

**RESPONSE BY: JOE PERSECHINI, INCUMBENT CANDIDATE FOR COUNCILLOR
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COMMUNITY / PROMOTION / ACCESS:

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

I am open to various proposals from community groups on Arts and Culture. I am willing to consider these proposals for discussion within our strategic planning.

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

I am very active in the community and attend many community events. I am open to meeting with various groups given the time in my schedule. I would be interested in attending some Arts/Culture events if and when invited.

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 plan strategically to make our community prosperous and safe. We review new business development proposals to meet the needs of those in our community. In understanding the needs of our community members we can plan more effectively to incorporate new local businesses, which benefit from our talent pool in all fields.

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

This depends on the local needs and interest of our community members in the Arts. It also depends on funding sources. Having information from our community members about how Arts can support our community and will help us plan for the future.

INTRINSIC VALUE:

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

PLATFORM:

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

I advocate for; Establishing and Maintaining Quality partnerships in all areas of business and government and making decisions that recognize all stakeholders' interests. Making Arts a priority would be integrated into establishing partnerships and making decisions.

Arts and culture is 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?

Understanding the needs and interests of our constituents will determine our approach to how we profile the arts.

What kind of municipal policy would you propose to encourage artists to be able to work and live in your municipality?

Our Strategic Planning will determine the policies we set for this. The entire municipal board determines policy. Each councillor will bring forward the interests of their constituents.

SPACE:

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

When listening to the constituents needs we will consider this in our budget planning.

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

EDUCATION:

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

School systems and Health care systems determine how to specifically to meet their needs beyond our jurisdiction.

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?

We plan for funding programs such as this thorough our Strategic Planning process based on constituent needs. Advocacy will be based on recognized and perceived needs.

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?