



**ARTS
OTTAWA**
Arts Awards | Prix d'Arts

The Arts Ottawa Awards celebrate the artists, cultural workers, organizations, and community builders who make Ottawa's arts sector thrive. The awards recognize impactful creative work and meaningful contributions that strengthen our city's cultural life.

Recently redesigned, the Arts Ottawa Awards now reflect a more inclusive, community-centred approach, honouring excellence across disciplines, practices, and ways of working. This year's recipients exemplify the creativity, care, and commitment that continue to shape Ottawa's vibrant arts ecosystem.

Oluchi Eze

[luniverse.jpg](#) [infinite_playground](#)

Oluchi Eze is an Ottawa-based photographer and community builder whose portrait work explores identity, emotion, and growth. A self-taught artist, she uses photography as a tool for reflection and connection. She is the Creative Director of Infinite Playground, a series of themed photo meetups that create welcoming, low-pressure spaces for photographers, models, and creatives to learn, play, and build confidence while forming meaningful connections within Ottawa's arts community.



The Grove Studio

www.grove613.ca
 [thegrove613](#)

The Grove Studio is a visual arts studio and community art space supporting creativity and collaboration. They provide professional-grade audiovisual equipment and an accessible environment where artists and visual storytellers can connect and grow. Founded and operated by Black and person of colour artists, The Grove Studio is a social enterprise dedicated to creating a safe, supportive space for queer, IBPOC, and other disenfranchised makers, offering resources and programming that support artists beyond creation.



Aly Joy-Lily McDonald

[ajlymcdonald.artistry](#) [A.J.L.Y.Artistry](#)

Aly Joy-Lily McDonald is an artist and community facilitator exploring emotion, trauma, bodily autonomy, and identity through acrylic painting. As a survivor and mad individual, her work centers lived experiences of the body, self-discovery, and healing through creativity. She facilitates art-based healing programs and workshops with organizations including the Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre and Project Agape, grounded in a belief that creativity is a powerful tool for empowerment and community connection.



Éditions L'Interligne

www.interligne.ca
 [linterligne](#)

L'Interligne publishes and promotes French-Canadian literature—particularly Franco-Ontarian works—by amplifying authentic voices marked by contemporary themes and stylistic originality. As one of the professional publishing houses based in Ottawa, it supports authors at all stages of their careers and brings their work to audiences across Canada through professional publication, distribution, and community engagement.



Jacqui Du Toit

www.jacquidutoit.com
 [8thgenstory](#)

Jacqui Du Toit is an international theatrical performer and storyteller from South Africa with a B.A. in Theatre and Performance from the University of Cape Town. She works extensively as a professional actress, storyteller, and arts educator, with experience spanning writing, directing, acting, movement, and puppetry. Jacqui is the co-owner of The Origin Arts and Community Centre and serves on the board of directors for the Great Canadian Theatre Company. A dedicated arts educator, she is passionate about sharing storytelling and theatre with women and youth. Through her company, 8thGeneration Storytelling, Jacqui performs theatre, dance, and African storytelling across Canada and South Africa.



Beandigen Café

www.beandigen.ca
 [beandigencafe](#)

Beandigen Cafe is a Native owned and operated cafe created by Paula and Jayde Naponse in 2021. Both Anishinaabe artists, they received the opportunity in late 2021 to open a pop up shop to celebrate local Indigenous artists and entrepreneurs in downtown Ottawa. Beandigen Cafe was created as a space to cultivate respect and appreciation for Indigenous artists, both by working with local Indigenous artists to feature their work year round and by inviting non Indigenous folks to learn in a genuine setting. All forms of Indigenous art are celebrated at Beandigen, as they've hosted numerous workshops, an Art show, open mics, poetry readings, films screenings and more since opening.



A special thank you to our sponsors and partners for investing in the recognition and celebration of Ottawa's artists and creators.

