



Backgrounder

Bronson Centre by the Numbers

- located at 211 Bronson Avenue in Ottawa
- established 1996
- incorporated in 2000
- 45,000 square feet of community space
- 40 long-term tenant groups
- 300+ groups supported with short-term/occasional requirements
- 20,000+ individuals served monthly
- 850-seat theatre
- 250-seat reception hall & kitchen
- 24-bed emergency shelter
- 3 outdoor courtyards
- 9 full-time & 1 part-time staff
- 1 spacious parking lot

About

Bronson Centre is a registered not-for-profit charitable corporation that provides **affordable** rental space to other non-profits, charities, cultural associations, and the community at large.

We provide hub services that support not-for-profits who in turn serve the needy and poor.

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We partner with arts organizations to enhance Ottawa's rapidly expanding cultural economy.

Our business model is built on facilities rentals, cultural programs, and occasional one time grants.

We are revenue positive!



"What a welcoming (and affordable!) home for our office... especially for the kids, families, and seniors of our Caribbean and African communities who enjoy so many of our programs and events at Bronson Centre."

-- Ken Campbell, President,
Jaku Konbit

"For 17 years, Bronson Centre has been a great partner for Yet Keen, a city-wide, Chinese seniors program. The affordable rent has enabled us to continue our services in the heart of Chinatown. Bronson Centre is one of the most popular places Chinese seniors love to visit."

-- Anna Yip, Program
Coordinator, Yet Keen

What We Are

Bronson Centre is a place that welcomes and celebrates diversity.

We are the go-to resource for ethnic & cultural communities, arts organizations, Indigenous peoples, at-risk youth, women, seniors of various linguistic backgrounds, mental/physical health communities, and more.

The Centre is a popular venue for the performing arts, including numerous fundraisers. Renowned entertainers such as Kathleen Edwards, Billy Talent, Hawksley Workman, and Carly Rae Jepsen have played our stage. We were the proud home of the Canadian Folk Music Awards in 2017.

Bronson Centre's Board of Directors and voting membership are comprised of individuals who have dedicated their lives to Ottawa communities, many with Bronson Centre from day one.

As a revenue-positive social enterprise, Bronson Centre has always operated independent of public funding, only occasionally soliciting capital grants. Our financial model works so well that demand exceeds supply.

Centrally-located with handy access to public transit (including upcoming light rail) and bike paths, Bronson Centre is near the thriving Ottawa neighbourhoods of Centretown, Little Italy, Chinatown, and Lebreton Flats.

Bronson Centre and its facilities are wheel-chair accessible.

Our Community Hall (Mac Hall)

In addition to a newly-renovated theatre, the Centre houses a community hall with a 250 seat capacity and a commercial kitchen. Inviting and well-equipped, these facilities are widely used by tenants and the broader community for meals, gatherings, and worship. Mac Hall now features modern audio-visual systems. The kitchen was recently upgraded with all commercial equipment.

Better Theatre, Broader Use

Our 850-seat theatre is a major asset to local cultural initiatives. We feature bands from across North America. Many of our tenants also rely on the space to raise funds, celebrate, and deliver valuable support to the communities they serve.

To accommodate a wider range of uses, the theatre was transformed in 2013 into a more versatile facility. We now have a flattened floor in front of the stage, to be used as extra performance space, orchestra pit, additional seating, or dance floor. Renovated green rooms offer performers greater comfort and amenities. Performers have access to a private rooftop deck.



“Having so many like-minded not-for-profits under one roof at the Bronson Centre has proven to be invaluable to providing “one stop supports” to our at-risk client group.”

-- Bryonie Baxter, Executive Director, Elizabeth Fry Society

“Thanks to the balanced, flexible and safe environment created by Bronson Centre, our organization has been able to grow and develop important relationships within this community.”

-- Erenia Oliver, Founder, Club Casa de los Abuelos

“Lease on Life” Capital Campaign

Never be afraid to donate 😊

Remember we are revenue positive charity that depends on no tax dollars for our operations.

We DO depend on grants and donations to maintain our facilities.

And we do this through partnership, cooperation, and plain hard work.

Funds are directed to (for example... it is a long list !!!) :

- upgrading the meeting rooms (\$5,000 each)
- installing air conditioning in the theatre – to increase year round performances (\$1.5m +)
- continued upgrades of our commercial kitchen (\$75,000)
- replacing the 60-year old theatre seating (\$200,000)
- accessibilizing the washrooms throughout the building (\$25,000)
- repairing exterior façade (\$250,000)
- upgrading our main street façade (\$27,500)
- installing energy-efficient windows (\$1.5m+)

With our own capital resources, Bronson Centre has already accomplished:

- over \$450,000 in the past ten years
- new boiler systems
- new roofs (and there are a lot of them !)
- ongoing renos to all our rooms
- new audio-visual systems for our performance venues

Our Website

Please visit www.bronsoncentre.ca for complete information, tenant list, events calendar, and online booking for facilities rentals.

Media Contact

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Current and Recent Funders

Ontario Trillium Foundation
Ottawa Community Foundation
Project Clear Skies – International Airport Authority Ottawa



Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Canada

