

**RESPONSE BY: TARA ROY-DICLEMENTE, COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE , WARD 2 EAST GWILLIMBURY**

*As someone whose career was spent in publishing (the job I quit to run for Council was International Sales Manager where I got to export Canadian culture to the world), you can well imagine that this subject is near and dear to my heart. Arts, culture & heritage are vitally important to the concept of "placemaking" - events open our minds to new ideas, inspire our creativity and help us explore who we are, and where we have been. They create an opportunity for people to meet and engage in a substantive way. I served on the Library Board for 8 years, and helped launch Weaving Words, a storytelling festival hosted at the Sharon Temple. If re-elected, I plan to further engage our Arts community and formalize some of the ad hoc relationships that already exist. I also think that we need to introduce more art into our public spaces. A new park shouldn't \*just\* be swings, slides & benches. If we introduce art - sculptures, statues etc, we engage the mind as well as the body, so that both parts are "Healthy & Active"!*

*Further, I have personally donated, sponsored, attended, helped promote, and purchased from local artists, at shows and events from across York Region. I am highly engaged and fully supportive of our arts community. I also understand the economic benefits a community derives from a healthy arts sector. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.*