

LEGACY

Coffee and
connection
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*Callie Archer
approaches her work
with serenity, and
works to create calm
through her art.*

**The art of
philanthropy**
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Photo courtesy of The Hamilton Spectator

Answering the call

Local agencies are sharing in over half a million dollars of grants thanks to two new funding streams touching four key areas of community need.

The new grants help increase participation in the arts, protect the environment, respond to the growing needs of seniors and fill gaps in the learning sector – priorities refined through community consultation, research and understanding the changing government and philanthropic landscape.

Through the Community Arts Fund, HCF has supported 21 proposals totaling \$205,705. “HCF has a long track record of support to the arts but what we heard from the community is the need for increased access to participation,” says Grants Manager Sharon Charters. “A call for grant proposals from the community provided a number of opportunities to fund projects that provide access to the arts for newcomers and marginalized groups in a very systemic way – one which will have an impact that lasts well beyond the grants.”

An additional 51 initiatives totaling \$431,700 were supported through the Seniors, Learning and Environment Fund.

Vice President, Grants and Community Initiatives Matt Goodman says that continued growth in HCF’s discretionary granting and the shifting needs in community allowed the foundation to bring together a number of interest-aligned opportunities in support of the new open calls.

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Scaling up social impact

Charities, social-purpose businesses, non-profits and co-ops across Canada are getting a chance to take their social impact to the next level. HCF and community foundation partners in London and Niagara are teaming up to connect local social purpose organizations with support from a new national funding initiative called the Investment Readiness Program (IRP).

The program is being delivered at a national level by Community Foundations of Canada and other partners as the first phase in the Government of Canada’s long-term investment in social finance. The IRP’s purpose is to make organizations “investment ready” so they will be able to take on additional capital investments when the federal government rolls out its Social Finance Fund, a 10-year \$755 million commitment announced in 2018. More importantly, the IRP will allow organizations to make a difference in new and innovative ways through their participation in the social finance market. Any organization that has a social purpose as its focus – pursuit of social, cultural or environmental goals – is eligible for funding.

“We’re thrilled at the local response for this national funding opportunity,” says VP Finance & Operations, Annette Aquin. “The IRP and the overall investment in social finance aligns with what HCF has been doing in impact investing both locally and globally since 2010.”

"The strategic use of HCF's unrestricted funds allows us to help address key local issues," says Matt. "The process of having open-call granting rounds provides information that enhances knowledge about community needs and emerging strategies to meet them that can be shared across

the community, including with donors."

In total over 60 organizations were funded through the new rounds, including several first-time grantees. You can view the list of new HCF-supported projects at www.hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca.

The art of philanthropy

For Callie Archer, self-expression through art connects people of all ages: she believes that children, teens and adults all benefit from art by pushing the limits of their creativity, building their self-image and inspiring them to accomplish other goals.

To recognize and support the importance of art in the community, Callie has found another form of self-expression: her philanthropy. She has chosen to give to HCF's Arts Endowment Fund, attracted in part because each donation is matched, doubling her impact.

Art was not always part of Callie's life. Since retiring, she has taken it up both as a restorative and connecting practice. "Art is healing and something I have fun doing," says Callie. "It can provide a form of therapy that is needed in the community."

Callie's philanthropy includes supporting a number of Hamilton's arts organizations, and she donates her own art works to charities. A long-time human rights advocate, she says that while art "doesn't get as much support as some other basic life needs, it is another piece of the puzzle that allows people to connect."



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT & CEO: TERRY COOKE

Recently the HCF board made the decision to amend our vision and mission. Our vision is now "A vibrant, diverse and inclusive Hamilton." Our mission is "to drive positive change by connecting diverse people, ideas and resources."

The small, but highly meaningful addition of the word "diverse" to both of these core commitments, reminds us daily of the aspirations we have for our city and ourselves, and to which we work to align our intentions, words and actions.

Diversity is not a new idea at the Foundation. In 1954, our founders clearly stated that this

new community organization would be a place where everyone belonged, making that declaration in a time when few institutions shared that view. Today, the commitment is even more relevant. It's one to which our board holds us accountable and we expect our community to do the same.

While I'm proud of the progress our stakeholders have told us we're making, we're far from perfect. What we are, and will continue to be, is intentional about making change to reflect Hamilton in all aspects of what we do.

Grants at a Glance

Flexing some ecosystem muscle

If red-winged blackbirds are on your workout playlist and fifteen-gallon pots of native trees are your weights, you'll be perfect for Hamilton Conservation Authority's new EcoCise program.

EcoCise will have participants working up a sweat removing invasive species, re-populating habitats with native plants and cleaning up natural areas. It's a novel way to promote the health of both people and the environment.

From April to November, Hamilton Conservation Authority will host at least ten EcoCise events, in conjunction with the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System, Hamilton Naturalists' Club and Royal Botanical Gardens.

Each two-hour event will include an opportunity for participants to learn about watershed restoration as well the chance to bend, stretch, lift and flex in the name of better health.



Coffee and connection

At L'Arche Hamilton's new café in the Bernie Morelli Recreation Centre, every order comes with a side of community.

The 50-seat café is a social enterprise entirely run by adults with intellectual disabilities — L'Arche's "core members" — and their assistants. The café provides core members with valuable life and employment skills, including baking, setup, serving, cleaning and money management, as well as increased self-esteem and connection to the neighbourhood.

The café is open Thursday and Friday mornings and organizers hope to extend its hours, serving an area of the city that has few community gathering spots. Students from nearby schools, families attending recreation centre programs and others in the neighbourhood can drop by for a snack and to socialize. Board games and other activities encourage them to linger and engage. Prices are affordable because the financial target is to break even.

"Customers will realize there's something more than coffee and muffins here," says executive director Sarah Tuck. "The goal is to create an inclusive, healthy, safe space where all can gather and learn together."



Small grants for teachers

Teachers are among the most important adults in students' lives. The Foundation offers small grants for teacher-led programs that enrich learning experiences for students in Grades 6, 7 and 8. It's part of ABACUS, HCF's initiative to improve post-secondary attendance rates for young Hamiltonians. Some recently funded projects include:

- Virtual reality tours of outer space, wildlife ecosystems, and earth systems that support students in the science curriculum
- Field trips to the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre and Griffin House that have a focus on equity and inclusion through history
- Self-defense kick-boxing classes for girls that support social and emotional learning, coping and stress management and improve strength, confidence and perseverance
- Participation in an escape room to develop soft skills such as collaboration, communication and problem-solving

Teachers can follow us on social media to find out about the next opportunity to apply for small grants.

More ways to stay in touch



Vital Signs TV

Vital Signs on Cable 14 brings viewers up close and personal with HCF, as Terry Cooke and guests delve into a variety of issues that affect Hamiltonians.

This season the show has examined topics including the rise of hate groups and the need for a universal basic income. It has looked at the stories and people behind successes like Hamilton's booming local film industry and how Syrian newcomers are settling in our city. And, it has introduced viewers to thought-provoking guests like local faith leaders who discussed the links between faith and philanthropy.

You can stream the show Thursdays at 5:30 pm at Cable14NOW.com and check the website for other viewing times. Cable 14 subscribers can watch on demand anytime. Follow us on social media to hear about upcoming episodes.



Good listening

We love to share stories about the many people and organizations doing incredible work in Hamilton. Our newly launched Future Intended Podcast gives us another opportunity to do just that, while providing listeners with inspiring narratives as they go about their day. In this first season, you'll hear from staff, volunteers and clients from organizations including The Owl Foundation, Cycle Hamilton, YWCA Hamilton and the Bruce Trail Conservancy. We also revisit some great conversations from our Vital Signs show and coffeehouse chats – in case you missed it or just want to hear it again.

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