

2025



Shaping the future of heritage

The future of heritage depends on new voices, fresh perspectives, and creating opportunities for the next generation to share our city's stories. Last year, 37 young professionals participated in the Emerging Historians program, building skills, confidence, and experience in the heritage and non-profit sectors. Through paid contracts, 22 Emerging Historians from across the city developed and led more than 20 equity-focused tours and workshops, broadening representation in the stories of Toronto's past, present, and future.

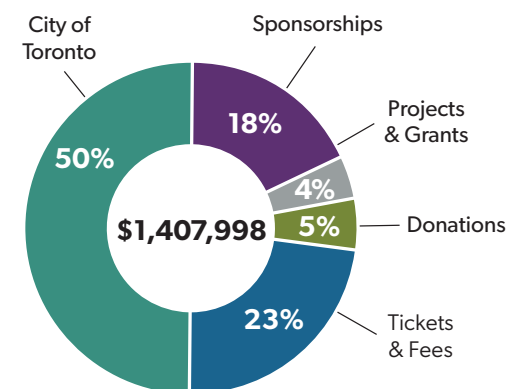
Through the Equity Heritage Initiative, we undertook multiple projects from digital experiences to an advocacy report, to new community partnership guidelines. We engaged with university students to uncover stories of resilience and community in Toronto's roller sports history and hired a full-time coordinator to support inclusive, community-centred heritage work.

Through the Emerging Historians program, I gained new professional skills, mentorship, and plenty of Toronto-focused historical knowledge. Most importantly, I was able to work directly with communities, help tell their stories, and spark interest in the city's heritage. The program has made a lasting impression on me and allowed me to pursue my long-standing passion for history.

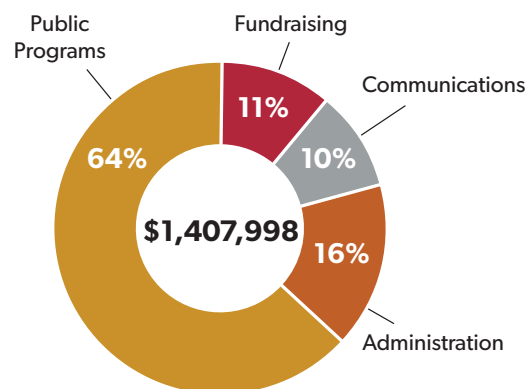
— Ela Gach

2025 financials

Revenue



Expenses



Final 2025 Financial Statements, audited by Doane Grant Thornton, will be available at heritagetoronto.org by May 1, 2026.

Land acknowledgement

Heritage Toronto is located on the traditional territory of the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Anishinaabeg, including the Chippewa and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, Toronto is host to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. Toronto is within the territory of the Dish with One Spoon Treaty which requires responsibility of those who use the land to share it peaceably and care for it. Heritage Toronto acknowledges this responsibility and recognizes the efforts of these nations in maintaining the land.

More of the Annual Report is online!
Read it now:



Image credits

Images by Oscar Akamine, Hammad Khalil, and Jesse McDougall.

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Heritage Toronto is a charity and arms-length agency of the City of Toronto.



Annual Report

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Thriving under pressure

Our organization is about people—those who shaped our city’s history and those who reflect on this history to make a meaningful contribution to the city’s future. Among this group are our supporters, Toronto City Council, community partners, and volunteers. Together, we have successfully faced rapid changes in the sector and achieved amazing results in our public programming.

Over the last five years under the guidance of our outgoing Chair of the Board, Liza Chalaidopoulos, along with the efforts of our larger Heritage Toronto family, visits to digital programs grew 139% and website users are up 328%. We invested in audio technology and prioritized a low-fee model for our 30-year-old Tours program, increasing its revenues by 200%. We expanded our commitment to accessible experiences for all Torontonians, launching the Equity Heritage Initiative and introducing free community event programming. Last year, free attendance accounted for 62% of all participants for our in-person programs.

With thanks to Liza and all our supporters and partners, we will build on this foundation, ensuring the public impact of heritage programming soars.
Allison Bain
Executive Director

As I end my role as Chair, I am grateful for the opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the last five years. Both tumultuous and triumphant, my term began with lockdowns and physical distancing. We both met these challenges and thrived, forging a path forward.

I have been fortunate to experience the dedication of people in this organization—Allison, the staff, volunteers, and my fellow Board members. As a volunteer for eight years, I am proud to have worked alongside them in ensuring the diverse stories of Toronto’s people, places, and events are told.

Although we faced increasing pressure on our work from those who would reassert



colonial narratives and undermine equity-based perspectives, together we continued fact-based discussions and debates on our city’s heritage, while also taking delight and joy in the fun and sometimes silly aspects of Toronto’s history.

While my time here has come to a close, I will continue to cheer Heritage Toronto on as an advocate, champion, and life-long supporter.
Liza Chalaidopoulos
Chair, Board of Directors

Program highlights

Last year, we built on our public programming, bringing Toronto’s stories to life through guided tours, community events, and new plaques across the city. We also marked a milestone with the 50th Annual Heritage Toronto Awards. With the support of our sponsors and donors, we highlighted the collective contributions of 623 individuals and groups over the past five decades whose award-winning work has not only shaped the heritage sector, but also the very identity of Toronto.

Across this work, we continued to broaden the stories represented in Toronto’s heritage landscape. Many of our tours, plaques, and other programs highlighted equity-centred narratives, bringing forward histories that have too often been overlooked. Together, these programs sparked important conversations and made heritage more relevant, inclusive, and accessible to Toronto’s diverse communities.



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