

**RESPONSE BY: ABDUL RAHMIN MALIK, MAYORAL CANDIDATE, MARKHAM**

**COMMUNITY / PROMOTION / ACCESS:**

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

Get our artists more exposure during community events i.e. Markham fair grounds, community centre openings etc. Regular weekly arts nights that showcase various local artists for all ages. Also get more international support and involvement in our local art community. I would also like to see a platform created for disabled artists of our city like Tangled in Toronto.

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

At the nearest community centre near my home, we have senior artist days once or twice a month. By continuing my participation where art by seniors is displayed and bought starting at a local level I feel that is something that I already do to support the arts on a monthly basis. I further wish that this neat idea would be continued in other locations around our city.

**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?**

Initiatives like Markham movieland projects are a great way to get more private investors into choosing Markham to come to. I would also like to see similarly international level music recording studios to be created in Markham. That is not to say that I want Markham to become Hollywood city, no. I want Markham residents to cultivate home grown talent.

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

I want our younger generation of artists to be exposed to the experiences of their preceding counterparts. I want them to aspire to have dreams and to know that dreams can come true. When I was little we had Roberta Bondar speak at our community library (for free). After that I wanted to be an astronaut (for a short time). We need more artistic exposure of our younger generation to the arts. When my 3 year old niece saw the traditional Tamil dancers at our community centre she wanted to get classes.

**INTRINSIC VALUE:**

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

Yes I have purchased work created by local artists. I look forward to and attend the Markham Jazz festival every year.

**PLATFORM:**

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

I would place arts as inclusive on all levels of my platform. My platform is about having affordable, clean, safe, friendly, and united. This platform is geared to be inclusive to all age

groups, backgrounds, skills and talents. I have a geared interest specifically towards our art, sports and special need groups.

**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 would like to initiate a young artist award that as a city we could award to our local artist every year. Additionally, I would like to have added funding in our budget towards marketing of events that are supportive of our artists. I would also like to see traditional community events get more exposure and platform in Markham. Lets have a week long winter festival that showcases our varied and diverse talents. Supporting our artists and athletes will boost our economy as well.

**SPACE:**

**What would it take for a cultural centre to be created in Markham - an affordable space for creating, collaborating and presenting visual and performing arts?**

It won't take much more than great leadership and someone in our municipality that can take the initiative to get a cultural centre up and running. My focus again is on having this centre be affordable! A single working mother in our city cannot afford to have her child in private ballet just because it is too expensive, but the community cultural centre alternative needs to be affordable too. Again, lets provide a nutritive environment to cultivate our home grown talents.

**EDUCATION:**

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

Affordable community programs. Music classes in our schools.

It came as a surprise to me that band and music classes in our elementary schools has deteriorated or perhaps replaced by other classes. I was a saxophone player in grade 7 and 8. I loved it. Where did our in school programming go?

**FUNDING:**

**Will you implement a municipal budget for arts-based funding for artists living and working in Markham? If so, how? If not, why not?**

Yes, I am surprised that there isn't one already. Municipalities need to set a budget for funding for arts and sports programs in their cities.