

CHAPTER 6

CONTRIBUTE TO STRONGER,
MORE LIVABLE COMMUNITIES



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At GWLRA, we play a significant role in supporting the communities we serve. We deliver our community contributions through three pillars of impact:

- Developing purpose-built rental buildings — adding important housing supply so people who would rather rent, or who are unable to afford to buy a home still have great places to live.
- Supporting local causes — donating our time, talent and resources to charitable causes that are important to our employees.
- Delivering direct and indirect social and economic benefits — creating quality jobs for our employees; purchasing local goods and services; and, in our role as real estate investment advisors, supporting the financial security of the millions of individuals who depend on our clients for their pensions and savings.

In 2022, we celebrated getting back together and rallying behind causes that are important to our local regions and employees. In Toronto, for example, we once again supported our flagship charity partner, Habitat for Humanity, in a five-day build initiative in the city's West End. Our teams installed walls, floors, and everything in between. The project marked the 17th house that we have completed since partnering with this important charity.

In addition, we launched a new initiative that encouraged team members to collect and donate gently used sporting equipment to youth in low-income, marginalized or remote communities. Initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and we have had an immediate impact on communities across Canada including the Tataskweyak Cree Nation, a remote community of 3,700 people located 13 hours north of Winnipeg. Receiving the donated sports equipment means more youth in this community are able to enjoy the rewarding benefits of sport and physical activity.



Together with tenants, the BC Suburban Group participated in a food drive that collected over 1,000 items



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ROOFTOP GARDENS SUPPLY HEALTHY VEGGIES TO FOOD BANKS

Last year, we continued our partnership with MicroHabitat, an urban farming company based out of Montreal that creates greener and more resilient cities through urban agriculture.

We hosted incredible rooftop gardens on 17 managed office properties across Canada. In total, the gardens yielded a harvest of over 6,400 pounds of vegetables, herbs, and edible flowers in the 2022 season. Sharing the harvest with local food banks and community organizations allowed GWLRA to directly help fill a need for accessible and fresh nutritious food at a time when Canadian food bank use is quickly rising.

In addition, the rooftop gardens help reduce our environmental footprint by limiting the heat island effect that is common in urban areas. The urban farms have also played an important role in engaging and educating our tenants.



LEARN MORE ABOUT
OUR PARTNERSHIP
WITH MICROHABITAT



6,400

vegetables, herbs
and edible flowers
harvested in the
2022 season



GWLRA has been instrumental in advancing our mission to transform unused spaces into urban farms and in the process creating greener and more resilient cities."

ORLANE PANET, COFOUNDER,
MICROHABITAT | URBAN AGRICULTURE

Photos provided by MicroHabitat



CREATING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

In 2022, the team collaborated with North York Arts and The Moonlight Murals Collective to transform two walls — an entrance wall and food court wall into an inviting gallery. The team’s goal was to inspire tenants and guests each time they walked into our space. The Moonlight Murals Collective incorporated our objective into a vibrant and bold mural that reflected our collaboration naturally.

The art theme extended into June as the team hosted Ocean Week Canada’s annual art initiative. The crew transformed the main west atrium of our building into an interactive floor map animation where tenants and visitors could immerse themselves into the exhibit. In addition, the team welcomed Toronto artist Juanita Lee Garcia, who over two days created six abstract paintings as part of a live performance.

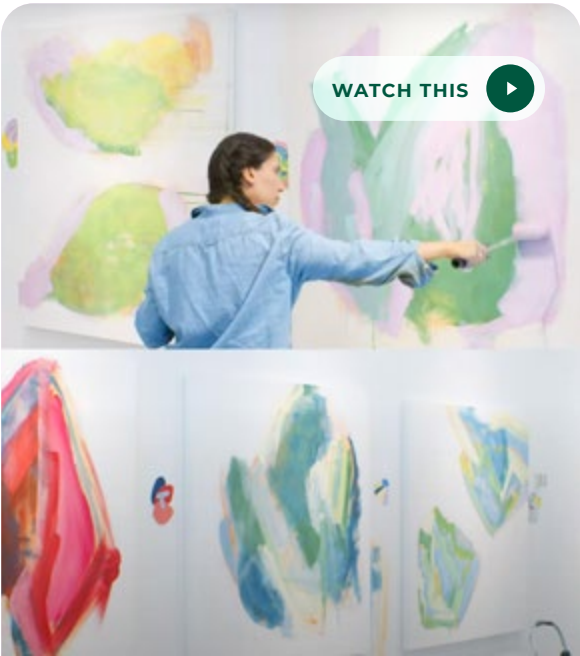
Finally, for the first time ever, North York Centre welcomed Nuit Blanche (White Night) Toronto’s all-night celebration of contemporary art. Several art installations were on display throughout the building including an inflatable art installation titled *Murrungamirra (Objects)* by Australian artist Brook Andrew.

At right: Nuit Blanche, North York Centre (Toronto, ON)



The exterior walls, hallways and lobbies of our buildings often play a role in displaying the works of aspiring artists.

Photo provided by Moonlight Murals



Check out the time-lapse video of Juanita Lee Garcia’s six abstract paintings being created.

Video courtesy of SPG Media