

Ontario's Culture Strategy

OLA Super Conference | February 1, 2017 | Toronto



The Ontario Culture Strategy
**Telling our stories,
growing our economy**

Overview of Presentation

- Today's presentation will include an overview of:
 - Culture Strategy consultation
 - Strategy's components
 - Implementation plan
 - Public Library feedback and commitments
 - Next steps
- Opportunity for questions



Developing Ontario's Culture Strategy

- In the fall of 2015, the Ontario government set out to create the province's first Culture Strategy.
- We facilitated a province-wide discussion—Culture Talks—to
 - ask Ontarians what culture means to them
 - hear new ideas on actions we could take to strengthen culture in Ontario.

What do **arts** and **culture** mean to you?
Have your say today.



Take the online survey at:
[Ontario.ca/culturetalks](https://ontario.ca/culturetalks) | #ONculture



Supporting Culture is a government priority

- A thriving culture sector brings significant individual, social and economic benefits.
- In 2015-16, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's investment in culture was over \$950 million.
- In 2014, culture contributed about \$25.3 billion, nearly 4%, to Ontario's GDP, and supported almost 280,000 jobs – nearly twice as many as any other province in Canada.

Culture Talks

11 Town hall meetings

**24 Community
conversations**

**First Nations, Métis and
Inuit engagement**

**Culture Talks digital
platform and written
submissions**

**Culture Strategy
Advisory Group**



Key Themes

- Make participation in culture more **inclusive, affordable and accessible**
- Promote **arts education** and **cultural literacy**
- Foster more **partnerships** and strengthen **collaboration**
- **Invest** in arts and culture
- Support the culture sector in its **digital transformation**



Vision and Principles

Vision

An Ontario where every person has the opportunity for creative expression and cultural participation, and where the diversity of our stories and communities is reflected, valued and celebrated, now and as part of our legacy to future generations.

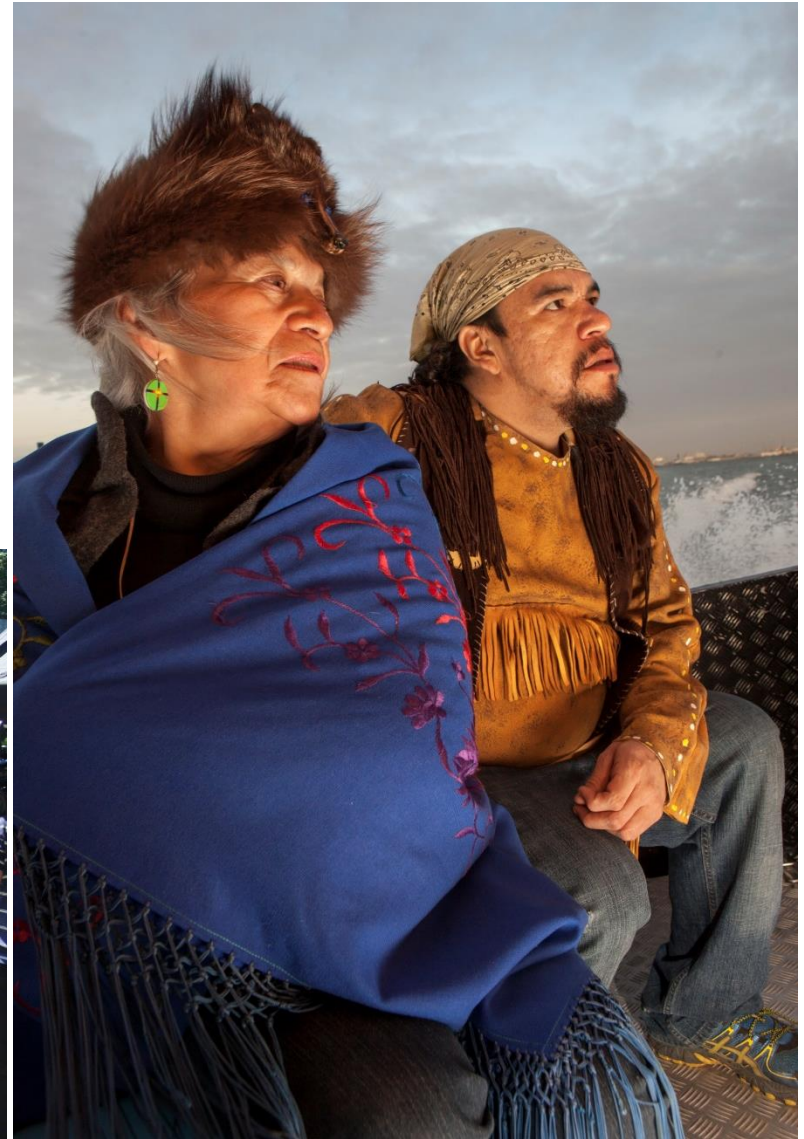
Principles

- Creativity and innovation
- Quality of life and economic development
- Diversity and inclusion
- Respect for Indigenous peoples
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Public value and accountability



Goals

- Promote cultural engagement and inclusion
- Strengthen culture in communities
- Fuel the creative economy
- Promote the value of the arts throughout government



Implementing the Culture Strategy

- Forty actions will be implemented over the next five years
- Implementation is well underway, including:
 - Indigenous Culture Fund
 - Canadian authors' content in schools
 - Arts Policy Framework
 - Film and television advisory panel
 - Cultural heritage
 - First Nation Public Library needs assessment
- We will develop performance measures for the actions and report annually on our progress.



The Ontario Culture Strategy
**Telling our stories,
growing our economy**

What We Heard about Libraries

- Public libraries are essential spaces for access to cultural experiences, technology and community life.
- First Nation public libraries play an important role in supporting Indigenous culture.
- Some public libraries, including First Nation public libraries and those serving rural and remote communities face capacity and resource issues.
- Funding is a top priority, and the sector would like to see provincial funding programs updated.
- Public libraries are key access points for new technologies and digital resources, but the availability of these services is uneven across the province.



Public Library Actions

Three actions in the Culture Strategy directly related to public libraries:

- Review and update provincial funding programs for public libraries to build the capacity of libraries serving rural and remote communities, improve digital services and support leadership and innovation.
- Work with First Nation public libraries to better understand their unique needs and identify opportunities for responding through improved supports.
- Work with government partners and culture stakeholders to maximize the use of public libraries, museums, galleries and other culture facilities as community hubs and explore opportunities to integrate arts and culture activities and spaces into schools and other community facilities.



Current Status and Next Steps

- First Nation Public Library Needs Assessment
 - Two meetings held
 - Survey completed
 - Final report expected soon
- Roundtables on Key Issues
 - In April and May we will convene roundtable sessions with representatives of libraries to discuss key issue areas and potential policy direction
 - Topics include:
 - Leadership and Innovation
 - Public Libraries as Community Hubs
 - Digital Services
 - Standards and Performance Measurement



Questions?

Appendix: index of images

- Slide 1 – Detail from the artwork used on the cover of the Ontario Culture Strategy. *Nightless Night* by Lora Northway.
- Slide 2 – Top image - The Global Savages Sunrise Ceremony on Wikwemikong Bay. Photo provided by Debajehmujig Storytellers. Bottom image – On the set of the Canadian Film Centre’s feature film *Molly Maxwell*, from director Sara St. Onge. Photo provided by the Canadian Film Centre.
- Slide 4 - Photos from the public town halls, Thunder Bay and Toronto.
- Slide 5 – Top image - Visit to the AGO through the Institute for Canadian Citizenship’s ‘Ahlan Canada’ program. Photo by Andrew Williamson Photography. Bottom image – Photo provided by the Ontario Science Centre.
- Slide 6 - *Backbone*, Red Sky Performance. Photo by Rita Taylor.
- Slide 7 – Right image - Lead Storyteller and Cultural Elder from Debajehmujig Storytellers crossing the New Meuse River in Rotterdam, as The Global Savages bring their stories to Europe. Photo by Peter Van Beek. Left image – La Magia Candombe. Photo by Province of Ontario.
- Slide 8 – The Ontario Culture Strategy Cover. Cover art - *Nightless Night* by Lora Northway.
- Slide 9 – Photo provided by Essex County Library.
- Slides 10 and 11 – Photos provided by Toronto Public Library.