

Project for Public Space's Urban Visionary Nate Storring is to Speak at KWAG's Next Culture Talks Event



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, 23 October

The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery continues its series of conversations on creating socially conscious cities with an upcoming presentation. The popular series, [Culture Talks: Art, Architecture, the Public Realm and Social Infrastructure](#), returns on Thursday, 5 November at 6:30 p.m. with Urban Visionary Nate Storring.

The Culture Talks series stems from the Gallery's commitment to civic engagement, examining its role in city revitalization as an art museum and exploring the future role of artists, urban planners, cultural workers, and architects as cultural placemakers.

This year, the series takes a deeper dive into the essential functions of social infrastructure—the network of services and facilities that support community well-being, promote social equity, and drive economic growth.

“Every Saturday morning growing up, my parents and I did our weekly grocery run at the Kitchener Market, one of Canada’s oldest operating farmers’ markets. Today, I still compare every public space to its liveliness, sensory richness, and community connections.” - Nate Storrington.



Nate Storrington has spent his career bringing the public into the worlds of urban design, planning, and policy. As Co-Executive Director of Project for Public Spaces, the international nonprofit that co-creates outstanding gathering places with the people who use them every day, he leads the Placemaking Program. Over the past decade, he has helped launch International Placemaking Week, which gathers more than 600 practitioners every two years, and designed a grant-making program that has transformed over 20 public spaces across the United States.

He is also the co-editor of *Hyperlocal: Place Governance in a Fragmented World* (Brookings Institution Press, 2022) and *Vital Little Plans: The Short Works of Jane Jacobs* (Random House, 2016). Storrington’s writing has appeared in CityLab, Next City, The Globe and Mail, and Canadian Architect.

“According to a recent report from Vital Ideas¹, Waterloo Region’s social infrastructure hasn’t kept pace with population growth,” explains Shirley Madill, KWAG’s Executive Director.

“Now more than ever, an integrated approach is needed in the arts and culture sector for the creation of a socially conscious city. With KWAG’s partner, Perimeter Development Corporation and supporters Waterloo Region Community Foundation, and Grand Valley Society of Architects, we believe that these talks contribute to our region’s success in an urban and social transformation. With multi-generational households on the rise, there will be a higher demand for areas that are culturally vibrant, walkable, and amenity-rich - places that support the well-being of our citizens.”

Secure your ticket today and become part of the discussion for stronger, more connected communities. Limited tickets to [Culture Talks: Art, Architecture, the Public Realm and Social Infrastructure](#) are available online from \$12.50 to \$22.50 plus HST, or by phone at 519-579-5860 x 100.

About Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery

As Waterloo Region’s leading public art gallery, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG) connects people and ideas through art. Its nationally acclaimed exhibitions and programs welcome all to be inspired and challenged through a deepened understanding of ourselves, our cultures, and our communities. For the benefit of current and future generations, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery collects, preserves, researches, interprets, and exhibits the visual arts. It offers dynamic public programs that inspire creativity and an appreciation of the visual arts in the Region and beyond. Established in 1956 and incorporated in 1968, KWAG is a non-profit organization open to the public and administered in the public trust. Admission is free.

KWAG respectfully acknowledges that we are located in Block 2 on the Haldimand Tract: land promised to Six Nations, which includes ten kilometers on each side of the Grand River.* This is the traditional home of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee Peoples, whose resilience we honor by offering this Gallery as a space to reflect and learn from one another.

We are committed to reconciliation and ensuring that our Gallery’s programs and Permanent Collection demonstrate more diverse, culturally relevant Canadian art and artists.

¹ Ayer, Steven, (2025) *Vital Ideas: Social Infrastructure and Places*, Waterloo Region Community Foundation, <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/629f5ec7c1e9382dc5ce72b9/t/6970fbef87b41e42ac0c5604/1769012207790/WRCF+2025+Waterloo+Region+Vital+Signs+Report+-+FINAL.pdf>

Accessibility: KWAG is an accessible venue.

Visit Us

Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, 101 Queen Street North, Kitchener, ON N2H 6P7

www.kwag.ca

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KWAG gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of our presenting sponsor, Perimeter Development Corporation, the support of the Walper Hotel, Grand Valley Society of Architects as well as the Waterloo Region Community Foundation.

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