

RESPONSE BY: MILLAD HAMIDKOHZAD, CANDIDATE FOR COUNCILLOR WARD 1, VAUGHAN

Hello, first I would like to say that I am a believer in the arts and I believe it is essential to everyone's development. Growing up I wanted to be an actor and went to auditions for shows and commercials and was always top of my class in drama throughout elementary and Highschool. I landed a voice acting role on the recently released "The Breadwinner" and was the main role in my school's biggest play "Amanah" which won the Outstanding Production Award at the Sears Drama Festival before our invitation to SummerWorks.

Questions

1. 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?
2. Where do you see arts education fitting into your electoral platform - in school programming, health programs and/or community programs?
3. What will you do to ensure the general public has greater access to experience and enjoy the arts in your municipality?
4. How will you contribute to growth of the arts in the future for the next generation of artists?

One of the priorities of my platform is creating a youth development program with an overarching mission of helping at risk children and teens. Vaughan city council will work together with school counselors and teachers by receiving referrals from them of students they believe need a change in lifestyle. These students will be able to choose from various skills to learn at little cost, from learning music, dance and hip-hop to art, martial arts and sports. I believe this program although it does not focus solely on art still provides students with an opportunity to learn its beauty and possible start a career revolving around the arts. Whether the "general public" will have access to it I'm not to sure as of right now but students from elementary to high school will have this opportunity. I believe this program will contribute to the growth of arts in the future for the next generation of artists. Lastly, as stated above the classes will be at little to no cost meaning there will be funding from the municipality.