



Hamilton/Burlington  
Society of Architects

# ANNUAL REPORT

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

AGATA MANCINI, Chair

JENNIFER KINNUNEN, Vice Chair

ESTHER LINK, Treasurer

DEVIN BRAUN, Secretary

2023





# OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

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2023 was the year to try out new meeting times, locations and hosting efforts. The year began with the focus on connecting to membership that might have been limited by previous, repetitive meeting dates, and increasing accessibility to the monthly discussions and learning initiatives. The decades-long tradition of meeting location was shaken-up, as a way to connect more directly to local restaurants, event spaces, and firm offices while also catering to a changing membership. Hosting meeting details on the new and improved website was also an effort to connect quickly and easily with our membership and keep everyone up to date with the society. Throughout the year some of our meetings were hosted at local architectural firm offices, while also providing video conference access. This was an attempt to reach the larger membership and allow firms to welcome each other into their homes.

In addition to reaching out to HBSA members and affiliates, the Society placed focus on reconnecting with the Construction Specifications Canada Hamilton / Niagara Chapter (CSC H-N) to discuss a return to regular continuing education events and the revival of the annual charity golf tournament. Throughout the year, several of the Society's events incorporated continuing education opportunities for members spanning a range of topics such as the intersection of urban expansion and gentrification, and implications to the approvals process brought on by recent municipal and provincial legislation changes.

On October 30th, the HBSA and the North Bay Society met virtually with OAA President Settime Vilardi and Kristi Doyle. The OAA reviewed the Society Toolkit—a direct result of the Society Chairs' meeting held in Sudbury earlier this year with open discussion and networking following the discussion.

The HBSA ended the year with a Holiday Party at the historic Powerhouse restaurant in Stoney Creek where we kicked off the annual Sock Drive - a collection initiative for warm socks which get donated to local missions and support groups. Other events included:



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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## **Passive House Conference**

Hamilton held the 2023 Passiv House Conference, where a select group of specialized HBSA members spoke on various topics and volunteered throughout the conference. The HBSA was a Silver Sponsor for this conference donating \$1,695.

## **Hamilton Doors Open**

This local event returned May 6-7, 2023, and the HBSA was pleased to support the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario's annual celebration of our local built heritage with a \$1000 donation.

## **Threshold School of Building – Bayfront Builders Challenge 2023**

Members of the HBSA participated in the Threshold School of Building Garden Furniture Building competition June 10th for the fourth time. Two teams from HBSA-YAH participated in the challenge, designing and building high-quality, innovative garden furniture, which was then auctioned off to local community members. The event helped to raise awareness of the School of Building and their programs to train at-risk youth in the building trades.

## **Golf Tournament**

CSC Hamilton-Niagara organized a long time favourite event of industry professionals and sponsored by the HBSA, the summer golf tournament was a hit. There were almost 80 industry professionals who participated in the day and the HBSA fundraised proceeds will be donated to Food4Kids Hamilton, directly benefiting our community's children.

## **Sock Drive**

YAH and HBSA also participated in our annual sock drive where 200 pairs of socks were collected to donate to vulnerable members in our community through local Missions and supportive services.

## **CoBALT Connects' Hamilton Winterfest**

Some of your HBSA and YAH members volunteered their time to support the local winterfest design-build. This year, designing a 6-hole, mini-golf installation, on the theme of 'toys from every decade' that will be enjoyed by the community throughout the month of February 2024.



# CONTINUING EDUCATION

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The HBSA organized several continuing education opportunities for its members in partnership with various organizations such as:

## **Steligen - ArcelorMittal**

The Steligen® initiative by ArcelorMittal Global R&D presented a series of building case studies that compared the speed of erection, the cost and environmental impacts of a functional equivalent building using alternative designs than the concrete baseline. The presentation focused on a six-storey mixed commercial/residential building located in Hamilton in which three structural scenarios for the same building were analyzed covering steel, concrete, and mass timber construction. Subsequently, information regarding ArcelorMittal decarbonization, net Zero roadmap and XCarb Low-carbon steel offering for construction was discussed.

## **Sound Solutions Facade Systems**

At the beginning of the 2023 year, Sound Solutions hosted the HBSA meeting which was an opportunity for them to showcase new and innovative exterior cladding materials, interior and exterior acoustic materials as well as other architectural solutions.

## **AGH Festival Panel Discussion & Film Screening**

During the fall, HBSA and YAH sponsored the showing of TVO's The Life-Sized City Season 3 Episode 5 - Hamilton. This episode showcased how young people, seeking opportunities, are priced out of the Toronto area, and how Hamilton provides a place of both affordable housing as well as opportunity. Following the episode viewing, a discussion panel was hosted to bridge to topics of local art, architecture and community building. The HBSA's very own Ken Coit, Director of Heritage and Urban Planning with the City of Hamilton hosted the film's featured local architects, entrepreneurs and artists to discuss the viewing as well as local initiatives five years later. The discussion was also an open platform for viewers to ask questions and connect with the speakers and each other.

The HBSA participated in several initiatives that helped to advocate for positive working relationships with the City of Hamilton as well as other industry groups, which helped to inform policies that promote the betterment of our built environment as well as the profession of architecture:

## City of Hamilton

### **Official Letters Issued by HBSA**

- Response to Hamilton's Housing Crisis and call for action (refer to appendix)
- Two-way main street conversion

### **Housing Density Studies**

- Various member-firms within the city supported the City of Hamilton's Planning Department with housing density studies as a means to test modifying density targets, by-laws, and other planning initiatives.

## Development Industry Liaison Group (DILG)

- The HBSA circulated the 2023 update to Hamilton's Engineered Design Guidelines through DILG distribution.

## Hamilton Halton Home Builders' Assoc. / West-End Home Builders' Assoc.

- The HBSA collaborated with both groups providing feedback to the City of Hamilton regarding various topics including the City's draft zoning changes. WE HBA advocated for regulations that reflect sensitivity to today's context and streamlining zoning to enable further opportunities for as-of-right permissions to support new housing demands.



# SPECIAL FUNDING

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The OAA contributed to several initiatives the Society undertook in 2023, including:

## **Website Redesign (Completed scope of 2022 funding)**

- This amount was put towards a complete redesign of the HBSA website to make consistent updating more convenient and accessible.

## **Power of Design Photography Book (\$5,000)**

- The Power of Design Photography Exhibition, which was funded in previous years, will become a permanent publication that showcases the architecture of hydro-electrical buildings in Hamilton. Our Affiliate member, Francis Fougere, gave an update at the last society meeting, that the documentation phase is advancing well.



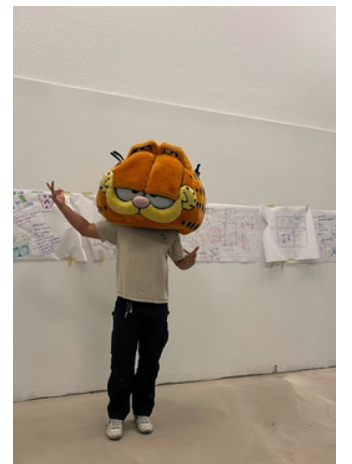
# A YEAR IN PICTURES





# A YEAR IN PICTURES

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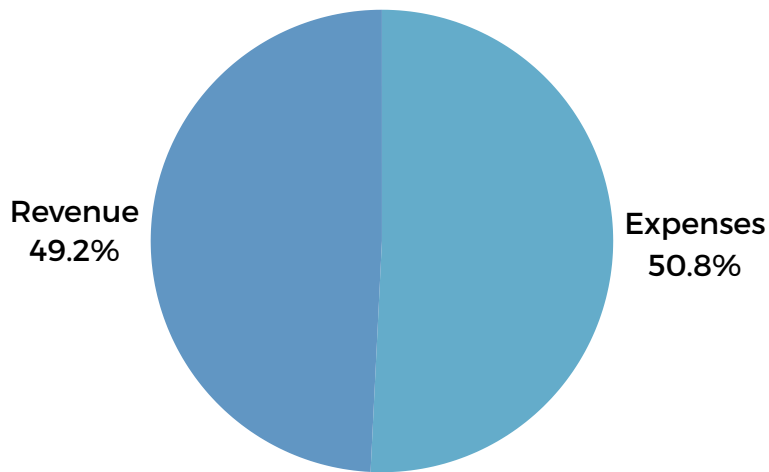


# FINANCIAL REPORT

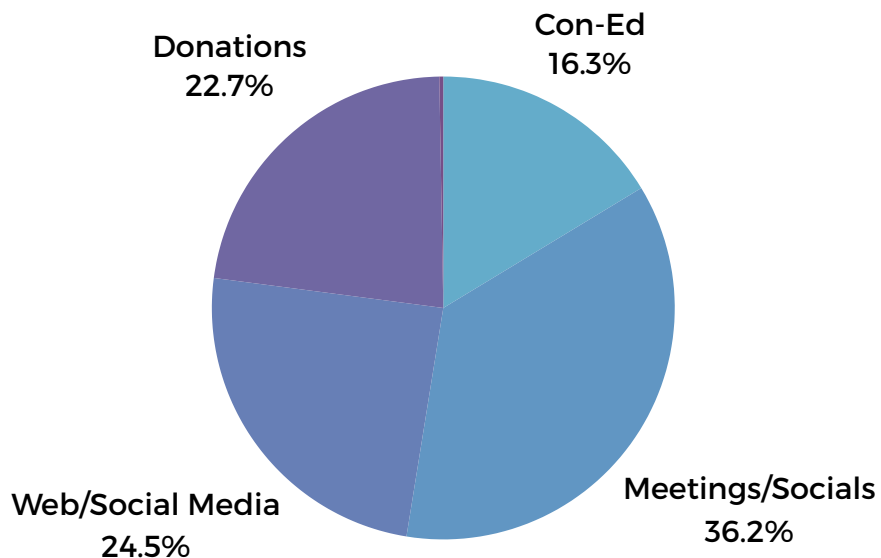
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The HBSA accounts saw greater activity with the return to in-person events and meetings. In order to offset the impacts of the pandemic as well as rising inflation the HBSA saw its in-person meeting costs rise significantly over previous years which is another reason why we have begun diversifying our in-person venues. The society maintains a net positive account in order to support the coming year.

## Revenue & Expenses



## Expenses by Category





# FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

January 1 to December 31, 2022

Starting Balance				\$ 25,297.57
	Expense	Revenue	Profit/Loss	
HBSA Meetings (in-person)	\$4,021.46		(\$4,021.46)	
HBSA Winter Social (Splitsville Bowling)	\$627.52		(\$627.52)	
HBSA Summer Social (Roselawn bowling)	\$601.99		(\$601.99)	
HBSA Holiday Party	\$2,257.41		(\$2,257.41)	
CSC-HN & HBSA Golf Tournament	\$600.00		(\$600.00)	
HBSA/YAH - TSOB Bayfront Builders	\$1,398.96		(\$1,398.96)	
HBSA/YAH - AGH Film Fest	\$3,384.07		(\$3,384.07)	
Donation to Doors Open	\$1,000.00		(\$1,000.00)	
Passiv House Silver Sponsor	\$1,695.00		(\$1,695.00)	
Membership Dues OAA		10,180.00	\$10,180.00	
Membership Dues Affiliate Members		4,905.00	\$4,905.00	
OAA 2023 Special Funding		5,000.00	\$5,000.00	
Misc. / Banking Fees	\$57.00		(\$57.00)	
Website / Social Media	\$677.03		(\$677.03)	
Social Media	\$565.00		(\$565.00)	
Website Rebuild deposit	\$3,840.00	\$ 4,000.00	(\$3,840.00)	
	<b>\$20,725.44</b>	<b>\$20,085.00</b>	<b>(640.44)</b>	
Ending Balance				\$ 20,623.24



# APPENDICES

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Hamilton/Burlington  
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June 13, 2023

Dear Mayor Horwath and City of Hamilton Councilors,

As members of the Hamilton/Burlington Society of Architects (HBSA), we urge you to take immediate action to address the housing crisis in our city. We petition Hamilton City Council to actively support organizations providing assistance to the unhoused by removing barriers to temporary shelter for the approximately 1,600 people currently living on the streets of Hamilton.

On April 10th, 2023, Hamilton City Council unanimously voted to declare a state of emergency related to homelessness, opioid addiction, and mental health. However, organizations capable of addressing this urgent need are being hindered. The Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters (HATS), a community-led group, has been actively working to alleviate this crisis by advocating for the construction of small 'villages' comprising 25-50 tiny shelters as temporary supportive housing. These 'villages' would offer shared washroom facilities, security, support workers, and workshops. Despite proposing nineteen different site options during nine presentations to Council, all of which were rejected, similar models have been successfully implemented in over 200 locations throughout the US and Canada. We call on Hamilton City Council to support this work through concrete actions, not just performative statements of support and concern.

Council's current drawn out response on the heels of the State of Emergency contrasts sharply with the expedited response demonstrated by the provincial government during the Covid-19 pandemic. Order REG2020.0270.e issued on April 10th, 2020 provided exemptions pertaining to the construction of temporary health and residential facilities, and the conversion of existing buildings for these same uses. The directive removed the requirement to obtain a building permit, comply with the Ontario Building Code, and certain by-laws and sections of the Planning Act. This shows that a prompt and effective response is not only feasible, but also safe.

Regrettably, the City of Hamilton's current pace is not surprising. Council's decision to lift the Shelter Health Networks injunction in October 2020, shortly after the onset of the second wave of Covid-19, erased the progress made in on-street health outreach programs, hindering continuity of care and integration into full-time housing for unhoused individuals.

The HBSA insistently calls for the Mayor and Hamilton Councilors to:

1. Reestablish the statutes of the injunction on the by-law for evictions and rebuild the relationship with Shelter Health Network by funding continuous social and health services and outreach programs to serve all new Tiny Shelter Sites.



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2. Issue a list of city-owned lands (such as Highland Gardens, sites along Burlington Street, Kay Drage field, Barton Reservoir, etc.), which will permit currently unhoused individuals to set up temporary shelters and tents without the threat of police and by-law officers forcing relocation. Provide resources to support network health and social workers.
3. Compel each ward to provide a site within their boundary to support a village of 25-50 tiny homes. Each site must be a minimum of 1 acre in size, located outside of the downtown core, must be served by transit, and accessible for pedestrians and services such as garbage removal vehicles. Some examples of currently vacant city-owned lands that meet the criteria are Cathedral Park (Ward 1), Tiffany Barton (Ward 2), and Dominion Glass Plant (Ward 3). It should be noted that while access to municipal washrooms is not necessary, it significantly simplifies the work that HATS must undertake to set up and operate each village and the associated costs to support your declaration of a state of emergency.
4. Open an emergency shelters office to partner with HATS in developing additional tiny shelter sites throughout the city, identified from the list. Provide additional funding for more shelters, comfort trailers, and security services.
5. Issue an emergency Order in Council in the spirit of Reg2020.0270.e which removes Planning and Building Department obstacles that hinder organizations such as HATS from providing temporary shelter, while ensuring safety through professional oversight. Under this order, re-evaluate the sites previously suggested by HATS for compliance.
6. Permit the utilization of First Ontario Place and Cathedral High School for temporary housing, as was done during the Covid-19 State of Emergency.

Given the gravity of the situation, we maintain that it is critically important for Council to thoroughly consider the above recommendations and we request that you engage with us on this critical issue.

To demonstrate our resolute commitment to finding a solution, the HBSA invites the Mayor and all Council members for a visit to Local42, a tiny home village built in Kitchener in 2020. It is imperative that we collaborate closely to swiftly rectify this urgent and intensifying crisis.

Sincerely,

Hamilton/Burlington Society of Architects (HBSA)



Hamilton/Burlington  
Society of Architects

July 7, 2023

Dear Mayor Horwath, City of Hamilton Councilors, Departments of Infrastructure Renewal and Transportation Staff,

In the mid 90's downtown Hamilton was a different place. It was in economic decline, with the closing of long-established retail stores and the demolition of major buildings with no plans to replace them. Downtown was perceived as undesirable and unsafe. In 1996, during a Design Charette hosted by the Hamilton Society of Architects to study the downtown core, the local architectural community in association with several nationally renowned architects determined that one of the major deterrents to downtown renewal was the predominance of the one-way street system. Few people can remember or would ever believe that James Street North was once a one-way street that was struggling to survive. As a community we are happy to see that our concerns have been slowly addressed and the downtown has experienced the benefit of the gradual two-way conversion.

We were very pleased to hear of the Council direction to turn Main Street into a two-way street. The Hamilton Burlington Society of Architects (HBSA) is keenly interested in getting this important piece right. We are not traffic engineers and do not wish to challenge the engineering department's technical expertise. Our expertise is in urban design and, as such, believe we can offer constructive comments on that front.

In the online public meeting on May 18, city staff reported on the progress of their council-directed study on the two-way conversion of Main Street. That presentation can be seen on the Engage Hamilton website, Main Street Conversion Study, PIC Presentation document. The Study includes three design options, Option 1 - Do Nothing, Option 2 - Symmetrical Lane Capacity, and Option 3 - Asymmetrical Lane Capacity. Put simply, Option 2 consists of two eastbound lanes and two westbound lanes. Option 3 consists of three eastbound lanes and one westbound lane. Option 3 was selected by the study team as the technically preferred solution. This is the only option that is out for public comment. The HBSA is concerned that Option 2, which seems to more closely follow Council's direction, is not being presented to Council or the public.

As architects we like to see what works and what does not work in cities. Scarce examples of where asymmetrical two-way street systems comparable to the scale of Main Street exist, so we cannot evaluate its potential success or failure.



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We learned in our 1996 design charette from Ken Greenberg - the internationally recognized urban designer - that two-way streets create a sense of friction that calms traffic and consequently enhances the pedestrian experience. The concept of “friction” is also referenced in City of Hamilton Background Report on Two-Way conversion. It states: “with the additional friction resulting from two-way traffic operation, mid-block speeds are typically lower on two-way streets”. In the absence of seeing examples of asymmetrical two-way streets, our concern is that the concept of “friction” will not be achieved with three lanes of traffic traveling eastbound and only one lane traveling westbound; a lone westbound lane, which is never permitted to make left turns.

We also have concerns that this strategy has been presented as a temporary measure, and that the proposed system will be revisited after the LRT is completed. We believe that this will only delay the process of true two-way conversion, cause confusion, and will ultimately be more costly to implement. We are also concerned that there may be a demand for more than one westbound lane during the construction and operation of LRT for those motorists who wish to avoid the construction on King Street altogether.

Designing the approach to Main Street in isolation from consideration of the King Street redesign misses the opportunity to consider the appropriateness of location for the proposed east/west bicycle lanes. There may be an increased risk of collision for cyclists forced to mix with the speeds of vehicular traffic by bracketing Main Street car lanes with bike lanes, versus planning for bike lanes with the redesign of King Street for the LRT. The sympathetic speed of flow and intermittent stops of pedestrians using the LRT would be complemented by the slower pace of cycle traffic.

As the Two-Way conversion of Main Street is of vital interest to all Hamiltonians the HBSA believes that Option 2 as a symmetrical design is worthy of public and Council consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Hamilton/Burlington Society of Architects (HBSA)