



CULTURAL POLICY

CITY OF **DOLLARD-DES-ORMEAUX**

JUNE 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents2

Introduction3

A word from the Mayor3

Process4

Purpose of the Cultural Policy5

Reference framework of the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications5

Municipal role6

Definition of culture7

Profile and analysis8

Elements of the sociodemographic profile8

Cultural offerings of the City9

Facilities10

City programming12

Cultural programming14

Cultural management at the City16

Cultural offerings of cultural and community groups16

Analysis18

Cultural Policy20

Role of the municipality in culture20

Vision20

Guiding principles21

Directions22

Direction 1: Promote facility upgrades22

Direction 2: Strengthen the vitality of the cultural ecosystem23

Direction 3: Boost cultural vitality24

Direction 4: Encourage citizen participation in cultural life25

Direction 5: Further structure culture management within the municipal administration27

Acknowledgements28

INTRODUCTION

A WORD FROM THE MAYOR



In a constantly changing world, culture remains an essential reference point. It fuels our imagination, weaves ties between generations and reflects the richness of our diversity. In Dollard-des-Ormeaux, a resolutely multicultural city, culture is already at the heart of our collective identity.

Our iconic places – the municipal library, the Centre for the Arts, the community centre and the Marché de l'Ouest, among others – are vibrant hubs of knowledge, creativity and connection. Our annual celebrations – national holidays, International Day, Winter Carnival and cultural festivals – showcase our community's pride, openness and vitality.

Today, we are taking an important

new step. Through the public consultation “Building Together the Cultural Policy of Dollard-des-Ormeaux,” our residents, artists and organizations have actively participated in developing our first municipal cultural policy. The aim of this collective project is to enrich an already strong culture by affirming a shared, inclusive and inspiring vision.

Thank you for making our city a vibrant, supportive and engaged place to live. Your ideas, voices and dreams are essential to the development of this culture of ours — a culture that brings us together, reflects who we are, and makes us proud.

ALEX BOTTAUSCI
MAYOR OF DOLLARD-DES-ORMEAUX

PROCESS

The City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux initiated the development of a cultural policy to structure and enhance its cultural offerings and to make these resonate with the citizens. Creating a first cultural policy requires not only the **engagement of elected officials** but also that of the **cultural community, artists** and the **public**. In the process, Dollard-des-Ormeaux considered all the social, demographic, community, and cultural dimensions of the city, to produce a concise policy document outlining the objectives and a vision for the future that will make Dollard-des-Ormeaux's cultural offerings richer and more inclusive.

This first cultural policy was developed, through a rigorous process, by the persons responsible for culture and recreation at the City, with the support of ArtExpert. The process began with establishing the **sociodemographic profile** of the population and a complete review of the current cultural offerings. These steps made it possible to **analyse** and identify the key issues and challenges specific to Dollard-des-Ormeaux. A **public consultation** with stakeholders and citizens enriched this analysis and helped establish the groundwork for the desired actions to structure and improve the cultural offerings. A **follow-up committee**, made up of key community members, closely monitored the successful completion of the process. Dialogue with the committee enabled us to remain current on the realities specific to Dollard-des-Ormeaux and align the vision for future development of cultural offerings with the needs expressed.



Dollard Centre for the Arts

PURPOSE OF THE CULTURAL POLICY

Reference framework of the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications

The reference framework proposed by the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications for cultural development agreements stems from commitments outlined in Quebec's Cultural Policy titled **Partout, la culture**, and its 2018–2023 governmental action plan for culture¹. This framework serves as a guideline for the development of municipal policies.

With this cultural policy, the government aims to promote culture in the daily lives of all citizens throughout the regions of Quebec, as well as on the international stage and in the digital environment. These goals are summarized in the following four directions:

- To contribute to individual and collective fulfillment through culture
- To shape an environment that is conducive to the creation and promotion of arts and culture
- To enhance the relationship between place and culture
- To increase the contribution of culture and communications to Quebec's economy and development

1. [Plan d'action gouvernemental en culture 2018-2023](#)

Municipal role



Dollard Centre for the Arts

The role of municipalities is to create environments conducive to improving quality of life, generating wealth and establishing a social balance that enables each person to flourish within the environment in which they have chosen to live. Cultural and recreational initiatives and an active community environment all contribute to community development².

To create these favourable environments, the Quebec government encourages municipalities to adopt a cultural policy. The municipal cultural policy helps clearly define the role of culture in a local context. While giving shape to the aspirations of cultural stakeholders and citizens, it expresses the elected officials' vision of cultural development. It also highlights the assets and opportunities available to the community, which are key factors in its development.

In short, the municipal cultural policy engages the entire community in a defining movement.³

DEFINITION OF CULTURE



Marché de l'Ouest

The UNESCO 1982 Mexico Declaration on Cultural Policies defines culture as the distinct spiritual, material, intellectual, and emotional features characterizing a society. It encompasses arts, lifestyle, human rights, value systems, traditions, and beliefs. Culture shapes individuals and societies, fostering unity through shared values and traditions.



2. [Role of municipalities in culture](#)
3. [Guide d'élaboration d'une politique municipale, page 3](#)

PROFILE AND ANALYSIS

ELEMENTS OF THE SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The sociodemographic profile helps us anticipate future needs and shape the development of the cultural sector in terms of its role within local communities, both present and future.

The City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux is a unique mosaic of communities living together in harmony in **one of the happiest cities in all of Quebec**⁴. Its population is made up of 40% immigrants and 43% visible minorities, composed in large part of South Asian, Arab and

Black communities. Two-thirds of the population are English-speaking, and one in five citizens speaks French as their official first language. This diversity greatly enriches the city's cultural landscape, making it important to program cultural activities in which everyone can see themselves reflected.

The population of Dollard-des-Ormeaux is relatively well-off. The average household income surpasses that of Greater Montreal by almost \$20,000. Two-thirds of households have an annual income of more than \$60,000. However, this income is distributed among a larger number of people than the average. In fact, on average, the city's households are larger than those in the metropolitan region, with an especially high proportion of households with more than three people.

CULTURAL OFFERINGS OF THE CITY

For Dollard-des-Ormeaux, culture is rooted in the DNA of its history, communities, wealth, practices, expressions, knowledge and values which shape its identity and appeal.



4. List of the happiest cities in Quebec, Léger survey, 2021

Facilities

The Civic Centre houses the city's main sports, recreational and cultural facilities, making it the meeting place of citizens. It consists of City Hall, the library, three arenas, two swimming pools, the community centre, the cultural centre and the City Gallery. In addition, the Civic Centre is home to the Dollard-des-Ormeaux Aquatic Association, DDO Seniors Club and Dollard Centre for the Arts, which offer their activities and services to the community.



Among these organizations, the **library** is widely recognized for its services and layout.



PRIX DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES PUBLIQUES DU QUÉBEC

In 2024, the Dollard-des-Ormeaux public library was a finalist for a Prix des bibliothèques publiques du Québec in the “outreach” category for its project titled “Promotion de la lecture jeunesse et suggestion de lectures pour les jeunes” [Promotion of reading among young people and recommended readings for youth] inspired by the “BookTube” and “BookTok” phenomena.

“TD SUMMER READING CLUB” AWARD

In 2023, it garnered a “TD Summer Reading Club” award from Library and Archives Canada.

PRIX DENIS-VAUGEOIS

In 2022, it received the Prix Denis-Vaughois pour l'aménagement de bibliothèques publiques for its renovations.



City programming



Coubli by Donald Dogbo, August 2024

The City is a member of the Association des diffuseurs culturels de l'Île de Montréal (ADICIM). By working together, particularly with neighbouring municipalities, members avoid competing in programming, and



My Urban Nature by A'nó:wara Dance Theatre, June 2024



Project Dharani by Lavanya Narasiah, May 2025

coordinate resources to present a well-known artist, something that they could not do individually. In this context, the initiatives of the CAM en tournée [Touring program of the Conseil des arts de Montréal] are presented as part of **Cultural Fridays**.



L'amant jaloux by Valérie Milot, March 2023



Cultural programming



The City's rich and varied cultural programming comprises a series of activities, including shows, workshops, conferences, and more. In addition to its core programming, the cultural offerings are enriched by a community and recreational dimension, providing a range of varied activities accessible to all. Visitors can discover exhibitions at the library, take part in Literary Rendez-vous or enjoy reading outdoors with Library in the Park and the **Mobile Library**.



Artists' Association of Dollard's Art Exhibition

Finally, one-off events, such as the Artists' Association of Dollard's art exhibition and the Fine Arts and Crafts Market, enrich this diversified programming, making this space a true meeting place for cultural exchange.

For young readers, the TD Summer Reading Club and Story Time liven up the days, while Once Upon a Time provides moments of fun around a story. Music is also high on the agenda with the **public piano**.



Fine Arts and Crafts Market

Cultural management at the City

In 2022, the City's cultural budget was close to \$4 million. \$3.5 million of this was dedicated to cultural facilities, such as the library; \$120,000 went to two organizations for the production of cultural events (i.e., the Dollard Centre for the Arts and the West Island Blues Festival); and close to \$21,000 was distributed in artists' fees.

Dollard-des-Ormeaux employs several people to ensure the successful development of culture on its territory, including:

- Division Head – Library and Culture
- Section Head – Public Services (library)
- Section Head – Youth Resources (library)
- Animation Library Technician
- Animation Library Assistant

CULTURAL OFFERINGS OF CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

Dollard-des-Ormeaux boasts a rich artistic presence. It is home to 130 people whose main source of income is the arts, representing 0.5% of its working population. More than half of these (70) are active in music and



Dollard Centre for the Arts



dance. This figure excludes the many residents who participate in the arts without deriving their main income from artistic endeavours.

The City also relies on several cultural and recreational organizations. Among these, the **Dollard Centre for the Arts is a true pillar**, offering artistic training in various disciplines while managing the City Gallery and supporting the Artists' Association of Dollard. Local culture is bolstered by cultural entities, including the Swinging Stars Square Dance Club, DDO Pop Choir and the West Island Youth Symphony Orchestra. Dollard-des-Ormeaux's cultural ecosystem is considerably enriched by the contribution of community organizations, which represent the diverse cultural communities on its territory. In addition, the City is proud to host a major cultural event: the West Island Blues Festival, offering cultural programming across the entire West Island.

ANALYSIS

Developing a cultural policy requires analyzing the supply (professional and recreational offerings) and demand (cultural consumers) present on a given territory. The various documentary research and stakeholder consultations conducted throughout the process of developing the City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux's first cultural policy helped us draw key conclusions and identify the issues and challenges to be addressed by the policy.

The Dollard-des-Ormeaux community benefits from exceptional artistic wealth. Its population includes **130 professional artists**, guaranteeing an inclusive and diversified cultural offering for all. In addition, its environment is filled with **green spaces** and ecological corridors, providing a pleasant and healthy quality of life. The future also looks



Dollard Centre for the Arts

promising with the construction of the REM and new housing units, which will revitalize the area. Finally, the population of Dollard-des-Ormeaux boasts a **good pool of engaged volunteers**, who are the driving force behind its social and community fabric.

Despite all these assets, Dollard-des-Ormeaux faces **several challenges**. The limited size of the team responsible for cultural activities limits the City's development capacities. The lack of accessibility to public transit is also a weak point, presenting a barrier for part of the population, making it more difficult to attend certain activities. The absence of a cultural policy prior to 2025 also hindered long-term strategic planning. Finally, the lack of space for indoor events, worsened by recent flooding, represents an obstacle to hosting large-scale cultural events.

The entire community faces significant challenges that require specific attention. There is an important need to remain aware of the competitive cultural offerings in neighbouring municipalities, particularly Montréal. The limited size and capacity of the team dedicated to culture and recreation is a major concern that could impact Dollard-des-Ormeaux's ability to innovate and organize

events. It is critical to promote cultural accessibility - particularly related to language or cultural background - to ensure a truly inclusive offering. A potential demographic decline, combined with a significant increase in the population aged 75 and over, add additional pressure on programming, which must adapt accordingly. Finally, the construction of the REM will facilitate access to Downtown Montréal for residents, thereby increasing competition for the public's attention.



CULTURAL POLICY

ROLE OF THE MUNICIPALITY IN CULTURE

The City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux has very few independent cultural organizations. Most of the cultural and recreational offerings in Dollard-des-Ormeaux are organized and managed by the Division Head – Library and Culture. The City is therefore both a promoter and a presenter of cultural offerings.

VISION

The City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux aspires to be a dynamic cultural hub in which artistic and cultural diversity is celebrated and accessible to all. By increasing its investments in culture, the City hopes to foster greater cultural vitality in the spirit of diversity, equity and inclusion.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Below are the guiding principles that flow from this vision:

- Foster cultural citizenship
- Encourage participation
- Maintain cultural democracy
- Amplify cultural vitality
- Maintain physical and financial accessibility in the spirit of diversity, equity and inclusion
- Encourage the cross-sectoral integration of culture within the municipal administration



DIRECTIONS

Direction 1: Promote facility upgrades

FOCUS 1: PROVIDE SUITABLE SPACES FOR EXPERIENCING CULTURE



City Art Gallery

FOCUS 2: INCREASE THE NUMBER OF VENUES

- Consider designing parks in a way that allows for the dissemination of culture
- Continue optimizing the **library's garden** space
- Commission a feasibility study for the construction of a professional-grade venue



Direction 2: Strengthen the vitality of the cultural ecosystem

FOCUS 1: ENCOURAGE THE SUPPORT OF DOLLARD-DES-ORMEAUX'S ARTISTS

- Implement an art purchasing policy
- Ensure ongoing visibility and opportunities for local artists in Dollard-des-Ormeaux
- Encourage the professionalization of visual artists who live in Dollard-des-Ormeaux (display their works)



Dollard Centre for the Arts

FOCUS 2: CONNECT AND COORDINATE THE DRIVING FORCES OF CULTURE

- Maintain collaboration and coordination of cultural activities with other West Island cities
- Encourage bridge-building with professional community or cultural organizations in the city and neighbouring cities
- Explore the idea of creating an art symposium

FOCUS 3: STRENGTHEN SUPPORT FOR THE CULTURAL SECTOR

- Improve the funding for culture, notably through cultural development agreements
- Add a coordination resource to cultural programming

Direction 3: Boost cultural vitality

FOCUS 1: MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP A WIDE RANGE OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

- Pursue the outreach initiatives of the library
- Maintain a diversity of events (celebrations, markets, family events)
- Maintain a wide variety of activities at the library
- Encourage cultural activities that showcase multiculturalism
- Support exhibitions in indoor and outdoor municipal spaces (murals, parks, etc.)



Library in the Park

FOCUS 2: SHOWCASE HERITAGE

- Encourage the creation of heritage discovery routes
- Update the heritage inventory
- Produce a heritage statement of significance for each identified heritage building



Direction 4: Encourage citizen participation in cultural life

FOCUS 1: ENCOURAGE ACCESSIBILITY TO THE ARTS FOR SENIORS

- Enable physical accessibility in all locations



Dollard Centre for the Arts

- Adjust methods of communication
- Make culture a vector for breaking isolation

FOCUS 2: FOSTER A SENSE OF BELONGING TO DOLLARD-DES-ORMEAUX FOR ALL CULTURAL COMMUNITIES

- Create links with the various community associations present in Dollard-des-Ormeaux
- Encourage the implementation of cultural mediation activities adapted to all segments of the population
- Encourage activities that are accessible to diverse communities

FOCUS 3: ENCOURAGE THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH AND FAMILIES IN CULTURAL LIFE

- Encourage cultural offerings during school breaks
- Provide an opening for youth to experience culture
- Integrate municipal offerings into school and extracurricular activities

Provide an opening
for youth to
experience culture

Dollard Centre for the Arts

Direction 5: Further structure culture management within the municipal administration

FOCUS 1: FOSTER THE CROSS-SECTORAL INTEGRATION OF CULTURE WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

- Include cultural actions in Dollard-des-Ormeaux's sustainable development plan
- Align the cultural policy with other municipal policies

FOCUS 2: IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS RELATED TO CULTURE

- List Dollard-des-Ormeaux's artists
- Showcase Dollard-des-Ormeaux's artists in the City's communication tools
- Review the culture-related communication tools for citizens
- Mobilize artists and cultural and community organizations in the dissemination and promotion of cultural activities

Dollard Centre for the Arts

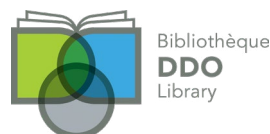
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Dollard-des-Ormeaux team:

Hélène Diamond, Division Head – Library and Culture

Hélène Bissonnette, Section Head – Reference
and Collections Development

Karine Montpetit, Marketing Technician



The follow-up committee:

Caroline Bischoff, Section Head – Sports and Recreation

Patrick Charron, Managing Director of the Dollard Centre for the Arts

Albena Petkova, Managing Director of the DDO Seniors Club

Angelo David Russo, member of the Artists' Association of Dollard

The ArtExpert team:

Nathalie Courville, CEO

Hugo Dufour, Research Coordinator

Luce Proulx, Data Analyst

Catherine Rennuy, Administrative Assistant



CITY OF DOLLARD-DES-ORMEAUX



12001, De Salaberry Boulevard
Dollard-des-Ormeaux (Quebec)
H9B 2A7

514-684-1010

ville@ddo.qc.ca

ville.ddo.qc.ca

