

RESPONSE BY: BORIS GODZINEVSKI, MAYORAL CANDIDATE, GEORGINA

COMMUNITY / PROMOTION / ACCESS:

What will you do to ensure the general public has greater access to experience and enjoy the arts in your municipality? **Having organized events myself with a marketing and film background I would set up more exposure and awareness is what it ultimately comes down to.**

What is one small concrete example of supporting the arts that you can do on a monthly basis? **I intend to host a monthly meeting at the Stephen Leacock Theatre to have open discussions about programs and events.**

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? **We need more accomodation and exposure. Right now it comes down to cost. From a small business perspective, our permitting process makes us non-competitive and residents should receive added benefits with our infrastructure such as the Stephen Leacock with regards to cost.**

How will you contribute to growth of the arts in the future for the next generation of artists? **Bringing in more events and better marketing.**

INTRINSIC VALUE:

What municipal arts and culture events/programming do you attend and support, and have you purchased work created by local artists? **I would like a return of some events we did have that I attended such as the TIFF film screenings at the Stephen Leacock. There are events that are not town run but I support that take place at the Stephen Leacock such as musicals and comedy. We have the Military Museum which I identify to be a cultural asset and is sponsored by our town. I have purchased local art and creations.**

PLATFORM:

In your list of the ten top priorities of your platform, where would supporting the arts place on your list? Why there? **Unfortunately with the many issues in our town that need addressing, the arts have to come after these in terms of funding but not in awareness and promotion. Entertainment can generate great interest and revenue if done properly. Now on a personal level having accreditation for my musical skillset and producing film content I would take the time to promote the arts. So on a platform basis it would fall behind business, beaches, infrastructure, recreation, senior housing and youth development however that the arts can play a significant role in youth development, can be tied to good business growth and go hand in hand with recreation and funding for infrastructure. So it's not a simple ranking system.**

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? **My marketing background and personal passion for the arts will result in promoting events on another level.**

What kind of municipal policy would you propose to encourage artists to be able to work and live in your municipality? **As stated before, it comes down to accomodating through cost. Provide residents with discount in theatre space, advertising and with a healthy business environment, artists will benefit from that as well.**

SPACE:

How will you ensure that artists in your municipality receive affordable space to create and showcase their work? **Supply and demand, right now there is not enough business in our town to help build and accomodate.**

What will you do to support/promote the Georgina Arts Centre and Gallery to increase its visibility and viability? **Through film and marketing as well as personal promotion. Word of mouth is how art spreads quickly.**

How do you envision the inclusion of local art in the public realm? **We need to be prideful and promote local creations.**

EDUCATION:

Where do you see arts education fitting into your electoral platform - in school programming, health programs and/or community programs? **I strongly believe if youth in our community have more of an outlet to occupy interests such as with the arts, it provides health in other areas and I do think there is a correlation with less crime. I myself intend to speak at schools in promoting 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? **Yes, but if you have a vibrant business environment, you are able to secure more private funding for such initiatives.**

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? **A healthy business policy means there will inevitably be more funding opportunities and space.**