

Transforming Hamilton's North End with the *Jamesville Community Art Project*

*The Art Gallery of Hamilton and CityHousing Hamilton collaborate
with school boards to beautify the neighbourhood*



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The Art Gallery of Hamilton (AGH) and CityHousing Hamilton are proud to be collaborating with the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB), the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSB), local development partners, and the city's North End community on the *Jamesville Community Art Project*.

This initiative will see students from the North End create original art to be mounted on the fencing that surrounds the James Street development's construction site.

"The Art Gallery of Hamilton is proud to be supporting the *Jamesville Community Art Project*, which is a wonderful way to engage students in beautifying Jamesville and telling stories about the community through the arts," says Shelley Falconer, President & CEO of the AGH. "This initiative is a celebration of our city, the creative young people of Hamilton who will lead us into the future, and community partners who are inspired to make our neighbourhoods brighter for all.

The project officially launched on the morning of Tuesday, October 14 with special kick-off announcements during assemblies at St. Lawrence Catholic Elementary School and Bennetto Public School.



(left to right) AGH artist-educators Nathan Eugene Carson and Nancy Benoy; Peter Vander Klippe (Manager, Development (Acting), CityHousing Hamilton); and Sara Dickinson (Lead of Community Engagement and Learning) during the kick-off announcement on October 14, 2025.

Each class at these schools will work with an artist-educator from the *AGH: In Class* program to explore Hamilton's North End through the creation of mixed-media artwork that highlights the unique stories, history, and legacy of the Jamesville neighbourhood. Workshops will also be offered at Bennetto Community Centre for participants of all ages who wish to participate.

"I'm thrilled to be able to support this art project on behalf of the Ward 2 community," says Ward 2 Councillor and member of the CityHousing Hamilton board Cameron Kroetsch. "I'm grateful to the Art Gallery of Hamilton and students from both St. Lawrence and Bennetto elementary schools for adding this spark of joy to the North End neighbourhood. I look forward to seeing the wonderful artwork students create."

When the art-making is complete and mounted on the fencing at the Jamesville construction site, the AGH and CityHousing Hamilton look forward to holding an event to celebrate the artists, the neighbourhood, and everyone who helped to make the *Jamesville Community Art Project* a reality.

“Above all, Jamesville is a space for community,” says Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann, President and Chair of the CityHousing Hamilton Board. “This is an exciting partnership for CityHousing Hamilton with the Art Gallery of Hamilton to engage youth in a community art project. Usually hoarding can be basic. This is an opportunity to do something more meaningful and impactful.”

Under the direction of Sara Dickinson (Lead of Community Engagement and Learning at the Art Gallery of Hamilton), *AGH: In Class* has been collaborating with Hamilton’s schools for more than eight years. Through the use of visual art, drama, rap/poetry, photography, film, music, and movement, artist-educators work with teachers to develop creative strategies that address curricular goals for math, language arts, sciences, social studies, and more.

The program supports the diverse needs of Hamilton’s high-priority schools and is designed to cultivate increased learning engagement, focus, comprehension, participation, and retention. Working with more than 4,000 students in over 140 classrooms each year, *AGH: In Class* encourages a more connected classroom community through an emphasis on collaboration, critical thinking, and creative problem solving.

Photos for use by media can be found [here](#).

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