



# CK Cultural Plan Update Host Your Own Toolkit!

**ERA monumental**

# Chatham-Kent is updating its Cultural Plan

**and we need your help to shape it!**

To understand the diverse experiences and perspectives of culture across CK's communities, we want you to take part in Chatham-Kent's Culture Conversations.

**Culture is at the heart of who we are. Built from the unique and diverse identities, stories and histories of CK's places and people, this plan will:**

- ✓ Help define what culture means for Chatham-Kent, considering our stories, traditions, and everyday life. We want to understand what makes each community in Chatham-Kent special.
- ✓ Make a map of what we have including information about the places, people, and events that make up culture in Chatham-Kent — like museums, festivals, artists, and local stories. This will help us decide what to grow and support in the future.
- ✓ Imagine the future together: We'll create a shared vision and priorities for culture in Chatham-Kent and what goals we should work toward.
- ✓ Connect people and places: We'll build relationships between artists, cultural groups, and communities across Chatham-Kent, so we can share ideas and support one another!





# What is this 'host your own toolkit'?

We cannot develop this plan alone! With ERA Architects and Monumental, we'll be working with residents, cultural groups, and community leaders to make sure local feedback and ideas shape the plan.

We're excited - This is just the beginning of more ongoing conversations about, and involvement in, culture in CK.

There are many ways to get involved! This toolkit gives you everything you need to host your own conversation about culture - on your own time, in your own way - and share your ideas back with us and with your community!

This guide includes information about cultural planning, along with simple questions to spark discussion about what culture means in CK and what you hope for in the future. More information about the planning process is available on the [website](#)!

Use this guide on your own, with a friend, or as a group, virtually or in-person, wherever feels convenient or meaningful for you!

Feel free to be creative! You can also share a drawing, a photo, a collage, a poem, or anything you want to express your experiences and ideas for culture in Chatham-Kent.

# What is “culture” anyway?

'Culture' in a municipality can refer to many different things. While people often think of art galleries, museums, and theatres as cultural assets, culture also includes the spaces where cultural workers create and share their work, as well as the heritage buildings, landscapes, and natural environment that shape our identity and everyday lives. In Chatham-Kent, it may also mean enjoying public art, attending a festival, learning local histories, visiting a restaurant, or celebrating community and newcomer traditions. The intangible elements of culture - stories, traditions, and identities rooted in Chatham-Kent's diverse population, histories, and places - are essential aspects of CK's cultural landscape.

## When Talking About Culture, Consider...

### Performing Arts

Music, theatre, dance, etc.

### Visual Arts

Galleries, murals, exhibits

### Outdoor Activities

Trails, parks, and waterfronts

### Festivals & Events

Agricultural fairs, parades, and cultural celebrations

### Literary & Learning

Libraries, bookshops, storytelling

### Heritage

Archives, museums, historic sites

### Culinary

Local food, breweries, farm-to-table traditions

### Intangible Culture

Stories, ceremonies, customs, traditions

### Connections to Land & Water

Farming, fishing, rivers, and Lake Erie



Specifically, consider anything unique to where you live, to your own history/stories, and to what cultural activities you like to participate in!

# Questions to Ask



The following two questions will help frame your conversation. Feel free to take the conversation where the people want to go while ideally answering the following questions/prompts.

**How do you experience culture in Chatham-Kent today?**

Consider: Which community (town, village, or neighbourhood) do you feel most connected to in Chatham-Kent? What makes it special and meaningful to you?

Where do you most enjoy culture in CK? This could include gathering places, historic or natural sites, art studios, maker spaces, music venues, or informal spots.

What do you enjoy most about culture in CK? What gets in the way of you participating in and enjoying culture?)

**How would you like to experience culture in Chatham-Kent in the future?**

Consider: In 10 years, what do you hope Chatham-Kent's cultural scene feels like? What is one big hope, idea or dream? What are your top three ideas for how the Municipality can support culture in Chatham-Kent. How do we get there?

There may be other questions you want to ask in your discussion. The above two questions are meant as a guide and we would encourage you to start from a place you find most relevant for you and your community. Feel free to get creative too: you can draw, collage, paint, or anything that helps get the conversation going.



# How to share back with us!

let's talk  CK

Visit Let's Talk Chatham-Kent to add your submission with this short feedback form.

[www.letstalkchatham-kent.ca/ckcultural-plan](http://www.letstalkchatham-kent.ca/ckcultural-plan)



Also, stay tuned for other ways to get involved and stay informed, including a larger online survey, cultural mapping tool, and a public event in early 2026!

# Thank You!

We appreciate all of your support in shaping culture in Chatham-Kent.



