



**Carleton
University**

Carleton
Dominion-Chalmers
Centre

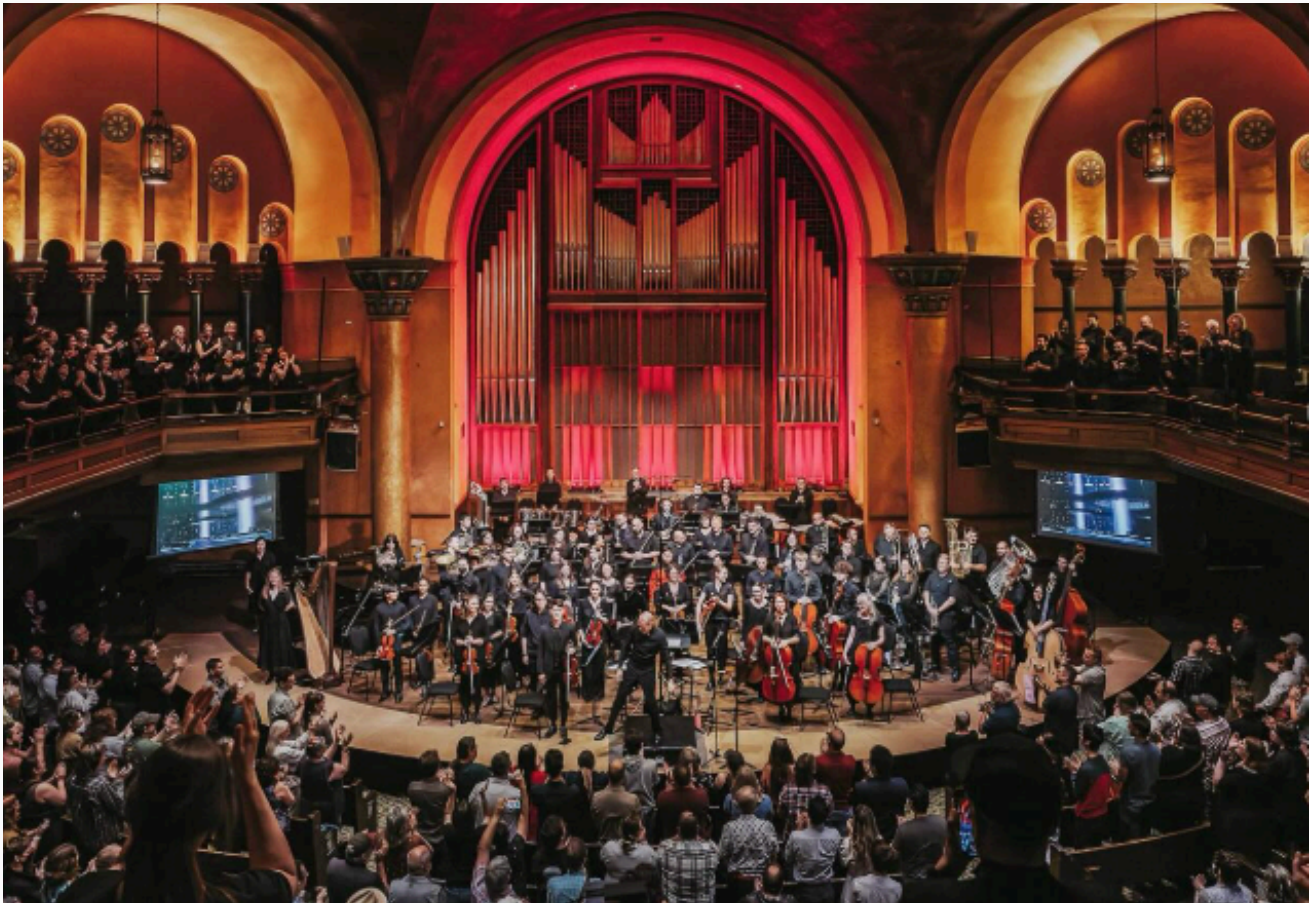
Create Legacy. Preserve Legacy.

Case for Support



Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre

A Place Where Heritage, Arts, and Community Meet



At the heart of downtown Ottawa stands the Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre (CDCC), a nationally significant heritage landmark and one of the city's most beloved cultural gathering spaces. Built between 1912 and 1914, the former United Church welcomed generations of Ottawans through its doors. Since 2019, as Carleton University's Arts, Performance and Learning Centre, CDCC continues this legacy with a new lens - connecting past and present while giving today's supporters the opportunity to create their own legacy as they help preserve this historic landmark.

Each year, tens of thousands of people pass through CDCC to attend concerts, performances, lectures, community events, and educational programs. From world-class music and local artistic expression to civic dialogue and learning, CDCC is more than a venue - it is a living, breathing community asset that links history, culture, and learning, and offers donors a chance to shape its future.

Why CDCC Matters

A Cultural Hub for Ottawa

CDCC plays a vital role in Ottawa's cultural ecosystem. Its architectural beauty, exceptional Main Hall acoustics, flexible event and meeting rooms, and central location make it a sought-after space for artists, presenters, educators, and community groups. The Centre supports a wide range of programming, from professional and emerging artists to community-led initiatives to university courses, ensuring broad access to arts and culture for diverse audiences.

A Place for Learning and Connection

As part of Carleton University, CDCC is uniquely positioned at the intersection of education, community engagement, and cultural practice. The Centre supports experiential learning opportunities for students, fosters partnerships across sectors, and provides a welcoming space where people of all ages and backgrounds can gather, learn, and be inspired.



A Steward of Heritage

As a designated heritage building, CDCC represents an irreplaceable part of Canada's architectural and cultural history. Preserving this landmark requires ongoing care and investment. To date, restoration initiatives have included digitizing the historic organ, restoring the awning and chimney, and revitalizing key community spaces – ensuring the building remains both protected and actively used.

Photo Credits: Music & Beyond (L), Carleton University (R)



■ Select Events from 2024-25 Season

Share. Serve. Strive...

In 2024-25, CDCC hosted hundreds of events that contributes to Carleton University's ambitious Strategic Integrated Plan - connecting learning, research, arts, and community in one historic space. By fostering creativity, preserving heritage, advancing equity and accessibility, and inspiring multi-generational and international engagement, CDCC demonstrates how experiential education and cultural programming can unite people, ideas, and disciplines to create lasting social impact.

Building on Success

Operating a historic cultural venue today is complex and resource-intensive. As an ancillary unit of the university, CDCC functions much like a non-profit - generating earned revenue through rentals and programming - yet this alone cannot fully support the long-term care of a heavily used heritage building.

Day-to-day operations are strong: programs are thriving, spaces are fully active, and hundreds of events and university learning experiences take place here each year. Philanthropic support enables strategic investments that build on this success, allowing donors to create their own legacy while preserving a historic and vibrant community asset. These contributions ensure the Centre continues to meet modern standards for learning, performance, accessibility, and community use.

CDCC offers a variety of meaningful ways to contribute, so donors and partners can align their support with their interests, values, and desired impact. Every gift - whether large or small - helps sustain a thriving centre for arts, learning, and community, while leaving a lasting mark on Ottawa's cultural and educational future.



Photo Credit: Melanie Mathieu

Priority Projects

Audio-Visual Recording Studio

\$2,000,000

Creating a dedicated, professional-grade recording space to support artists, students, and community users, expand digital access to performances and learning, and generate new revenue opportunities.

Foundation Structural Repairs

\$200,000

Addressing critical foundation and structural needs to safeguard the long-term integrity and safety of this nationally significant heritage building.

Washroom Upgrades

\$200,000

Modernizing public washrooms to improve accessibility, capacity, and visitor comfort while including the addition and enhancement of dedicated artist washroom and change facilities to better support performers and visiting artists.

Woodside Hall Improvements

\$150,000

Refreshing and enhancing Woodside Hall to improve the overall look, feel, and functionality of the space, ensuring it is welcoming and flexible for a wide range of artistic, educational, and community uses. Planned upgrades will also address underlying flooring and water-related issues to protect the structure and support long-term use.

Heritage Exterior Windows

\$150,000

Repairing and restoring heritage exterior windows to improve building performance, protect historic fabric, and enhance comfort while preserving architectural character.

Stage Refinishing

\$20,000

Standard refinishing performance stages to ensure safety, durability, and a professional presentation standard for artists and audiences.

Exterior Lighting

\$15,000

Upgrading exterior lighting to improve safety, visibility, and the building's presence in the downtown streetscape.

HVAC Rooftop Systems

\$300,000

Replacing and upgrading aging rooftop heating, ventilation, and cooling systems to protect the building, improve energy efficiency, ensure audience comfort, and meet modern performance requirements.

Seating Upgrades

\$200,000

Replacing and improving seating or cushions to enhance audience experience, accessibility, and sightlines while respecting the building's historic character.

Education Wing

\$200,000

Enhancing and renewing education spaces to support experiential learning, rehearsals, workshops, and community-based programming.



Organ Restoration and Care

\$50,000

Preserving and maintaining the historic organ - an integral artistic and heritage asset - to ensure its continued use in performances and education.

Garden Irrigation

\$20,000

Installing and improving irrigation systems to protect and sustain outdoor green spaces that contribute to the Centre's public realm and visitor experience.

Tripod Screens & Presentation Technology

\$5,000

Upgrading presentation and projection equipment to support lectures, multimedia performances, and hybrid programming.

Program Sponsorship

In addition to capital and infrastructure support, CDCC offers program sponsorship opportunities that allow donors and partners to directly support artistic and educational experiences while gaining meaningful recognition.

Program sponsorship opportunities may include:

- **Camps and Education Programs:** Sponsoring youth, student, and community camps and learning programs that foster creativity, skill-building, and access to the arts
- **Performances and Special Events:** Supporting standalone performances or curated presentation series, community celebrations, and special projects that respond to emerging opportunities and community interests
- **Student Work and Experiential Learning Opportunities:** Sponsoring paid student roles, internships, and hands-on learning opportunities that provide meaningful employment, mentorship, and real-world experience in arts administration, technical production, and cultural programming

Program sponsorships provide flexible, high-visibility ways to align with CDCC's mission while directly contributing to public access, artistic creation, and learning.



Unique Naming Opportunities

In recognition of significant contributions, CDCC offers naming opportunities for select spaces and project areas within the Centre. These opportunities provide donors with a meaningful and visible way to demonstrate their commitment to arts, education, heritage preservation, and community life.

Naming opportunities are limited and focused on a small number of high-impact spaces, including:

- New Recording Studio
- Woodside Hall
- Sanctuary Main Hall
- Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre (Building Naming)

Named spaces serve as enduring acknowledgements of generosity, linking donor legacy to a place that inspires creativity, learning, and connection for generations to come.

Photo Credit: Ottawa Chamberfest

Create Legacy. Preserve Legacy.

CDCC belongs to all of us who value learning, culture, heritage, and community life. Supporting the Centre is an investment in Ottawa's cultural and educational future, and a commitment to preserving a place where learning, creativity, and meaningful experiences are shared every day.

Together, we can ensure that the Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre remains a welcoming, inspiring, and resilient home for arts, learning, and community. Today and for generations to come.

We invite you to be part of CDCC's future. Your support-whether through a one-time gift, ongoing contribution, or legacy commitment-helps protect this remarkable place and sustain its vital role as a centre for education, artistic expression, and community connection in our city.

Help us sustain a landmark. Support learning. Strengthen community. Invest in culture.

Learn more

carleton.ca/cdcc/giving

Contact

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