

RESPONSE BY: SHANTA SUNDARASON, CANDIDATE FOR COUNCILLOR WARD 3, 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?

More exposure through combined efforts of sharing related events.
Greater collaboration with schools. (I have been doing this with my youth group but not many schools do)

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

Support a community event in whatever way I can.

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?

Not sure on this answer but happy to hear what your thoughts are and will support this in any way I can. I am PRO arts big time!

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

Promote our local talent. We have some amazing artists right at our front door. Find exciting opportunities and events to host that will highlight all different forms of Art here in Markham.

INTRINSIC VALUE:

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

Most hosted at the Varley and I have hosted my own arts related events.

PLATFORM:

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

No. 3.

Supporting the seniors is a huge priority and so is the welfare of the residents of Unionville and their quality of life. After that, the Arts is close behind as I am very frustrated at the lack of support and respect of the direction given by the YRAC

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?

We need to discuss this. It is not my decision alone but that of like minded individuals. I do not profess to have all the answers, just a desire and will to see the arts become a focus here in Markham.

SPACE:

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

We need to work with the 'players' here in the City. Educate and excite them

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?

Not much. Just a will. New voices on council should bring about change in this avenue and we need to band together and use our voices. It works. I am proof.

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

Education and collaboration. We need to reach out to the right groups. Those that live and work here and understand and are sympathetic. They exist.

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?

Absolutely. It's all about having the right members on board. The budget for the coming year is 456,170,000. We just ask for 1%.

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?

Very important. There is so much unused space in and around the City. We just search and justify.

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

We will need to rally a good group of councillors to support us (even if I am not elected). Hopefully we will have some good 'men' voted in that will be supportive and help us push for this.