

Cambridge Celebration of the Arts – It All Started at the Centre for the Arts!

In 2003 Mayor Doug Craig approached Cambridge artist Alan Denney to ask him about putting on an event to celebrate Cambridge arts and culture. From this meeting the Cambridge Mayor's Celebration of the Arts was launched. This annual event (now known as the Cambridge Celebration of the Arts) first took place in the Cambridge Centre for the Arts.

An event committee was established, with local artists, arts supporters, assisted by City staff from the Mayor's Office and the Centre for the Arts. This group, along with many additional volunteers, organized a fabulous evening of art shows and performances that filled the arts centre with creative expression and energy. Local restaurants participated with excellent food and drink for a wonderful evening. Attendance exceeded all expectations, with large crowds.

An important highlight was the first public performance of the Cambridge Community Orchestra, now known as the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra, in the Toyota Room. That was indeed an exciting moment for Cambridge arts and culture! The facility was packed from top to bottom with people enjoying the talents of local artists and performers.

The event eventually moved to the School of Architecture for several years, and then to City Hall and Civic Square with the Centre for the Arts running the Art Attic silent auction portion. It has continued to be a very well received annual tradition with significant community involvement through volunteers and sponsorships.

