

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

VAUGHAN ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – ACHIEVEMENTS & INITIATIVES OF THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services and the Director of Recreation and Culture in consultation with the Chair of the Arts Advisory Committee recommends:

1. That the presentation on the achievements and initiatives of the Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee and the information contained in this report, be received.

Economic Impact

There is no cost associated with this report.

Communications Plan

The Arts Advisory Committee will continue to communicate and inform the community as it relates to its programs and initiatives on the City website, Recreation Guide, advertising, distribution of flyers to community centres, City Playhouse and Vaughan Public Libraries.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council relating to the Arts Advisory Committee's initiatives and achievements since the Committee's establishment in 2005.

Background - Analysis and Options

In October 2005, Council approved the establishment of the Arts Advisory Committee with the following goals:

1. To contribute to the Vaughan community by promoting and facilitating artistic and creative opportunities and experiences.
2. To create a better awareness and appreciation of the arts in the community.
3. To provide information on community arts-related resources.
4. To facilitate, promote and secure funding to help carry out arts related activities, exhibitions and special events in the community.
5. To facilitate creative development by encouraging opportunities for community engagement, sustainability, development and partnerships.

Summary of Initiatives and Achievements

Advocate for Arts & Cultural Development: Cultural Map & Plan- CAHSP Grant

In 2007, the Arts Committee invited Gord Hume and Ken Doherty to speak to Council on the importance of arts and cultural development. In 2007-8, the Committee facilitated application to the Canadian Arts and Heritage Sustainability Program (CAHSP) grant program to help fund the City's cultural map and plan project. A \$41,400 grant was received in April 2008 to undertake the project.

Vaughan Juried Art Exhibition: An Art Integration Project

The first *Vaughan Juried Art Exhibition* was held in the lobby of City Playhouse Theatre in the spring 2007. The second exhibition was held April 24 to May 25, 2008 at the Theatre and featured 26 works selected by a professional jury panel from over 100 entries submitted by artists from Vaughan and the GTA. The Juried Art Exhibition provides both emerging and established artists with an annual venue to profile their artwork in the community. Jurors award Best in Show, Reserve Best in Show and Honorable Mention from the collection of exhibiting artists.

Vaughan of a Kind Art + Craft Show

The first annual *Vaughan of a Kind Art + Craft Show* was held in November 2006. The show features over 60 artisan booths installed along the major corridors of the Vellore Village Joint Complex and in the Cafetorium. The event provides visual and decorative artists from Vaughan and the GTA with an annual retail opportunity to profile their work in the community. The event features traditional and contemporary items that are hand-crafted as original one-of-a-kind designs. The range of media featured is accessories, cards, ceramics, collectables, décor, edibles, jewellery, painting, sculpture, soaps, textiles and toys. The third show is scheduled for November 15, 2008.

Upcoming Initiatives

Vaughan in Focus 2009: A Juried Photography Exhibition

In 2009, the community will be invited to participate in a commemorative photography exhibition to be displayed in key public areas. The program's goal is to encourage residents to use photographic media to document the vibrant diversity and spirit of Vaughan's people, places and things. This juried competition will be open to professional and amateur photographers and students residing/working in Vaughan. Works selected for the exhibition will be judged by professional panel for cash awards. An objective of the program is to encourage community involvement in a civic project and promote Vaughan as a "people place" by recognizing the many community perspectives that contribute to Vaughan's diverse character.

Vaughan Arts Awards-2009

The Committee is working on establishing a *Vaughan Arts Award* program in 2009. It will recognize outstanding contributions of businesses, organizations and individuals that enhance the cultural vitality of Vaughan highlight cultural achievements in the City, reinforce the vital role the arts play in Vaughan's social economy and inspire the on-going patronage in the arts.

Doors Open Vaughan 2009

The Arts Advisory Committee supported the City hosting a *Doors Open Vaughan* event in 2009, an event that was approved by Council in June 2008. The Doors Open Vaughan event is a one year pilot project aimed at celebrating Vaughan's rich heritage/history, ethno-cultural diversity, architecture and natural/cultural landscapes.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the report will provide:

- **STRATEGIC GOAL:**
Service Excellence - Providing service excellence to citizens.
- **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**
Preserve our heritage and support diversity, arts and culture.

This report does not recommend a change from the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

There are no Regional implications associated with this report.

Conclusion

The Arts Advisory Committee will continue to contribute to the Vaughan community by promoting and facilitating artistic experiences and opportunities as it has since 2005. It will continue to create a better awareness and appreciation of the arts in the community through its initiatives and events and continue to secure funding to help carry out arts related activities. Lastly, the Committee is committed to encouraging opportunities for community engagement, sustainability, development and partnerships.

Attachments

None

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Respectfully submitted,

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