

KITCHENER-WATERLOO ART GALLERY

MEDIA RELEASE

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Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery Opens New Lobby Following Renovations

Kitchener, ON – On Friday, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery welcomed members of the public to an Open House to celebrate the completion of a significant lobby renovation. MP Raj Saini, Mayor Barry Vrbanovic and OTF Grant Review Team member Brendan Wylie-Toal were on hand to congratulate KWAG and hear more about how the investments of the City of Kitchener, the Cultural Spaces Fund and the Ontario Trillium Foundation made this transformation possible.



From left: Mayor Barry Vrbanovic, Brendan Wylie-Toal, Shirley Madill and MP Raj Saini

“The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery is a community hub for Waterloo Region residents of all ages. In the heart of Downtown Kitchener, this investment to improve KWAG’s accessibility will serve our growing community for years to come,” said Laura Mae Lindo, MPP for Kitchener Centre. “Like many families, my daughters and I always enjoy visiting the exhibits and attending engaging community conversations in KWAG’s inviting space. This investment will ensure that visitors of all abilities will be able to fully participate in everything this artistic space offers. I am so proud of the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery for their leadership in ensuring that Waterloo Region remains committed to working towards the full integration of AODA standards. Together, with our collective advocacy, the people of Waterloo Region will continue to prioritize the inclusion of all people, in all community spaces. I can’t wait to see what the future holds with these new investments.”

The Gallery’s renewed lobby is marked by an improved entryway from the Centre in the Square that provides greater visibility for KWAG’s presence in

the building. A new Visitor Services centre greets visitors upon entry, while many new accessibility upgrades go beyond basic compliance standards to ensure a warm and hospitable experience for all gallery goers. A new Education Hub features digital screens that will allow visitors of all ages to interact with dynamic exhibitions content and explore the Gallery's Permanent Collection of over 4200 works of art.

"Like all first impressions, the lobby of an art gallery has an immediate impact on the visitor experience," said Shirley Madill, Executive Director. "We are ecstatic about the completion of this renovation that has resulted in an accessible, welcoming and inclusive space for all our audiences to enjoy. I am grateful for all the support given from the City of Kitchener, Cultural Spaces, Canadian Heritage, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Kitchener-Waterloo Community Foundation, Good Foundation and Telus for making this possible."

The [Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery](#) is Waterloo Region's leading public art gallery, connecting people and ideas through art with a focus on the best of contemporary culture. Establishing in 1956, the Gallery plays a vital role in the community, offering a full spectrum of artistic experiences for adults, children and families alike.

The [Ontario Trillium Foundation](#) (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. OTF awarded more than \$100 million to some 629 projects last year to build healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario.

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