

RESPONSE BY: ADAM MOBBS, COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE, AURORA

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 is my intent to leverage the historic and cultural assets within the town through good public planning, historical preservation and supporting organizations such as the York Region Arts Council and the Aurora Cultural Centre.

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

My wife is a Department Head of Arts at a local high school, arts and culture is engrained into our family values. As a family, we have always supported the arts, music, music theatre and performance. We will to continue this in the future.

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?

While completing a Master of Public Administration degree in Local Government, I had the pleasure of completing primary research on the Creative Economy. My approach to public planning and economic development is to create great spaces along transit corridors that attract diversity and creativity to our community. Within Aurora, this specifically entails appropriate development of the downtown core and areas adjacent to the transit terminal.

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

Through good public planning I am confident we can develop a downtown core which attracts arts and culture. I specifically support further investment in the Aurora Cultural Centre and affordable and sustainable rental rates for arts and cultural groups in our community spaces.

INTRINSIC VALUE:

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

My wife is a professional musician which plays with a local orchestra. Our teenage daughter is an incredibly talented artist, she has won the art award at her school for the past several years

and will be travelling to New York City to further her studies at one of the finest art schools in the world. She is currently working on her grade 9 piano. My son is working on his grade 4 piano, supporting arts and culture is very important to our family.

My wife and I met each other through music and have been working for well over 10 years developing provincially competitive marching bands across York Region. Together, we have written and been awarded multiple Ontario Trillium Foundation grants.

PLATFORM:

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

Kindly visit www.votemobbs.com for a list of my priorities.

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?

- Through incorporating arts and cultural spaces into the upcoming development of a new Official Plan;
 - When appropriate, would like to consider the development of a Public Art Strategy for Aurora;
- Supporting further development of the Aurora Cultural Centre;
- Supporting the development and preservation of the Aurora Armoury and other cultural buildings/homes owned by the town.

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

That is a great question. I would like to explore this more with organizations such as the York Region Arts Council, though perhaps some type of artist in residence program, supporting public and cultural events and supporting the Aurora Cultural Centre.

SPACE:

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

The Town already has a progressive User Fee Policy which speaks to affordable and sustainable space for all user groups. I intend to support this vision, though also review and potentially update with a specific arts and cultural stream in the future.

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

As development and intensification occurs in the future, when the timing is right would support a public art policy for the town. In addition, I support the responsible display of art in public spaces such as libraries, town hall and potentially as appropriate spaces within community centres.

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?

I am open to considering this in the future and will happily explore with arts and cultural organization in the future.

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?