



## Defining Ottawa Together: Culture in the Official Plan

We have an opportunity to develop a brand-new City of Ottawa Official Plan: the strategic document that guides our city's growth and development. This plan impacts how and where the city will grow for the next 25 years.

**Our goal is for Ottawa to grow into the most liveable mid-sized city in North America and we need your insight to make this happen.**

Ottawa is built on unceded Algonquin Anishinabe territory. The peoples of the Algonquin Anishinabe Nation have lived on this territory for millennia. Their culture and presence have nurtured and continue to nurture this place. We honour the [Algonquin Anishinabe Nation and all First Nations, Inuit and Métis](#) elders, people and communities.

Ottawa has a unique identity, a rich history and a living culture. Surrounded by farms and nature, over 80% of the land in Ottawa is rural. Ottawa's dual status as dynamic city and national capital presents an opportunity.

As an important centre of [Franco-Ontarian culture](#) and a destination of choice for [immigrants](#) the world over, Ottawa is home to [diverse peoples and communities](#).

**The cultural landscape in Ottawa comprises many vibrant spaces, places, practices and people including:**

- important Indigenous traditional knowledge, cultural practices, ceremonies, rites, and landscapes;
- a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Rideau Canal);
- major, national cultural institutions, and rich historic and archaeological sites;
- vital neighbourhoods and rural villages inclusive of many living cultures;
- a local arts and heritage scene that reflects the vitality of Ottawa communities in two official languages and myriad mother tongues;
- exceptional home-grown festivals, fairs and gatherings;
- international award-winning artists in all disciplines;
- emerging cultural and creative industries;
- vibrant public art and engaging street culture; and
- a thriving local food and culinary scene.

[Safeguarding and celebrating](#) the diverse cultural features of Ottawa builds quality of place. [Creative placemaking](#) can serve community interest and drive an agenda for change, growth and transformation.

We hope to support the development of Ottawa as an [international cultural capital](#) that:

- works toward reconciliation and decolonization;
- offers meaning and quality of life to all residents; and
- attracts talent, tourists and business.

Your voice and experience in Ottawa are important to us. **Community engagement is key.**

We are seeking your insight on the following questions:

1. How do you engage with culture? In what cultural activities do you participate?
2. Where do you live and work? Are there cultural opportunities in the neighbourhood in which you live? Near your workplace?
3. Do you walk, cycle, take public transit or drive to access culture? How far are you willing to travel to access cultural opportunities in the city?
4. If you could redesign your neighbourhood, what cultural improvements might you suggest?  
*(e.g. - culture grocer/supplier, culture event space, artist live/work space, gathering space, culture production space, creative collaboration space, public art, museum, cultural-use park, library, performing art space, visual art space)*
5. What are the culturally significant places and spaces in Ottawa that you hope are protected for future generations?  
*(e.g. - vistas, culture landscapes, buildings, streets, neighbourhoods, archaeological sites, parks)*
6. What is the 'living' culture that makes your neighbourhood and the city unique? How can we safeguard, support and develop these practices?  
*(e.g. oral traditions, rituals, festive events, performing arts, crafts, traditional knowledge)*