



PRESENCE

COUNTING ON CULTURE : IMPACTS AND INDICATORS

2018



The Ottawa Culture Research Group (OCRG) is an informal research collective comprised of community, government and academic partners. It is dedicated to the collection, analysis and dissemination of data related to the culture sector in Ottawa.

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Presence

The indicators in this report reveal the number of different types of culture resources that are present in Ottawa. There are a lot! And the number keeps growing! Just in the past few years alone we have seen several significant culture facilities and spaces developed or enhanced, including: La Nouvelle Scène, Arts Court, Ottawa Art Gallery, Canada Science and Technology Museum, National Arts Centre, Canada Council for the Arts, Lansdowne Park, Bank of Canada Museum, and more.

Ottawa XYZ, the City of Ottawa's cultural mapping web service, shows more than 1500 culture resources in Ottawa and the surrounding area. These resources include culture facilities, organizations, businesses, festivals, heritage sites, natural heritage areas, and public art. Building this database was NOT an easy task! Ottawa's culture sector is large and complex, so the data is constantly in flux. If you notice something that is missing or outdated on the map, you can [contribute to the database](#).

It is important to remember that the number of culture resources is not a measurement of their impact. The businesses, organizations, facilities, heritage sites, public artworks, and festivals counted in the figure below vary greatly in terms of their size, scope, impact, budget, and the populations that they serve. The purpose of including these indicators is simply to show that there is not a dearth of culture resources in Ottawa. There are *thousands* of culture resources in this city that work together to create a vibrant and diverse culture sector.

Key information about the culture resource data

The indicators in this section present 'snapshots' of the culture resource data, as of March 2018. These figures include only culture resources that are located within the boundaries of the City of Ottawa, though the Ottawa XYZ map also shows some culture resources in neighbouring communities.

A definition for each type of culture resource has been included. These definitions are not universally accepted, but in order to provide a count of culture resources we needed to put some boundaries around what was included.

Since comparable datasets are not available for other cities, comparisons between the numbers of each type of culture resource in Ottawa and in other cities is not possible.



1,295

businesses in the culture industries in Ottawa

According to the City of Ottawa's Employment Survey, in 2012 there were 1,415 employment locations for businesses in culture industries in Ottawa, excluding businesses in software-related industries. In the 2016 survey, this number declined slightly to 1,295.¹ Since one business may have multiple locations, the number of employment locations is likely greater than the number of unique businesses. For a full explanation of which industries are included as "culture industries" see Businesses and workers in culture industries in the Participation chapter.

174

culture-focused non-profit organizations

This indicator shows the number of not-for-profit organizations that deliver arts, heritage, festival, and/or fair activities to Ottawa residents and visitors; or that provide support to such organizations.

There are many unincorporated entities in the culture sector, such as artist collectives or informal community groups that come together to organize activities. These organizations are difficult to count, but it is important that they are not overlooked because they represent a significant part of the sector. For example, approximately 2/3 of the members of Ottawa Festivals are not incorporated. Unincorporated organizations that received founding from the City of Ottawa's Cultural Funding and Support Section in 2017 have been included in this count, though the total number of unincorporated arts, heritage, and festival/fair organizations in Ottawa is certainly much greater than the figure shown here.

481

designated heritage buildings and districts, including natural heritage areas

This figure includes buildings, sites, and areas of historical and cultural or natural value that have any sort of heritage designation from municipal, provincial, or federal governments or an international organization. Cultural heritage designations found in Ottawa include: UNESCO World Heritage Sites, National Historic Sites, Federal Heritage Buildings (recognized by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office - FHBRO), Provincial Heritage Properties, Part IV designations (individual buildings or sites designated locally under the Ontario Heritage Act), and Part V designations (heritage districts or neighbourhoods designated locally under the Ontario Heritage Act). There are numerous local, provincial, national, and international natural heritage designations found in Ottawa, though Ottawa XYZ only shows natural areas that are open to public use.

There are also many heritage buildings, sites, and areas that have not received any sort of designation. These places are not included in this count, but they are still important. The City of Ottawa is building a [Heritage Registry](#) that also includes undesignated properties that have cultural heritage value or interest.

219

performance venues

This indicator shows spaces that currently host live public artistic and cultural performances on a regular basis. They generally fall into five broad categories: purpose-built performance venues (i.e. traditional theatres); community buildings, such as churches, community centres, recreation centres, etc.; bars, cafes, and nightclubs; outdoor venues, including fairgrounds; and major sports complexes that frequently feature artistic performances, such as concerts. Spaces that are not “purpose-built” performance venues are included in this count if used regularly for this purpose.

When a building or site includes multiple distinct culture facilities (i.e. City Hall includes the City Hall Art Gallery, Karsh-Masson Gallery, Barbara Anne Scott Gallery, etc.), then we count each of these distinct spaces separately.

175

public artworks in the City's collection

This indicator shows permanent works of visual art that were commissioned by the Public Art Program of the City of Ottawa or one of the former municipalities to be displayed in public spaces, such as parks, community centres, libraries, or recreation facilities. Private commissions, commissions from other levels of government (including the National Capital Commission), temporary public artworks, and works commissioned through other processes are not included in this count, though some appear on Ottawa XYZ.

39

branches of the Ottawa Public Library

The Ottawa Public Library (OPL) has 33 traditional library branches, plus 3 bookmobiles, and 2 kiosks. They also count their website as a “branch”, since it circulates e-books, e-newspapers, music, films, etc. In fact, the website is OPL’s busiest branch.

In addition to the Ottawa Public Library system, many elementary, secondary, and post secondary schools, federal departments and agencies, unions, churches, industry associations, and other important institutions have established hubs for preserving and sharing information and resources. They can be part of a national network of libraries by being assigned a Library Symbol by Library and Archives Canada. “Library Symbols are precise, standardized, shorthand identifiers that are useful for automated interlending communications and processing.” They “present a standardized key to the identification of Canadian libraries, information centres, archives, and other related institutions.”²

As the national capital and an important hub of knowledge and information in Canada, Ottawa has hundreds of libraries, archives, information centres, and other related institutions. As of July 11, 2013, there were 368 valid Library Symbols in Ottawa, plus an additional 51 in Gatineau.



98

museums, galleries, exhibition spaces, and interpretive centres

This indicator shows the number of museums, galleries, exhibition spaces, and interpretive centres in Ottawa that fall within the broad definitions below.

A museum is an institution, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates, and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study, and enjoyment. Ottawa has a wide range of national museums, municipal museums, and community museums, all of which are included in this indicator.

Galleries and exhibition spaces are public rooms, buildings, or spaces for the display or sale of works of art and craft. Commercial galleries are included in this indicator.

An interpretive centre is an institution for dissemination of knowledge of natural or cultural heritage using different means of communication to enhance public understanding of heritage.

Since it can sometimes be difficult to distinguish between these four types of culture resources, the indicator is presented as a total of museums, galleries, exhibition spaces, and interpretive centres.

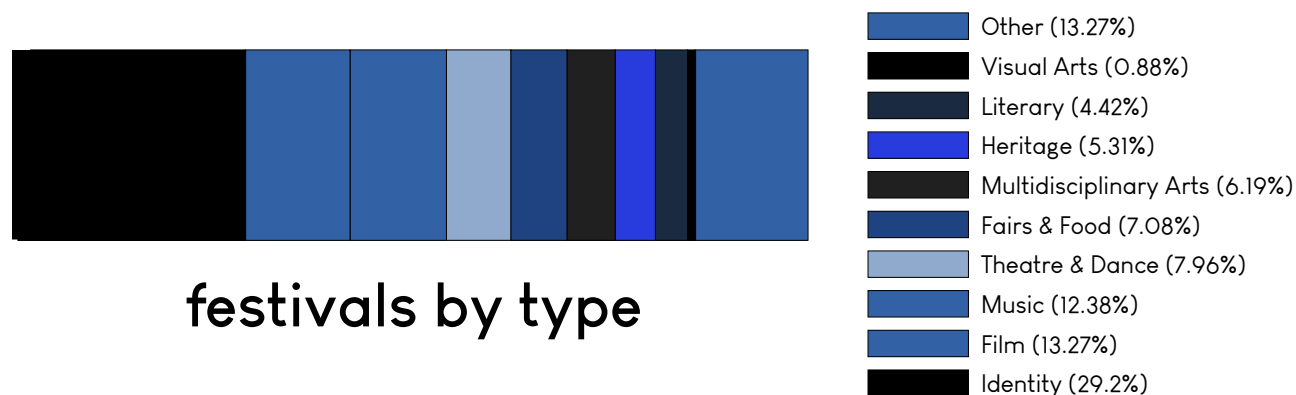


For this indicator we have included events and festivals that occur on an annual or regular, predictable basis that involve, promote, and/or celebrate art, heritage, and/or identity. Festivals occur within a short period (often one weekend, up to a few weeks at most).

Some festivals have multiple editions throughout the year (e.g. JazzFest has a winter festival in addition to its main summer festival). In these situations, we count each edition as a separate festival.

Sporting events, fundraisers, and for-profit events and festivals are included if they involve significant cultural programming (e.g. Ottawa Race Weekend). One-day events are included if they are not part of a full “season” of activities. Commemorative events (e.g. Remembrance Day) are also included.

As these figures illustrate, Ottawa has festivals in all seasons and of all types.



Notes

- 1 See the explanation in the *Participation* chapter regarding software-related industries. Also please note that the data from the 2016 City of Ottawa Employment Survey is preliminary and yet to be published.
- 2 For more information on Canadian Library Symbols, see [Library and Archives Canada](#).