

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – April 20, 2010

2010 R.A.V.E. (RECOGNIZING ARTS VAUGHAN EXCELLENCE) AWARD NOMINATIONS

Recommendation

The Chair of the Arts Advisory Committee recommends:

1. That the individuals/groups/organizations as identified in the confidential memorandum in Attachment 1 be approved to receive a 2010 R.A.V.E. Award (Recognizing Arts Vaughan Excellence) in the listed disciplines/categories.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan:

- 4.1 To foster a city with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage.

Economic Impact

The cost of the R.A.V.E. Award program will be covered through the Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee's 2010 approved operating budget in addition to corporate sponsorship raised to cover some program/reception expenses.

Communications Plan

The R.A.V.E. Awards will be promoted through the City's website, Recreation Guide, City Page and arts/culture related websites in addition to invitations being sent to award recipients, nominators, sponsors and other dignitaries. Furthermore, the Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee will publically recognize the award recipients at a formal R.A.V.E. Awards reception at the City Playhouse Theatre on June 24, 2010.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to review and approve the list of nominees recommended by the Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee to receive 2010 R.A.V.E. Awards.

Background - Analysis and Options

In an effort to enhance the profile and build the capacity of the arts in Vaughan, the Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee developed the R.A.V.E. Awards (Recognizing Arts Vaughan Excellence) program which was approved by Council in November 2008. The program is a vehicle to recognize the significant patronage of businesses, organizations and individuals who help develop the arts in the City. This yearly award program highlights cultural achievements and acknowledges the value of such contributions in our community.

A formal "call out" to the public for R.A.V.E. Awards nominations took place between December 2009 and February in 2010. The call for nominations was advertised on the City's website, the City Page and a news release was sent out and covered by local papers. Application forms were also sent out to individuals/organizations on the City's arts database and distributed to all City facilities, including libraries. As a result, 14 nominations were received and were reviewed by the Arts Advisory Committee at their meeting of March 4, 2010.

Nominations were accepted in the following three art disciplines:

- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- Literary Arts

Within each art discipline, nominations were submitted in any one of the following categories:

- Patron of the Arts
Honours a person, business or organization that has demonstrated an on-going commitment to the arts in the City of Vaughan through innovative, community or financial support of artistic activity.
- Art Educator/Mentor
Recognizes an artist who has made an outstanding contribution to arts in education in the City of Vaughan.
- Practicing Artist
Awarded to an emerging or established artist who has achieved a high degree of artistic excellence, has earned significant recognition for his/her work and has had a positive impact on the artistic landscape of the City of Vaughan.
- Rising Star
Acknowledges the emerging talent of a young artist (under the age of 18) who has earned significant recognition within the academic community and shows promise of achieving a high degree of artistic excellence.
- Lifetime Achievement Award (Nominated by Arts Advisory Committee and Council only on an ad-hoc basis)
Bestowed to worthy recipients for monumental contributions to the arts in Vaughan and beyond.

Nominations in each relevant category were evaluated on the following merits:

- Dedication to the Arts
- Artistic Creativity
- Artistic Quality
- Leadership or Innovation
- Artistic Recognition/Achievement
- Community Impact

This 2010 R.A.V.E Awards will be presented to this year's recipients at a formal reception at the City Playhouse Theatre on June 24, 2010.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

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 is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

None

Conclusion

The R.A.V.E. Awards (Recognizing Arts Vaughan Excellence) provide a formal vehicle for Council to recognize excellence in the visual, performing and literary arts in the categories of Patron of the Arts, Arts Educator/Mentor, Practicing Artist, Rising Star and Lifetime Achievement. The award program highlights the significant contributions of businesses, organizations and individuals who help develop the arts in the City. The 2010 R.A.V.E. Award nominees being recommended this year represent some of the most talented artists and philanthropic supporters of the arts in our community. Endorsing these nominations will acknowledge the value of their contributions to the artistic landscape of Vaughan.

Attachments

1. Confidential Memorandum (Members of Council Only)

Report Prepared By

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco, ext. 8342
Angela Palermo, Manager of Cultural Services, ext. 8139
Sharon Gaum-Kuchar, Arts Coordinator, ext 7312

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco
Chair, Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee