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WELCOMING OTTAWA WEEK



# Ideas on Types of Welcoming Ottawa Week (WOW) Events You Can Host



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## Need ideas for what type of event to host?

WOW is an annual series of various events designed to convey the genuine welcome and hospitality of Ottawa residents to newcomers, while providing opportunities for quality interactions between newcomers and long-time residents. Suggested ideas that fit into the WOW categories of events include:



Cultural Activities



Poetry, Music & Story Telling



Learning Events



Civic Engagement



Business Entrepreneurship



Design & Creativity



Documentaries/ Film Screening



Guided Tours



Food Events



Sports



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## Cultural Activities

- Organize art or photo exhibitions that portray Ottawa residents' migration and integration stories.
- Organize a theatrical segment to bring attention to particular challenges encountered by immigrants in their integration journey.
- Learning workshops on painting, quilting, and dancing - to discover new ways of doing things.
- Conduct restaurant tours in business communities to discover different ethnic cuisines.



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## Poetry, Music & Story Telling

- Organize a storytelling segment to bring attention to particular challenges encountered by immigrants in their integration journey.
- Plan concerts featuring a diverse take on the same genre of music; or showcasing diverse musicians.
- Organize poetry, writing, or comedy contest for youths to tell stories of their families' migration histories.
- Organize an artistic activity to illustrate diverse rich cultures in your community



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## Learning Events:

- Organize a book launch and invite your favorite author to speak to your colleagues, friends, or neighbours about a topic related to immigration, refugees, settlement, and integration.
- Organize an open house to be more accessible to immigrants and refugees.
- Organize academic seminars on topics related to diversity and welcoming communities.
- Organize on-campus or in the community get-togethers for international students and help new students find connections in the community.



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## Civic Engagements

- Register your citizenship ceremony as a WOW event and record new citizens' reflections on formally joining the Canadian citizenship; and share these stories.
- If you are an elected official, organize meet-and-greets for your constituents and get to know the new immigrants and refugees in your riding.
- Plan a town hall meeting to discuss community challenges or opportunities in relation to immigrant/refugee settlement and integration.

## Business Entrepreneurship

- Host an employer meet and greet, and network with internationally trained job seekers.
- Promote your local business to new audiences and share your entrepreneurial journey.
- Host an employee appreciation event to celebrate the diversity of your workplace.
- Plan a webinar to discuss the challenges and opportunities (resources available) of starting a business as an immigrant or a refugee.



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## Design and Creativity

- Use the WOW platform to showcase creative and innovative ideas that meet community needs.
- Organize a fashion show featuring non-mainstream clothing styles, such as African fabric and fashion, Islamic modest fashion; antique jewelry from different parts of the world.





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## Documentaries/ Film Screening

- Hold a film/documentary screening to generate discussion on topics related to aspects of a welcoming community & immigration integration.
- Organize a documentary screening followed by a panel discussion on topics adversely affecting marginalized communities such as the COVID-19 pandemic, mental health, racism, housing, etc.



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## Guided Tours

- Plan walking tours of significant public sites, such as the Parliament of Canada, City Hall, Rideau Hall, museums, historic sites, etc.
- Plan neighbourhood walking tours to explore the contributions of immigrants to the social, cultural, and economic development of Ottawa's neighbourhoods.
- Organize a bike tour that brings together old and new newcomers to Ottawa and discover the City together.

## Food Related Events

- Arrange picnics or food tastings in your neighborhood; at your workplace; or for your volunteers.
- Organize on-campus or in community get-togethers for international students and help new students find connections in the community.
- Plan a lunch & learn session at your workplace, for example, employee potlucks to celebrate diversity in the workplace and to learn more about your colleagues.
- Host an online cooking/baking class and introduce audiences to ethnic recipes from around the world.



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## Sports Activities & Tournaments

Host a sporting tournament/event that brings together old and new residents such as:

- Soccer
- Cricket
- Tai chi
- Badminton



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**Deadline: Sunday, June 5, 2022**

For more information:

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[www.welcomingottawaweek.ca](http://www.welcomingottawaweek.ca)

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