

ORSA Ottawa Regional
Society of Architects

Annual General Report
2023

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01. Message from the Chair

Dear Members and Friends of the Ottawa Regional Society of Architects,
As we stand at the threshold of a new year, it is with a sense of pride and anticipation that I reflect on the strides we have made together. The year 2023 was a remarkable journey for ORSA, brimming with innovation, collaboration, and community spirit that has not only enriched our society but the architectural tapestry of Ottawa.

In the summer, we once again opened the doors of Ottawa’s architectural marvels to the public through our Doors Open Ottawa event. It was a joy to witness the community’s enthusiasm as they explored the hidden narratives woven into the city’s built environment. This event has become a cornerstone of our society, celebrating the intersection of history, design, and the public’s curiosity.

Ottawa Architecture Week was another highlight, with its ‘PLAY’ theme resonating through a spectrum of activities. From the imaginative sparks at the kids’ design clinic to the insightful discussions at our lecture series, we delved into the essence of architectural creativity. The week was a testament to the vibrancy and relevance of architecture in our daily lives, inspiring both the young and the seasoned.

Our commitment to the growth of emerging talents was evident during our summer social, a gathering that provided a nurturing ground for architectural interns to forge connections that will underpin their professional journeys. It was a celebration of the future, under the canopy of Ottawa’s skyline, where stories and experiences were shared over delightful cuisine and camaraderie.

The Annual General Meeting punctuated our year with a presentation that showcased innovation and ingenuity, encapsulating our collective aspirations for architecture that serves and uplifts the community. It was a fitting end to a year of substantial achievements and an embodiment of our commitment to design excellence and sustainability.

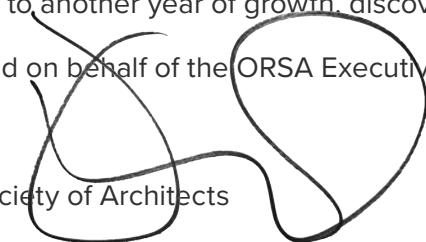
As we embrace the year ahead, we are inspired by the dynamism of the digital frontier, recognizing its power to amplify our reach and inclusivity. The success of our virtual programming and resources, including the insightful entries in our #ORSAXDOO2023 photo contest, underscores the potential of digital platforms to foster a more connected and engaged architectural community.

In every endeavor, we are grateful for the unwavering support of our donors, sponsors, and partners. Their contributions are the foundation upon which we build our ambitions and dreams for ORSA and the community we serve. As we continue to navigate the evolving landscape of architecture and society, their support is invaluable.

Let us carry forward the momentum and spirit of innovation into the new year, with a resolve to deepen our engagement with the community, sustain the gains we have made, and explore new horizons. Together, we will continue to shape a vibrant architectural landscape for Ottawa. On behalf of the ORSA Executive, I extend my sincerest gratitude for your continued passion and participation. Here’s to another year of growth, discovery, and architectural excellence.

Warmest regards and on behalf of the ORSA Executive Team,

Christopher Moise
ORSA Chair
Ottawa Regional Society of Architects



02. Volunteers

Executive Committee

Chair	Christopher Moise, Architect
Vice-Chair	Vacant
Treasurer	Darryl Hood, Architect
Secretary	Paolo Marinelli, Intern Architect
Registrar	Marc Mainville, Architect

Committee Chairs

Social Media	Sarah Fox, Intern Architect
OAW	Austin Durbin, Architect
Events	Aman Gupta, Intern Architect

Intern Liaison	Vacant
OAA Liaison	Clayton Payer, Architect
RAIC Liaison	Vacant
Carleton University	Vacant



Volunteer Gathering 2023

In January 2023, the Ottawa Regional Society of Architects (ORSA) celebrated a significant milestone in community engagement and collaboration. Our volunteer gathering, aimed at sharing the Society's vision for the future, was a resounding success, drawing in more than 30 dedicated individuals passionate about architecture and its place in our city's culture and future. This event was not just a meeting; it was a vibrant confluence of ideas, aspirations, and a shared commitment to elevate the architectural discourse in Ottawa. The overwhelming turnout is a testament to the enthusiasm within our community and the collective eagerness to contribute towards ORSA's mission. The gathering's success was further amplified by the fruitful outcome of filling key committee positions, a crucial step in harnessing the collective energy and expertise of our members. We proudly appointed chairs for our Social Media, Events, and the prestigious Ottawa Architecture Week committees. The willingness of volunteers to step into these roles underscores the vibrant spirit of service within ORSA and sets a robust foundation for our activities throughout the year. With these pivotal positions now helmed by skilled and motivated leaders, we are poised to deliver a series of engaging, informative, and innovative events that will not only celebrate the architectural heritage and innovation in Ottawa but also engage the wider community in meaningful ways.

Contributors to Ottawa Architect Week (OAW)

Marc Mainville
 Petr Cancura
 Pooja Sharma
 Thomas Radford
 Venk Parbhu
 Balquis Attef
 Meghan Riccardo
 Madhura Chatterjee
 Leen El Khalili
 Aman Gupta
 Caelan Mitchell
 Elizabeth Zdansky
 Ilayda Yasar Cuhacibasi
 Orlando Barone
 Darryl Hood
 Monique St. Pierre
 Zuzane Keslerova
 Valery Ratnicova
 Christopher Moise
 Lee-Christine Bushey
 Kunal Rakshit
 Sarah Fox
 Bryan Mendez
 Yigit Cuhacibasi

03. Events

3.1 Modular Housing Presentation May 2023

ORSA presented a Modular Housing Webinar on May 10, 2023, which featured a compelling virtual presentation by Daniel Ling from Montgomery Sisam Architects. The event addressed the pressing issue of affordable housing and how modular construction can offer a quick and sustainable solution. The webinar delved into the architect's role in designing modular buildings that are not only functional and sustainable but also aesthetically pleasing and well-integrated into their context. Case studies, including Toronto's Modular Supportive Housing Program and Durham Region's project, illustrated the successful application of this building method. Daniel Ling, with his extensive experience across various architectural domains, highlighted the versatility of modular construction in creating efficient, adaptable, and future-ready housing solutions.



3.2 Doors Open Ottawa Collaboration – Photo Contest June 2023

ORSA featured a successful ORSA & Doors Open Ottawa Photography Contest titled «Playful Perspectives.» This contest, held on June 3rd and 4th, was a unique venture that combined ORSA's architectural focus with Doors Open Ottawa's community outreach. Participants were invited to showcase the architectural beauty of Ottawa through their lenses in various categories, such as «Artistic Abstractions,» «Architectural Gems,» «Illuminated Elegance,» «Timeless Tales,» and «The Crowd's Pick.» Winners were awarded gift cards, and the competition encouraged participants to engage with the city's architecture creatively and thoughtfully.



3.3 Ottawa Redblack's Intern Mixer July

ORSA supported a dynamic ORSA/OYCL collaboration - Ottawa Redblacks mixer event. Aimed at young professionals, this networking opportunity took place at TD Place in the Subaru Lower Log Cabin, where attendees rooted for the Ottawa REDBLACKS against the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. The event not only offered a lively atmosphere for making connections but also included a chance for attendees to win one of three e-gift card prizes, distributed post-event. The mixer was held on Friday, July 28th, from 7 to 10:30 pm.



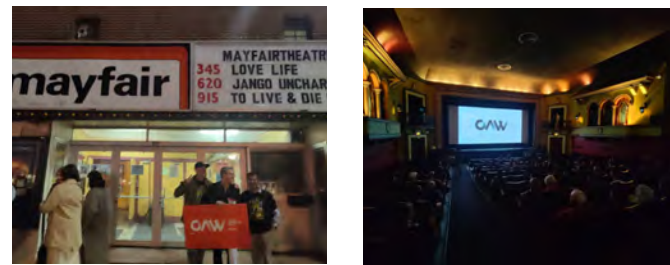
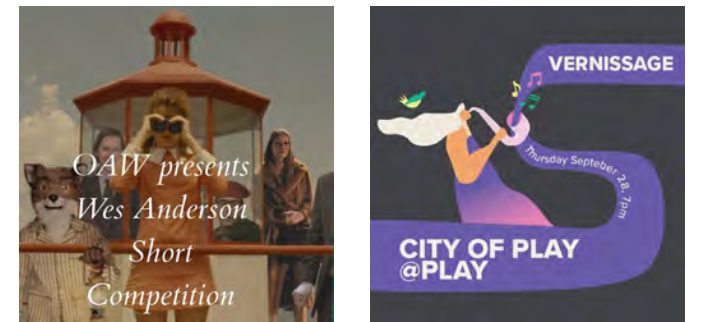
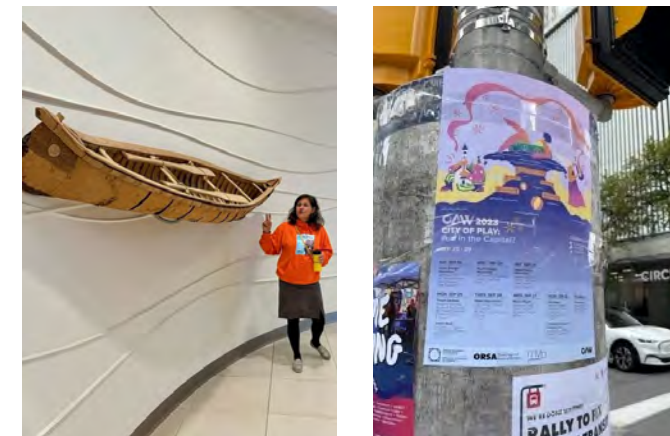
3.4 Annual General Meeting August 2023

The ORSA Annual General Meeting, was a hallmark event held at the Mill Street Pub on August 15, 2023. The occasion, free for members with provisions for food, commenced with networking at 5:30 pm, followed by the meeting at 6:30 pm. It included a comprehensive report from the Executive Committee on the year's activities, a financial overview by the Treasurer, and an engaging session with Reform Procurement Ottawa advocating for improved architectural and engineering service procurement. Highlighting the event was a keynote presentation on the Parliamentary Centre Block Project by Darrell de Grandmont, OAA, underscoring ORSA's commitment to fostering architectural dialogue within the community.



ORSA is committed to becoming a more relevant and focused society of engaged members with an interested audience through which we promote the values of our profession in our community. ORSA volunteers, including the executive, Committee members and the leaders who organize our events (such as Ottawa Architecture Week), architecture students and interns are who make this organization function and make it great. We are looking forward to a new year of growing involvement and youthful energy through which to inspire our membership to reconnect with each other and their community.





3.7 OAA President's Visit 2023 October 2023

ORSA collaborated with the OAA for the Annual President's Society Visit which was a productive virtual meeting held on October 24, 2023, and connected the Ottawa Regional Society of Architects with the Grand Valley and Trent Societies via Zoom. The meeting, led by OAA President Settimo Vilardi, local Councillors, and Executive Director Kristi Doyle, fostered collaboration and featured discussions on the new Society Toolkit, an initiative to strengthen ties between the OAA and local societies. Society Chairs presented rapid-fire updates, and an open discussion encouraged sharing and networking among participants, alongside an informative segment from the CEO of Pro-Demnity Insurance Company. The agenda covered a wide range of topics, including recognition of traditional lands and reflections on the June Society Chairs' meeting in Sudbury.

3.8 ORSA/BAC-DAC Intern's Mixer November 2023

ORSA in collaboration with BAC-DAC held a Post ExAC Intern Mixer on November 24, 2023, from 6 pm to 9 pm at 78 George St., Ottawa. This celebratory event was tailored for individuals on their path to licensure and those interested in the ExAC, offering an opportunity to celebrate the hard work of those who sat for their exams. The gathering included drinks, snacks, and games, with free admission for those who wrote the ExAC in 2023, and discounted rates for members and non-members. Registration was required, with details for free registration for eligible attendees provided through the BAC-DAC contact. The event was a networking occasion, designed to bring together like-minded professionals in a convivial atmosphere.



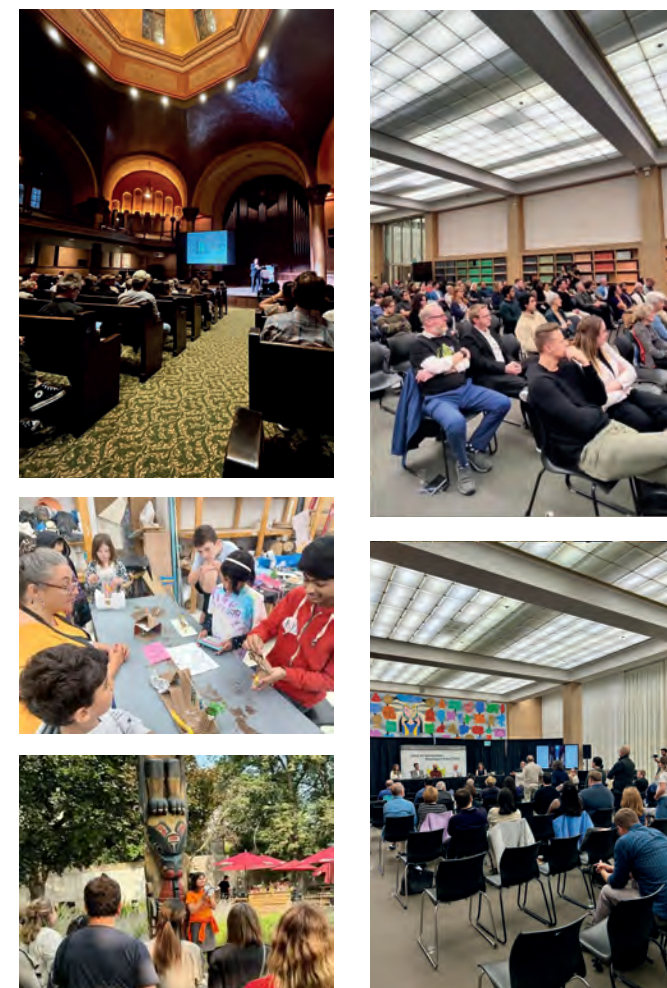
04. Objectives

4.1 2024 ORSA Objectives

In 2024, ORSA is committed to enhancing its engagement with members, supporters, and the public to elevate awareness of its activities and create new avenues for community interaction. This endeavor is pivotal in fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of architecture within the broader community. To achieve this goal, ORSA plans to implement a variety of strategies. These will likely include interactive events, educational initiatives, and collaborative projects that invite participation from diverse demographics. By doing so, ORSA aims to make architecture more accessible and engaging to all, thereby strengthening the fabric of the society through inclusive dialogue and shared experiences. Furthermore, ORSA intends to leverage digital platforms, such as the revamped website set to launch in 2024, to amplify its reach. This will facilitate easier communication between the Society's leadership, its dedicated committees, and the membership at large. The new website will serve as a hub for information, networking, and resources, offering a more integrated and dynamic experience for current and prospective members. These efforts underscore ORSA's dedication to building a vibrant community that values the importance of architectural practices and their impact on society's cultural and functional landscapes. Through these initiatives, ORSA is poised to shape a more engaged and knowledgeable society that actively contributes to and benefits from the world of architecture.

4.2 New Website and Communications

ORSA will revamp of the ORSA website scheduled for 2024. The updated website will enhance communication and outreach efforts with ORSA members and the wider community, especially through an improved events page. It will also offer streamlined access to the Executive and Committee Leaders, fostering better connectivity within the membership. This digital transformation signifies ORSA's commitment to providing a more efficient and user-friendly online platform that supports the organization's mission and activities.



05. Finances

4.3 Objectives 2024 (Volunteering opportunities) for the upcoming year include:

1. Volunteering opportunities for the upcoming year include:
 - a. ORSA Executive: We currently have a couple vacancies and are looking for new volunteers who have a desire to carry the Society forward.
 - b. Ottawa Architecture Week (team members): Assist with event development - Date TBD (Sept. 25-29 or Oct. 2-6)
 - i. OAW Planning committee - Planning starts May 2023
 - ii. OAW Event coordinators
 - iii. OAW Website/Social Media coordinators
 - c. Events Co-ordinator: Participation, collaboration, and support for Socials/Intern gatherings/ Doors Open Ottawa/Golf for Charity Tournament/etc.
 - d. ORSA Website/Social Media Co-ordinator: Building Volunteer numbers for Committees with Leaders to guide them in our online communications.
 - e. Special Projects
 - i. Lectures (Partners):
 1. Carleton Forum Lectures
 2. Urban Forum
 3. Urban Land Institute
 - ii. City Mapping Project
 - iii. ORSA Executive Manual Co-ordinator: Assist the Executive in documentation for continuity and knowledge transfer.
 - iv. Supporter Co-ordinator: ORSA has had a robust group of supporters in the past and we would like to see that return.
2. Annual Events 2023
 - a. ORSA AGM 2023 - TBD (end of may)
 - b. ORSA summer BBQ Social (July/August)
 - c. Fall ORSA Golf Tournament (August/September)
 - d. OAW 2024 - TBD (Last week of September)
 - i. Architecture Day October 2
 - e. OAA President's visit 2024 - TBD (Fall)
 - f. ARIDO Winter Party collaboration

4.4 Additional projects and objectives include:

- Collaboration and support for Doors Open Ottawa 2024 - including a celebration event;
- Development of the ORSA Executive Manual for continuity and knowledge transfer;
- Advocate/promote World Architecture Day (to coincide with Ottawa Architecture Week 2024);
- Increase opportunities to cross-pollinate our advocacy efforts with the RAIC locally;
- Funding/supporting local/online Continuing Education sessions for members;
- Development of the ORSA Design Excellence Awards tbd.

5.1 Financial Summary

The financial report for ORSA paints an optimistic picture, indicating that the society is on a firm footing for a year of dynamic revitalization. With solid financial health as a foundation, ORSA is poised to embark on a series of exciting initiatives that promise to invigorate its operations and membership engagement. Members and supporters are encouraged to take an active role in this journey of transformation. The upcoming year is set to be an energizing and fulfilling experience, full of opportunities for professional growth, community building, and innovative architectural endeavors. As the society rejuvenates its approach and offerings, getting involved now offers the chance to be part of a pivotal and thrilling chapter in ORSA's history.

See financial summary 2023, p.16-19.

2022-2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023

Category Description	Budget	Actual	Difference
Revenues			
OAA Memberships	\$ 20,000	\$ 26,220	\$ 6,220
Membership Sales			
Firm Memberships	\$ 1,200	\$ -	\$ (1,200)
Individual Memberships	\$ 650	\$ 760	\$ 110
Supporters	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Events			
Golf Tournament	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Special Project Funding			
Ottawa Architecture Week	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Local Advocacy (OAA funding)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Investment Income	\$ 200	\$ 211	\$ 11
Total Revenues	\$ 22,050	\$ 29,691	\$ 7,641

Category Description	Budget	Actual	Difference
Expenses			
Administration			
Executive/Board Meetings	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,225	\$ (25)
Mailbox	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Misc. (printing, postage, etc)	\$ 50	\$ 40	\$ 10
Zoom Account	\$ 225	\$ 226	\$ (1)
Part Time Admin	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Banking			
Quicken software	\$ 45	\$ -	\$ 45
Bambora (online CC)	\$ 180	\$ 180	\$ -
Banking fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Merchant Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donations			
Partner event sponsorships	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,581	\$ 4,419
Student Awards	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
Charitable Donations (TBD)	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,500
Events			
AGM (2022)	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,050	\$ 950
Golf Tournament	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
President's Dinner	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Winter Party (ARIDO)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ORSA Mixers	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,511	\$ 989
ORSA Workshops	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Special Projects			
ORSA Design Excellence Awards	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Ottawa Architecture Week	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,574	\$ 4,426
ORSA Executive Handbook	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Doors Open Ottawa	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,500	\$ (1,000)
Website			
Web Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Web Maintenance	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,779	\$ (279)
Discretionary Funds	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250
Total Expenses	\$ 42,450	\$ 29,665	\$ 12,785
NET REVENUE	\$ (20400)	\$ 26	\$ 20,426
Balance Beginning of Year		\$ 152,494	
Balance End of Year		\$ 152,520	
Member's Equity May 1, 2023			
Chequing Account	\$ 152,520		
Term Deposits	\$ 35,000		
Total	\$ 187,520		

2022/2023 BUDGET (May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023)

Category Description	Budget 22/23	22/23 Actual	23/24 Budget
Revenues			
OAA Memberships	\$ 20,000	\$ 26,220	\$ 25,000
Membership Sales			
Firm Memberships	\$ 1,200	\$ -	\$ 2,400
Individual Memberships	\$ 650	\$ 760	\$ 1,200
Supporters	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Events			
Golf Tournament	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Special Project Funding			
Ottawa Architecture Week	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ 10,000
Local Advocacy (OAA funding)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Investment Income	\$ 200	\$ 211	\$ 200
Total Revenues	\$ 22,050	\$ 29,691	\$ 38,800

Category Description	Budget 22/23	22/23 Actual	23/24 Budget
Expenses			
Administration			
Executive/Board Meetings	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,225	\$ 2,000
Mailbox	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300
Misc. (printing, postage, etc)	\$ 50	\$ 40	\$ 50
Zoom Account	\$ 225	\$ -	\$ 225
Banking			
Quicken software	\$ 45	\$ -	\$ 45
Bambora (online CC)	\$ 180	\$ 180	\$ 180
Banking fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Merchant Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donations			
Partner event sponsorships	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,581	\$ 10,000
Student Awards	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
Charitable Donations (TBD)	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,500
Events			
AGM (2022)	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,050	\$ 6,000
Golf Tournament	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
President's Dinner	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Winter Party (ARIDO)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ORSA Mixers	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,511	\$ 3,500
ORSA Workshops	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Special Projects			
ORSA Design Excellence Awards	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Ottawa Architecture Week	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,574	\$ 15,000
ORSA Executive Handbook	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Doors Open Ottawa	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Website			
Web Development	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Web Maintenance	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,779	\$ 2,500
Discretionary Funds	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
Total Expenses	\$ 42,700	\$ 29,439	\$ 45,800
NET REVENUE	\$ (20,650)	\$ 252	\$ (7,000)
Balance Beginning of Year			\$ 152,520
Projected Balance End of Year			\$ 145,520

