

OCAD U ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23

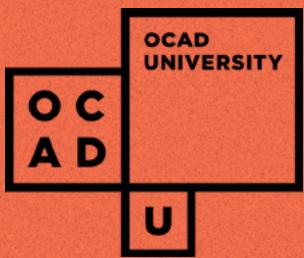


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WELCOME TO OUR 2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT

In presenting the 2022-23 Annual Report, OCAD University acknowledges the ancestral territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabeg and the Huron-Wendat, who are the original owners and custodians of the land on which we live, work and create.

The major highlight of the year was launching our new six-year [Academic and Strategic Plan](#). This plan, developed during a year-long co-creation process involving members from the community, presents a new vision—OCAD U is a vibrant community of bold, curious and compassionate artists, designers and scholars imagining and creating a joyful, equitable and sustainable world.

It includes a new mission statement with seven interconnected priorities that speak to creating space to facilitate and nurture the growth and success of the next-generation of artists, designers and scholars as they tackle some of the most complex challenges of our time.

We also announced three major initiatives that will propel us forward in driving positive impact as a leader in art and design education—initiatives focused on addressing the well-being of our students, climate change and cultural policy development.

We welcomed the Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health, to campus in February 2023 to announce [Mindful Campus](#). OCAD U is leading this initiative, funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada, in partnership with the Centre for Mindfulness Studies and a collaborative pan-Canadian network of post-secondary art and design schools and faculties. The program, launched as a pilot project in the winter of 2023, is helping art and design students to develop skills that will support and maintain their physical, psychological, emotional health and well-being.

In March 2023, we announced the creation of the [Global Centre for Climate Action](#), which builds on the work being done by our community to address the climate crisis through creative practice. This new research centre is drawing on creative vision, sustainable design and artistic practice to imagine new approaches to sustainability, climate justice and decolonization.

OCAD U has an important role to play in shaping and strengthening Canada's arts and culture sector, especially as a leader in art and design education. To this end, we established a pan-Canadian [Cultural Policy Hub](#) where we are assuming the role as a cultural policy convener. By bringing key stakeholders and creatives together within an interdisciplinary framework, we are facilitating fresh and novel approaches to cultural policy development that take into consideration the context in which we are living.



TEACHING & LEARNING



We began the new academic year with a panel discussion that explored the theme, *Decolonizing and Anti-Racist Practice through Linguistic Justice*. The discussion focused on resonances between conversations about respectfully integrating Indigenous languages into academic spaces and anti-racist and decolonizing pedagogies that centre multilingual students. Throughout 2022-23, faculty professional learning programming was offered to support faculty in integrating pedagogical approaches to teaching and assessment grounded in anti-racism and linguistic justice.

We continued to innovate in hybrid and online learning and leveraged our Digital Learning Hub as a place for sharing knowledge, strategies and resources. We showcased innovation in digital learning at eCampus Ontario's Technology and Education Seminar and Spring Showcase and hosted a roundtable on inclusive modes of delivery. We delved into the issue of generative AI through a series of roundtable discussions about teaching in an era of ChatGPT and Midjourney and the role of AI technologies in art and design education.

We launched the [Experimental Animation program](#), introduced a new Science Minor and entered into a [partnership with the Toronto International Film Festival \(TIFF\)](#). This partnership is providing enriching experiential learning opportunities for Experimental Animation students and OCAD U LiVE student content creators.

OCAD U was recognized as a Center for Sustainability Across the Curriculum by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education and the first Canadian university to participate. We announced the inaugural recipients of the [Sustainable Futures Faculty Fellowships](#): Assistant Professor Dr. Lori Riva, Assistant Professor Julia Rose Sutherland and Associate Professor Natalie Majaba Waldburger. This Fellowship program aims to deepen student inquiry and learning into sustainability by supporting faculty to pursue, document, and share their research findings on innovative pedagogical approaches towards sustainability at the undergraduate level.

Finally, we launched activities to mark the 10th anniversary of the Indigenous Visual Culture (INVC) program with a Drum Social event in early June followed by the opening of two exhibitions on National Indigenous Peoples Day, June 21: *Nigig Diving the Depths: 10 years of INVC at OCAD U* and *Odemir*, an exhibition presented by the Indigenous Student Association.



COMMUNITY



We welcomed slightly more than 1,500 new undergraduate and graduate students to OCAD U in 2022–23. Close to 900 students participated in Orientation Day activities with a launch in Butterfield Park. Our Welcome Squad held 30 events reaching 350 students, and 90 peer mentors supported 120 new first-year students through the Peer Mentorship Program.

We gathered as a community for several events leading up to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30. These included a curator's tour of the Jordan Bennett solo exhibition *Souvenir* and the film screening of *Muffins for Granny*. On September 30, Elder Elizabeth (Liz) Osawamick led a sunrise ceremony and there was a round dance led by Cheryl L'Hirondelle with singers and drummers from across Canada. There was a reading of special poems by Anishinaabe poet Dr. Duke Redbird and Cree Poet Laureate of Parliament Louise Bernice Halfe.

In the fall of 2022, more than 200 graduates from the Classes of 2020 and 2021 gathered in person at the Waterfront Campus to celebrate their achievements—the first time since the pandemic began. OCAD U's Black Caucus held a homecoming fête to welcome Black faculty, staff, students, alumni, Black Sparks and Friends of Black OCAD U. The event also celebrated the accomplishments of Black alums and recruited Black leaders to be members of the Black Sparks initiative.

Onsite Gallery celebrated [its fifth anniversary](#) at its 199 Richmond St. W. location in December 2022. In 2022–23, Onsite participated in Nuit Blanche and presented the solo exhibition, *Souvenir*, by Jordan Bennett and the *more-than-human* exhibition, which featured works by six Canadian-based artists/artist duos. The gallery also launched the exhibition, *On Americanity and Other Experiences of Belonging*, bringing together two curators, eight artists and their artworks and audiences around the notion of "Americanity" and what it stands for today.

GradEx 108 was a huge success with close to 40,000 visitors coming to campus in early May 2023, almost 10,000 more than last year, to see works by more than 800 emerging artists, designers and digital media makers. We opened the exhibition with a lively party in Butterfield Park where we recognized our [medal winners](#)—students whose projects were inspiring, innovative and amazing.

Also in May 2023, [we welcomed Amy Kelaidis](#), an Anishinaabe-kwe of the Eagle Clan of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, as the University's new Executive Director of Indigenous Engagement (Oshkaabewis). She will be working in collaboration with the University and external partners to support Indigenous success within the institution while contributing to the decolonization of University practices, policies and structures through advocacy and community-building.

We capped off a year of amazing work by coming together as a community to celebrate the Class of 2023 at two [Convocation ceremonies](#), including the first graduating cohort from the Creative Writing program. It was also a time to celebrate alums from the Classes of 2020 and 2021 who joined us for this in-person event. We paid tribute to [Dr. Dori Tunstall](#) and her many accomplishments during her seven years as the Dean of the Faculty of Design. We also recognized the outstanding achievements of five [exceptional individuals](#) who received honorary doctorate degrees: Kat Holmes, Robert Houle, Nancy McCain, Philip B. Lind and Rosemary Sadlier. We were saddened to learn of Philip Lind's passing in August 2023.



PARTNERSHIPS

We were a partner for several large-scale community events that contributed to strengthening our reputation as a vibrant and emerging hub. These included the *Maclean's* inaugural Ideas Summit at the Waterfront Campus and *La Nuit des Idées* with the Consulate General of France in Toronto and Alliance Française. A partnership with the Toronto International Festival of Authors showcased work by Creative Writing students through a series of poetic projections and Writers Behind Typewriters where custom poems were created for festival participants by the students.

The [Level Up Showcase](#) returned in person this year featuring the creative talent of students in game design, animation and computer science from about 20 colleges and universities in Ontario. During Toronto Games Week in June, OCAD U hosted several events on campus, including a discussion for the indie developer community and a NextGen Showcase of some of the most promising young creators from OCAD U, York University, Sheridan College and more.

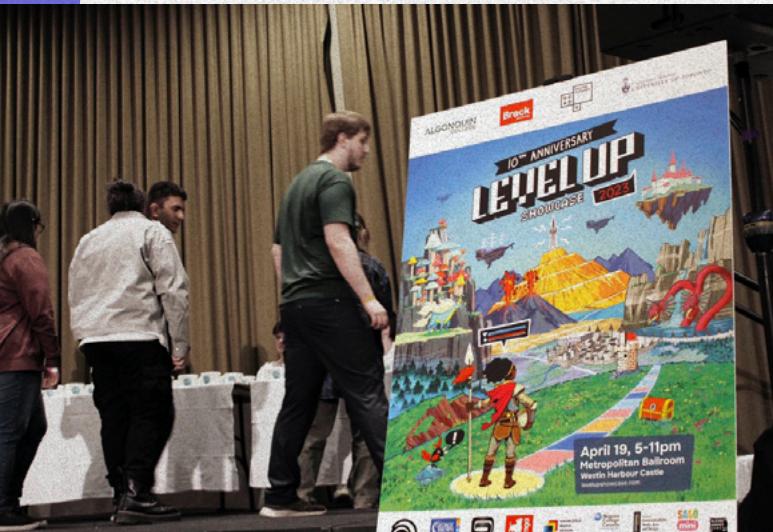
Onsite Gallery presented three murals on its external façade as part of its partnership with the Inuit Art Foundation. *Up Front: Inuit Public Art at Onsite Gallery* is a series of

commissioned digital murals by Inuit artists that recognizes the contributions of the Inuit art sector and supports Inuit art and artists in the public realm.

OCAD U co-presented the [DemocracyXChange Summit](#) in collaboration with Toronto Metropolitan University's The Dais and Open Democracy Project in March 2023. DXC23 attracted 500 participants and included a [Democracy Futures workshop](#) that brought people together to uncover new insights, connections, implications and opportunities for a resilient democracy. Keynote speakers included thought leaders Anand Giridharadas, Nadia Urbinati, Rajni Perera, Maurice Mitchell and Maria Ressa.

The [RBC Centre for Emerging Artists & Designers](#) (CEAD) continued to team up with industry partners to help students and recent graduates launch their professional practice through several initiatives, including Career Launcher programs such as the inaugural Clark Centre for the Arts Curatorial/Cultural Producer, DesignTO Programs Assistant, Open Studio Contemporary Printmaking Studio Residency and the Black History Month Digital Exhibition. A partnership between the RBC CEAD and the Royal Ontario Museum resulted in eight emerging designers participating in the museum's [Canadian Modern exhibition](#).

Our [collaboration with the Aga Khan Museum](#), *Light Up the Dark*, was a continuation of a series of public projection works done through the BigArtTO project in 2020 and 2021. *Light Up the Dark* was inspired by the importance of light in Islamic art and culture, and the



desire to have a cultural exchange with the Toronto community. Participating OCAD U artists included students and graduates from Experimental Animation, Drawing and Painting, Digital Painting and Expanded Animation, and graduates from the Interdisciplinary Master's in Art, Media and Design.

Through international partnerships, we provided opportunities for students to participate in short- and long-term study abroad, field study, service-learning programs or trips and collaborative research projects. Highlights of 2022-23 included the [Permaculture Design Independent Study](#) in Trinidad and Tobago where students worked in collaboration with the Wa Samaki Ecosystems, an 11-acre permaculture designed and operated farm; and an intensive cultural immersion in Oaxacan art, craft and design, in partnership with the Universidad De Monterrey, Mexico in Oaxaca, Mexico.

A small delegation from OCAD U visited South Korea and the Philippines to explore new international partnerships and solidify exchange opportunities for both faculty and students, and to foster long-lasting authentic relationships in the Indo-Pacific region. As a result, OCAD U became a residency partner for the Ateneo Art Awards (AAA)—Fernando Zóbel Prizes for Visual Art.

OCAD U became an associate member of Trans Europe Halles, a network of 140 cultural organizations, that has supported arts, culture and activism since 1983. We are the first member outside of Europe, playing a key role in expanding their network and mandate around the world.



CELEBRATING OUR STUDENT LEADERS

OCAD University recognized and celebrated student leaders who volunteered their time and energy towards representing student perspectives, supporting peer wellness programming, increasing student food security, providing community for marginalized students and so much more. A record 80 nominations were received for the awards, almost double previous numbers.



Peer Mentor Excellence Awards

Sanya Mathur
Lei (Yuna) Zhang

Student Group Leadership Award

Tir Tabandeh

Peer Wellness Excellence Award

Pauline Aksay

Student Employee Excellence

Sina Hojatzadeh

Indigenous Student Leadership Award

Sierra da Silva-Canadien

Diversity & Equity Excellence Award

Ali Brown
Nancy Correia

Excellence In Student Leadership Award

Leanna Barwick

CELEBRATING OUR MEDAL WINNERS

One graduating student from each of the University's undergraduate and graduate programs was recognized with an OCAD University Medal, presented during the GradEx 108 opening reception and at Convocation. These medals recognize creativity, innovation and technical mastery in a student's chosen discipline.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Advertising

Laura Arango

Creative Writing

Blaine Thornton

Criticism & Curatorial Practice

Ella Taylor

Cross-Disciplinary Art

Bridget Lu

Digital Futures

Christina Chen

Drawing & Painting

Hayley Chiu

Environmental Design

Sayeh Ghahari

Experimental Animation

Kim Luong

Graphic Design

Donald Zhu

Illustration

Gabrielle Schwartz

Indigenous Visual Culture

Grace Point

Industrial Design

Erin MacGregor

Integrated Media

Shaughn Martel

Material Art & Design

Miao Xuan Liu

Photography

Amir Abdolizadeh

Printmaking & Publications

Brandon Latcham

Sculpture/Installation

Gustav Bulzgis

Visual & Critical Studies

Shannon Molenaar

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Contemporary Art, Design & New Media Art

Wei Zhang

Criticism & Curatorial Practice

Paige Stephen

Design for Health

Mariam Al-Bess

Digital Futures

Joanne John

Inclusive Design

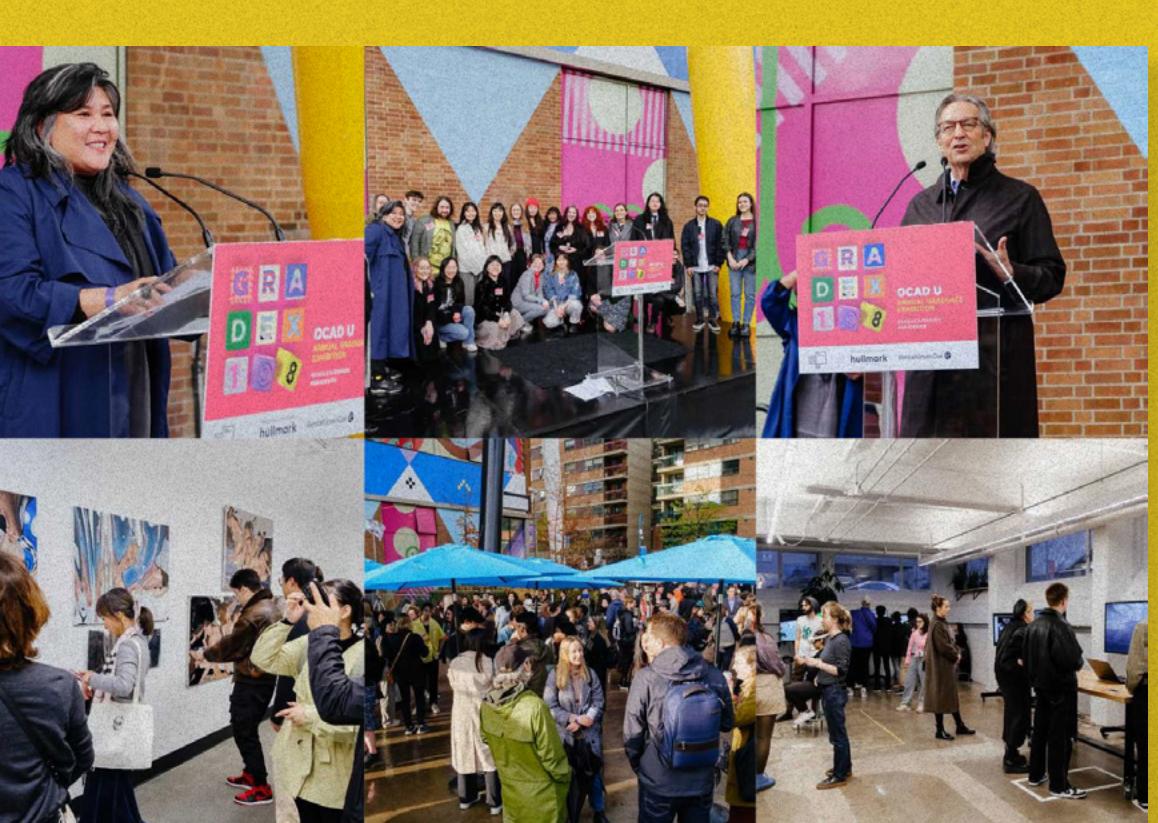
Laryn Van Dyk

Interdisciplinary Master's in Art, Media & Design

mihyun maria kim

Strategic Foresight & Innovation

Nicole Brkic



CELEBRATING RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

2022-23 OCAD UNIVERSITY AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Dr. Nithikul Nimkulrat

Associate Professor, Faculty of Design

2022-23 OCAD UNIVERSITY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EARLY-STAGE RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Dr. Kathy Moscou

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Design

Titles reflect the position that the person held in the 2022-23 academic year.

CELEBRATING OUR FACULTY

The 2022–23 Teaching Awards recognized outstanding faculty, instructors and teaching assistants who employed diverse, inclusive and evidence-informed methods to provide exceptional learning experiences for their students.

PRICE AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN TEACHING

Catherine Black
Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts
and Science
Chair, Creative Writing Program

NON-TENURED AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN TEACHING

Dr. Pam Patterson
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Art and
School of Graduate Studies
Director, 113Research Project Gallery

FACULTY OF ART TEACHING AWARD

Heather Frise
Instructor, Faculty of Art

FACULTY OF DESIGN TEACHING AWARD

Julia Rose Sutherland
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Design

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE TEACHING AWARD

Marie-Hélène He
Lecturer, Faculty of Arts and Science

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES TEACHING AWARD

Dr. Bryn Ludlow
Instructor, School of Graduate Studies

SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES TEACHING AWARD

Otino Corsano
Instructor, School of Continuing Studies

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Zishuo Li
Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Art

CELEBRATING OUR EMPLOYEES

OCAD U staff gathered in July 2023 to celebrate the recipients of the 2023 Employee Recognition Awards.

AWARD FOR EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE

Vibeke Silverthorne

Assistant, Communications and Events in Admissions and Recruitment

EMPLOYEE EQUITY AWARD

Shahriar Mirshahidi

English Language Learning Specialist, Writing and Learning Centre

ADVANCING EXCELLENCE TEAM AWARD

TOPdesk TEAM

Gale Allen, Manager and Associate Registrar, Graduate Studies

Michelle Carvalho, Records Administrator

Martin Chochinov, Graduate Student Coordinator

Shreya Chopra, Program Coordinator, Graduate Studies

Hannah Dickson, Gallery, Events and Studio Coordinator

Matt Dunn, Manager, Service Management (IT)

Raelene Ernst, Associate Registrar, Curriculum, Scheduling and Registration

Kimberley Gwanzura, Graduate Student Coordinator

Karson Jones, Records Analyst

Hannah Kujundzic, Student Communications Administrator

Tamela Madden, Student Advisor

Zachary Moss, Assistant, Student Advising

Sarah Mulholland, Manager, Student Communications and Campus Community

Julian Higuerey Nunez, Assistant Registrar, Curriculum and Scheduling

Christian Philipsz, Senior Student Advisor

Emily Rostoks, Director, Student Information Systems and Process Optimization

Sam Shearman, Student Information Systems Administrator

Samantha Shute, Student Advisor

Oliver Valencia, Student Advisor

Meichen Wexer, Lead, Graduate Recruitment, Alumni and Community Engagement

CHRISTINE CROSBIE HEART OF GOLD AWARD

Andrew Atkin

Contract Technician, Plastics Studio

2023 LONG SERVICE AWARDS

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Barry Ellis

Coordinator, Access Systems

Simon Leenhouts

Application and Database Administrator

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Richard Connoy

Manager, Facilities Maintenance

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Kelly Dickinson, Manager, Faculty of Design Office

Brent James, Campus Life Coordinator

Alastair MacLeod, Chief Information Officer

Omita Mansur, Manager, Budget Planning

Mike Steventon, Manager, Research Technology

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

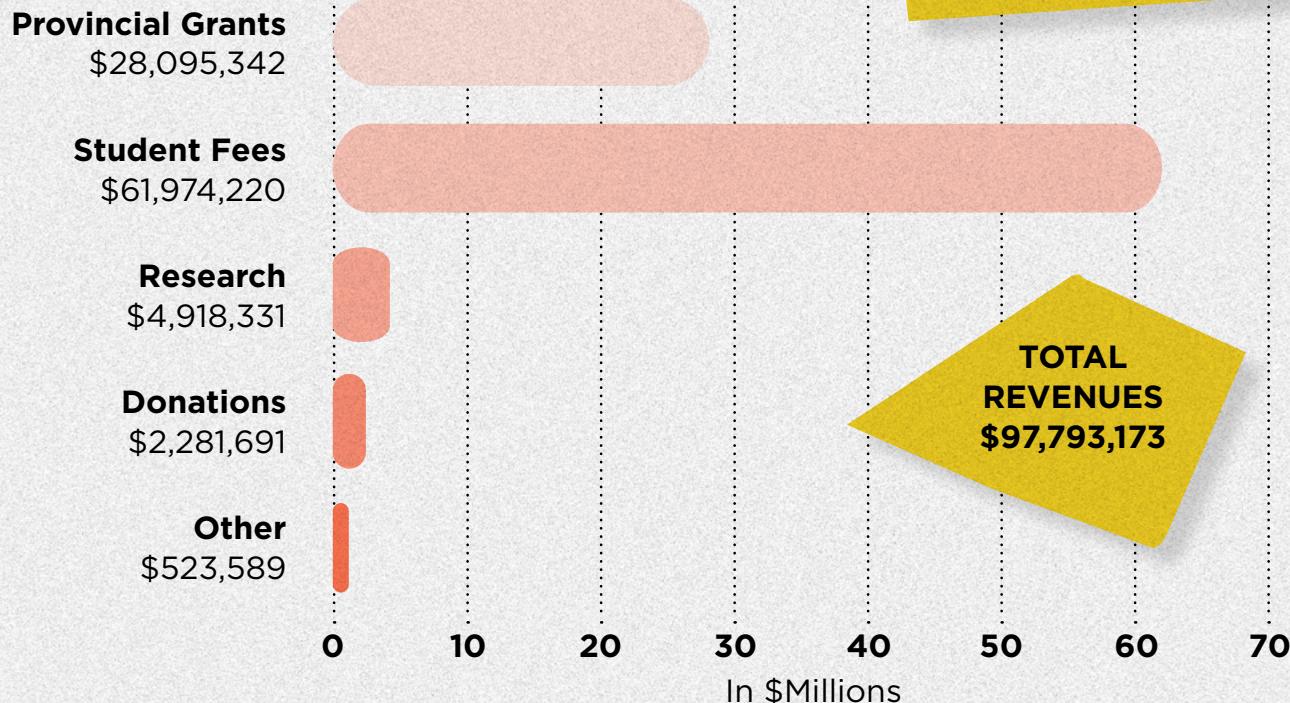
Karen Henry

Coordinator, Donor Services

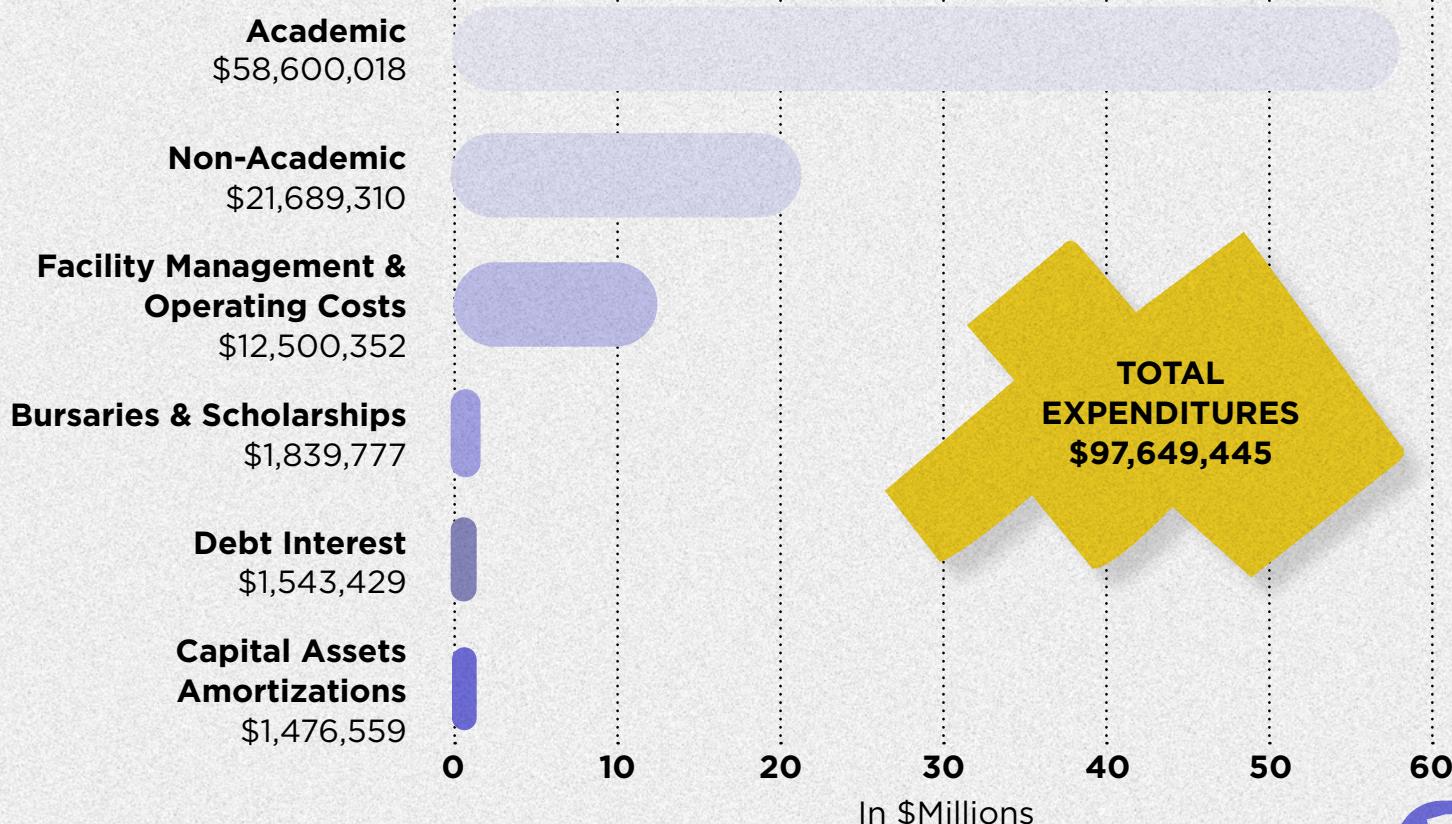


2022-23 REVENUES

For more information,
please see the [OCAD](#)
[University Audited Financial](#)
[Statements for 2022-23](#)



2022-23 EXPENDITURES



**Undergraduate
FTEs**



Domestic	2828 (71.9%)
International	1103.8 (28.1%)



Domestic	199.7 (65.3%)
International	105.9 (34.7%)

**Graduate
FTEs**



Domestic	146.2 (56.8%)
International	111.0 (43.2%)

**OCAD U School of
Continuing Studies**

2,268
Registrations

182
Courses