



**Creative Economy Department**  
**August 21st, 2019**

The City of Barrie is proud to present its first ever public piano which has been stationed in Meridian Place for everyone to play and enjoy!

This project was entirely community focused, and would not have been possible without the generous donations from those who wanted to bring this idea to life. Therefore, we have so many people to thank!

The idea of putting a piano outside in Meridian Place was first brought to us by Councilor Mike McCann, who connected us to the mastermind behind the whole project: Michelle Hardie. Michelle sought out a piano, paid for it to be moved, and has volunteered her time and money to assist in its upkeep. This is her first project with her organization, "Millions of Miracles," which is a company focused on implementing community based projects throughout the City of Barrie. The piano was moved into Art in House, where owners Mar and Jon Lewis graciously allowed the artists to use their space to design and paint the piano. Local artist Bhreagh Campbell designed and painted the piano, using paints paid for by the Barrie Arts Committee. Andy Thompson of Thompson Architecture designed and built a small rooftop for the piano to help protect it from the elements during its time outside. Extreme Imaging donated vinyl lettering to attach to the side of the piano for us to advertise our sponsors. Finally, the piano was moved from Art in House to its home in Meridian Place with the help of local volunteers, Steven Henderson, Will Crosson, and Connory Ballantyne.

Public pianos have been implemented all over the world as a means of community engagement. These installations invite people from all walks of life to participate, observe, listen, and come together over a shared love of music. Our first public piano will bring a sense of vibrancy into our downtown core and help to animate Meridian Place. Over the next year, our plan is to implement a full public piano program which will include a variety of sponsorship opportunities for businesses to have their branding on pianos that will be painted and dispersed throughout the City.