



KWAG Announces Free Weekend of Art, Music, and Mutual Aid

KITCHENER-WATERLOO—The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG) proudly announces ROOTED, a weekend of free arts programming and music, taking place May 23–24 in celebration of KWAG's [Garden of Resilience](#) and 70th anniversary.

ROOTED events include the return of the [Garden of Resilience](#), offering community members the opportunity to grow organic produce in KWAG's sculpture garden. Also highlighted is the announcement of the 2026 Gardener-in-Residence and their upcoming program of events merging contemporary art with ecological sustainability.

ROOTED's theme of mutual aid runs through a series of free events, workshops, and community activations across both days. In partnership with Fertile Ground Farm, visitors are invited to make a food donation in support of the Food Bank of Waterloo Region and receive an organic vegetable or herb seedling in return.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Library of Things (KWLOT) will host an information station to connect community members with its extensive library of tools and resources—an initiative that reduces waste, builds community, and supports inclusive employment opportunities.

[*Sharing the Passion: 70 Years of Building the Collection*](#), is the Gallery's historical survey of significant works from its Permanent Collection. Closing in mid-July, the exhibition features 70 artworks reflecting the enduring relationship between KWAG and the Waterloo Region community. Gallery tours are scheduled for both Saturday and Sunday afternoons.



The weekend's centerpiece is a community picnic catered by Rommana Cafe and a free outdoor concert by SHEBAD in the Gallery's sculpture garden on Saturday evening.

Sunday's programming builds on this energy with highlights including the Youth Art Market (YAM), presented by KWAG's Youth Council, showcasing handmade works and goods by young local artists, and a Botanical Hydrosols workshop by the 2025 Gardener-in-Residence, Stephanie Florence.

A full schedule of these free events is available on the Gallery's website. For more information about garden plots, please email garden@kwag.on.ca.

About Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery

Since 1956, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG) has been Waterloo Region's largest public art gallery, connecting 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. It offers dynamic public programs that inspire creativity and an appreciation of the visual arts in the Region and beyond. Admission is free.

Accessibility: [KWAG is fully accessible.](#)

Visit Us

Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, 101 Queen Street North, Kitchener, ON N2H 6P7
www.kwag.ca

Media Contact:

Áine Belton, abelton@kwag.on.ca, 519.579.5860 x 214

Imagery:

1. Garden of Resilience, 2025. Photo by KWAG.
2. SHEBAD, courtesy of the performers.

The Garden of Resilience is funded by WRCF's Community Grants program. Garden events connected to KWAG's 70th anniversary are supported by Stantec and the City of Kitchener.



The Gamble
Family

