



KWAG Launches the 50/50 Garden of Resilience: A Community Initiative for Food Security and Ecological Sustainability

8 April 2025, Kitchener ON - The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG) is excited to announce the launch of the [*50/50 Garden of Resilience*](#), a groundbreaking community garden project to address two pressing social challenges: food security and ecological sustainability. Nestled within the KWAG Sculpture Garden in the Olde Berlin Neighborhood, the Garden of Resilience will be providing an opportunity for community members to grow their own organic vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers, while fostering intergenerational and intercultural learning through community collaboration and mutual aid.

The [*50/50 Garden of Resilience*](#) is designed to empower local residents by providing access to affordable, locally grown, organic produce in a caring and transparent environment. As part of the garden's mission, at least 50% of the annual production will be dedicated to mutual aid efforts, directly supporting the Kitchener-Waterloo community.

"Food insecurity has both direct and indirect impacts on our environment, and the *Garden of Resilience* aims to tackle these issues head-on," says Darryn Doull, Curator: Exhibitions & Programs, at KWAG. "The garden will be a site for community members to grow food and flowers to be consumed by the gardeners and redirected back into the community. It will also serve as a model for de-centering decision-making from the bureaucracy of the institution as we learn from the land and its needs."

In addition to its core focus on sustainability and food security, the *50/50 Garden of Resilience* will serve as a living model for the KWAG's commitment to eco-friendly initiatives. The gallery is dedicated to improving its institutional impact on the environment and aims to become a leader in sustainable exhibition production.

As part of this innovative project, KWAG is thrilled to announce the upcoming Gardener-in-Residence program, inviting local artists from the Kitchener-Waterloo community to blend contemporary art with ecological engagement. This residency will enable artists to explore eco-conscious art-making using natural materials, upcycled waste, and regenerative agriculture techniques within the garden. It serves to foster creative expression while promoting environmental activism and education. The [*50/50 Garden of Resilience*](#) is funded by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and WRCF's Community Grants program. Contact garden@kwag.on.ca for further information.

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.

Accessibility: KWAG is fully accessible.

Visit Us

Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, 101 Queen Street North, Kitchener, ON N2H 6P7
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Images: Ron Benner, *Trans/mission: 101*, 2016. Photographic /garden installation. Installation view at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery. ©Ron Benner. Photo: © 2016 KWAG.

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