

RESPONSE BY MIKE RAJBAR, COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE WARD 2 RICHMOND HILL

COMMUNITY / PROMOTION / ACCESS:

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

It can be difficult to navigate the richmondhill.ca website to find where to register for the amazing programs that are being offered. Perhaps a quick link on the home page to the art registration page could improve it. The events advertised are only the Town's programs...maybe there could be a public page to showcase other art events, workshops etc. that are happening in RH.

Perhaps a quarterly ARTS magazine could be published to showcase what has been done, what is currently going on, and what art programs are coming to Richmond Hill.

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

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?

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

A public studio, gallery and makerspace for our artists might be needed. Right now, we only have organizations such as the Richmond Hill Group of Artists, where there is limited studio time, and you have to buy a membership.

INTRINSIC VALUE:

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

I have attended the Richmond Hill Cultural Summit for many years, which showcases our local artists and updates the community on current and future events and programs. It celebrates our vibrant Arts culture. I've attended many local events, such as Taste of the Hill, Ribfest, farmers' markets, Canada Day, Burr House, Richmond Hill Group of Artists events, concerts at the Richmond Hill centre for the Performing Arts and Doors Open Richmond Hill.

I have also purchased paintings from a local artist.

PLATFORM:

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

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?

The city of Orillia has an arts policy called streets alive where they annually celebrate Orillia with art. The Town could use art to celebrate Richmond Hill by exhibiting art throughout its historic downtown encouraging pedestrian foot traffic, reviving interest in the downtown and supporting local businesses.

SPACE:

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

Do you think artist studio space rentals should be added to the new Richmond Hill Public Library expansion and other similar community venues?

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

The Town could hold an annual competition for local artists. Richmond Hill was once known as the rose capital of Canada so could have an annual contest to celebrate the Richmond Rose which could be exhibited throughout the historic downtown and key locations throughout Richmond Hill.

EDUCATION:

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

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?

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?