

Sue Sherban Ward 6 Councillor Candidate – 09-27-2018

QUESTIONS FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTORAL CANDIDATES:

How to Reply: Whether you respond to one question, a handful, or all, we appreciate your time and dedication to your community. The following questions are from artists and culture workers across York Region. Please insert your responses below the question(s) you choose to answer. Save the document and email it back to Samantha@yorkregionartscouncil.com AND Jessica@yorkregionartscouncil.com.

COMMUNITY / PROMOTION / ACCESS:

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

We recently provided our gallery with a permanent home in the leisure centre and we have a theatre and for a small community this is a huge accomplishment. I will continue to support these venues' and hopefully work with them to become more self-sustainable through promotion sponsorships and fundraising.

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

Regularly promote and share events and info through my social media accounts

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? For a small municipality I don't believe there is a threat for the Region I would need to understand more who and what would be looking to move to these other hubs.

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

Continue to support the services level we have.

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 a number of local artist's pieces of work that I have bought over time in my home. I attend most local festival events.

PLATFORM:

In your list of the ten top priorities of your platform, where would supporting the arts place on your list? Why there? Currently our municipality is short a \$80M funding for infrastructure so I believe by sustaining the current service level for the arts is about all we can manage at this time.

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? I know the municipality has been very generous currently and in the past in giving the arts community full access to our municipal publications and social media support via promoting their events.

What kind of municipal policy would you propose to encourage artists to be able to work and live in your municipality? **I believe our community has all the makings for artists to work and live in our municipality with its abundance of green spaces, heritage buildings, gallery and theatre are all important to the arts and we have it all.**

SPACE:

How will you ensure that artists in your municipality receive affordable space to create and showcase their work? **The town has provided for a long time public supported space for artists to showcase their work now.**

How do you see the facility of "19 On The Park" becoming more financially accessible to rent for local artists and art groups? **Financially accessible will be a big undertaking and I believe it takes a partnership, the municipality is not in a healthy financial position right now to take on more but as I mentioned earlier sponsorship and fundraising is key. There are also a number of private grant applications that should be pursued by any organization to help fund.**

How do you envision the inclusion of local art in the public realm? **Promotion of the existing art walk is way underutilized and should become a well-used public space through more sponsored meeting spaces (ie gazebo friendly seating, permanent structures like pergola with seating etc.) for families, friends and senior.**

EDUCATION:

Where do you see arts education fitting into your electoral platform - in school programming, health programs and/or community programs? **School programming is more of a trustee responsibility however I have no issue supporting programming if it helps, health and community programs are currently part of our leisure services and gallery services.**

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? **As I mentioned earlier the municipality is current under a lot of pressure to find new resources to pay for a huge deficit of capital funding and operating cost have to find new revenue not to create undue burden to the taxpayers. The first order of business will be to promote the municipality and find new business investors to come to town.**

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? **I believe WS for the size and population has in the past and currently been generous to the arts by providing facilities and programming.**

What sustainable funding does the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville provide to local artists? **The town has committed to the Gallery and Theatre for the arts to flourish. I don't believe that there is the dollars at this time to individually provide local artists with funding.**