

RESPONSE BY: JOHN TAYLOR, MAYORAL CANDIDATE FOR NEWMARKET

COMMUNITY / PROMOTION / ACCESS:

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

We recently opened the Old Town Hall Arts and Culture Centre which is being fully programed and has provided a great boost to the arts in Newmarket. I was the co-founder of the Arts Gala which provides seed funding for the arts through grants. I will be working with staff to ensure that our Theatre (Newmarket Theatre) has greater arts programing in the next term as well as seeking greater funding to do so.

What is one small concrete example of supporting the arts that you can do on a monthly basis?
I attend as many arts events as possible and share the events through social media.

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?

Supporting NewMakelT and its desire to have arts integrated into its operations.

How will you contribute to growth of the arts in the future for the next generation of artists?
Following and reviewing our Arts and Culture Master Plan

INTRINSIC VALUE:

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

I attend at least two arts related events each month. I have at purchased at least 8 pieces of art by various local artists that is displayed in both my office and my home. I have a lifelong love of the arts. I acted in my youth. I edited a journal for Young writers and I attend live theatre in Newmarket and elsewhere on a regular basis. A natural love of the arts and understanding of its value underpin my commitment to the arts in our commujity.

PLATFORM:

In your list of the ten top priorities of your platform, where would supporting the arts place on your list? Why there? **The Arts are crucial to building a complete and sustainable community it will always be a priority.**

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? **I believe this has been answered in many of the questions above.**

What kind of municipal policy would you propose to encourage artists to be able to work and live in your municipality? **I think we need to create live/work spaces through various planning tools.**

SPACE:

How will you ensure that artists in your municipality receive affordable space to create and showcase their work? **We will continue to work with the Arts community to create new opportunities as we just did at the Old Town Hall. We will continue to explore new opportunities.**

Would you support the development of a creative space for artists in Newmarket? If so, how? **Yes. I think the town needs to support the arts community to create/expand a membership based cooperative which could manage a space of their own.**

How do you envision the inclusion of local art in the public realm? **Everywhere and at every opportunity.**

Would you support the creation of an arts pod with local artists work similar to the reading pod in the Newmarket Riverwalk Commons/Fairy Lake area? If so, how would you help implement this? **Interesting idea – happy to explore it.**

EDUCATION:

Where do you see arts education fitting into your electoral platform - in school programming, health programs and/or community programs? **I believe our library can and does support programs as well as the Newmarket Group of Artists and our Old Town Hall cultural centre. The town can support and will support all of these initiatives.**

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? **We currently do so through the Gala for the Arts. I intend to support and grow this event.**

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? **We can play a supportive role along with other key partners.**

If approached, how would you support Newmarket arts organizations/artists with sourcing sponsorships from local businesses? **I have done this already before and I am happy to continue to do this.**

How would you actively support arts and culture in the Town of Newmarket to ensure adequate funding and resources are easily available for Newmarket-based artists? **Through the Gala, attracting private sector support and supporting grant applications to name a few.**