	J. Schmidt, General Manager Community & Corporate Services
CAO Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer

The purpose of this Memorandum is to share an overview of the activities and programming undertaken by the current Poet Laureate, Tyneisha Thomas, in 2025.

Background:

In November 2022, the current Poet Laureate, Tyneisha Thomas, was chosen to serve as the 2022-2026 Poet Laureate.

Role of the Poet Laureate:

The role of the Poet Laureate is to raise the profile of the literary arts by:

- Writing and publishing poetry
- Performing poetry
- Educating the public on the value of poetry and the literary arts
- Encouraging and celebrating other local poets and writers
- Promoting literacy in all age groups

2025 Poet Laureate Activity Summary:

In alignment with Council direction, the following outlines the activities carried out by Tyneisha Thomas as Poet Laureate in 2025:

- Hosted her inaugural annual Poet Laureate event on March 1st, celebrating Black History Month and the contributions of Black artists to the Canadian cultural landscape. The event was hosted in partnership with the Provincial Poet Laureate, Matthew-Ray Jones, aka Testament at Bloom Bistro, engaging 25 hired artists, and saw an attendance of over 100 people.

- Collaborated with Lyrica Choir and composer Frank Hozart to create the lyrics for Lyrica’s 25th anniversary production.
- Read a new poem “Family” at Barrie City Council in recognition of National Poetry Month in April.
- Hosted and performed at the RVH Staff Poetry event for National Poetry Month.
- Participated for the second time as a judge for the City of Orillia’s K. Valerie Conner Poetry Competition.
- Created and performed a new poem for the community organization Barrie Pride at their annual march and event.
- Created a special spoken word poetry video that was showcased at the 2025 Barrie Arts Awards.
- Created and read a new poem for Empower Simcoe’s AGM.
- Was awarded Barrie Today’s Community Builder Award for the Arts 2025.
- Was named one of Canada’s Top Black Women to Watch 2025 by Canada International Black Women Excellence.

Item A.4

Looking forward to 2026:

On Wednesday, April 15th, Tyneisha will return to Barrie City Council to read a new poem for National Poetry Month.

Tyneisha will also be hosting a special reading by the former Canadian Poet Laureate, George Elliott Clarke and the current Poet Laureate of Ontario, Matthew Ray-Jones, aka Testament on Saturday, April 18th from 2:00 to 4:30 PM at the Barrie Public Library, to align with National Poetry Month.

As opportunities arise, staff will continue to identify and support additional ways to showcase the Poet Laureate program. To learn more about Tyneisha’s Poet Laureate activities, visit www.barrie.ca/PoetLaureate.

Memo Author:

Amanda Dyke, BSc., Cultural Development Officer, Recreation and Culture Services

File #:

Pending #:

Not Applicable



**City of Barrie
Meeting Agenda
Youth Council**

Monday, April 13, 2026
05:30 PM
Sir Robert Barrie Room

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 Graffiti Wall

3.2 Youth Event Planning

4. REFERRED ITEMS

Nil.

5. REPORTS/MEMORANDUMS TO COMMITTEE

Nil.

6. ADJOURNMENT



**City of Barrie
Meeting Agenda
Communities in Bloom Committee**

Tuesday, April 14, 2026
04:00 PM
Sir Robert Barrie Room

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 Committee Budget Update

3.2 2025 Communities in Bloom Evaluation Results

3.3 2026 Communities in Bloom Program

4. REFERRED ITEMS

Nil.

5. REPORTS/MEMORANDUMS TO COMMITTEE

Nil.

6. ADJOURNMENT



**City of Barrie
Meeting Agenda
International Relations Committee**

Tuesday, April 14, 2026
06:00 PM
Sir Robert Barrie Room

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 Committee Budget Update

3.2 Youth Ambassadors/Global Perspectives Program

3.3 Saginaw, Michigan Update

3.4 Zweibrucken, Germany Update

3.5 Arras, France Update

3.6 Harrogate, United Kingdom Update

3.7 Murayama, Japan Update

4. REFERRED ITEMS

Nil.

5. REPORTS/MEMORANDUMS TO COMMITTEE

Nil.

6. ADJOURNMENT



February 23, 2026

City of Barrie
70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

Attn: Mayor and Members of Council

Re: Proposal for Municipal Endorsement and Sponsorship Support - Barrie Pipes & Drums

To the Mayor and Members of Council,

On behalf of the **Barrie Pipes and Drums**, I am writing to formally request the City of Barrie's consideration for a municipal endorsement and potential sponsorship arrangement for our organization.

For over 50 years, the **Barrie Pipes and Drums** have been the heartbeat of our city's most significant ceremonies. From leading the Remembrance Day Parade to performing at local traditions like the **Santa Claus Parade** and performing at **Promenade Days**. Our band proudly represents the spirit and resilience of the Barrie community while wearing the **official City of Barrie Tartan**. As a not-for-profit organization, we rely entirely on community generosity to sustain our operations.

Following recent discussion with **Deputy Chief Rob Burke** and the **Barrie Police Service**, it was suggested that a formal partnership with the **City of Barrie Council** would be the most appropriate path to ensure our long-term sustainability as "**The City's Band.**"

Why Partner with the Barrie Pipes & Drums?

Your support directly impacts the cultural fabric and vibrancy of our community through:

- **Accessible Education:** We provide free bagpipe and drumming lessons to residents of all ages, ensuring this historic art form remains accessible to everyone in Barrie & Simcoe County. (Website: barriepipesanddrums.com/teachingprogram)
- **Active Community Presence:** We are a consistent staple at major local events, including the upcoming **Barrie Colts vs. Sudbury Wolves** Game on March 14, 2026. This high profile appearance serves as the Colts' official **St. Patrick's Theme Night** where our music and **City of Barrie Tartan** will be at the forefront of the celebrations.
- **Equipment & Excellence:** High-quality instruments, the maintenance of our **City of Barrie Tartan Kilts** and travel to provincial competitions require significant funding. Your support ensures our members continue to represent Barrie at the highest levels across Ontario.



Specifically, we are seeking to request a staff report regarding the following avenues for collaboration:

1. **Official Endorsement:** Formal recognition of the Barrie Pipes & Drums as a premier cultural ambassador for the City.
2. **Sustainable Sponsorship:** A formal partnership agreement for our 2026 Season (details in Appendix A) to assist with essential operational costs and instrument upgrades.
3. **Strategic Integration:** Inclusion within the City's Arts & Culture Investment framework to align our contributions with the City's long-term community engagements goals.

We would welcome the opportunity to appear as a formal Deputation before the General Committee to further demonstrate the value we bring to the residents of Barrie and to speak to the specifics of this proposal.

Thank you for your time and for your ongoing support of the local arts.

Sincerely,

Dene Conlon

Band Manager, Barrie Pipes & Drums
Phone: 416 524-3941
Email: barriepipesanddrums@gmail.com
Website: barriepipesanddrums.com



cc:

- His Worship Alex Nuttall, Mayor of Barrie
- Councillor Robert Thomson, Ward 5 & Deputy Mayor
- Councillor Clare Riepma, Ward 1
- Councillor Craig Nixon, Ward 2
- Councillor Ann-Marie Kungl, Ward 3
- Councillor Amy Courser, Ward 4
- Councillor Nigussie Nigussie, Ward 6
- Councillor Gary Harvey, Ward 7
- Councillor Jim Harris, Ward 8
- Councillor Sergio Morales, Ward 9
- Councillor Bryn Hamilton, Ward 10
- Deputy Chief Rob Burke, Barrie Police Service



Appendix A:

2026 Sponsorship Tiers:

Tier Level	Investment	Community Impact & Deliverables
Lead Cultural Partner	\$15,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Official City Band" designation for all 2026 civic branding. • Logo placement on band website and promotional materials. • Full band appearance at agreed-upon City-selected special event(s) (e.g., Mayor's Levee).
Civic Heritage Sponsor	\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed-upon performances at major Civic events throughout the 2026 season. • Recognition as the primary sponsor of the Free Lesson Program. • Official Recognition at Remembrance Day and Legion commemorative events.
Community Contributor	\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted Support for specific equipment (e.g., New Premiere Snare Drums) • Recognition in the Open Air Dunlop & Kempenfest Program Guides



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Smoother roads ahead as City crews tackle pothole repairs

(Barrie, ON) – Spring is here and City of Barrie crews are busy filling potholes. Potholes usually occur in the spring when freeze-thaw cycles cause them to form.

The City maintains approximately 1,600 km of road, and crews regularly patrol streets to identify potholes and other road deficiencies; but potholes can develop daily when temperatures begin to hover around zero degrees.

So far this year, crews have filled over 2,200 potholes and hundreds more are getting filled every day. In 2025, over 12,900 potholes were repaired.

“The arrival of warmer weather also signals the start of pothole season. As snow melts, potholes quickly become a widespread issue across the city,” said Mayor Alex Nuttall. “With spring underway, our City crews are out daily repairing roads to help ensure a smoother, safer drive. We remain focused on improving how residents move throughout the city by investing in infrastructure and addressing roads that need attention.”

To report a pothole, please provide specific location details using one of the following channels:

- Visit [ServiceBarrie.ca](https://www.servicebarrie.ca)
- Call Service Barrie at 705-726-4242
- E-mail Service Barrie at ServiceBarrie@barrie.ca
- Use the City’s [mobile app](#)

Pothole complaints are addressed on a priority and scheduling basis. By reporting potholes, you help ensure that they are repaired in a timely manner.

Visit barrie.ca/potholes for more information.

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For more information, please contact:

Melanie Rumley
Communications Advisor
melanie.rumley@barrie.ca
705-627-2702

