



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.



Citizens Academy
Académie des citoyennes et citoyens

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.



Citizens Academy

Académie des citoyennes et citoyens

- 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***



Citizens Academy

Académie des citoyennes et citoyens

- ***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*



Citizens Academy
Académie des citoyennes et citoyens

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

Email: contact@citizensacademy.ca

Twitter: [@CA_Ottawa](https://twitter.com/CA_Ottawa)

Facebook: [Citizens Academy Ottawa](https://www.facebook.com/CitizensAcademyOttawa)