

RESPONSE BY: RAY LAI, REGIONAL COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE, MARKHAM

1. In relation to innovation hubs, Markham is certainly not a leader in grassroots innovation, which is a shame since we call ourselves the "Tech Capital of Canada". We can't continue to claim that with just IBM, AMD, and Huawei as our credentials. I support the establishment of maker spaces, innovation hubs, and incubators like YSpace here Markham so those who want to innovate can live AND create here.

I would work with educational institutions and private sources to fund and build these spaces. Attracting them takes leadership from our elected officials, and I'm more than ready to provide that leadership.

2. In relation to advocacy, I'll be the first to admit that arts is not my forte. I barely scraped by in elementary arts courses as I'm more comfortable in front of a keyboard than an easel. Having said that, I believe in the power of teams and what teams can do. I'll surround myself with those who strongly advocate for the arts to help me make decisions that are facts-based and human-centred.