

**RESPONSE BY: SUNDER SINGH, INCUMBENT REGIONAL COUNCILLOR
CANDIDATE, VAUGHAN**

COMMUNITY / PROMOTION / ACCESS:

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

- ✓ Develop an arts and culture master plan for City of Vaughan.
- ✓ Create a Vaughan Arts and Culture Committee (perhaps a sub-set of York Region Arts Council) to meet quarterly and host regular community arts and cultural activities, as well as give input into the A&C Master Plan, and help plan one major arts/cultural festival each year. Committee should have representation of local aboriginal artists.
- ✓ Create community live-giving “oases” where iconic art pieces, fountains and lush gardens provide beautiful spaces for Vaughan residents across the City.

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

- ✓ As an artist who has created and continues to foster art programming for new artists, seniors and youth, I continue to support and encourage access to arts of all kinds.

On a regular basis seniors, women and youth explore their artistic talent at the Peacock Art Studio, which was created by me and operated by Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women. The artistic products created at the Peacock Art Studio are sold to public.

- ✓ I would like to sponsor an “Open” Vaughan Arts Festival for artists of all ages, from all genres, and all cultures.

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?

- ✓ Develop an outreach strategy with our Economic Development Team at the City to reach out to a variety of artistic communities: fashion, music, design etc....to encourage a creative hub in our City
- ✓ Work with development industry to re-purpose empty or underutilized space for this purpose

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

- ✓ Engage in conversation and involve the Public and Catholic Boards of Education to actively participate in an annual Vaughan Arts Festival
- ✓ Explore the creation of a Vaughan Artist Scholarship Fund with support from local businesses and organizations.

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 created and encouraged a wide variety of art programs within my community building projects. For example, I created the Peacock Art Studio. Community members, including myself, purchase local art created by the local artists from the Peacock Art Studio, operated by Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women. Peacock Art Studio engages women, seniors and youth in creative art activities. Art creations have been displayed at Vaughan of a Kind shows and other community events where local art is purchased by community members.

PLATFORM:

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

- ✓ Supporting arts and culture is about building life-affirming communities in our City
- ✓ It is an essential factor in creating quality of life for people and I'm one of the only candidates who has it in their top 10 list.

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?

- ✓ Along with environmental sustainability, contributing positively to arts and culture should be encouraged to be a part of the evaluation of every development planning project for the City – architecture, gardens, hard/soft scape, public art, serene spaces

✓ Help in supporting the development of a proactive arts and culture action plan and strategy

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

✓ Promote free drop-in Art studio space to youth artists

✓ Work with local developers and property owners to create an Artists' Hub shared space with affordable studio and creative space

SPACE:

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

✓ Promote the use of City spaces for art exhibitions throughout the City

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

✓ With the promotion of the Vaughan Arts Festival, encourage every local Vaughan business to be an "Art Host" and sponsor the work of local artists during the Festival period

✓ Suggest the inclusion of art installation/fountains/community oasis planning as a key aspect in the planning, improvement and redevelopment of Vaughan parks.

Vaughan parks should be open for artists to enjoy working on creative activities outdoors.

EDUCATION:

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

✓ Essential that all students and adults have opportunities to explore and participate in music, fine arts, sculpture and other artistic genres.

Aboriginal communities should engage local students to learn about Canadian art.

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?

✓ I would work with York Arts Council and community sponsors to create a "Corporate Art Sponsorship" Program for art installations around the City

✓ I would like to focus on creating an Vaughan "Artists' Hub Space" where artists would be able to work and launch their own creative successful businesses

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?

✓ The municipality could utilize and encourage a variety of spaces to be used for artistic purposes and exhibitions – this would be a key focus of the Vaughan Arts and Culture Plan.

As a member of the Women's Art Council at the McMichael Art Gallery, I have had a conversation with the members to look at potential space for artists.