



Evelyn Myrie
President
Afro Canadian Caribbean Association (A.C.C.A.)
423 King Street East
Hamilton, ON L8N 1C5

June 5, 2025

Hamilton City Council
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

RE: Letter of Support for the Art Gallery of Hamilton

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Afro Canadian Caribbean Association (ACCA) to express our full support for the Art Gallery of Hamilton (AGH) and to encourage the City of Hamilton to strengthen its investment in this cornerstone institution.

The AGH is not only home to one of the most significant art collections in Canada it is a space of belonging, creativity, and connection for our communities. Its over 11,000-piece permanent collection, including hundreds of works by Indigenous, Metis, and Inuit artists, represents a cultural resource of national importance housed right here in our city.

As Hamilton moves forward with its downtown revitalization and tourism development, the AGH is poised to play a central role. But just as importantly, it continues to deliver impactful community programs that reach people where they are especially youth.

One of the clearest examples is AGH's partnership with ACCA. Together, we run a Saturday morning youth program that introduces children and teens to the world of art and the Gallery. Through this collaboration, young participants from diverse backgrounds engage in meaningful cultural experiences, build stronger ties to the Hamilton community, and develop a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them. These connections are vital, and the AGH makes them possible.

It is evident the Gallery has taken on a growing and essential role in serving Hamilton's residents. At the same time, the current funding structure appears increasingly out of sync with the Gallery's impact and responsibilities. While AGH continues to carry the burden of maintaining its building and

collection both of which the City has a stake in its operating support has remained largely unchanged for nearly two decades. We believe it's time to explore a more sustainable and collaborative model that can meet the needs of today and prepare for tomorrow.

With increased support and strategic investment, the AGH will continue to elevate Hamilton as a vibrant, inclusive, and culturally rich city. We urge Council to recognize its value and help secure its future.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Myrie
President
Afro Canadian Caribbean Association (A.C.C.A.)