

Evergreen Brick Works Community Spotlight Series: Call for expression of interest

About Evergreen & Evergreen Brick Works

Evergreen is a national non-profit transforming public spaces in our cities to build a healthier future for people and our planet. Evergreen Brick Works is an example and showcase of how that comes to life and is made possible.

With over 30 years of championing urban sustainability, we see the potential of our cities to solve some of the biggest issues facing our time and believe that our public spaces are the key to unlocking it. We see beyond the spaces that exist today and imagine them transformed into places where people and nature thrive.

After all, great places aren't just one thing; they're many. They're green places that are inclusive and vibrant, community places that bring people together, and regenerative places that don't just help the planet but heal it as well. Because people and nature both deserve the right to a healthy life, and we want to protect that right long into the future.

But we don't do it alone. All of our work is done with the communities we serve to ensure that every place is transformed for the better through local solutions that serve local needs.

In 2010, Evergreen transformed a collection of deteriorating heritage buildings into an 11-acre global showcase for green design and an award-winning public space.

Open year-round, Evergreen Brick Works welcomes more than 500,000 visitors annually to experience its public markets, participate in conferences and events, enjoy outdoor learning and nature play, and explore public art in the heart of Toronto's ravine system. Evergreen Brick Works (the Brick Works) offers a unique experience for everyone and inspires ideas to fuel flourishing cities of the future by connecting people with natural and built worlds.

Find out more about Evergreen [here](#).

Community Programming Opportunity

In 2025 Evergreen supported 37 different partners with 81 different programs and activations on our site. Together with these partners we were able to bring free and unique programming that helped create a welcoming and vibrant public space. We recognize there are still many amazing, thoughtful, creative communities doing great work, looking for opportunities and exciting spaces to promote their work and engage communities.

NEW Space: Evergreen is developing of the existing heritage buildings at the Evergreen Brick Works site (EBW) into a new interpretive Ravine Centre and Indigenous Programming Hub (working title), expanding our offerings at EBW as one of the growing collections of community and programmatic hubs along the envisioned ravine loop trail.

For the 2026 season, we are specifically seeking to amplify arts and culture initiatives and will prioritize projects led by or serving equity-seeking groups, including Indigenous-led projects.

We have space, and you have ideas – let's work together to spotlight them at Evergreen Brick Works.

Goals of community programming

- Animate the Brick Works through low cost, inclusive, accessible, diverse, innovative and community-centred programs
- Amplify and centre a wide variety of voices, communities, and cultures at the Brick Works
- Showcase and demonstrate through exciting programming the value of sustainable and inclusive public space
- Provide a dedicated platform for arts and culture that reflects the diverse fabric of Toronto, with a specific focus on supporting equity-seeking groups.

Evergreen Brick Works Programs

Evergreen Brick Works runs a number of programs throughout the year. We are looking for Community Spotlight’s that can elevate existing programs or are large enough to stand on their own.

Evergreen run programs include:

- Farmers Market (Every Saturday, year-round)
- Artisan and Vintage Market (select Sundays, May-October)
- Nature-play in our Children's Garden (weekends, year-round)
- Land based Programming (year-round)
 - Community food gardens, drum circles, traditional crafting, medicine walks
- Recreation programs
 - Drop-in Skateboarding, public ice skating -
- Workshops and Education
- Public Tours of The Brick Works and surrounding areas (year-round)
- Festivals
 - Festivals are larger site-wide events that happen a few times a year. This year's line-up includes Earth Month (April) Good Mourning Festival (October), Winter Market (December) and more.

Our calendar at the Brick Works runs on seasonal themes. Applicants do not need to follow the themes, but the more alignment there is with a theme, the more likely we are to choose it.

- WINTER (Jan-March) – Health & Wellbeing
- SPRING (April-June) – Tackling the Climate Crisis
- SUMMER (July-September) – Connections with Nature
- FALL (October-December) – Empowering Communities

<p>Our Spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>CRH Gallery & Koerner Gardens</u> • <u>Young Centre</u> • <u>Pavilions</u> • <u>BMO Atrium</u> • <u>Meeting Rooms</u> 	<p>Past Community Spotlight Program examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theatrical performances • Musical Performances • Storytelling events • Sound baths • Bolly Yoga
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Tim and Frances Price Terrace</u> • <u>Bricks and Bites kitchen</u> • <u>The Children's Garden</u> • <u>Tiffany Commons</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop in sustainable and nature-based art programs • Community Mural and art projects • Film screenings
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Community Spotlight Parameters

- Programs can run on any day of the week. Applicants may request a specific day or a range of dates, but Evergreen will determine the final date. We will prioritize proposals which align with other programming we're running (i.e. Earth Month, Good Mourning, etc)
- Ideas can be for a one-off or recurring
- Must be free, low cost and open to the public
 - Programs and workshops that have higher costs associated will be considered if revenue sharing opportunities can exist
- Runs for at least 2 hours, to a maximum of 4 hours
- Must follow Evergreen's emergency protocols and procedures
- Applicants may request that their spotlight run during a specific Evergreen program Festival. Evergreen will make the final determination, reserves the right to run Evergreen programming concurrently
- Applicants must be aware that the Community Spotlight Series may be supported financially by Evergreen donors and sponsors. Evergreen reserves the right to extend sponsorship deliverables to Spotlight partners within reason.
- Evergreen has funding partners and expects that Spotlight partners will work with Evergreen to recognize them in an appropriate manner

Benefits of participation include:

- Free space in one of Toronto's most sought-after and unique venues
- Event production and logistical support from Evergreen staff
- Marketing & promotion through Evergreen & Evergreen Brick Works channels
- Opportunity to access a bursary to support the program (to a maximum amount of \$1000). Applicants who do not have access to other funding will receive priority. Please note bursaries are limited, applicants are encouraged to submit flexible programming that does not require bursary. Not all applicants will receive a bursary.
- Evergreen staff may be able to provide Letters of support for grant applications

Recognition & Reporting :

- Successful applicants are required to acknowledge Evergreen's support in all printed and online materials, promotions, and during any public remarks.
- All printed and online materials and promotions must be reviewed and approved by Evergreen
- Spotlight partners who have funding or in-kind support from other partners must disclose this to Evergreen. In some cases, sponsorship & media agreements must be approved by Evergreen in advance of their public release.
- Spotlight partners must fill out a short survey post-performance
- Evergreen may photograph and record performances and have the right to use them as needed in marketing and promotions. We can share the photographs and recordings with the Spotlight partner upon request.

Examples of programs could include:

- Temporary public art installations
- Exhibitions
- Community-centred arts programs
- Music, dance, and multi-disciplinary performances
- Nature and land-based programs
- Conservation, sustainability and other environmental programs
- Workshops and classes
- Education and Children's Programs - Visiting Schools Program, Camps, Nature School
- Food programming
- Buskers
- Recreation and active living
- Guided tours/community walks
- Programs connected to monthly Evergreen themes mentioned above

We are looking for projects that prioritize building community over visibility. Programs and activities intended for promotion, or advertising may not be a good fit

Applications are open to any of the following in the GTHA:

- Community groups
- Charities
- Non-profit organizations
- Small businesses*
- Individuals
- Collectives

*Small businesses may apply, but the program cannot be a marketing activation, such as sampling. It must be an event or activity that has community benefit. Businesses are not eligible for a bursary.

Proposal criteria and evaluation

- Proposals will be selected by a committee and based on the following criteria:
 - The strength of the proposed program – is it innovative and engaging, and does it demonstrate the value of public space?
 - The applicant's experience – is there a track record of successful programming?
 - Execution plan of the proposed program
 - Marketing and promotional plan – is there a clear understanding of the audience?
 - Does the applicant demonstrate a realistic ratio of staff-to-workload to ensure program success?
 - Clearly demonstrate inclusivity, accessibility and sustainability
 - Aligned with Evergreen's values of Connection (We prioritize relationships.), Innovation (We learn and grow every day.) and Sustainability (We leave behind a better world.)

We will prioritize equity-deserving groups, including Indigenous and racialized people, people with disabilities, and people from 2SLGBTQ+ communities. Members from those groups are welcome to disclose based on their comfort level.

Application process

Please submit an application using this [Jotform link](#)

Timelines

- **For Programming May – August 2026**
 - Applications launch January 10th
 - Deadline February 10th

- **For Programming Sept – December 2026**
 - Applications Launch May 1st
 - Deadline June 1st

For any questions please email festivals_activations@evergreen.ca