

## Document 2

### 2025 and 2026 Programs and Partnerships Branch Highlights

Program/Project	Work completed in 2025	Work planned for 2026
Business Improvement Areas (BIAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provided \$440,000 in annual application-based grants to support market research (8 grants), mural and architectural design (15 grants), anti-graffiti efforts (13 grants) and formation and expansion support (3 grants).</li><li>• Supported the expansion of the Centretown BIA, allowing the organization to deliver expanded marketing, programming, and public realm initiatives.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue annual grant funding program and support for BIAs in implementing revitalization, beautification, and economic activation initiatives to enhance commercial area vibrancy and small business prosperity (32 project applications supported).</li><li>• Undertake a review of BIA grant funding program effectiveness in consultation with OCOBIA/BIAs to inform delivery of an updated grant program as part of the refreshed Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan in 2027.</li><li>• Support for proposed expansion of the Preston Street BIA and creation of a Cyrville Road BIA, enabling these areas to deliver new and expanded marketing, programming, and public realm initiatives.</li><li>• Support Somerset West Chinatown BIA, Glebe BIA, Barrhaven BIA, and Kanata North BIA exploration of boundary expansions and proposed formation of a new BIA in Stittsville.</li></ul>

Program/Project	Work completed in 2025	Work planned for 2026
Community Economic Development (CED) Funding Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided \$285,000 in annual funding to 10 non-profit organizations supporting employment and entrepreneurship initiatives for groups historically underrepresented in Ottawa's economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive and review applications to Community Economic Development funding program. Allocate annual funding to successful recipients and continue supporting inclusive economic participation.</li> <li>• Undertake a review of community economic development best practices to inform delivery of an updated grant program as part of the refreshed Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan in 2027.</li> </ul>
Community Improvement Plans (CIPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secured Council approval for an Integrated Orléans CIP application supporting a new \$5 million healthcare facility, with the incentive funded through the anticipated cumulative municipal property tax increase resulting from redevelopment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue administering the Integrated Orléans and Montreal Road CIP programs and assessing applications that stimulate redevelopment, investment, and new employment.</li> <li>• Assess the opportunity for a Downtown CIP to drive targeted, time-bound investment in the central area in support of downtown renewal.</li> </ul>
Creative Industries (Film and Music)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided \$400,000 in annual operating funding to the Ottawa Film Office (OFO) and \$100,000 in one-time funding to support the development of an updated business case for a purpose-built soundstage facility at the previously identified Greenbelt Research Farm.</li> <li>• Provided \$200,000 in annual operating funding to the Ottawa Music Industry Coalition (OMIC).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue sector support through existing multi-year funding agreements and advance planning for future funding agreements, beginning in 2027.</li> <li>• Undertake a third-party review of the Soundstage Business Case to validate findings and assist the OFO Board in identifying project funding mechanisms.</li> </ul>

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Downtown Revitalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued implementing the \$18.5 million Ontario–Ottawa Agreement (2024–2026) investment in downtown revitalization by advancing public realm improvements, supporting the ByWard Market Public Realm Plan, enhancing marketing, and implementing actions identified in the Ottawa Board of Trade’s Downtown Ottawa Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Developed the Arts, Culture and Entertainment (ACE) District framework to align and amplify cultural assets and foster a coordinated downtown cultural ecosystem through shared activation and storytelling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch the Arts, Culture and Entertainment (ACE) District in alignment with other cultural sector announcements including the new Arts Corridor and Art Asphalt projects.</li> <li>• Execute Phase II of a marketing campaign to generate awareness and positive messaging about downtown attributes and experiences.</li> <li>• Advance the Downtown Revitalization Framework, continue supporting implementation of the Downtown Ottawa Action Agenda, and develop a Downtown Toolkit.</li> </ul>
Economic Data and Intelligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched an online Economic Development Dashboard to improve public access to local economic data.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue enhancements and quarterly updates to the dashboard to support evidence-informed decision-making and transparency.</li> </ul>
Economic Diversification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided \$4.625 million in annual operating funding to Invest Ottawa to support venture development, global expansion, and talent programming for knowledge-based sectors.</li> <li>• Supported development of a Defence Innovation Hub strategy to strengthen Ottawa’s position in defence and security, building on Ottawa’s concentration of defence assets, talent, and capabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue funding support to Invest Ottawa through the existing multi-year funding agreement and advance planning for a new funding agreement, beginning in 2027.</li> <li>• Advance economic diversification, with a focus on life sciences and clean technologies, in partnership with Invest Ottawa and other partners. .</li> </ul>

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High Economic Impact Projects (HEIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported major development projects, including the Nokia campus and Amazon fulfillment centre, through a dedicated City Economic Development Planner who coordinates municipal approvals and trouble shoots planning issues.</li> <li>• Completed an economic impact assessment of Lansdowne 2.0, confirming projected GDP growth, job creation, increased attendance, and additional property tax revenues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue facilitating strategic development projects that align with city-building and diversification objectives.</li> </ul>
Orléans Economic Development Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed the Orléans Economic Development Action Plan in response to Council direction, identifying actions to attract investment and employment, including creating an inventory of development-ready east-end sites, establishing a business innovation leadership table, and implementing a communications strategy positioning the east end as an attractive location for investment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance implementation of the Action Plan in collaboration with interest holders, including the Heart of Orléans BIA.</li> </ul>
Rural Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated the Rural Economic Development Toolkit on Ottawa.ca.</li> <li>• Drafted the Economic Development Rural Plan based on research, data analysis, and interest holder consultation to support a strong rural economy that reflects the realities, priorities, and character of rural businesses and communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize and begin implementing the recommendations and actions in the Economic Development Rural Plan.</li> </ul>

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Small Business Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed a Small Business Needs Assessment to understand small business challenges and opportunities and began implementing recommendations.</li> <li>• Launched the Small Business Navigator on Ottawa.ca to provide small business owners and entrepreneurs with business development information and tools.</li> <li>• Developed a Tariff Toolkit to support businesses navigating supply chain and trade pressures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue implementation of the Small Business Needs Assessment recommendations.</li> <li>• Host a Small Business Sector Support Ecosystem Roundtable and Workshop to engage directly with technical service providers to enhance and coordinate small business supports.</li> <li>• Explore the opportunity to establish a downtown retail storefront activation program to mitigate retail vacancy and improve street-level vibrancy and safety.</li> </ul>
Special Economic Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaged Bloomberg Associates, in partnership with the Kanata North Business Association and Invest Ottawa, to develop a targeted action plan that leverages the Special Economic District designation for Kanata North, with a focus on business development, entrepreneurship, innovation, infrastructure, marketing, branding, and placemaking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an operating model to implement the long-term vision and Action Plan for the Kanata North Special Economic District.</li> <li>• Establish a Steering Committee to confirm priorities, align partner roles, and coordinate early implementation.</li> <li>• Engage with the Ottawa International Airport Authority to begin developing the Airport Special Economic District Plan.</li> </ul>
Talent Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed a Talent Plan, building on the 2024 Labour Market Study, to support the attraction, development, and retention of a diverse workforce.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement priority actions, including marketing Ottawa as a premier destination for skilled talent, strengthening partnerships between workforce interest holders, connecting job seekers with employers, and sharing labour market intelligence and data.</li> </ul>