

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – AUGUST 31, 2010

THE VAUGHAN CENTRE FOR THE VISUAL ARTS FEASIBILITY STUDY

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services and the Commissioner of Finance, in consultation with the City Manager recommends:

- 1) That the Vaughan Centre for the Visual Arts Feasibility Study, be received; and,
- 2) That Council confirm the preferred location of proposed Vaughan Centre for the Visual Arts be located at the Civic Centre Campus site; and,
- 3) That the proposed Vaughan Centre for the Visual Arts be adjacent or near the Vaughan Public Libraries planned resource library and positioned as a separate building as recommended in the Feasibility Study; and,
- 4) That staff report back on how the Visual Arts Centre can be incorporated into the Civic Centre Campus including traffic, parking and other implications; and,
- 5) That a task force be established; and,
- 6) That staff prepare terms of reference for the task force to be brought back to Council in 2011 that include, but not be limited to the following:
 - i. Direction to approach and report back on federal and provincial government capital and operating funding opportunities and their interest in the project.
 - ii. To explore other funding sources required to construct and operate the arts centre.
 - iii. Provide comments on governance.
 - iv. Membership criteria for the task force that includes members from the business community, Council, and individuals with relevant experience.

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 culture and its heritage.

Economic Impact

Capital Costs:

The overall capital costs determined for the Vaughan Centre for the Visual Arts is projected to be \$16.7 million. Land costs are not included in this capital estimate as the feasibility study was conducted on the premise that the arts centre would be located at the Civic Centre site.

Operating Costs and Revenues:

Operating costs for the start up year are anticipated to be \$1.7 million (\$57 per sf) and in year 2 of operation \$2.1 million (\$69 per sf). These costs include staffing (benefits, contracts), utilities, maintenance, and security.

Additionally, an operating budget, two years prior to the opening of the gallery to oversee the construction and technical requirements, totaling \$135,000 (includes benefits) (2 years prior) and \$620,000 (1 year prior) is required.

City policy also requires that an annual renewal contribution be made for all new facilities at 2% of the facility's capital value (\$16m) and therefore a current estimate of \$320,000 will be added to the yearly operating costs. Although this has not been added to the overall costs, it should be noted as a future expense.

Operating revenues are expected to partially offset expenses and include programming, admissions, rentals, federal and provincial grants, and fundraising. All revenue shortfalls, however, may require municipal funding on a per year basis depending on the governance model developed for the centre. Per the Feasibility Study, Municipal funding ranges between 21% and 75%. The average is 45%.

Staff will be recommending an additional \$50,000 in the 2011 Capital Budget to complete the additional work associated with siting the facility on the City Centre Campus.

Communications Plan

The outcome of this report will be communicated to key stakeholders including the Vaughan Arts Advisory Committee.

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to have Council review the Feasibility Study for the Vaughan Centre for the Visual Arts, approve in principle the establishment of a Vaughan Centre for the Visual Arts at the City Hall site, and to consider the establishment of a Vaughan Centre for the Visual Arts Task Force to help establish a capital fundraising initiative for the centre.

Background - Analysis and Options

Council at its meeting of March 31, 2008, approved the following recommendation:

1. Council authorize Councillor Tony Carella to commence discussions with the Deputy City Manager/Commissioner of Finance, the Commissioner of Community Services, and the Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services/City Solicitor, to determine the feasibility, in principle, of the City of Vaughan establishing the Vaughan Art Gallery and Museum, based on the following framework of assumptions:
 - a) That the City of Vaughan would agree to accept the gift (or in some cases the long-term loan) of several collections of Canadian art (sculptures and paintings) from a number of prospective donors who wish to remain anonymous at this time, in return for (in the case of gifts only) a receipt suitable for tax purposes; and
 - b) That the City of Vaughan, having accepted these gifts, would agree to ensure their proper storage between the actual receipt of the gifts/loaned items and their being housed on a permanent or long-term loan basis in a location that meets Canadian museum/gallery standards and is open to the public for their viewing of said collections; and,
 - c) That the permanent home of the gifts/loaned items would be within, adjacent to, or near the new city hall; and,
 - d) That the responsibility for the operation of the art gallery and museum housing the City's collection would be vested in a not-for-profit corporation with a board of directors

composed of representatives of the Vaughan arts community, the general public, and the Council of the City of Vaughan; and,

- e) That the aforesaid corporation would be responsible for creating an on-going basis for meeting its own financial requirements, including grants from but not limited to the federal and provincial governments, private foundations, fees, cash or in kind donations and the proceeds of fundraising activities; and
- f) That the agent of the prospective donors would be party to said discussions when appropriate; and,
- g) That this matter would be considered in light of the forthcoming Recreational and Cultural Master Plan.

In September 2008, staff presented a report to Council on the collections of artwork being offered to the City of Vaughan with the condition that a "Category A" public gallery be built to house this collection, preferably at the Civic Centre campus site adjacent to the proposed Vaughan Public Libraries Resource Library as directed in the March 31, 2008 Council resolution. Council at this meeting approved the following motion:

- 1) That the staff presentation on the proposed collection of artwork and gallery, be received.
- 2) That a memorandum of understanding be prepared by the City's Legal Department that specifies terms and conditions under which the City would acquire the artwork proposed for donation, including the City's intention to determine within a year's time, the feasibility of establishing a municipal art gallery designed to meet the federal Department of Canadian Heritage's criteria as an accredited "Category A" institution under the Canadian Cultural Property Export and Import Act and to confirm the donors' commitment to the donation of artwork to the City once a gallery is established.
- 3) That a By-law be enacted to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the memorandum of understanding.
- 4) That a consultant be retained to conduct a feasibility study within one year's time, to determine the overall capital and operating costs, location, size and other requirements in order to establish an accredited "Category A" gallery in Vaughan under the Canadian Cultural Property Export and Import Act.
- 5) That \$50,000 to conduct the feasibility study be included in the 2009 Capital Budget for consideration.

As it relates to the status of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) noted above, staff and the collectors' representative have been working on developing a preliminary curatorial evaluation of each individual artwork in order to proceed in entering a MOU with the collectors of the art proposed for donation should a gallery be built. Further work on the MOUs will be completed this year should an arts centre be endorsed in principle by Council.

Summary of Feasibility Study

In January 2010, the firm of Lundholm Associates Architects was hired to conduct a feasibility study for the proposed project. The Terms of Reference for the study included a review of the following: location and site; design and layout; costs; collection model; governance; determination of a critical path.

The Feasibility Study reports in detail the areas noted above, however, the following areas only will be focused on in this report:

1. Research and Analysis of Comparable Institutions.
2. Facility Requirements.
3. Governance.
4. Financial Projections.
5. Collection Model.

Research and Analysis of Comparable Institutions

To help establish the most appropriate operational model, including governance and collections, the consultants conducted research on a number of regional scale art galleries in Canada focusing on a detailed study of four comparable arts institutions in Ontario. These are: the Art Gallery of Peterborough, the Varley Art Gallery, the MacLaren Art Centre and the Burlington Art Centre. These organizations were chosen based on certain aspects of governance, exhibition scale and programming initiatives. A full review of each centre, their size/scale and financial information is outlined in detail in the Feasibility Study.

Facility Requirements/Operational Model

The overall scale and size of the visual arts centre was determined as a result of the following:

- I. Collection and programming requirements.
- II. Gallery designation requirements under the Cultural Property Export and Import Act.
- III. Site visits, discussions and case study analysis of other visual arts centres in the GTA area to determine best-practices, opportunities and limitations.
- IV. Through discussions with other centres it was highlighted that revenue opportunities need to be maximized by ensuring exhibition space, event rental space, and educational programming space.

As a result of the findings from the above, and to ensure that the centre will be able generate essential revenue that will help sustain its operation, the following space requirements are being recommended in the Feasibility Study:

| Space Use/Requirements | Space Requirements | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| | square feet (sf) | square metre (sm) |
| Visitor Services/Events/Gift Shop | 3,717 | 345.3 |
| Exhibitions/Exhibition Support/Community Gallery | 6,307 | 585.9 |
| Education/Public Programming/Art Courses | 3,324 | 308.8 |
| Collections/Preparation | 4,839 | 449.6 |
| Administration/Operations/Offices | 2,427 | 225.5 |
| Total All Functions* | 20, 614 sf | 1915.1 sm |
| *Note: This reflects net functional areas only and does not include mechanical/elevator etc. which would bring total area to approx 30,921 gross sf. | | |

The overall space plan includes the following exhibition areas: a 1500 sf gallery to display rotating work from the permanent collection; a 3400 sf gallery for temporary exhibitions; and a community gallery at 800 sf to feature exhibitions by community artists. 3,300 sf is recommended to accommodate educational and public programming, including studio art activities for registrants of all ages and an artist in residence program. Close to 5,000 sf is dedicated to critical back of house operations including art collection storage vaults and art preparation workrooms. An exterior sculpture park/courtyard is being recommended as an extension of the Inuit sculpture collection to be acquired and that would be part of the proposed permanent collection. Other uses include a special events space, a gift shop, and a visitor's service area.

Proposed Location

Section 6 of the Feasibility Study provides comments by the consultant with respect to placing the visual arts centre at the Civic Centre Campus site and in particular the opportunities of having the centre adjacent to the proposed Resource Library, and the ability to share amenities such as parking, and civic spaces such as the public square. As environmental controls, space and amenity requirements are different in a visual arts centre than a library, the need to build a separate building is essential.

The consultant has identified the need to scale both the resource library and visual arts centre two to three storeys above ground in order to be sympathetic to the civic centre design as a “campus of low-rise buildings framing a zone of open public space”.

A proposed connection or link to the resource library is on the east façade of the visual arts centre, while the south façade will connect to the civic park and the west façade as the location for collection shipping and receiving.

Governance

In the creation of a new public art gallery, decisions on the nature of its governance structure are important. Two models are being considered and are found in the Feasibility Study as per Attachment 1. In the first model, a not-for-profit corporation would be administered by an independent board (consisting of some members of Council as ex officio members). The board would hire the gallery Director and make all significant decisions for the gallery in consultation with the gallery Director. The relationship to the City of Vaughan would be completely arms-length; however, some members of Council would sit on the board to protect its interests.

The second model being proposed involves the gallery being operated by a management board with direct reporting lines to City of Vaughan and staff who are municipal employees. In effect, this would be an extension of the City’s facilities and operations, but have a City appointed management board to help in its operations and decision-making. Both models have advantages and final decisions on governance can be made at a later time by Council. Both models will still require an endowment/fundraising board established to assist in the funding of the centre.

Coordination with other cultural initiatives the City is supporting should be reviewed as part of the considerations of a governance model. For example, the City is working to create a Pierre Berton Museum and Interpretive Centre. As the City grows, there may be other cultural initiatives promoted by the City. The Pierre Berton project and the Visual Arts Centre will both be seeking support from the residential and business community as well as other levels of government. There is a need to look at governance models that would support coordination of efforts rather than conflict and competition.

Financial Projections/Civic Centre Site

Capital Costs

An important purpose of the feasibility study was to identify capital costs required to build a gallery. These costs are based on siting the gallery at the Civic Centre where no land costs would apply. Locating the gallery on non-City-owned lands may increase capital costs considerably in order to purchase lands elsewhere. The siting of the gallery at the Civic Centre Campus has further benefits as it relates to sharing of costs associated with security, etc. It should be noted that the Development Charges Act does not allow for funding of cultural institutions through development charges. The estimated capital costs are as follows:

| Capital Budget | | 2010 Dollars |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Building Construction | | |
| Gross Area @411 \$ per sf | | 12,713,656 |
| | | |
| Site Development | 500,000 | 500,000 |
| | | |
| | Subtotal | 13,213,656 |
| | Construction Contingency @10% | 1,321,366 |
| | | |
| | Total Construction | \$14,535,022 |
| Related Costs | | |
| Professional Fees @ 12% | | 1,500,000 |
| Permits, Survey, Wayfinding | | 80,208 |
| Storage & Security | | 350,000 |
| Furniture & Equipment | | 300,000 |
| | | |
| | Total Project Costs | \$16,765,230 |

A breakdown of the estimated capital costs to build the gallery are identified in Section 8 of the Feasibility Study. The approximate variance between the costs noted above and those in the Feasibility Study is due to the fact that the consultant has calculated the construction contingency at 3% and the City calculates this contingency at 10%.

Operating Costs

Operating costs related to the proposed gallery are based on all expenditures required to manage a federally designated gallery that includes salaries/benefits, marketing, collection management, security, maintenance, exhibitions and public programs. It should be noted however, those costs directly impacting the City of Vaughan are dependant on the governance model determined for the gallery.

The largest operating expense for any gallery is staff costs. The proposed staffing complement for the gallery for its first year as a fully operational centre is as follows:

- 5 full-time (Director/Curator, Program Manager/Curator, Administration/Facility Coordinator, Arts Collection Services Coordinator, Studio/Volunteer Coordinator (costs include benefits))
- 4 part-time (Development/Communications Officer, Information Desk Staff (3))
- 6 contracts (Contract Curators, Contract Studio Arts Instructors, Contract Preparators, facilities, security, maintenance)

Operating expenses are estimated to start two years prior to the opening of the gallery in order to oversee the construction and technical requirements to establish a cultural institution of a caliber envisioned for the centre: The overall total expense is estimated as follows:

| Operating Expenditures | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| | 2010 Dollars Costs | Totals (\$) |
| Start Up: 2 Years Prior to Opening | Marketing, Salaries (Director) | \$135,000 |
| Start Up: 1 Year Prior to Opening | Exhibitions/Programs, Collections, Marketing, Administration, Salaries | \$620,000 |
| Year 1- Full Operations | Exhibitions/Programs, Collections, Marketing, Retail Operations, Facility Utilities and Security, Administration, Salaries/Contracts/Benefits/Facility Renewal Contribution | \$1,775,000 |
| Year 2 – Full Operations | Exhibitions/Programs, Collections, Marketing, Retail Operations, Facility Utilities and Security, Administration, Salaries/Contracts/Benefits/Facility Renewal Contribution* <i>*Increase in exhibitions/programming, and marketing costs from Year 1</i> | \$2,125,000 |

Operating costs for the start up year are anticipated to be \$1.7 million (\$57 per sf) and in year 2 of operation \$2.1 million (\$69 per sf)). These costs include staffing, utilities, maintenance, and security.

Additionally, current City policy requires that an annual renewal contribution is to be made for all new facilities at 2% of the facility's capital value (\$16m) and therefore a current estimate of \$320,000 cost will be required to be added to the yearly operating costs. Although this has not been added to the overall costs, it should be noted as a future expense.

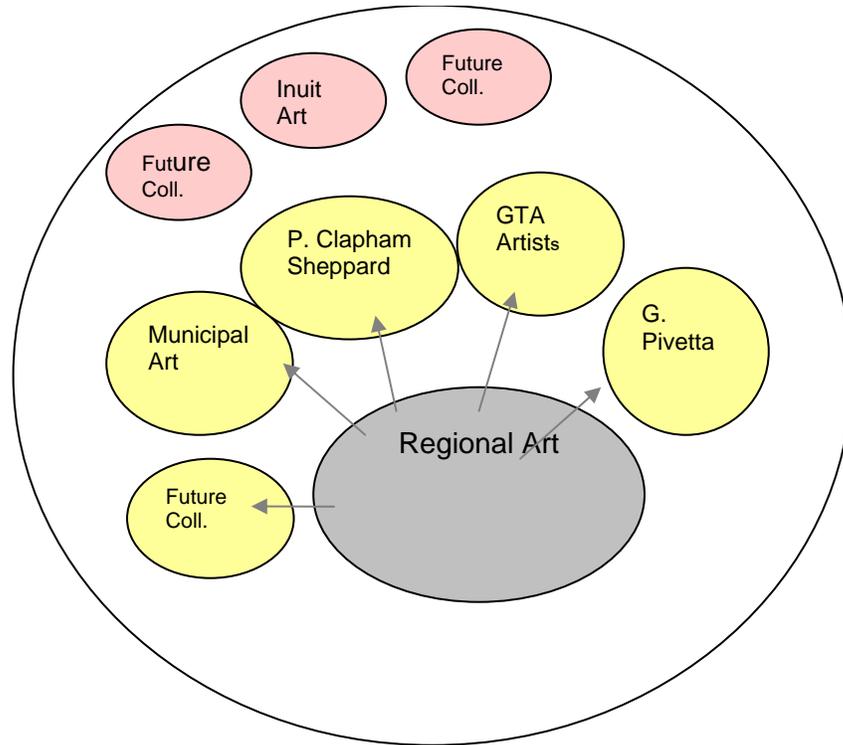
It is anticipated that revenue will be collected from programs/courses, events, retail, admissions, federal and provincial grants, and fundraising initiatives. It should be highlighted, however, that any revenue shortfall will likely have to be incurred by the City of Vaughan. Municipal contributions are estimated to be from \$135,000 prior to the opening of the centre to \$730,000 the first year the gallery is opened to the public. A fundraising board/endowment fund should be established to assist in the ongoing funding of the arts centre. Complete revenue and expenditure projections are found in Section 8 of the Feasibility Study. Additional City costs i.e. facility renewal contributions (\$320,000) are not included in these schedules as they were unknown by the consultant.

Collection Model

The Collection Model recommended in the feasibility study identifies a proposed model that would limit the visual arts centre to the collection of Canadian art. At the heart of Canadian art would be regional art. This can mean the collection of artwork depicting scenes from York Region, artists from York Region or works that speak to aspects of the regional landscape or society. Outside of

regional art, but still within Canadian art is Inuit sculpture. Municipal art as a smaller branch of regional art will enable the centre to commit to local artists in addition to the broader Canadian context. This broad focus will enable the gallery to appeal to a number of visitors and enable the gallery to develop a wide range of exhibits.

Canadian Art



Proposed Vaughan Centre for the Visual Arts Task Force

The next steps being proposed to help establish the arts centre is to initiate a capital fundraising campaign. It is recommended that staff develop terms of reference for a task force (to be brought back for Council's approval in 2011) that outlines responsibilities that include the development of an arts centre not-for-profit foundation / fundraising board; direction to the task force to approach both the federal and provincial governments for potential capital funding opportunities, and to explore other funding sources required to construct the arts centre. The terms of reference should also include membership criteria for the task force.

Curatorial Assessment of Proposed Art Collections for Donation to the City of Vaughan

Staff examined representative works from the body of artwork proposed for donation and conducted a preliminary curatorial evaluation, including material research and interviewing commercial art experts who are respected professionals in the fields related to the potential acquisitions.

The artwork proposed for donation is comprised of three collecting areas: the first collection area includes approximately 100 pieces of Inuit sculpture; a second collecting area of approximately 150 paintings by artist Giuseppe Pivetta includes many Vaughan scenes that span a period of fifty years; the third collecting area includes up to 50 paintings by a contemporary of the Group of Seven, Peter Clapham Sheppard. In total, the City of Vaughan has the opportunity to acquire a

collective body of artwork having a current estimated fair market value of approximately \$2 million dollars.

As a whole, the integrity of the artwork proposed for donation to the City of Vaughan in the three collecting areas of Inuit sculpture, Peter Clapham Sheppard paintings and Giuseppe Pivetta paintings, translate to acquisitions of significant Canadian cultural importance. Many of the works in each of the three areas are of outstanding gallery and museum quality.

Inuit Sculpture Collection

A number of Inuit artists are represented within this collection of approximately 100 sculptural works. They are among the most recognized and respected in the field (David and Abraham Ruben, Manasie Akpaliapik and Lukie Airut). These established sculptors have amassed impressive portfolios that include representation by major art galleries and museums in Canada and across the world. The growing connoisseurship of corporate and private collectors has led to a renaissance of interest and appreciation for sculpture by these artists.

The quality of a considerable number of sculptures that comprise this collection make them highly deserving of acquisition because they reflect the inherent artistic excellence and cultural importance required to be displayed and interpreted within a public gallery setting. Universal Inuit traditions, values and experiences are well represented by the many fine examples of extraordinary craftsmanship executed by creative storytellers who have mastered the art of animating stone and bone.

Internationally celebrated Inuit sculptors David and Abraham Ruben, Manasie Akpaliapik and Lukie Airut are exhibited and collected by major public galleries (i.e.: Art Gallery of Ontario, Canadian Museum of Civilization, Winnipeg Art Gallery, etc.) and by collectors in Canada and across the world. They are just a few of the noteworthy artists included in this significant repertoire of work proposed for donation to the City of Vaughan gallery. These top-tier artists are currently being sought after by public art institutions, museums and collectors alike.

Peter Clapham Sheppard Collection

As an exhibiting contemporary of Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven, Peter Clapham Sheppard's works are on the cusp of greater recognition by major collecting institutions. There is a growing connoisseurship by discriminating collectors who are recognizing Sheppard's works for the artistic merit they deserve on their own accord as well as within the context of his association as a worthy contemporary of the Group of Seven.

Close to 50 Sheppard works representing superb gallery quality are proposed for donation to the City of Vaughan. His landscapes and nudes are deserving of display in a public institution. Of particular relevance to Vaughan, is a work depicting an archival Woodbridge scene. No public art institution has of yet paid sufficient homage to Sheppard by establishing a pivotal collection of his works. By accepting this initial collection, Vaughan has the strategic opportunity to be the first to inspire philanthropic collectors to make additional contributions and therefore establish a rich and comprehensive Sheppard collection under one public art gallery.

Giuseppe Pivetta Collection

A painter who works "en plein air", Pivetta is best recognized for paintings that capture the nostalgia of downtown Toronto urban street scenes and the idyllic vistas of disappearing rural landscapes. Of particular relevance to Vaughan is the fact that Pivetta has been enamored with local landscapes for decades and has documented many rural settings that have since changed. His landscapes depicting rustic Woodbridge scenes provide a rich tapestry of Canadian/Ontario landscapes.

Available for acquisition is a retrospective collection of 150 of Pivetta's paintings representing over 50 years of achievement by a very competent, painterly artist. His factual compositions capturing everyday scenes of urban and rural landscapes have a universal appeal that will always remain timeless and appeal to audiences.

A recent lifetime acknowledgement of Pivetta's work by the Ontario Society of Artists places him respectably within the provincial community as a senior artist who deserves to be collected by and exhibited in a public art gallery, especially one who has documented archival aspects of Vaughan's history. Like Sheppard, but on a more provincial level, no institution has yet to pay sufficient homage to Pivetta by establishing a collecting area dedicated to his work. Acquiring this impressive collection of Pivetta's paintings provides Vaughan with the unique opportunity to dedicate a collecting area to his work and set the standard for full recognition of this significant artist.

Curatorial Summary

The curatorial merit of these works as significant examples of Canadian cultural relevance, coupled with the strength of their public appeal, make them well-suited for acquisition in a municipal art gallery and more specifically, the City of Vaughan. Importantly, the exceptional works in each of these three collecting areas should prove eligible to meet Canadian Heritage's criteria of "outstanding significance and national importance" (as required to be designated as cultural property).

Establishing a clearly articulated collecting mandate for a municipal art gallery is a critical first step towards setting the parameters and defining the scope for eligible acquisitions, not only for these works, but also to define what the gallery will be able to collect in the future.

Requirements of a "Category A" Public Gallery Designation under the Cultural Property Export and Import Act

The Cultural Property Export and Import Act came into force in 1977 to encourage and ensure the preservation in Canada of significant examples of cultural, historic and scientific heritage. The Act regulates the import and export of moveable cultural property and provides special tax incentives to encourage Canadians to donate or sell important objects to public institutions in Canada.

The Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board is an arm's length administrative tribunal that reports directly to the federal Minister of Heritage within the Department of Canadian Heritage. The Board certifies cultural property for income tax purposes. In particular, it is responsible for making determinations with respect to the "outstanding significance and national importance" and the fair market value of objects or collections donated or sold to designated Canadian museums, art galleries, archives and libraries.

The Income Tax Act provides for an exemption from the payment of capital gains taxes on certified cultural property that is donated or sold to designated institutions or public authorities in Canada. This exemption is a tax incentive to encourage donations of certified cultural property to designated institutions and is more advantageous than a typical charitable donation. Certified property is property that has been designated by the Review Board. Donations that result in a certified cultural property tax credit is fully available to a donor to reduce taxable income in the form of a 100% tax credit in the year of donation/designation of cultural property and carried over for up to five subsequent years. A charitable donation on the other hand only allows for a tax credit of up to 75% of a taxpayer's net income for one year only.

An institution or public authority must be designated as a "Category A" gallery under the Cultural Property Export and Import Act, at the time the cultural property is certified by the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board and at the time that the legal disposition of the cultural

property to the institution takes place. For this reason an application for designation may not be made in relations to objects or collections for which the institution has already obtained legal title. It is important, therefore, to obtain gallery "Category A" designation first, followed by obtaining legal title of the donated collection.

The benefits between the designation as a "Category A" institution and an institution issuing a tax receipt depends on the fair market value of the gift of sale, the capital gain realized and the donor's/vendor's financial portfolio. "Category A" designation is granted for an indefinite period of time and applies to the acquisition of any object that falls within the collection mandate of the institution or public authority as defined at the time of designation.

To be considered for "Category A" designation an institution must meet the following criteria:

1. Meet legal requirements for designation (be a non-profit, charitable organization governed by a Board of Directors).
2. Have been in operation for a least one year.
3. Have a primary mandate to collect and preserve any of the following:
 - Objects recovered from soil or water
 - Objects of ethnographic material culture
 - Military objects
 - Objects of applied or decorative art
 - Objects of fine art
 - Scientific or technological objects
 - Textual records, graphic records and sound recording
 - Musical instruments.
4. Have a collection on display and open to the public.
5. Be open on a regular basis and throughout the year.
6. Employ full-time qualified professional staff.
7. Actively acquire property that is likely to meet the criteria of "outstanding significance and national importance".
8. Have a comprehensive Collection Management policy.
9. Monitor and maintain standards of relative humidity and temperature control, air filtration and lighting/storage area.
10. Have a security policy, safety, fire, and disaster plan.
11. Demonstrate appropriate measures to protect collections from the damaging effects of water, earthquakes and other such emergencies.

Vaughan Vision 2020/ Active Together Master Plan/ Creative Together Cultural Plan

Vaughan Vision 2020 also identifies as a strategic objective the necessity to preserve our heritage and support diversity, arts and culture. As well, the need for a municipal gallery space was identified through the extensive consultation process recently undertaken as part of *Active Together Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Culture & Libraries*, as a significant objective to broaden local cultural development. The *Creative Together Cultural Plan* identifies that there is a lack of cultural facilities in Vaughan in comparison to other municipalities and promotes the development of facilities where arts and culture can be promoted and developed. Establishing a gallery will facilitate the promotion of the arts at a professional level and also provide educational and creative programming to visitors and residents alike.

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, however, the necessary resources to implement all the recommended action items have not been allocated or approved.

Regional Implications

There are no regional implications

Conclusion

The proposed Vaughan Centre for the Visual Arts would be a significant contribution to the advancement of arts and culture in the City of Vaughan. The opportunity is present at this time to develop a seedling collection for a centre of national significance. Should Council approve the project in principle, the funding of the capital costs to build the centre will be the next phase to consider for the project to proceed.

Attachments

1. Vaughan Centre for the Visual Arts Feasibility Study (Council Only).

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