

Agenda

Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee

January 13, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

The public can attend meetings in person. Meetings will also be livestreamed on the City's Council and Committee webpage. If there are technical issues with the livestream that can't be fixed within 15 minutes, the meeting will continue, and a recording will be available later, on the webpage or by contacting the City Clerk. People who can't attend the meeting in person for Public Forum, should send their comments to the Recording Secretary one business day before the meeting. These comments will be shared with members and included in the updated agenda.

	Pages
1. CALL TO ORDER	
2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	
4.a Minutes of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held on September 24, 2025	3
4.b Minutes of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held on December 3, 2025	8
5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS	
5.a Presentation from the City Clerk Re: Committee Structure Discussion	9
5.b Presentation from the Director and Chief Curator Re: Fall Highlights and Upcoming Programs	20
5.c Presentation from the Fundraising Coordinator Re: Fundraising Initiatives - Events and Campaigns	39
6. PUBLIC FORUM	
7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED	
There are no correspondence items being presented for consideration.	
8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF	
8.a Report AG-25-007 from the Director and Chief Curator Re: December Update	53
9. REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS	
9.a Update Report from the Fundraising Team	68

- 9.b Update Report from the Art Collection Team
There is no update from the Art Collection Team.
- 9.c Update Report from the Expansion Planning Team
There is no update from the Expansion Planning Team.

10. MATTERS POSTPONED

There are no matters postponed.

11. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There are no motions for which notice was previously given.

12. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

There are no correspondence items being presented for information.

13. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

15. ADJOURNMENT



Minutes

Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee

September 24, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Scott Greig (via video)
Vice Chair Peter Tovell
Member Laurie Coish
Member Tyler Hopkins (via video)
Member Jane McKerroll
Member Kelsey Starr (via video)

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Councillor Marion Koepke
Member Lynda Montgomery

STAFF PRESENT: Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Aidan Ware, Director and Chief Curator - Art Gallery, Culture,
Tourism
Kim Skene, Operations Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

As Chair Greig was attending virtually, Vice Chair Tovell called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and continued to Chair the meeting of the Advisory Committee.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.a Minutes of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held on May 7, 2025

"THAT the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on May 7, 2025."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.a Presentation from Director and Chief Curator Aidan Ware Re: Summer Highlights and Upcoming Programs

The Director and Chief Curator provided a visual presentation of summer highlights and upcoming fall programming at the Gallery.

The meeting was temporarily recessed from 2:11 p.m. to 2:20 p.m. due to a fire alarm, and the evacuation of City Hall. During the fire alarm Chair Greig left the meeting.

5.b Presentation from Fundraising Coordinator Emily Colman Re: Fundraising Initiatives: Events, Campaigns, and Donor Relations

In the absence of the Gallery's new Fundraising Coordinator, the Director and Chief Curator provided a brief introduction to the Fundraising Coordinator's work experience. She then continued to present an overview of the Gallery's fundraising initiatives for the upcoming months.

The Advisory Committee was assured by the Director and Chief Curator that the Fundraising Coordinator would attend a future meeting to meet Committee Members.

Regarding fundraising revenues, when asked how much has been raised since May, the Director of Community Services advised that the attachment to the Director and Chief Curator's September Report later in the agenda includes a summary of Gallery fundraising revenues to date.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no questions or comments from the public.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There was no correspondence presented for consideration.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

8.a Report AG-25-006 from the Director and Chief Curator Re: September Update

The Director and Chief Curator provided an overview of her September Update report.

She provided the following updates to her written report:

- Gallery Night at the Movies kicked off its 28th season on Monday with the film *THE LIFE OF CHUCK*, TIFF 2024 Peoples Choice winner. There were 286 local movie goers over three screenings at the local Cineplex. There are 234 passes sold for the season. Of those, 58% are Gallery Members. There were 62 single movie tickets purchased for this first film. This same time last year there were 195 passes sold for the season and 49% were Gallery Members.
- CBC is planning to do a profile on the conservation being done at Georgian Bay Art Conservation on the three Thomson works bequeathed to the Gallery earlier in the year.

Regarding the almost 300 works submitted for the juried art show *Convergence*, the Director and Chief Curator summarized the process, explaining that while images of almost 300 works were submitted and then forwarded to the jury for selection, only some of these would be selected to be on view in the North Gallery for the *Convergence* Exhibition.

When asked about the TOM article featured in the regional publication *Escarpment Magazine*, the Director and Chief Curator noted that there was positive feedback from readers who were impressed by the asset that Owen Sound has in the art gallery.

Regarding the expansion of the Summer Art Camp program due to its recent success, the Director and Chief Curator responded that plans are already in development for next year to expand upon studio programming with March Break Camp, activities during the school year on Professional Activity Days, and the potential of a 7th week within the summer program. She did remark that the extension of Summer Art Camps is dependant on summer student grants received by the Gallery. The team is exploring other opportunities such as an expansion of age ranges of summer camps as well.

AG-250924-002

Moved by Member Coish

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report AG-25-006 respecting September Update Report the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee recommends that City Council receive the report as the Director and Chief Curator's update on the Gallery's Programming and Operations for information purposes."

Carried.

9. REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS

9.a Update Report from the Fundraising Team

There were no questions regarding the update report from the Fundraising Team.

AG-250924-003

Moved by Vice Chair Tovell

"THAT in consideration of the Update Report provided September 24, 2025, from the Fundraising Team, the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes."

Carried.

9.b Update Report from the Art Collection Team

There was no update from the Art Collection Team.

9.c Update Report from the Expansion Planning Team

There was no update from the Expansion Planning Team.

10. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no matters postponed.

11. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

12. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

There was no correspondence presented for information.

13. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

While there were no items brought forward for Additional Business earlier in the meeting, a member did ask as to why there had not been any updates from the Art Collection Team or the Expansion Planning Team this term.

The Director and Chief Curator responded that the Art Collection Team meets on an as-needed basis; with the pause in 'collecting' due to the HVAC replacement project earlier in the year, and the need to move and reorganize the Collection, there has been no need to meet during this time. The Expansion Planning Team has been on pause until the Fundraising Feasibility Study is undertaken next year.

The Director and Chief Curator made a special note of the 2026 Fundraising Calendar, *Horizons*, and mentioned that it is now on sale at the Gallery and at many retail locations throughout the region. A full list of vendors can be found on the Gallery's website.

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Vice Chair Tovell adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m.



Minutes

Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee

December 3, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chair Peter Tovell
Member Jane McKerroll
Member Lynda Montgomery
Member Kelsey Starr

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Chair Scott Greig
Member Laurie Coish
Member Tyler Hopkins
Councillor Marion Koepke

STAFF PRESENT: Aidan Ware, Director and Chief Curator - Art Gallery, Culture, Tourism
Kim Skene, Operations Coordinator
Emily Colman, Fundraising Coordinator
Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support Coordinator

1. ADJOURNMENT

Due to a lack of quorum, Vice Chair Tovell adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Below is a list of questions to guide discussion at the committee meeting. These questions will be asked at all Standing Committees and the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee.

Please come prepared to speak to the questions below.

An overview of the responses will be provided to Council in February to assist them with their decision on the City's committee structure. Any changes will take effect in 2027.

The [Committee Structure Review Report](#) and [Presentation](#) are available on the "Meetings of Council and Committees" webpage under the December 15, 2025 Council agenda. Please familiarize yourself with the report and presentation prior to discussion of the questions.

Questions:

1. As a public member, what challenges or drawbacks have you observed with the City's current committee structure?
2. What are your proposed solutions to those challenges?
3. What else should Council know to help them with their decision about the City's committee structure?
4. Are there ways the committee structure or processes could better support participation from public members?



Committee Structure Feedback

TTAG Advisory Committee

January 13, 2026

Timeline

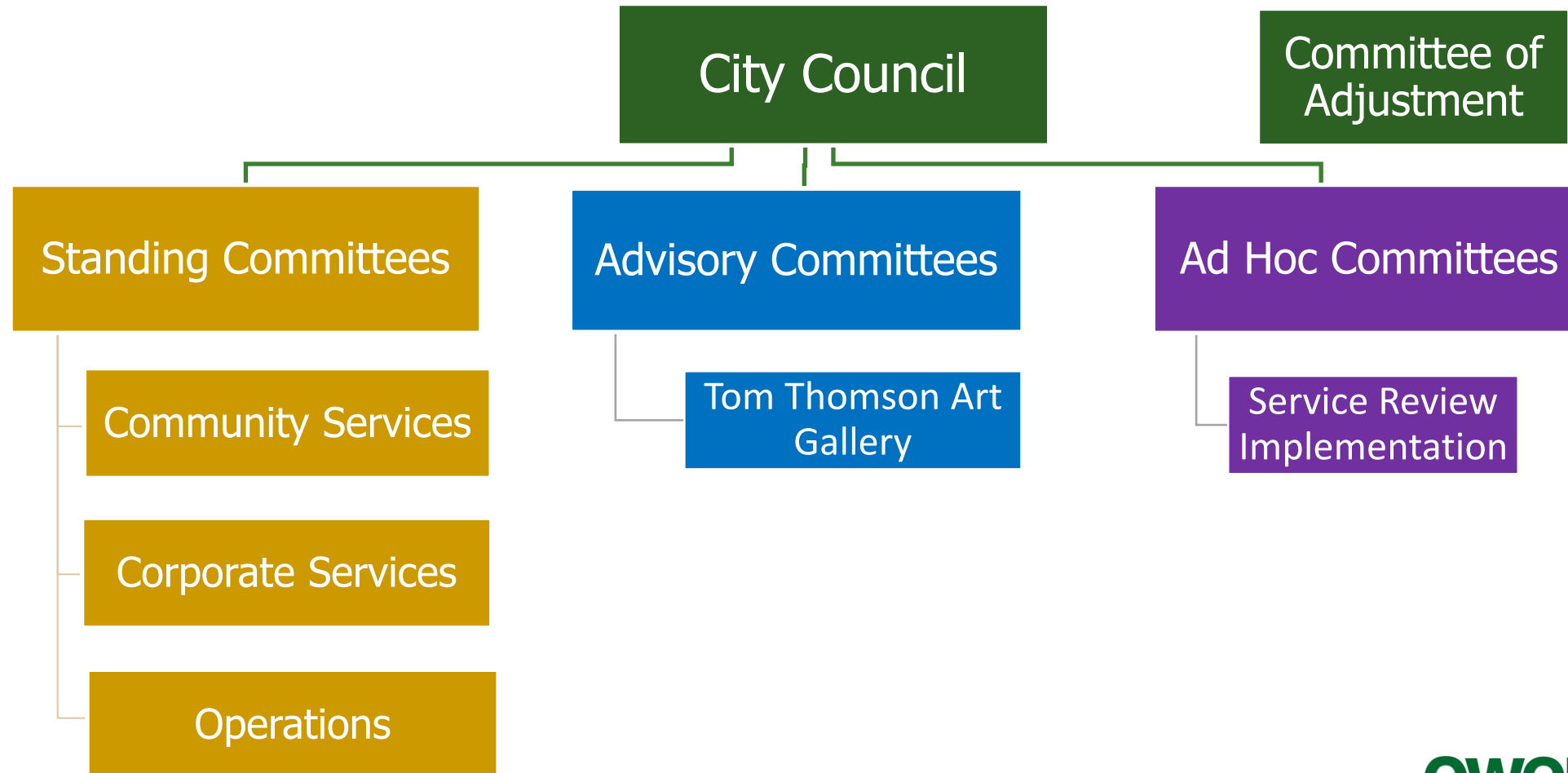
- December 2024 – Request for Staff Report
- December 2025 – Report Presented to Council
- January 2026 – Feedback from Committees
- February 2026 – Feedback Presented to Council
- February 2027 – New Structure In Effect (if change is made)

What is a Committee?

Committees are flexible tools for Council governance

- **Definition:** *Municipal Act*, Section 238: A committee includes advisory committees, subcommittees, or similar entities established by council.
- **Purpose:** Committees assist council in decision-making, policy development, and oversight of specific areas, deeper discussion of issues and an avenue for public input.
- **Governance:** Committees are subject to the same procedural by-law requirements as Council meetings (e.g., notice, openness, and record-keeping).

Committee Structure



Committee Structure Options

Six Options to Align Governance with Strategic Priorities

Option 1 – Maintain the current structure with enhancements

Option 2 – Transition to a **two**-committee structure

Option 3 – Transition to a **three**-committee structure

Option 4 – Transition to a **four**-committee structure

Option 5 – Transition to a **seven**-committee structure

Option 6 – Transition to an expanded committee of the whole structure

Question No. 1

As a public member, what challenges or drawbacks have you observed with the City's current committee structure?

Question No. 2

What are your proposed solutions to those challenges?

Question No. 3

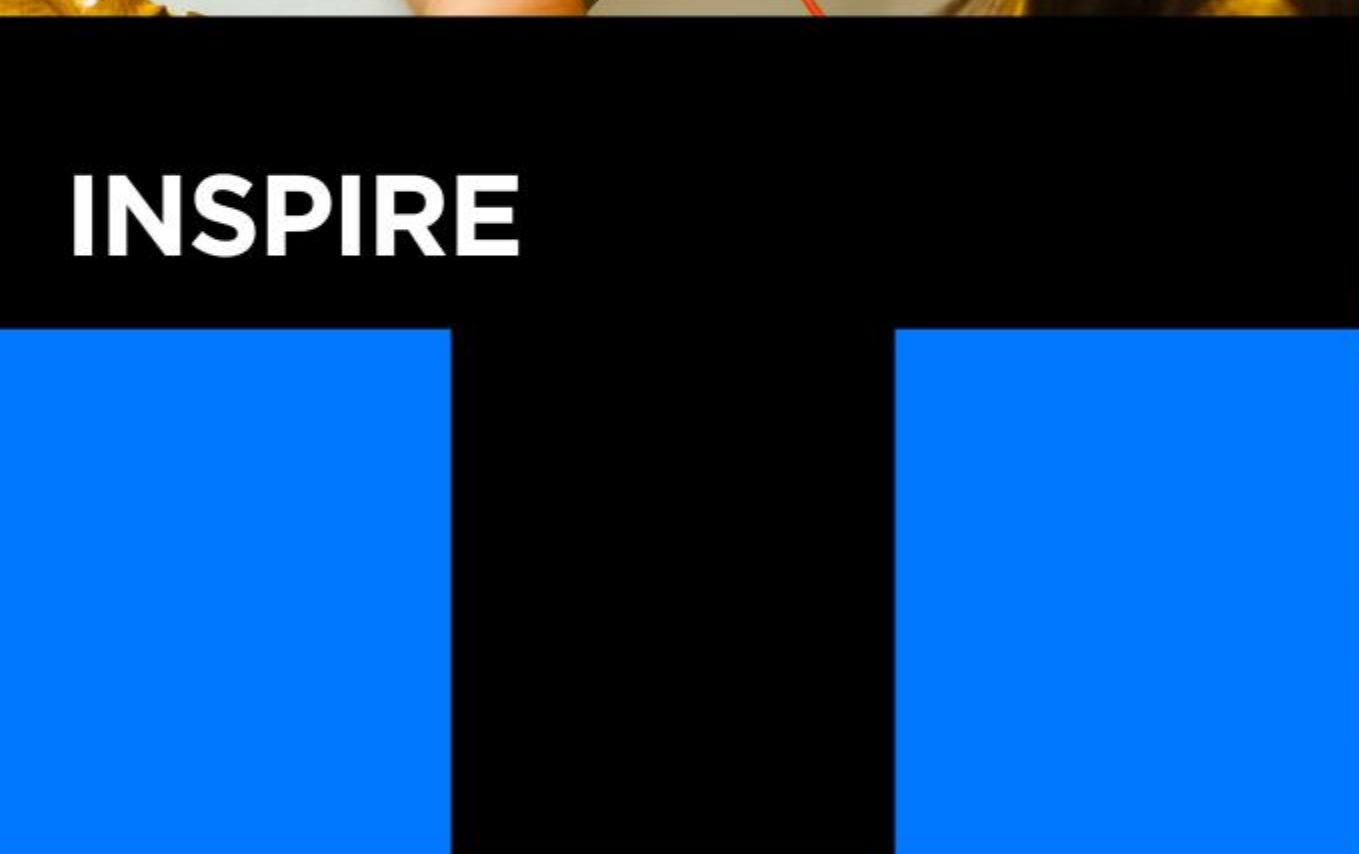
What else should Council know to help them with their decision about the City's committee structure?

Question No. 4

Are there ways the committee structure or processes could better support participation from public members?



Thank you for your feedback!



AN OPEN LANDSCAPE FOR EXPLORING ART





WELCOME RECEPTION COBBLE BEACH CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

September 12, 2025



SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

Appraisal Day at the | TOM |

Curious about the value of the art in your own collection?

Join Perry Tung, Senior International Art Specialist, and Patrick Staheli, Canadian Art Specialist from Cowley Abbott, for a personal art appraisal at the TOM:

\$15 per person (maximum 3 items)

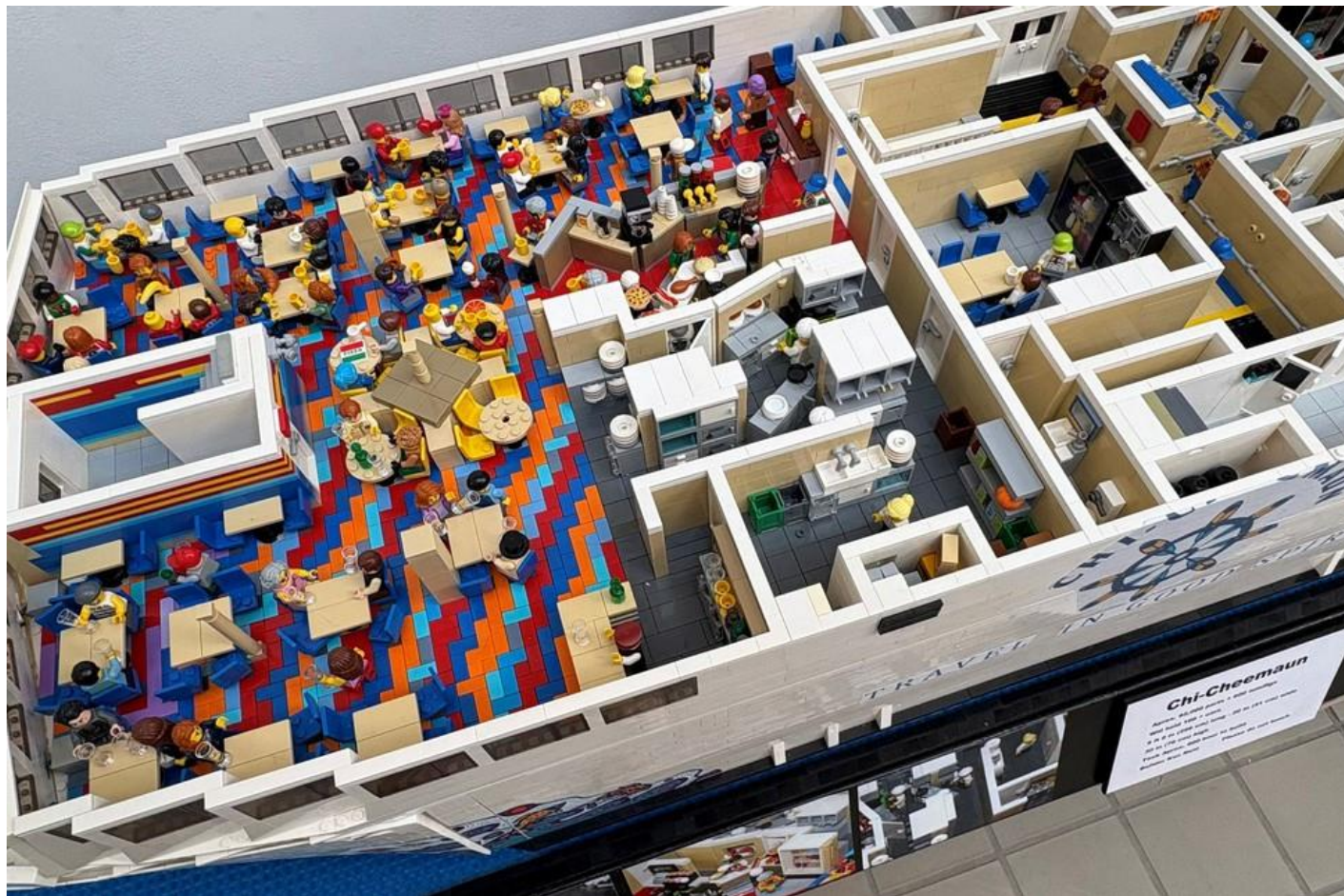
Book Your Appointment Today

✉ info@cowleyabbott.ca

☎ 1-866-931-8415

All proceeds support the Tom Thomson Art Gallery.

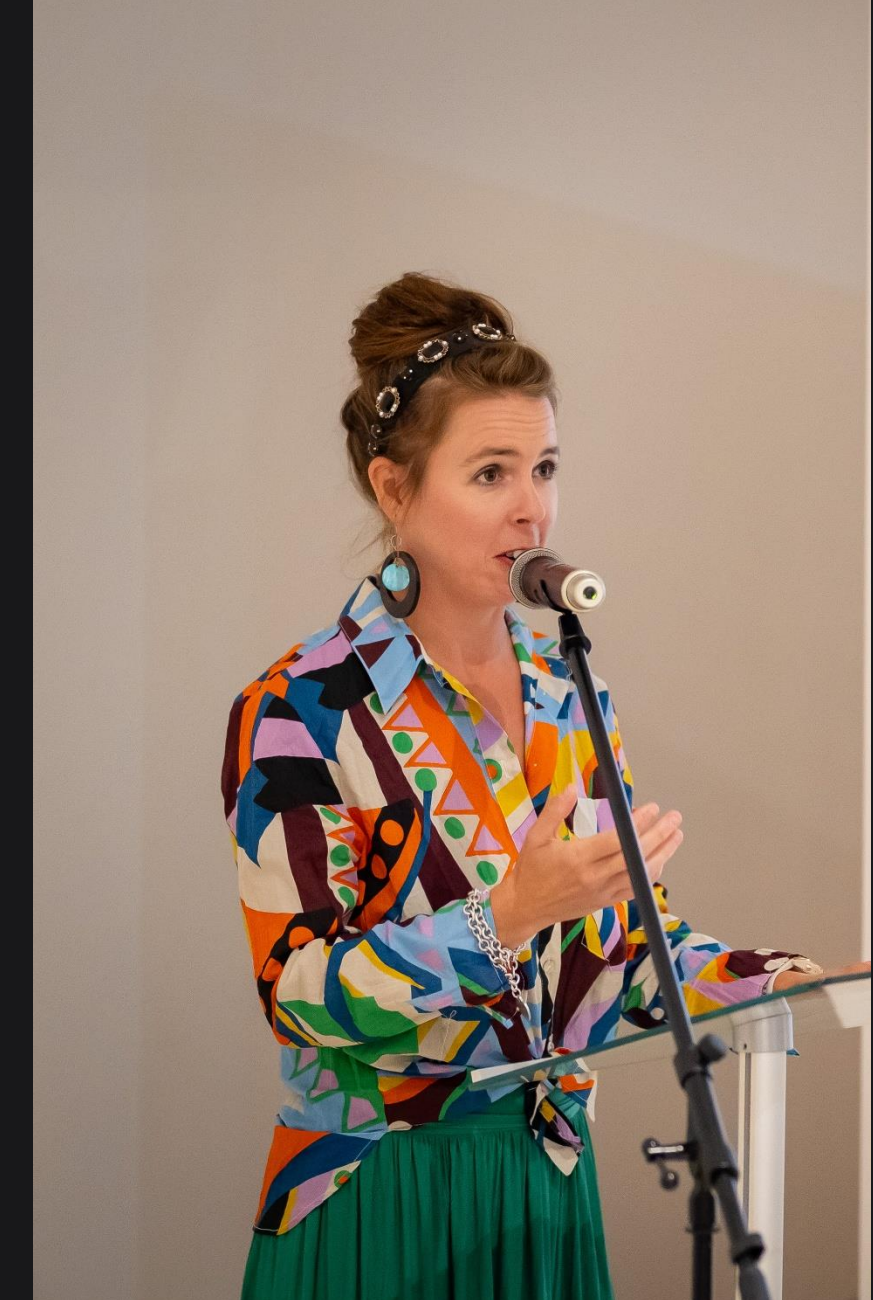
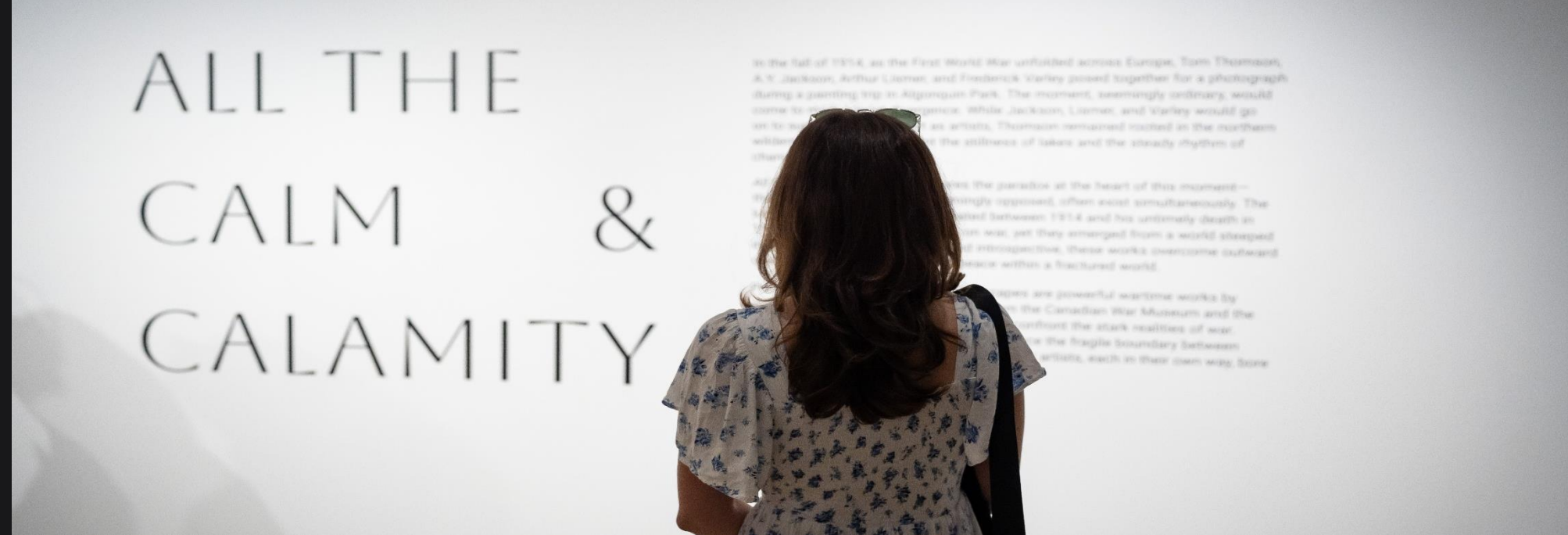




Chi-Cheemaun LEGO display at the TOM

June 12 - September 30, 2025

| **TOM** |



| TOM |

A photograph of three people from behind, looking at framed landscape paintings on a gallery wall. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. The person on the left has long blonde hair and wears a dark floral patterned top. The person in the center has long blonde hair and wears a dark patterned shirt. The person on the right has long blonde hair and wears a dark top and patterned skirt. Several framed landscape paintings are visible on the wall, each with a small informational card below it.

OPENING RECEPTION FALL EXHIBITIONS

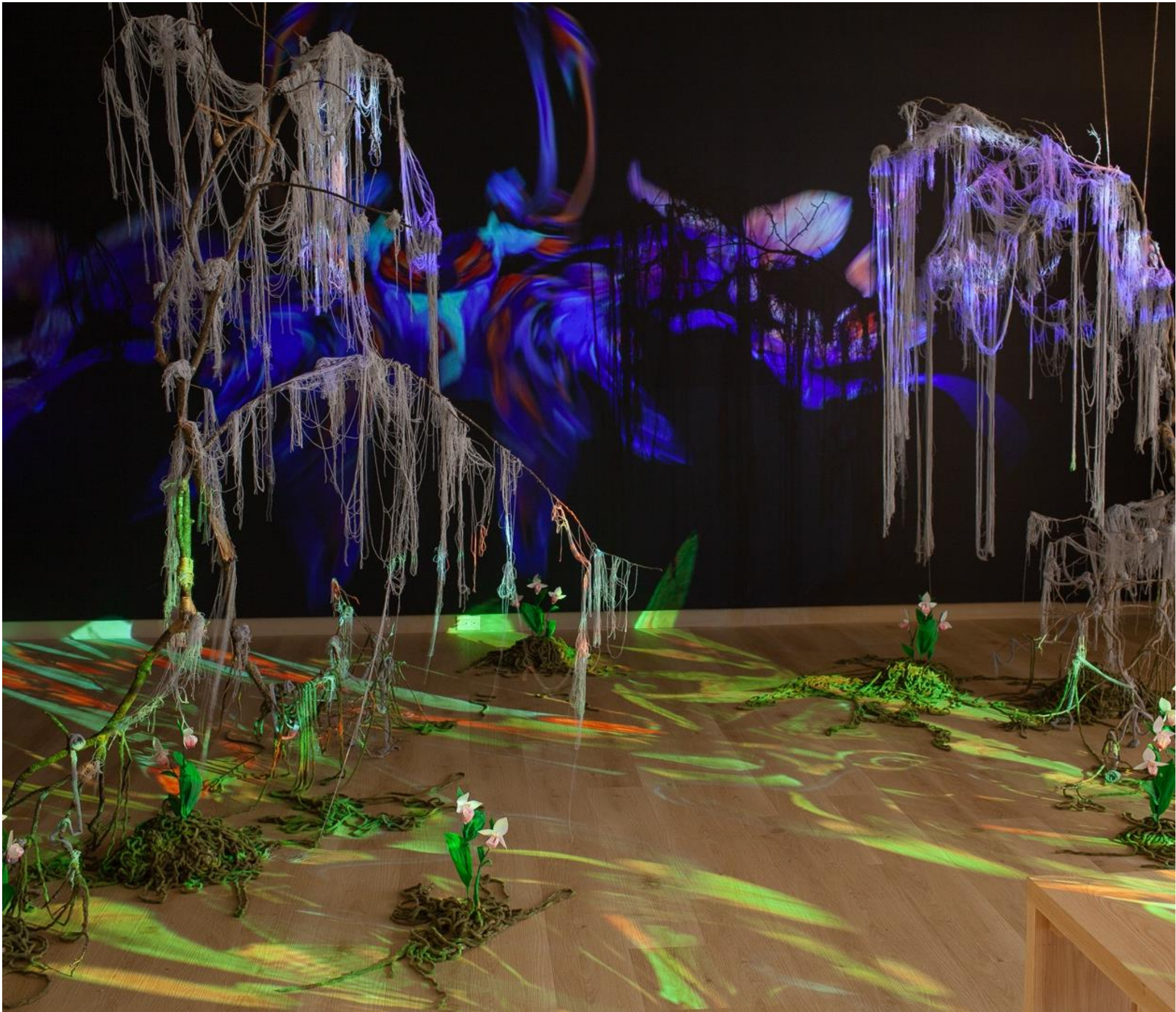
OCTOBER 18th 2025 FROM 2PM-4PM



convergence

juried art
exhibition







**Tom Thomson Art
Gallery Presents**

✦ **TRIVIA** ✦
NIGHT ✦
AT BOSTON PIZZA

Hosted by: Anthony Robinson

Call us today to reserve your team of four! 519 370 2003

Thursday, September 18

7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

**1606 16th Street East, Owen
Sound, ON N4K 5N3**



**The Thomson Canoe
Fishbowl Cocktail**

**Cheers to TOM! With every
drink you buy, \$1.00 helps
fund TOM**



| TOM |



2025 PADDLE ART & CANOE MURAL AUCTION



FUNDS RAISED TO DATE: \$104,600

PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORTING OUR ART & CULTURAL PARTNERS

| TOM

TOM THOMSON
ART GALLERY

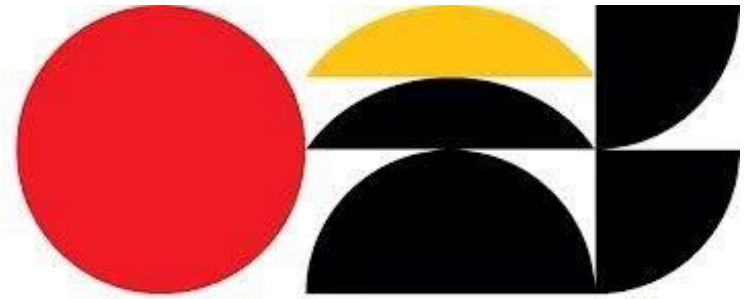


HUNTSVILLE
festival of the arts



2025 PADDLE ART & CANOE MURAL AUCTION





CBCNEWS

Morning Live

Across Canada

**Live from
Owen Sound**

Tuesday Oct 28

Join us in front of City Hall

6 - 10 am

**CBCNEWS
NETWORK**

**owen
sound**
where you want to live





Mary Morton Tours visits the TOM

O c t o b e r 29 , 2025

PALETTE TO PALATE

CELEBRATING CANADIAN ART, FOOD, AND DRINKS
IN SUPPORT OF THE TOM THOMSON ART GALLERY

- ✦ Group of Seven food stations by Chef Jason Merton
- ✦ Music by JD Crosstown & Alison MacGregor
- ✦ Art Sale & Silent Auction
- ✦ Vault Tours
- ✦ Northern Lights Toast to TOM
- ✦ Canoe Clue Mystery
- ✦ Cash Bar

NOVEMBER 1
7:00PM -10PM

Tickets
\$75.00



840 1ST AVENUE WEST, OWEN SOUND
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.TOMTHOMSON.ORG OR
CALL 519-376-1932 EXT 5008

TOM

TOM THOMSON
ART GALLERY



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada

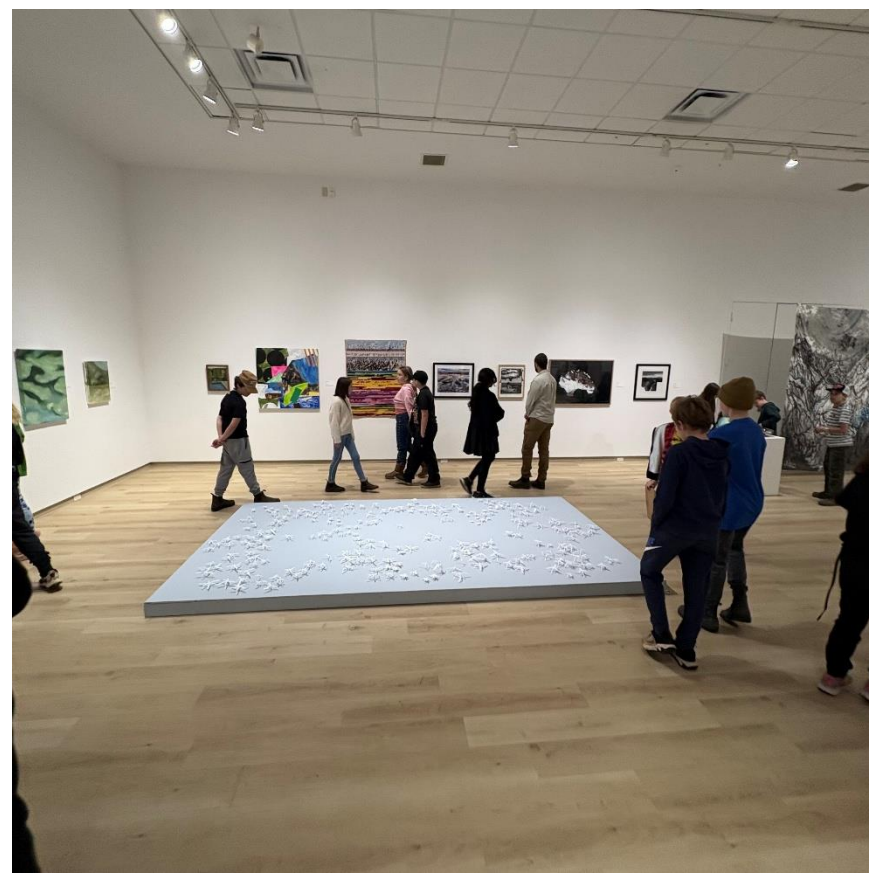
owen
sound



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO







East Ridge School Tour and Make Art, November 18, 2025

Artist Talk

BIANCA ARTEMIDA NAM

WHERE THE WILLOWS WEEP AND ORCHIDS DREAM

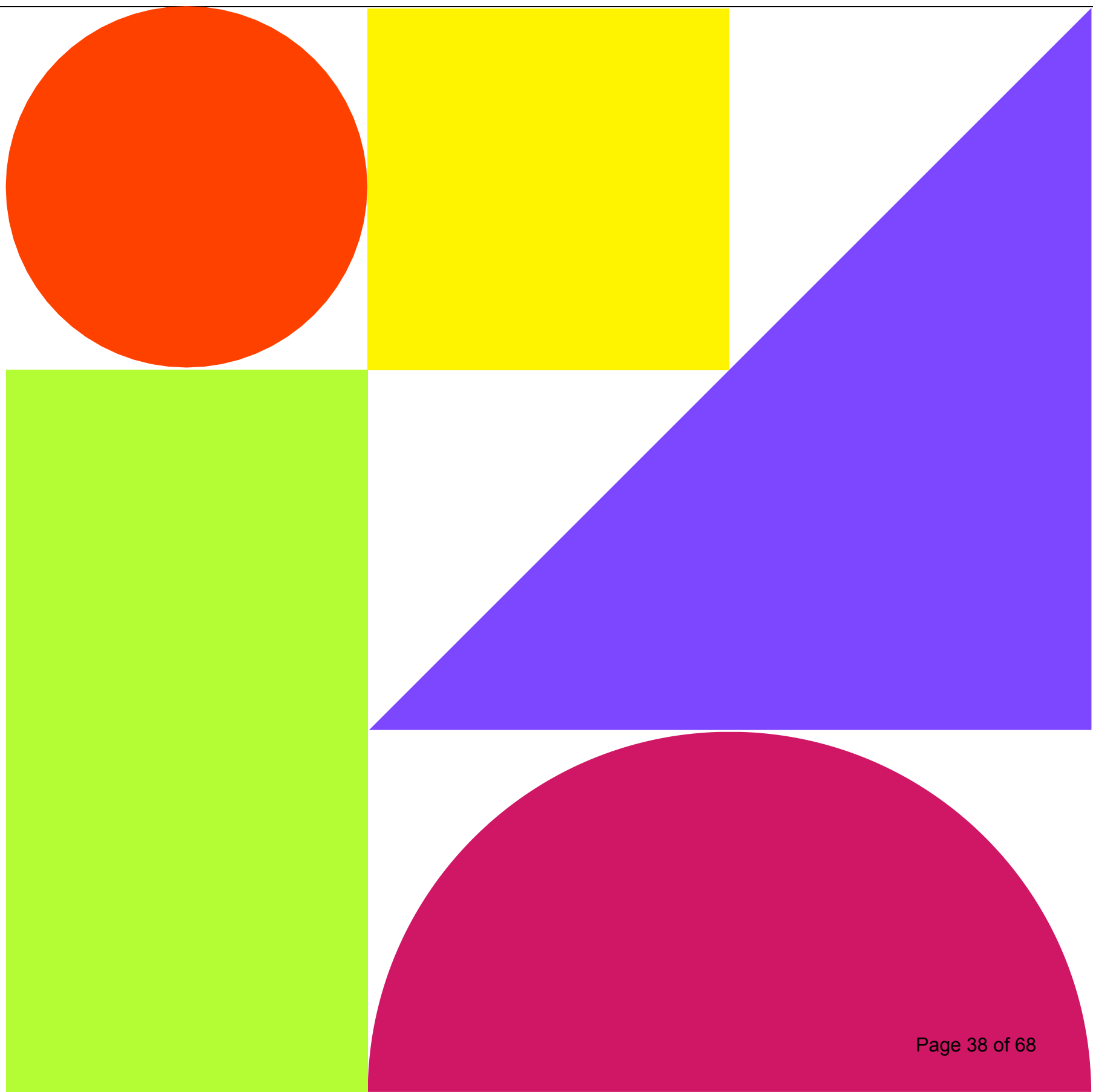
Saturday December 6
11am-12pm / free to attend

| TOM |

IMAGE CREDIT: PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ARTIST, BIANCA ARTEMIDA NAM,
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST.



Thank you!



FUNDRAISING UPDATES

EVENTS & CAMPAIGNS

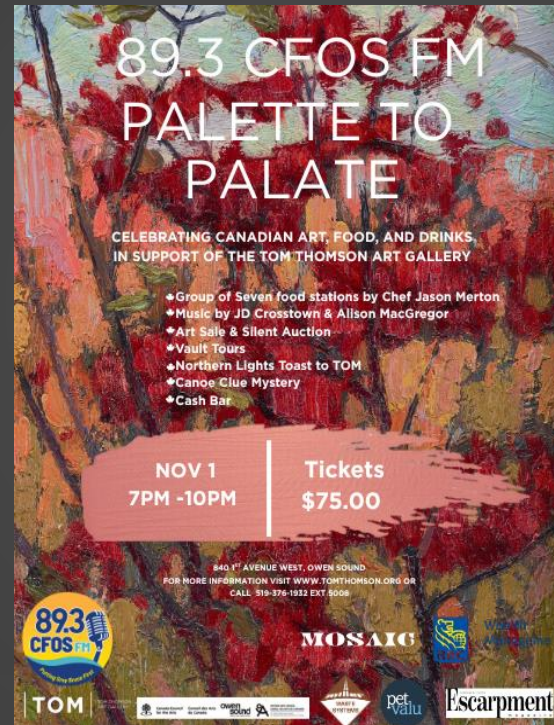
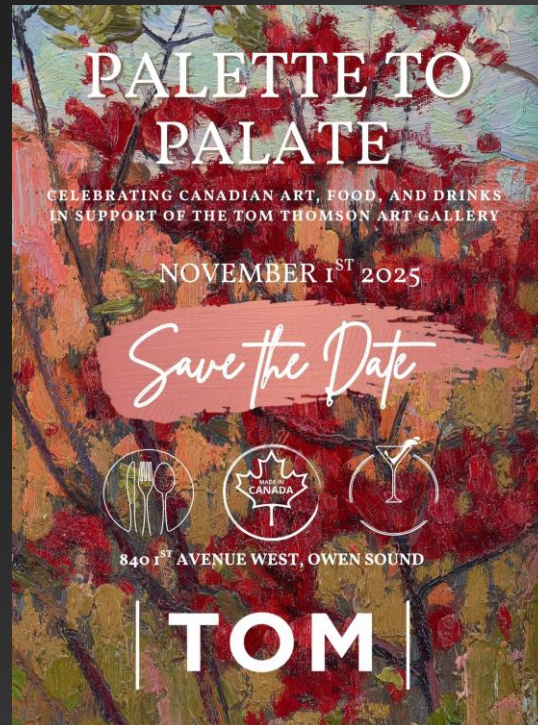
PRESENTED BY

**EMILY COLMAN,
FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR**



TOM

PALETTE TO PALATE FUNDRAISING EVENT



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



ALL CANADIAN TASTES

PALETTE TO PALATE
TOM
Catering by Chef Jason Moron

GROUP OF SEVEN TASTING STATIONS

1. Tourtière bites
2. Smoked salmon mouse on bannock with garnish
3. Duck breast with Quebec blueberries served on Gandy
4. Montreal smoked meat sliders with Balderson smoked cheddar
5. Yukon Gold mash poutine
6. Local Bison Sausage with a red wine and Meaford apple chutney
7. Frenched chicken drumsticks with a maple Dijon tarragon glaze
8. Canadian Maple Truffle Handmade by Richard J. Thomas

Tastings Station close at 8:45pm

Thank you to the 2025 Palette to Palette Table Sponsors

Escarpment | LOCKING | MHC | MHC | SHANKAR | MOSAIC | 89.3 CFOS FM | SHANKAR

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

PALETTE TO PALATE
Sponsored by:
89.3 CFOS FM

Heat N Eat Meal Co.
MENU

Tourtière bites
Smoked salmon mouse on Bannock with Garnish
Duck breast with Quebec blueberries served on Gandy
Double Double Ice Cream (cone)
Montreal smoked meat sliders with Balderson Smoked Cheddar
Yukon Gold Mash Poutine
Local Bison Sausage with a red wine and Meaford apple chutney
Frenched chicken drumsticks with a maple Dijon tarragon glaze

89.3 CFOS FM | MHC | MOSAIC | SHANKAR | Escarpment | 89.3 CFOS FM

WELCOME TO
PALETTE TO PALATE
TOM
Sponsored by 89.3 CFOS FM

WINE
- COFFIN RIDGE WINERY -

Into The Light White 11.0% alc 5oz
\$9.00/glass

Resurrection Rosé 12.0% alc 5oz
\$10.50/glass

Night Spirit 14.9% alc 5oz
\$14.00/glass

Back From The Dead Red 13.0% alc 5oz
\$9.50/glass

Toast to Tom
Sparkling Divine White 10.5% alc 2oz
Complimentary

Coffin Ridge

WELCOME TO
PALETTE TO PALATE
TOM
Sponsored by 89.3 CFOS FM

BEER / CIDER
- KILANNAN BREWERY -

Kilannan Ale- 473 ml can 5.8% alc
\$10.00/pint

The Aussie- 473 ml can 6.4% alc
\$10.00/pint

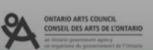
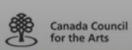
Forbidden Dry Cider - 473 ml can 6.5% alc
\$8.50/can

KILANNAN

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

THANK YOU TO OUR
Silent Auction Donors!

Rebecca Raynsford
Cynthia Porter
Barbara Sprague
Pat Keeling
Donna Welton
Mary Anne Alton
Kristine Moran



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THANK YOU!



TOM | **THE ONTARIO MUSIC**
ART SOCIETY

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

Canada Council for the Arts | **Conseil des arts du Canada**

Ontario | **owen sound**

 **Tom Thomson Art
Gallery Presents**

✦ **TRIVIA** 
NIGHT ✦
AT BOSTON PIZZA

Hosted by: Anthony Robinson

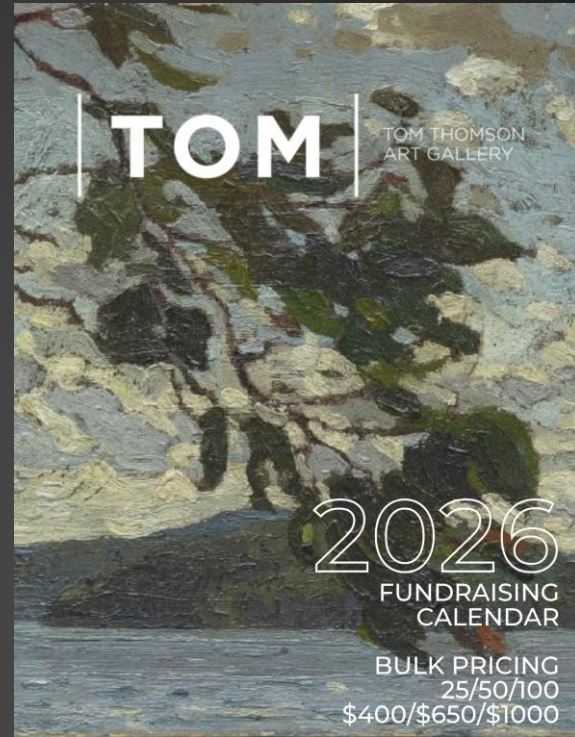
Call us today to reserve your team of four! 519 370 2003

Thursday, September 18

7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

**1606 16th Street East, Owen
Sound, ON N4K 5N3**

TOM |  OWEN SOUND ART GALLERY  OWEN SOUND 



FUNDRAISING CALENDAR CAMPAIGN

CALENDAR CAMPAIGN

FALL LOCATIONS



CALENDAR CAMPAIGN

FALL LOCATIONS



Supporters Circle Membership Program

The Tom Thomson Art Gallery Supporters Circle is a meaningful way to support the Gallery while being recognized for your contribution. We've created four unique membership tiers—all designed to deepen your connection to the TOM and help sustain our exhibitions, programs, and community initiatives.

Become a Supporters Circle Member Today!

If you have any questions, please contact ttag@tomthomson.org

Supporters Circle Levels

Individual  \$40.00	Student/Senior  \$30.00
Family  \$60.00	Explore & Connect  \$75.00

Supporters Circle Perks

- Discounts and exclusive pre-sales on Gallery Programming
- Discounts in the Gallery Shop, including special Members' Shopping Days
- Public recognition of support
- GOG Reception Admission Program free access to galleries across Ontario
- ROAM Reciprocal Admission Program - free admission to over 300 galleries across North America (\$75 contribution required)





Tom Thomson, Wind Through Willows, c. 1916. Oil on composition board with glass board, 21.4 x 26.2 cm. Gift from Louise (Thomson) Henry, sister of Tom Thomson, 1947.

Self-Portrait, 1916. Oil on composition board with glass board, 21.4 x 26.2 cm. Gift from The Canadian Club and Women's Art Association of Owen Sound, 1966.

About Us

The Tom Thomson Art Gallery creates exhibitions and programs that enrich the region and engage with national visual arts conversations. It supports artists at all stages, advocates for the arts, preserves and researches its collection, and fosters inclusive, inspiring experiences for diverse audiences.

Corporate Membership \$250

Visiting galleries during business trips offers cultural insight, networking opportunities, and a creative boost. Exhibitions featuring artists like Tom Thomson connect us to local heritage and inspire fresh thinking. As part of our TOM Corporate Membership, we encourage you to explore and engage with the arts wherever you go. For more information about our Corporate Membership level, please give us a call today!

More Information

519-376-1932
ttag@tomthomson.org
 840 1st Ave W
 Owen Sound, ON
 N4K 4K4

Follow us on



An open landscape for exploring art.

Become a TOM member today!

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated operational supporters






MEMBERSHIP



THANK YOU!

ANY QUESTIONS?

Staff Report

Report To: Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee
Report From: Aidan Ware, Director and Chief Curator
Meeting Date: January 13, 2026
Report Code: AG-25-007
Subject: Tom Thomson Art Gallery - December Update Report

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report AG-25-007 respecting December Update Report the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee recommends that City Council receive the report as the Director and Chief Curator's update on the Gallery's Programming and Operations for information purposes.

Highlights:

- The Gallery's fundraising event, Palette to Palate, was a terrific success with positive feedback from attendees collected by survey and staff/Fundraising Team interactions. The net proceeds from the event are anticipated to be just over \$10,000.
- Gallery Night at the Movies has been very popular this fall with a total of 912 in attendance, compared with 786 last year at this time. Revenue from this program has already exceeded the revenue target of \$29,050, currently at \$31,295.
- Year to date attendance numbers continue to show strong engagement and visitation despite the three-month exhibition space closure for the double HVAC replacement at the start of the year.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: This report supports the delivery of Core Service

Climate and Environmental Implications:

This supports the objectives of the City's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan by increasing awareness and knowledge of corporate climate change adaptation.

Previous Report/Authority:

[AG-25-004](#) – May Update Report

AG-25-xxx – September Update Report

[AG-25-005](#) – Standard Operating Procedure for Attendance Tracking

Background:

As we complete the last quarter of 2025, the Gallery continues to see strong attendance and engagement, despite the 3-month closure for HVAC renovations at the start of the year. Visitors are attending exhibitions and programs, with a balance of regional residents and visitors from further afield. The demographic trends continue to show a broad age mix and an increase in visitors from beyond the immediate region.

Year-to-Date Attendance Summary Report – October 31, 2025

Facility Data

Visitors Counted Manually and Engaged by Gallery Staff: 8550

Exhibition Visitors via Laser Door Counters: 9483

Facility Visitors via Laser Door Counters: 14,976

Data was collected and reported in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure for attendance tracking.

Visitors counted manually are those who entered the facility and had direct engagement with staff at the front desk. The Exhibition visitor data was collected from the laser door counter at the entrance to the Gallery's exhibition spaces. During busy periods, staff are frequently unable to connect

with each person entering the facility, so the laser counters are helpful especially when comparing year-to-year trends.

Tours

21 total tours with 634 participants.

9 school tours with 242 students (many of whom also participated in an art activity).

12 all ages tours with 392 participants, community groups, tourist/bus tours and cultural partners for participants of all ages.

Workshops

March Break offsite at Harrison Park: 5 days of youth workshops with 9 participants each day.

Camp TOM Summer Classes: 30 days/6 weeks of youth workshops with a total of 87 children.

Special Projects and Community Partner Engagement

336 patrons participated in three opening receptions for Spring, Summer, and Fall Exhibitions.

127 visitors came to the Gallery as part of Earth Day celebrations.

241 visitors celebrated Upcycle TOM Project '25 with OS Waste Watchers.

321 visitors came to the Gallery as part of ArtWalk and Doors Open.

87 visitors attended two artists' talks in conjunction with spring and summer exhibitions.

200 visitors made the TOM a stop on their Salmon Day Tour.

32 local businesspeople attended the October Owen Sound & District Chamber of Commerce Alive@5 Event.

1221 patrons attended Winter Screenings Gallery Night at the Movies' 2024-2025 presentations at Galaxy Cineplex Cinemas.

912 patrons attended the Fall Screenings of the 28th Season of Gallery Night at the Movies' 2025-2026 presentations at Cineplex Cinemas.

Gallery Visitor Demographics

(of those visitors* who shared their information):

- 4% showed their OPEN Card
- 28% were first-time visitors
- 43% were from Owen Sound
- 10% were from Grey-Bruce-Simcoe
- 3% were from Barrie
- 16% were from GTA
- 3% were from Kitchener-Waterloo/Guelph/Cambridge
- 4% were from London-Southwest ON
- 4% were from Hamilton-Niagara
- 3% were from Eastern Ontario
- 7% were from outside of the province
- 7% were from outside of the country
- 34% were seniors
- 35% were adults
- 16% were under 18

*Does not include specialized programming

Notes:

Exhibition and programming spaces were closed January 6 to April 4, 2025, to accommodate the HVAC Renovation/Upgrade Project.

2025 was the 2nd Year of Tourism at the TOM Pilot Project which commenced in May 2024.

Exhibition Spaces had rotating temporary closures October 6-17, 2025, for exhibition installation.

Comparative Attendance Summary to October 31, 2025

	YTD 2025*	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2022	Final 2024	Final 2023	Final 2022
Facility Visitors Counted Manually by Staff	8550	8908	3826	2208	9408	5792	3817
Exhibition Visitors by Laser Counters	9483	8785	n/a	n/a	9490	n/a	n/a
Facility Visitors by Laser Counters	14976	16585	7591	6491	17529	11849	10161
Total Tours/Participants	21/634	30/569	20/566	15/235	34/621	26/533	21/342
School Tours/Students	9/242	14/296	18/369	7/149	15/312	21/421	9/190
Lectures/Attendees	2/87	5/225	4/197	2/61	5/255	5/212	4/169
Engagement - Outreach	1482	1455	500	215	1475	779	435
Gallery Night at the Movies	2113	1944	1434	0	2460	2943	973
% Visitors from Owen Sound	43%	47%	n/a	n/a	48%	n/a	n/a
% Visitors from Grey-Bruce-Simco	10%	12%	n/a	n/a	13%	n/a	n/a
% seniors	34%	31%	34%	34%	32%	34%	34%
% adults	35%	46%	56%	55%	46%	55%	56%
% <18	16%	22%	10%	11%	22%	11%	10%

*New SOP in place for attendance tracking in April 2025.

*Engagement and Outreach activities include: partnered programming and community events such as Baby Time, Doors Open, Earth Day, ArtWalk, Hottest Yard Sale, Concours D’Lemons, Concours d’Elegance, Salmon Day, etc.

Exhibitions

Continuing to January 10:

All the Calm and Calamity

Although war and peace are diametrically opposed, they exist simultaneously. This exhibition explores this dichotomy by examining the work Tom Thomson created in Algonquin Park between 1914 and his death in 1917, within the context of the collective anxieties and uncertainties that pervaded daily life at that time during the First World War. The exhibition will also include works by Thomson's contemporaries drawn from the Collection, in addition to works borrowed from the Canadian War Museum and the McMichael Canadian Art Collection.

Bianca Artemida Nam: *Where the Willows Weep and Orchids Dream*

Emerging artist Bianca Artemida Nam presents an immersive installation that explores image rebirth and transformation through her mixed-media practice. Drawing from both analogue and digital media, Nam combines collage, installation, and painting to illustrate the metamorphosis of synthetic and organic elements—focusing on orchids native to her new home in Grey County—to create a contemplative space where ideas evolve, intertwine, and take root.

Continuing to January 17:

Convergence 2025

After a ten-year hiatus, the return of our juried art exhibition was a great success. The jurors selected 33 works from nearly 300 artists across the province, representing a wide range of mediums. The opening reception was well attended, welcoming many new faces, and several works have already sold, with proceeds benefiting both the artists and the Gallery.

The exhibition was generously sponsored by Algonquin Outfitters, enabling us to provide honorariums and award three \$1,000 cash prizes, further supporting the artists. Building on this successful relaunch, *Convergence* will continue as a biennial exhibition, with the next edition scheduled for fall 2027.

The Jurors include Owen Sound artist Kristine Moran, Jennifer Norman, Executive Director at the Durham Art Gallery, and Martin Pearce, Associate Professor, Studio Art at the University of Guelph.

Upcoming Exhibitions, January 2026:

Forecast – Part One

January 17 – June 13, 2026

Forecast is a two-part exhibition series exploring bioclimatic attunement—our bodily resonance with the cycles of weather. Featuring works by Tom Thomson, whose keen observations of weather reveal a deep engagement with nature’s rhythms, alongside selections from our Collection, the exhibition presents a salon-style hanging in which artworks are arranged to trace the progression of the seasons in step with the exhibition’s running dates. Visitors are invited to attune their senses to familiar weather patterns and consider how awareness of their disruption has grown in the context of climate change.

A History of Reverence – Works from the Collection

January 17 – April 11, 2026

This Collection exhibition explores six decades of artistic engagement with predecessors, examining how artists draw inspiration, dialogue, and reflection from earlier works. The exhibition demonstrates how acts of homage—ranging from stylistic reference to conceptual reimagining—create a dynamic continuum of memory, critique, and creative transformation.

Harold Klunder (Title TBD)

January 24 – April 18, 2026

A sweeping retrospective that traces five decades of Klunder’s evocative and richly layered practice, from his early abstract experiments to the bold, psychologically charged self-portraits that define his mature work. This exhibition celebrates Klunder’s enduring exploration of identity, memory, and the expressive possibilities of paint.

Current and Upcoming Programming

Gallery Night at the Movies

Gallery Night at the Movies’ 28th season continues into the fall with a total of 252 pass holders, 41% of those being TOM Members. September’s attendance for THE LIFE OF CHUCK was 286, and October and November presentations were well received by audiences: DJ AHMET had 285 attendees and ELEANOR THE GREAT had 341 respectively, for a total of 912 fall

attendance. This same time last year there were 223 passes and a total attendance of 786. Gallery Night at the Movies' pass and ticket sales are slightly up from last year this time. The first half of the season concludes with BLUE MOON on December 8 before the holiday hiatus; black-out periods are stipulated by Cineplex. The five winter/spring dates for the latter half of the season should be confirmed shortly, with film announcements to be made in mid-December for the New Year.

In conjunction with the Toronto International Film Festival, The TOM's Gallery Night at the Movies film series is one of the Gallery's most successful and long-running programs. As an Official Film Circuit Centre, Gallery Night at the Movies provides local filmgoers an opportunity to see films that may not otherwise be available in our region, and supports the Canadian film industry, by providing filmmakers and distributors the opportunities to extend the reach and theatrical runs of their releases into the smaller communities across the country.

With a season running September to April, Gallery Night at the Movies brings the best of Canadian, foreign and independent film to the area, featuring highlights from TIFF and the Film Festival Circuit. Our films are screened at our local Cineplex Theatre, Galaxy Cinemas in Owen Sound, offering a true cinematic experience with all the amenities.

Summary of September & October Programming

The TOM has had a dynamic and successful fall season, featuring diverse educational programs, movies, tours, and public engagement opportunities. September and October brought an impressive range of activities — from the major fundraiser and community receptions to guided tours and school programs — all of which fostered meaningful connections with visitors.

Key events included the Welcome Reception for the 11th Annual Cobble Beach Concours d'Elegance, the Palette to Palate Fundraiser, the Fall Exhibition Opening Reception, and a variety of collaborative community initiatives that deepened local engagement and increased visibility for the Gallery. The Gallery was also featured on the CBC Morning Show with Heather Hiscox, profiling the exhibition *All the Calm and Calamity* as well as the conservation work being undertaken by Georgian Bay Art Conservation on the Gallery's recent acquisition of three Tom Thomson paintings.

Completed September/October Programs, Tours & Events:

- September 6 – Ontario Jaguar Owners Association Tour: Director Aidan Ware led a private group tour of the exhibitions, exploring Tom Thomson’s legacy and the Gallery’s current shows. 30 in attendance.
- September 12 – Welcome Reception for the Cobble Beach Concours d’Elegance: over 130 international guests attended this annual celebration of art and the automobile, marking a highlight of the Gallery’s fall programming. 140 in attendance.
- September 17 – Hillcrest Grade 7 Tour: Guided exhibition tour for local students. 31 in attendance.
- September 20 – Appraisal Day with Cowley Abbott: Expert appraisers offered \$20 art assessments, matching all proceeds as a donation to the Gallery. 15 patrons participated in this event.
- September 25 – Babytime Program Returns: In collaboration with the Owen Sound Library, parents and toddlers engaged in Storytime surrounded by the Gallery’s fall exhibitions.
- September 26 – Art Explorers Tour: Quarterly guided tour series for the Canadian Federation of University Women’s Association. 24 members participated in this event.
- October 6 – Deinstallation of the LEGO Chi-Cheemaun: The popular summer installation drew significant visitor traffic and tourism interest.
- October 15 – Active Living Group Tour: Guided visit for participants from the Alzheimer Society of Grey-Bruce. 18 participated in this event.
- October 18 – Fall Exhibition Opening Reception (2–4pm): Strong attendance for the opening of Convergence: A Juried Art Exhibition and Where the Willows Weep and Orchids Dream by Bianca Nam.
- October 23 – After-Hours Chamber of Commerce Event: Welcomed local business owners for networking and celebration of the new exhibitions.
- October 23 – North Wellington Seniors Group: Self-guided exhibition tour.
- October 25 – Polish Ladies Association of Hope: 56 visitors from Toronto toured the Gallery.
- October 29 – Mary Morton Tours (London, ON): Guided tour of current exhibitions. 26 participated in this tour.
- October 30 – Babytime Program: Continued partnership with the Library, offering family-friendly programming in the exhibition space.

- November 1 – Palette to Palate Fundraiser: A successful evening in support of the Gallery, with outstanding community participation.
- November 3 – CTV News Barrie Coverage: Media feature on Convergence with interview from the Curator of Public Projects & Education.
- November 6 – Sip & See Event for Cobble Beach Residents and Members: After-hours private event featuring a talk on Tom Thomson's legacy, catered reception, and member engagement opportunity. 16 members participated in this event.

Upcoming Programming – November & December:

The TOM continues to expand its outreach through educational programming, artist engagement, and school partnerships heading into the winter season.

- November 18 – Hillcrest Grade 6 Guided Tour 10-11am
- East Ridge Grade 7 Tour & Art Activity 12-2pm: Students will participate in a guided exhibition tour followed by a hands-on art activity in the TOM studio inspired by Bianca Nam's work, creating paper orchids using artist-provided templates.
- November 19 – Upcycle TOM Assembly at Hillcrest School: Curator of Public Projects & Education to lead two assemblies introducing the 2026 Upcycle TOM project.
- November 20 – Beaver Valley Probus Group Tour: Guided exhibition visit.
- CTV News Barrie – covering Art Paddle Auction for promoting this initiative that benefits the TOM.
- November 24 – CTV News Barrie covering All the Calm and Calamity Exhibition
- November 27 – Babytime at the TOM: Continued collaboration with the Owen Sound Library.
- December 6 – Artist Talk with Bianca Nam: Public talk in the exhibition space, exploring the inspiration and process behind *Where the Willows Weep* and *Orchids Dream*.

Collection

Loan to the Art Gallery of Ontario:

Two sculptures by Tim Whiten—*Perceval* (2013) and *Victor* (1993)—have been returned following their inclusion in the Art Gallery of Ontario's

exhibition *Tim Whiten: A Little Bit of Light*, on view from March 29 to August 17, 2025.

Recipient of the 2022 Gershon Iskowitz Prize at the AGO, Whiten is an American-born, Toronto-based artist whose five-decade career explores spirituality, mythology, and ritual through a distinctive and technically refined visual language. The exhibition featured over 30 works, including sculptures, mixed-media installations, and works on paper, often incorporating organic and fragile materials such as leather, bone, glass, and crystal.

Organized by the Art Gallery of Ontario in partnership with the Gershon Iskowitz Foundation, the exhibition presented a comprehensive overview of Whiten's most significant works.

Loan to the National Gallery of Canada:

Sarah Robertson's *The Blue Sleigh* (c. 1924) has been loaned to the National Gallery of Canada for inclusion in the upcoming exhibition *Winter Count: Embracing the Cold*, on view from November 21, 2025, to March 22, 2026. The exhibition explores winter as represented by Indigenous Peoples in relation to Canadian settlers and extends the dialogue to European traditions of winter imagery. The project is co-curated by Wahsontii Cross and Jocelyn Piirainen (Associate Curators, Indigenous Ways and Decolonization), Katerina Atanassova (Senior Curator, Canadian Art), and Anabelle Kienle Ponka (Senior Curator, European, American and Asian Art).

Collection Relocation and Reorganization:

The relocation and reorganization of the Collection following the HVAC replacement project is ongoing. As the process requires use of the studio and limits public access to the basement during opening hours, the Collections team paused work over the summer months to accommodate Camp TOM programming. Work has now resumed, and the project is expected to continue into 2026.

Conservation of Three Tom Thomson Paintings:

The three Tom Thomson paintings recently bequeathed to the Gallery are now undergoing conservation treatment, made possible through the generous support of public donations. These works were first presented in the *Safekeeping* exhibition earlier this year in their original, incoming

condition, alongside a fundraising campaign to support their conservation and framing.

Thanks to the generosity of our patrons, these nationally significant artworks will be preserved and safeguarded for future generations to enjoy.

Operations

The Gallery will continue to be open to the public 10 am – 5 pm Tuesday to Saturday until December 20. Over the holidays, the Gallery will be open on: December 23, 27, 30 and January 2 and 3 from 12 pm – 4 pm, resuming regular hours on Tuesday, January 6.

Fundraising

A report from the Chair of the Fundraising Team is attached to the agenda for this meeting.

The *Palette to Palate* Fundraiser, held on November 1, was a standout success for the Gallery. Despite coinciding with Game 7 of the Toronto Blue Jays playoffs, the event saw excellent attendance and strong community support, demonstrating the high level of engagement and enthusiasm for the TOM. All 8 food station tables were sponsored, and guests enjoyed an elegant evening celebrating Canadian art, food, and local culture within the Gallery space. The energy in the room reflected a deep appreciation for the TOM's role in the community, and the event's success underscored the strength of our partnerships and the continued dedication of supporters, sponsors, and volunteers who make initiatives like this possible. The net proceeds for this event are anticipated to be just over \$10,000.

A debrief meeting was held with the Fundraising Team and the Gallery staff following the event. Feedback was collected from each of them as well as through a survey sent to attendees which revealed people enjoyed the event across the board. Recognizing that there is always room for improvement, staff are looking forward to planning for 2026 and having the chance to build upon the success of this event through increased sponsorship, auction items, and attendance. *The Fundraising Coordinator began work on this event in June, following their start in the role, so timelines to organize this year's event were tight.

The Fundraising Coordinator has completed a revision of the Gallery's Supporters Circle Membership program and is reaching out to current and past members to re-engage them in this opportunity, which includes benefits

such as discounts and reciprocal admission to other galleries. She is also working on launching an annual giving campaign later this year, which will promote donations to the TOM for a tax receipt.

In tandem with these projects, she continues to explore donor-tracking systems to strengthen the Gallery's fundraising capacity and long-term sustainability. A dedicated platform/system would allow the Gallery to better track and manage donor relationships, streamline communications, and provide accurate reporting to support strategic decision-making. With improved organization, staff can focus more time on cultivating meaningful connections with supporters, identifying new funding opportunities, and recognizing donor contributions in a timely and personalized way. The software would also help the Gallery demonstrate impact to funders and community partners.

In addition to these items, the Fundraising Coordinator is also supporting the Fundraising Team with the 2026 calendar campaign, exploring a fundraising lecture series, and supporting project grant applications.

Grants

Staff have submitted the multi-year operating grant (4-year grant, 2026 - 2029) to the Canada Council for the Arts and continue to await determination.

The Gallery received Year 2 of its Ontario Arts Council Operating Grant (for 2025) and was approved for Year 3.

The Gallery was awarded \$4000 from the Community Foundation for funding to support an expansion of the Upcycling Tom project into schools and the community for 2026.

Analysis:

The Tom Thomson Art Gallery's 2025 performance reflects a year of recovery, growth, and engagement despite the challenges of a three-month closure for essential HVAC renovations early in the year. Attendance demonstrates strong public interest in art and culture across a broad demographic mix, including local residents, regional tourists, and international visitors. The Gallery successfully delivered a range of programs and community partnerships—including 21 guided tours, six weeks of Camp TOM youth classes, and major events like ArtWalk, Doors Open, and Earth Day celebrations—while its long-running *Gallery Night at the Movies* program

saw attendance and membership rise from the previous year. Exhibitions such as *All the Calm and Calamity*, *Bianca Artemida Nam: Where the Willows Weep and Orchids Dream*, and the relaunch of *Convergence 2025* drew strong attendance and critical engagement, with *Convergence* marking a major milestone in reestablishing the Gallery's provincial artistic presence.

Operationally, 2025 marked a year of strengthened partnerships and financial sustainability initiatives. The *Palette to Palate* fundraiser achieved outstanding success, showcasing deep community and sponsor support, while the Gallery advanced long-term fundraising infrastructure through the revitalization of the Supporters Circle program and the exploration of donor management software. On the national stage, the Gallery lent works to the Art Gallery of Ontario and the National Gallery of Canada, underscoring the significance of this collection. Conservation work on three newly acquired Tom Thomson paintings, funded through community donations, highlighted the Gallery's commitment to heritage preservation. Combined with the continuation of major grants, the Gallery is well positioned to enter 2026 with strong momentum and to achieve growth.

Financial Implications:

We anticipate, based on the success of the inaugural *Palette to Palate* event, being more successful with sponsorships in 2026 when the Fundraising Coordinator has had time to build relationships and establish sponsorship asks early in the year. Having more time to plan the event will also support increased ticket sales and auction proceeds.

A final revenue report will be provided at the next Committee meeting in the new year since revenues and expenses for fundraising initiatives are still being posted in the City's accounting software.

As previously noted, we continue to monitor the economic landscape of similar organizations in Ontario and recognize that many continue to face significant challenges due to rising costs for operations, staffing, and programming, and reduced donations and spending due to the higher cost of living.

Communication Strategy:

The Director continues to work with the staff to ensure that public communication of programming and exhibitions is broadly transmitted and easily accessed.

The Gallery publishes a weekly Artefacts newsletter and is active on Facebook and Instagram accounts. Media releases and advisories are sent out ahead of major events and exhibitions.

Consultation:

Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services

Attachments:

N/A

Recommended by:

Aidan Ware, Director and Chief Curator

Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Aidan Ware, Director and Chief Curator at aware@tomthomson.org or 519-376-1932 ext. 5001.

To: Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee

From: Mary Anne Alton, Fundraising Team Chair

Date: November 13, 2025

Re: Fundraising Team Update

The annual calendar campaign remains a cornerstone of TOM's fundraising strategy. This successful initiative continues to generate essential revenue while building partnerships with 40 local businesses across Grey, Bruce and Simcoe counties where 2026 calendars are sold. It also serves as a powerful outreach tool, raising public awareness about images from the permanent collection and generating more interest in the TOM.

The campaign has three categories of locations; summer only, summer/fall and fall only. The fall locations received their calendars before Thanksgiving where they will remain until January 2026.

Each year volunteers sell calendars at the Owen Sound Farmer's Market; the dates this year are November 29th and December 13th.

Bulk sales provide businesses and professionals with an excellent end of year acknowledgment for clients. It is also a great opportunity for local business to introduce out of town clients to the magnificence of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery collection.