

RESPONSE BY: SCOTT CRONE, CANDIDATE FOR COUNCILLOR WARD 3, EAST GWILLIMBURY

COMMUNITY / PROMOTION / ACCESS:

What will you do to ensure the general public has greater access to experience and enjoy the arts in your municipality?

Currently the town hall is used to only as a place where council meets, it is also a hub of arts and culture within EG. We have an ever changing display of local artists on the walls, but also many groups use our space to meet and promote arts and culture within EG. One example is the regular Author Events hosted by the Friends of the Library are hosted right in our Council Chambers. Also, our libraries are a huge hub of arts and culture in EG both through campaigns and displays as well as public programming. I would continue to support these amazing initiatives .

What is one small concrete example of supporting the arts that you can do on a monthly basis?

Talk to the leaders within the arts community. I want to hear from them. What is working for your organization and what can we as a council do to help you be more successful? Dialogue is essential for better understanding.

With many jobs being developed in media arts related fields, what are your plans to ensure talent stays in the region instead of moving to innovative hubs like Waterloo, Vancouver and Silicon Valley?

One of the key points on my platform is fighting for improved broadband across our ward. Artists are now able to profile their work, collaborate with other artists and learn and grow like never before on-line. Having fast reliable internet will enable those artists to do just that and stay here in the community they live in.

How will you contribute to growth of the arts in the future for the next generation of artists?

The best way I can do that is to stay engaged, follow through on my commitment to speak to community leaders and fight for better broadband. As your councillor my job will be to listen and help remove barriers and find affordable places for them to create and profile their work. The more they can do that the stronger our arts and cultural communities can be.

INTRINSIC VALUE:

What municipal arts and culture events/programming do you attend and support, and have you purchased work created by local artists?

I will attend local theatre productions and concerts to support talent in the area. My wife and I went on a local artist tour, held in the township of Uxbridge. We purchased a number of pieces created by the artists on this tour.

PLATFORM:

In your list of the ten top priorities of your platform, where would supporting the arts place on your list? Why there?

I feel that supporting the arts is embedded in a number of places in my platform. Being fiscally responsible ensures there is money available to support arts and culture in the community. Being responsible about growth is very important because as we grow, we need to make sure that we protect the culture and history that made our community what it is. Focusing on local programming not only enables more focus on programs that teach and promote the arts, but brings people to the spaces where we promote local artists. Arts and culture are part of the fabric that makes our community strong and unique. It should be seen not on its own as an issue or platform discussion, but as part of all pieces of the broader discussion.

Arts and culture are a barometer of the health of a community, town, or city. How will you profile/give a place to arts and culture in your municipal structure, strategic planning, marketing and reporting of achievements?

As a ward councillor, I view my role to be that of a conduit of information. As a public person, I would have access to various media in which to promote local artistic events or endeavours. From Facebook, to my webpage, to promotion through local newspaper - I could be a champion for the arts in East Gwillimbury.

What kind of municipal policy would you propose to encourage artists to be able to work and live in your municipality?

I would love to see East Gwillimbury attract more movie production to our town. This would help create meaningful work to a great number of people in front of and behind the camera. I would support policy that would make our town production friendly. We are situated a short distance from the third largest movie and television production centre in North America. We need to leverage that opportunity.

SPACE:

How will you ensure that artists in your municipality receive affordable space to create and showcase their work?

I would call for a policy review on pricing for community spaces. Community centres were built for the community to use. If it gets too expensive for that to happen we have empty buildings and that benefits no one. Successful community groups, arts groups and cultural groups is the backbone of a healthy and connected town.

How do you envision the inclusion of local art in the public realm?

Public spaces are the perfect place to showcase local art. The displays in our town hall are a perfect example of partnering to promote. Our libraries play a key role in this as well and I would continue to support that going forward.

EDUCATION:

Where do you see arts education fitting into your electoral platform - in school programming, health programs and/or community programs?

I can't speak to school and health programs, but I can speak to programs offered through the town. I have talked a lot about having programs offered here in EG that will support both our young families, youth and seniors. Making it available, affordable and local are key. We shouldn't have to go to Newmarket for great program. Our local libraries also do a great job of running programs that are art and culture based and I would continue to support that. This is perhaps a better question to be directed to School Trustee candidates.

FUNDING:

Do you believe that it's vital to have municipal granting programs to fund local artists and arts organizations to create and present work in your municipality? If so, how will you advocate for this funding?

I am not opposed to funding local artists. I would like to see a proposal submitted to mayor and council for consideration. For clarity, this is not a position I take just with the arts - it is something that I state for any group looking for municipal funding.

There is a noticeable gap between arts spaces (studio, exhibition, performing, etc.) for emerging and professional artists in York Region, making it challenging for artists to stay in the area while growing their professions. What do you think the municipality's role is in funding spaces for emerging to mid-career artists?

Much like my answer above, would need to see a proposal submitted that makes a business case for such support.