

RESPONSE BY: DERRICK HAMMETT, COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE AURORA

COMMUNITY / PROMOTION / ACCESS:

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

- One of my plans is to introduce a Lighting/Technology event. This will highlight our heritage buildings, promote local artists, and be featured at different areas of town. I would also initiate some local outdoor art and exhibits within the new Library square.

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

- We could provide a feature artist every month on the town website or via one of our many town facilities.
- Continue to support our current events - music in the park, etc.
-

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?

- My past career involved working in the Audio Visual world where I worked with many local artists - whether it be theatre, museums, or music. I think the key is to ensure artists are supported by having places to showcase talent, using technology (see event idea above) to highlight their product

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

Buy showcasing current talent it will certainly excite the next generation. I believe in giving them the venue, time and support.

INTRINSIC VALUE:

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

- I don't believe I've purchased any work from local artists - but I believe they need the exposure to help people like myself see and potentially purchase
- I have been involved in local Theatre (participant and attendee)
- I attend musical events - my nephew is an up and coming local musician that just released his first EP of original Jazz compositions
- I have been an avid photography supporter - having worked in the industry and launched the first affordable consumer digital camera into Canada

PLATFORM:

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

- It currently sits in second item of importance - as part of my plan includes events to promote culture/heritage/tourism.
- Along with this exposure comes visitors, promotion of Aurora - and thus the Economic benefits.

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?

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

SPACE:

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

- I would be in support of a place/area subsidized by the town that has reasonable rent/space for local talent - A true workshop of various artists under one roof - open to the public at certain times. Having them educate and provide classes - to help offset costs

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

- I have addressed part of this earlier, but in support of the new Library Square, it would give local artists a chance to showcase their talent - either performance, sculpture, or other

EDUCATION:

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

- I believe we need to have more programs within our Leisure services to address education as well as showcase different forms of Art
- I would expect to speak with local artists or representatives to get a better understanding of the needs and how to implement.

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?

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?

I have not answered a few of your questions for a few reasons:

1. Either I addressed them in previous answers
2. I still have much to learn and input to gather from local representatives on the Arts. As this will be my first term - if elected - I cannot comment on certain initiatives of past council. I will state that I am certainly a supporter of the Arts in various ways and willing to assist with some form of funding. Currently Aurora does have some reserve funds that are set aside in support of

Arts and Culture as well as Public Art. Obviously we need to ensure these funds continue to grow but also used in the most efficient manner to support Arts and Culture in Aurora.