



New report examines creative neighbourhoods in Quebec and across Canada

Artists by Neighbourhood in Canada, a new report from Hill Strategies Research, highlights creative neighbourhoods across the country – areas where artists interact and help shape the character of their communities. Using mapping technology, the report examines artists as a percentage of the labour force in various postal regions – “neighbourhoods” – based on 2001 census data.

The report demonstrates that there are many significant artistic clusters in urban and rural areas across Canada. The full report and regional summaries of these artistic clusters are available for free from the Hill Strategies Research website (<http://www.hillstrategies.com>).

Of all the provinces, Quebec has the second-largest number of artists (27,600), representing 0.7% of the provincial labour force.

Creative neighbourhoods in Montreal

Montreal is home to the nine postal regions with the highest concentration of artists in Quebec, including five of the 10 neighbourhoods with the highest concentration of artists in Canada:

- H2W, in the heart of the plateau area, has an artistic concentration of 8.0%. This is the “most creative neighbourhood” in Canada, with an artistic concentration that is 10 times the Canadian average of 0.8%.
- H2J, adjacent to H2W on the plateau, has an artistic concentration of 6.1%, 2nd highest among Canadian neighbourhoods.
- H2T, adjacent to both H2W and H2J on the plateau, has 5.6% of the local labour force in the arts. The H2T area has the third-highest artistic concentration among Canadian neighbourhoods.
- H2V (Outremont) has 5.0% of the local labour force in arts occupations, tied for 7th among Canadian neighbourhoods.
- H2L (Montreal Papineau, below Rachel) also has 5.0% of the local labour force in arts occupations.

Creative neighbourhoods elsewhere in Quebec

The area of Quebec outside of Montreal with the highest concentration of artists is Quartier St-Roch in Quebec City (G1K), which has 3.2% of its labour force in the arts, four times the Canadian average. Another Quebec City area with a high concentration of artists is G1R, Old Quebec and west (2.3%, almost three times the Canadian average).

Two areas of Longueuil have concentrations of artists that are at least double the Canadian average: J4P (2.7%) and J4H (1.8%).

The other postal region of the province with a concentration of artists that is at least double the Canadian average is J9B, Gatineau's northwestern area, including Meach Lake (2.1%).

In rural areas of the province, three postal regions have concentrations of artists that are above the Canadian average of 0.8%:

- J0G, just south of the St. Lawrence River near Trois-Rivières, with 1.0% of the local labour force in the arts;
- J0E in the Eastern Townships surrounding Granby, 0.9%; and
- J0P in the southwestern corner of the province, north of Valleyfield, also 0.9%.

Why is it important to track creative neighbourhoods?

The arts contribute to the quality of life as well as the social and economic vitality of communities. Recent research has also examined how the arts help attract talented people, jobs and investment to communities. On a personal level, the arts can stimulate, inspire and entertain.

A strong artistic community can therefore enhance the whole community's well-being. For these reasons, it is important to identify and track creative neighbourhoods – areas that are attractive to artists for a number of reasons: inexpensive housing, access to employment and self-employment opportunities, access to resources (such as studio space, galleries, rehearsal and performance space, artist-run centres and associations), social networks, physical environment, family reasons and more.

Artists by Neighbourhood in Canada can be used by associations, arts funders, policy-makers and others to ensure that programs and services are tailored appropriately to arts communities across the country. Further research could also examine the correlation between creative neighbourhoods and other local attributes that may help attract and retain artists.

Report and data notes

The full report, funded by the Canada Council for the Arts, the Department of Canadian Heritage (Canadian Cultural Observatory and Arts Policy Branch), and the Ontario Arts Council, is available free of charge on the websites of Hill Strategies Research (<http://www.hillstrategies.com>) and the funding organizations. The Hill Strategies Research website also provides detailed tables showing the number and concentration of artists in postal regions across Canada. The report is the twelfth in a *Statistical Insights on the Arts* series by Hill Strategies Research.

The data is drawn from a custom data request from Statistics Canada's 2001 census, conceived of and commissioned by Hill Strategies Research. The census captures information about the occupation at which a person worked the most hours between May 6 and 12, 2001.

Nine arts occupations are included in the analysis:

- actors;
- artisans and craftspersons;
- conductors, composers and arrangers;
- dancers;
- musicians and singers;
- other performers (such as circus performers and puppeteers);
- painters, sculptors and other visual artists;
- producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations; and
- writers.

The occupational categories are not a perfect fit for all artists but do provide a reasonable approximation of arts employment and self-employment. No census data is released for areas below a population size of 40. Postal areas with fewer than 40 artists are noted as "not reliable". Please see the full report for census data limitations.

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Hill Strategies Research is a Canadian company that aims to provide top-quality, highly-relevant and insightful research for the arts. For additional information, please contact Hill Strategies Research, info@hillstrategies.com, 905-528-8891, <http://www.hillstrategies.com>.