

RESPONSE BY: FURIO LIBERATORE, COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE , WARD 4 VAUGHAN

I've seen in Toronto how the arts have flourished and has become a true trademark of the city and has attracted millions of visitors.

I would firstly form a focus group of artists like yourself that can bring brilliant ideas to the table and put together an action plan to implement it.

The items listed below are some of the things that Toronto has implement and have worked successfully.

1 - subsidized studio space on city-owned properties.

2 - incentives for large-scale developments to incorporate low-cost studio-condo units available only to working artists, musicians, and writers. Look to successful existing public-private partnerships as a model ie. Artscape's numerous developments in Toronto and Montreal's studio district. These should be concentrated near major public transit hubs like the go train stations and the TTC subway station

3 - in consultation with local arts groups Vaughan needs to create a space for local artists to mount temporary exhibits. We have some historic buildings that are available for that but they are small and away from the foot traffic required for such a facility.

4 - designate an "Arts District" and ensure that it includes all of the above items. The plans for Vaughan Metropolitan Centre should include something like this - if it can't be done look to established areas like old Kleinburg ... could their library be expanded to include all of the above??? Is there any other city owned property there? The McMichael Art Gallery would be an ideal anchor around which the city could develop and Arts District.