



Citizens Academy
Académie des citoyennes et citoyens

Vision: To support Ottawans in being the most vibrant, inclusive and engaged citizenry in Canada.

Mission: To offer shared (or co-) learning programs that develop the skills, knowledge, networks and confidence citizens need to constructively participate in their city, their community and their neighbourhood.

Why do this?

- Ottawa is rich with volunteer activity, but it is highly fragmented by geography, by ethno-cultural differences, by sector and by inequality. The Citizens Academy is about knitting together all this talent, and about building bridges.
- The Citizens Academy believes understanding and education are precursors to meaningful and constructive engagement, and municipal citizenship is an untapped resource for building a better Ottawa.
- Our future lies in the collaborative economy – creating synergies between government, business and civil society.



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- 1. Ensure representation from the diverse demographics of our city***
- 2. Offer a safe space for all citizens and all perspectives***
- 3. Establish rules of engagement for respectful dialogue***
- 4. Move from "me to we" perspectives***
- 5. Offer Alternatives/Opportunities for Participation***



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- ***What we do works.*** People are mobilized to pursue the common good.
- What we ***do builds bridges, creates networks, empowers people*** to build community.
- ***Beyond advocacy and beyond self-interest.*** Learning to work together for the common good.
- Demonstrating the links ***from local issues to city-wide impacts.*** Integrating economic, social and environmental issues so that tradeoffs are transparent and options are fully thought through
- ***No bureaucracy.*** The Academy is nested in existing organizations – learning from them and supporting them to be the best they can be.

What have we learned thus far?

- *There's an appetite and need*
- *Dialogue, Tools for Engagement, and Experiential Learning must be three inter-woven layers*
- *Online opportunity has potential*
- *Collaboration locally and nationally is a huge opportunity*



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What can you do to help?

- ***Visit the website to learn more.***
- ***Sign up for the newsletter.***
- ***Spread the word to your networks.***
- ***Volunteer for CA (web design and support; curriculum working groups; outreach; community stories for the histories of Ottawa and more...)***
- ***Participate in the French pilot on decision-making on February 12th 5:30 – 9 pm***
- ***Co-Organize a dialogue on your community's needs for civic literacy and engagement***

What can we do to help you?

We have many common goals. If we work together, we can achieve more.



www.citizensacademy.ca

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