

Dwade'nyota' Dwaga:'shq:'qh "We Celebrate our Stories"





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The Woodland Cultural Centre located on the territorial lands of Six Nations of the Grand River, in Brantford Ontario, serving to preserve, promote and strengthen Indigenous language, culture, art and history; bringing the story of the Hodinohsho:ni people of the Eastern Woodlands to life through innovative exhibitions and programs.

As our organization celebrates 50 years in operation and looks forward to the next 50 years - it is critical to tell our story, our history and celebrate our artists in a new home, state-of-the-art space that holds connection to the land.

A purpose-built facility to safely house over 35,000 artifacts, revitalize culture, language and share our story with an array of indoor and outdoor spaces will allow the cultural centre to deliver on its mission in ways we can only imagine.



A RESPONSIBILITY

to those faces yet to come

The new Centre will ensure the facilitation of Indigenous and non-Indigenous understanding by providing education opportunities, producing innovative exhibitions, promoting local artists and creating language resources.

VISION

As a centre of excellence, Woodland Cultural Centre envisions a future where Hodinohsho:ni people will speak their language, know and practice their culture, and share their history.

MISSION

Our mission is to protect, promote, interpret, and present the Hodinohsho:ni worldview.



BUILDING *for generations to come*

A new facility for the next generations will preserve our culture, our stories and a fundamental part of this countries history

Housed within the grounds of the oldest and longest running Residential School in

Canada The Woodland Cultural Centre (WCC) was established in October 1972, upon the closure of the Mohawk Institute Residential School (MI). WCC's focus began on collecting research and artifacts, to develop its library and museum collections, expanding to include the arts in 1975 and the language program in 1984.

With over 35 thousand artifacts and pieces of contemporary Indigenous art in our Museum collection, the Centre is one of the largest facilities in Canada managed and administered by First Nations.

The WCC serves to preserve, promote and strengthen Indigenous language, culture, art and history; bringing the story of the Hodinohsho:ni people of the Eastern Woodlands to life through innovative exhibitions and programs.

As an organization with historic expertise and strong community connections, WCC has a key role to play in knowledge and learning through its program offerings, including museum, language, education, library and arts.



THE NEED

A new build will allow Woodland Cultural Centre to carry on the legacy of caring for our stories

For 50 years, the Woodland Cultural Centre has been programming and delivering services from the retrofitted Mohawk Institute Residential School classroom and gymnasium that was built in 1954. The building has undergone several repairs and retrofits, but it never functioned well as a proper Cultural Centre with a museum, gallery spaces, collections storage, and programming space.

With the opening of the restored former Mohawk Institute Residential School in the Fall of 2024, the Woodland Cultural Centre anticipates a large influx of visitors both nationally and internationally as the only fully restored and interpretive site of its kind. This historical milestone will keep us moving towards our mission to protect, promote, interpret and present the Hodinohsho:ni worldview both past present and future.



The need for a new Cultural Centre is mindful to three essential areas:



Revitalization of Language, Culture & History through Programming

The ability to provide programming to visitors and community members alike through our programming is driven through the revitalization of language and culture and the ability to both teach and learn through different programs available at WCC. The community and visitor ability to share and learn the culture, language and history is limited due to the lack of space and resources currently available at WCC and programming restricted due to the cultural centres current capacity.

Artifact preservation, protection and accessibility

The current collection storage has been through many retrofitting's to better suit the over thirty-five thousand artifacts that are accessioned in the collections of the Museum. With such a large collection the Museum at the Centre is one of the largest and most influential facilities in Canada managed and administered by First Nations. Continuing the ongoing issues faced for the collections is no longer sustainable for WCC. As best practices in the museum sector are changing many non-Indigenous organizations and private collectors are seeking to return artifacts/belongings as part of reconciliation, currently WCC does not have the physical space to accept these important belongings on behalf of the community.



Continuous Organizational Growth

With the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action the WCC has naturally become a source for many educators and citizens to seek knowledge in becoming a part of the movement. Without the capacity to increase attendance, grow programs and generate more revenue the opportunity for organizational growth, eminence and vitality are compromised. This also speaks to the ability to the lack of space to demonstrate knowledge and story telling through artifacts and art exhibits alike.



CREATING A PURPOSEFUL SPACE FOR MEANINGFUL INTERACTIONS





A SPACE TO PRESERVE OUR STORIES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



A NEW SPACE FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES

conscious of our needs

- Class A – ongoing care of current collections and support return of cultural items
- Purposeful space for meaningful interaction between communities
- Environmentally sustainable building
- Supporting Indigenous self-determination and narrative sovereignty
- Support for cultural revitalization, community wellbeing & mental health
- Honouring survivors and their experiences as the site of one of the few remaining residential school buildings in Canada

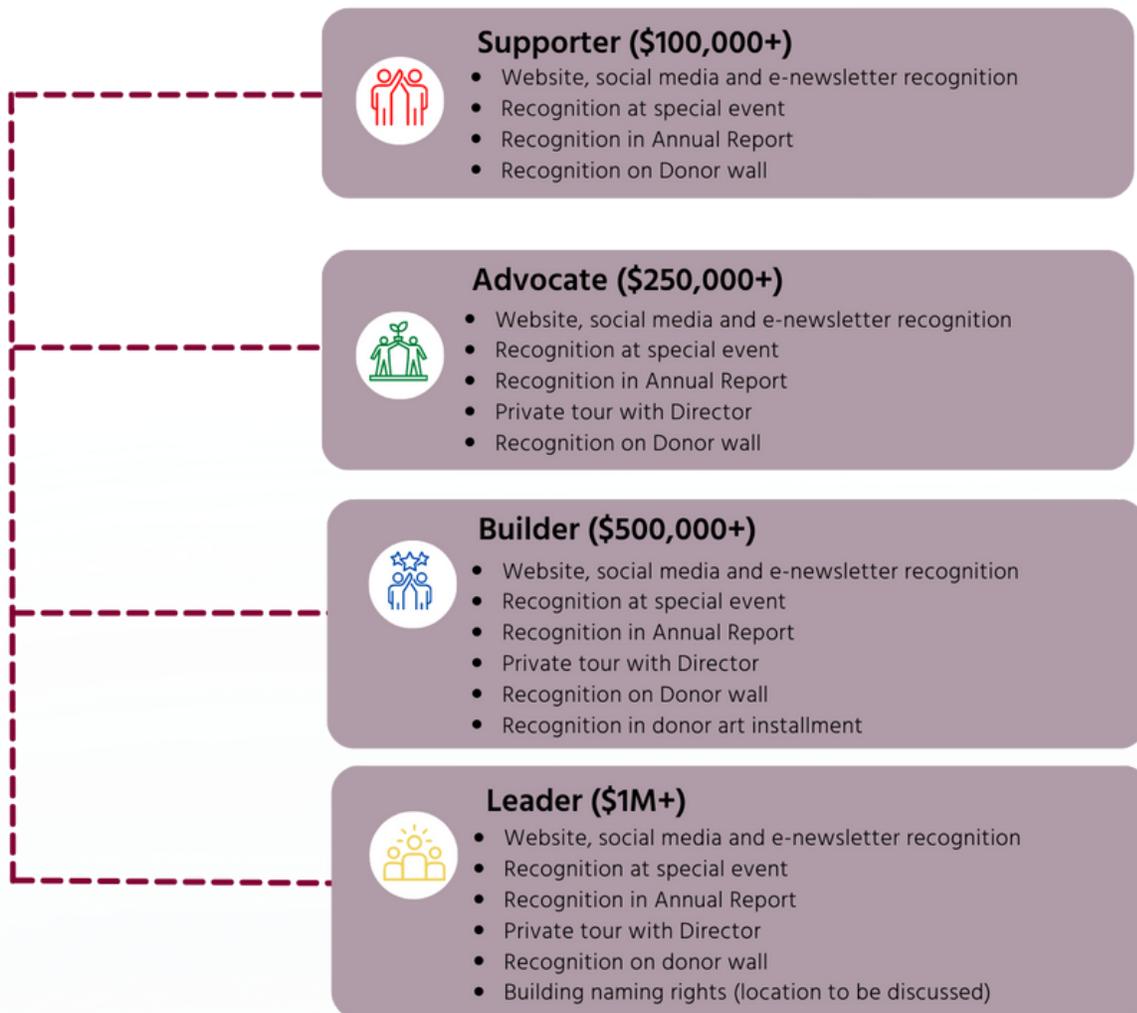


Woodland Cultural Centre currently has a 20,725 visitor base with the opening of the Mohawk Institute residential school interpretation centre and the new Cultural Centre there is a projected growth of 80,000 visitors per year.

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A \$65M CAMPAIGN GOAL

DONOR RECOGNITION LEVELS



Wish to make a larger gift to the campaign? contact us at campaign@woodlandculturalcentre.ca for more information

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