

Sept. 2024—June 2025

Outreach Programs

Making Connections. Changing Lives.



elora
CENTRE FOR THE
arts

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Participation in the arts has the power to transform — especially for those facing significant challenges in their lives.

This year, we reached close to **2,500 community members** through our life-changing **Outreach Programs**, including:

- Supportive Arts for Adults with (dis)Abilities
- Community Connections Through Art for Students with (dis)Abilities
- Artful Ageing for Older Adults in Long-term Care & Retirement Living
- Youth Addiction & Recovery Program

These programs build self-esteem, improve mental health and create a profound sense of belonging — all at little to no cost to participants, thanks to the generous support of foundations, community groups, local businesses and individual donors.





Supportive Arts for Adults with (dis)Abilities

This inclusive weekly program offers adults with varying abilities a welcoming space to explore creativity through art, movement, mindfulness and music. Led by skilled educators and a mindfulness coach, each session fosters connection, self-expression and joy — with special visiting artists from around the community adding to the experience.



SUPPORTIVE ARTS

Our Impact

1,142

Participant spots in our
Supportive Arts sessions

74

Supportive Arts sessions
offered throughout the
year

744

Number of times
community volunteers
were engaged

“From painting to
music jams, every
session offers a joyful
journey into art,
movement and
mindfulness.”





Community Connections Through Art for Students with (dis)Abilities

This program brings free, inclusive arts education to youth with (dis)abilities in Life Skills and LRC classes, and grew from three to five local schools this year. Through guided artmaking focused on collaboration and community connection, participants build self-confidence and cultivate a stronger sense of belonging among their peers and the community as a whole — both of which are vital factors in supporting youth mental health.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Our Impact

540

Participant spots in our
Community Connections
sessions

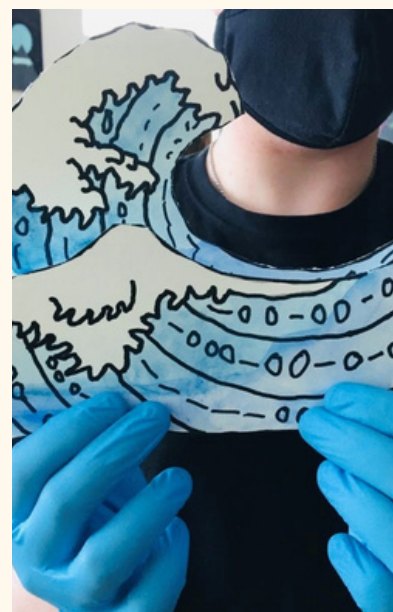
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Schools across
Wellington County where
on-site sessions are held

36

Community Connections
sessions offered
throughout the year

"For students who feel disconnected, art becomes a bridge — opening new ways to express themselves and feel part of something bigger."





Artful Ageing for Older Adults in Long-term Care & Retirement Living

New this year! Artful Ageing is a pilot outreach program bringing monthly guided art sessions to seniors in three long-term care and retirement residences in Centre Wellington. Led by professional artists, the program fosters creativity, connection and joy through accessible, hands-on artmaking in a warm and welcoming environment.



ARTFUL AGING

Our Impact

170

Participant spots in our
Artful Ageing pilot
program

3

Participating residences:
Heritage River,
Wellington Terrace and
Caressant Care

11

Workshops held during
this new Spring pilot

“For older adults, art
can be a lifeline —
reducing isolation and
enriching lives through
meaningful, creative
connection.”





Youth Addiction & Recovery: The Power of Art & Creative Expression

This innovative program connected teens in recovery at Portage Elora with local artists for weekly workshops in painting, music, dance and more — using creativity as a path to healing and self-discovery. In early 2025, Portage made the difficult decision to close its Elora facility — making this the final chapter in what's been a truly life-changing program.



YOUTH ADDICTION & RECOVERY

Our Impact

28

Sessions offered
throughout Fall 2024

8

Artistic disciplines
explored

New for Fall 2024: Music Jam Mondays!

Launched a pilot program exploring music as a tool for self-expression; received overwhelmingly positive feedback and engagement

"Through painting, movement and music, youth in recovery discover tools for healing — and a community that believes in their future."



Let's make a lasting impact — together.

Want to help ensure these vital outreach programs continue to thrive next year and beyond? **Donate today at ecfta.ca**



Questions?
Contact us anytime.

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