



Ontario Trillium Foundation: Supportive Arts program at the Elora Centre for the Arts
Grantee Engagement Overview, November 2020 (program notes Sept – Dec 2020)

1. **What progress was made toward realizing the grant results during this reporting period?**
 - Despite COVID-19 setbacks and restrictions, we were able to deliver the program twice a week as planned
 - Due to health restrictions of participants (no field trips indoors), we are taking the program “on the road” to one of our partner’s facilities in Guelph
 - We deliver arts programming each week led by ECFTA Arts Educators for young adults with (dis)abilities in our community, in addition to a movement & mindfulness component at the end of the session (replacing singing in the short term)
 - Class sizes were expanded to 15 participants per class x 2 classes per week = 30 people x 9 weeks = 270 spots by the end of November, and a total of 360 spots by the end of December 2020 (Sept 29 – December 17, 2020)

2. **Are there challenges you foresee meeting targets by the end of the grant? If yes, what actions would be taken to overcome the challenges?**
 - With the uncertainty of COVID-19 and the corresponding safety precautions in the coming months, we anticipate that we will need to continue running all or part of the program at Live & Learn Guelph at least until May
 - Our ultimate goal is to bring the program back in-house as soon as it is safe to do so to allow the full experience and facilitate other smaller community groups in the Wellington County region participating
 - If indoor activities continue to be an issue for our participants in the Spring, we would like to set up an outdoor art tent and (safe) picnic area in our yard and create an outdoor “gallery” to feature the art work of our all of our participants

3. Have there been any significant deviations in the work plan so far? If so, what, and why?

- Our partner facilities are still not allowing field trips to indoor programs. We were able to pivot and take the program to a day-facility in Guelph called Live & Learn where we could still deliver our program safely. However, this means that some of our other partner organizations are unable to participate at this time.
- Originally the program included a singing/piano session, but we modified that to a “movement and mindfulness” component based on feedback on what was needed from the Live & Learn team
- The configuration of the space at the Live & Learn space is split between 2 rooms which creates a challenge for teaching, however we utilize overhead monitors and have added an art assistant in the second room demonstrating for those who can’t see/hear the lead instructor
- We were unable to host a PR launch event due to COVID-19 restrictions, but we would like to host an end of program celebration that would feature art from the program, our key outcomes and invite the community (in 2023)
- We added a component to the program for year 1, where we are installing, designing and painting a permanent wall mural as a collaborative group project that acknowledges OTF and celebrates our “super hero” qualities in recognition of International Day of People with Disabilities (also a thank you to Live & Learn for letting us bring the program to them)
- We added another recognition component for the program – one of our long-time participants (Simon Greaves) is creating a large acrylic on wood panel painting to recognize the contribution of OTF that will be permanently installed in our outdoor garden this Spring

4. What progress was made toward answering the key evaluation questions you identified in the workbook portion of your application?
- *To what extent does our Supportive Arts program provide community awareness of arts, culture and heritage for participants, caregivers, and the community:*
 - a. So far, the art & mindfulness programs have exposed participants to creative skills like drawing/sketching self-portraits, brush pens and watercolour techniques as a way of expressing ourselves, character design techniques and reflection on our unique qualities to create our own super hero characters, learning about infinity mirror collages, textures and colour, exploring our lively spirits by learning anatomy drawing/painting skills, exploring conte and transfer techniques. The mindfulness & movement component has focused on finding joy and resilience through exploring our senses, dance and discovery, linked to the thematic of the art project.
 - b. Our social media posts on Facebook and Instagram (to the broader community, giving weekly highlights) receive the highest number of “likes” and “engagements” vs any other posts we generate. Feedback from the community and township/government officials have been incredibly positive, especially given the recent local closures of programs that support adults with disabilities.

 - *What barriers to participation have been overcome?*
 - a. We have overcome the challenges of our participants not being able to travel to our facility
 - b. We have overcome the COVID-19 safety measures and implemented face masks, hand sanitizing, temperature checks and distanced positioning of workstations
 - c. We have overcome the layout issues of our temporary space by utilizing additional assistants and technology (overhead TVs)

 - *What barriers still exist?*
 - a. With our current / temporary set up and COVID-19 safety precautions, we are only able to include participants from Live & Learn who are allowed to participate in day programs
 - b. It is still a challenge / not ideal to conduct art instruction across two rooms and the technology and distancing does not allow for our traditional hands-on & truly connected teaching experience

- *How will you collect data needed to evaluate this project?*
 - a. We have hired a professional evaluator, Georgia Simms from *Imageo* in Guelph, and had several meetings to brief and explain the program details and evaluation requirements
 - b. Georgia is currently developing the work plan and creative evaluation for the 3-year program
 - c. Georgia is scheduled for a site visit to the program on December 1st, followed by a meeting with the ECFTA team to review / get feedback on her action plan

- 5. **Is actual/expected spending in line with the approved budget? If spending is not in line, what are the actual/expected significant deviations, and why?**
 - The line item for “transportation” will be lower since we are taking the program to the participants, they are not driving to us. Ideally in the Spring we will begin transporting participants to our facility
 - The line item for “healthy snacks” will be lower. Currently due to health regulations we are not permitted to provide food as part of the program
 - We would like to suggest other uses for these line items including COVID-19 safety equipment to bring the program back under our roof, and air quality control equipment for the classroom. We would like to assign the collaborative mural project expenses to the “healthy snack” line item

- 6. **Looking ahead to the next reporting period, do you anticipate any changes to your activities, timelines, or budget items? If yes, what are they and why?**
 - Depending on the outcome of a heritage building grant application, we may revise the timing of the \$40,000 toward the build of accessible washrooms, depending on the outcome and timing of that project

7. OTF practice and policy requires grantees to recognize OTF funds. Has your organization shared its grant recognition activities or plan with our Public Affairs department?

- We have shared our grant activities with our OTF representative Patrick Brault
- We post weekly photos and updates on our Facebook page, tagging OTF <https://www.facebook.com/eloracentre.arts>
- We post monthly updates on our Instagram page, tagging OTF <https://www.instagram.com/ecfta/?hl=en>
- We have sent out 3 e-blast updates to our eblast/community/members (1,000 recipients)
- We have included information about the OTF Supportive Arts program on our website <https://eloracentreforthearts.ca/making-a-creative-difference-in-our-community/>

- We have sent out a press release announcing the OTF grant and received the following coverage:

WELLINGTON ADVERTISER

<https://www.wellingtonadvertiser.com/ecfta-program-for-adults-with-disabilities-receives-trillium-grant/>

GUELPH TODAY

https://www.guelphtoday.com/local-news/grant-gives-boost-to-supportive-art-programs-for-adults-with-disabilities-2831136?utm_source=Email_Share&utm_medium=Email_Share&utm_campaign=Email_Share

CANADA NEWS MEDIA

<https://canadanewsmedia.ca/grant-gives-boost-to-supportive-art-programs-for-adults-with-disabilities-guelphtoday/>