

2014 Hamilton Municipal Election

Arts and Culture Survey

Mayoral and Councillor

Candidate Responses

Arts and culture in Hamilton exists within a larger context of civic space and shared vision that is often influenced, for the better or otherwise, by those who represent our interests at City Hall. With the 2014 Municipal Elections on the horizon, Cobalt Connects and the Hamilton Arts Council came together to identify the issues of greatest concern to our collective communities of artists, cultural workers and their supporters and bring these questions to the mayoral and ward candidates in this upcoming election.

Process

Starting from these community concerns, Jeremy Freiburger (Cobalt Connects) and Stephanie Vegh (Hamilton Arts Council) drafted a set of ten questions for mayoral candidates, five of which were also posed to ward candidates. These questions were distributed by email to the addresses provided on the City of Hamilton's 2014 Municipal Election webpage or candidate's websites where available; while every effort was made to find contact information for all candidates, we were unable to reach eight ward candidates and one mayoral candidate.

The results shared here reflect unedited candidate responses as received through the survey process. In the interests of fair representation, additional comments and responses that did not engage in the questions being asked have been omitted; the latter are indicated as Declined to Answer Questions in the survey results to mark a distinction between No Response Received as well as Unable to Contact Candidate.

Outcome

This survey reflects a growing need to include arts and culture as part of Hamilton's civic conversation, and we were glad to see many thoughtful, well-considered responses to our questions come in from candidates across our city. However, these responses represent the minority of candidates in this election; the 36% response rate seen here paints a worrying picture of not only the status of arts and culture in candidates' priorities, but also their overall commitment to citizen engagement. By providing the results of this survey, we hope that we have provided Hamilton's arts and cultural community with valuable findings that, taken in balance with your other priorities for this city's future, will enable you to make an informed decision at the polls on October 27th.

Mayoral Candidate Responses

Responding Candidates: Michael Pattison, Brian McHattie, Fred Eisenberger, Michael Baldasaro

No Response Received: Ejaz Butt, Mike Clancy, Brad Clark, Warrand Francis, Crystal Lavigne, Phil Ryerson

Unable to Contact Candidate: Nick Iamónico

Declined to Answer Questions: Ricky Tavares

Culture is a driving force in defining our image and identity. From the "Best Place to Raise a Child" to "Art is the New Steel" we have many identities. How would you personally define our image, and how will that influence your actions?

Michael Pattison:

Having many identities is a good thing. Our brand is individuality. It always has been. I personally define our image as 'incomparable.' Other cities constantly compare themselves to others; Hamilton has always been a great one-off town. Championing our diverse culture makes our multiple strengths self-evident. My actions are influenced on a daily basis by this and it informs my run for Mayor. I am proud to represent and champion this city in all its myriad ways.

Brian McHattie:

Throughout my campaign, I've been saying, "Good enough is not good enough for Hamilton. We deserve great." I really mean that. Great should be our goal on all fronts. Middle of the pack is not the kind of vision I want for Hamilton. I want Hamilton to stand on the national stage right beside the other great cities in Canada. With that in mind, the kinds of policies, actions, votes, discussions all have to be measured through the lens of being great. As Mayor, I will ensure our arts community is part of that focus. The contribution the arts makes both to our city's image, and to the quality of life of our residents, cannot be understated.

Fred Eisenberger:

Being the 'Best Place to Raise a Child' is the defining image I would choose. We need to ensure that people of all ages from childhood to our senior years are cared for and accommodated for. I believe that the principles of 8 to 80 which suggest that if you design a city for 8 and 80 year olds you have designed a city that works for everyone can apply equally to the cultural and the creative industries. We need to ensure a wide spectrum of cultural activities for all ages.

Michael Baldasaro:

I define our image as caretakers of the Golden Horseshoe, in which all arts are encouraged to flourish.

Hamilton's cultural diversity is a key factor in our thriving community. How will you encourage a community centered on inclusivity and celebrated diversity?

Michael Pattison:

Cultural Hubs. We need cultural/community hubs in every neighbourhood. Safe places for communities to gather and talk about the issues that are important to them. Neighbourhood hubs that engage citizens, include everyone and break down language barriers. Lets create places where everyone is welcome to talk about their ideas and concerns. Racism is an issue in your neighbourhood? Lets get creative about breaking that down. Lets address bullying, or paint a mural and clean a park together. These hubs are community building, culturally enhancing, and imperative for a strong community.

Brian McHattie:

My positions on inclusivity and diversity are perhaps best illustrated by my votes on Council. I have a track record of actively supporting both. I understand that our community is always made better when we embrace all residents and, as you say, 'celebrate' our respective, and our collective, differences.

Fred Eisenberger:

Immigration and cultural diversity is the future of our city. How we embrace and nurture diversity in our city will speak volumes of how welcoming and inclusive we truly are. We need a formal commitment to a culture that builds respect for diversity. We need to view our community through a made-in- Hamilton equity

and inclusion lens and ensure we adopt a citizen-centric approach to everything we do

Michael Baldasaro:

Will strengthen the LRT by creating a Loop up and down James and Bay Streets between Go Bus and Go Rail Stations. The route will include the Bayfront Parks and HSR/BRT Station on MacNab. The ride will be free for all citizens of the G.H.A.

What is your top priority item from the 78 recommendations in the City of Hamilton Cultural Plan?

Michael Pattison:

Goal five, “Leverage culture as a tool in downtown and community regeneration” is a leading mandate. Recommendation 5.5: Increase the amount of quality and access to research about culture related to Hamilton to inform planning and decision-making.

This. We need to do a better job of engaging and including more cultures – at the research level.

Brian McHattie:

My top priority is Action 1.8: removing impediments to cultural sector activities in reviewing problematic bylaws, licensing and zoning issues. This relates to my Open for Business Contract promise. Specifically, I think of the multi-year struggle that the Pearl Factory has engaged in, now through the courts. How can we say we are arts and culture-friendly when a key culture partner has had the problems that the Pearl Factory has had. One of my first actions as Mayor will be to broker a solution to that impasse.

Fred Eisenberger:

My top priority item from the City of Hamilton Cultural Plan is found under the goal of ‘Culture as an Economic Engine’ Action 2.1 ‘Position Hamilton as a creative city as part of business attraction and retention initiatives.’ While serving as Mayor I increased the economic development budget by 1.5 million dollars. There is an opportunity for important partnerships with the creative industries with a renewed emphasis on economic development in Hamilton. Studies show how culture drives economic and social development.

“The use of cultural activities and facilities to bolster a city’s image, attract tourism, and foster economic development has become widespread not only in traditional cultural capitals of the world such as New York or Paris, but also in places not as well-known for their cultural status” (Cultural Development Strategies and Urban Revitalization *Carl Grodach and Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris*)

Michael Baldasaro:

Equality!

Funding for the arts in Hamilton has been frozen for upwards of 10 years. A newly approved funding structure approved unanimously by Council in September 2014 included a recommended increase of \$500,000 in arts funding for 2015 budget deliberations followed by further increases over the next two years to reach an additional \$1 million in new arts investment by 2017. Would you support this staff recommendation or propose an alternative strategy for increasing the City’s investment in the arts?

Michael Pattison:

I agree and support the increase. I suggest as well that we look at a program some cities are utilizing where all new builds contribute to an arts and culture fund.

Brian McHattie:

I definitely support this recommendation, and spoke to this point during Council meetings. The arts in Hamilton are underfunded in general, and specifically by the City of Hamilton. While difficult choices always need to be made related to funding, we must not treat the arts as a want, or as a nice to have. The arts are part of the fabric of a vibrant, sophisticated, and engaging civic culture. In fact, I believe having a thriving arts community is not only good for residents, but also good for attracting both new residents and new investments in our city. As I said

earlier, Hamilton deserves to be great. All great cities have a thriving arts community. All of them. As Mayor, I am prepared to work with Council to invest in the arts in Hamilton, just as I'm prepared to invest in other elements of our city that, together, define who we are and what we believe in as a city.

Fred Eisenberger:

I support the staff recommendation and unanimously approved council position of increasing arts funding to reach an additional \$1 million in new arts investment by 2017. I believe that increased investment in cultural assets and activities will contribute inestimably to the economic development of the City

Michael Baldasaro:

No. Who are we kidding? Hamilton is broke, a 200 million infrastructure deficit for 2014.

It's time to promote and support the Arts so they will pay for themselves like our Hamilton Tiger Cat Football Club.

I do support finding new ways to raise money to support the arts, other than raising taxes which property owners cannot afford.

Like many other industries, the creative sector relies on infrastructure. With creative industries (film, music, animation, design, programming) being target sectors for Economic Development widely sought by municipalities world-wide, provide examples of infrastructure and quality of life investments the City could make to attract and retain the best and brightest cultural players in this competitive field.

Michael Pattison:

A big issue I see are power generation stations. If we create these we could make metered power available throughout our parks, hubs, events and communities. Comprehensive and widely distributed power supply stations would enable us to have more events, all while better respecting our environment - we would be less reliant on diesel.

Brian McHattie:

I led efforts to establish the Music Strategy and Music Office with Councillor Farr which I'm told led to Hamilton being awarded the 2015 Juno Awards. The Film Office continues to be successful - I would further support efforts to develop more aspects of the film industry (beyond the actual film shoots) here in Hamilton such as food and beverage supplies and film stages. There are several animation companies active now and I would seek more.

Fred Eisenberger:

The city needs to look at any obstacles that exist to the support and encouragement of our cultural and creative industries. We need to move to integrate the cultural strategy into our planning processes and our economic development initiatives. We need to nurture a creative industry friendly environment at City Hall that cuts through red tape in setting up businesses in Hamilton.

Michael Baldasaro:

Our condo corridor on James and Bay Streets will bring in Commuters who have money to invest. The LRT Loop will encourage them to stay and support the arts of the Art Crawl as well as our parks and recreation areas.

Many of Hamilton's neighbourhoods have underutilized space that could provide low-cost infrastructure for artists and creative workers to establish new ventures in this city. What measures would you take you reduce the barriers artists face in the adaptive reuse of these spaces for cultural purposes?

Michael Pattison:

I would look at a variety of ways to reduce barriers. In-kind relationships can be encouraged. For example downtown offices and shops can provide space for meetings and collectives. Residentially zoned areas where homeowners can have artists-in-resident (literally) with bartered agreements for living or studio space.

Homegrown Hamilton is sponsoring the Hamilton World Music Festival. We are also sending three Hamilton music acts to play at a festival in Mozambique next May. Lets start reciprocal agreements - cultural exchanges that go on year round.

Brian McHattie:

One element of my New Hamilton Platform is my Open For Business Contract. I believe it is as relevant to artists and the arts as it is to retailers and industry. As a City, we need to ensure our processes, our actions, our behaviours and attitudes really do reflect a belief in being open to help people who want to contribute to our city are able to do so as quickly, and as easily, as possible, while still following the rules. Where the rules need to be reviewed, and there are plenty of examples of where this is the case, I want that review to be embraced by all parties. I have learned from my 100 Day Neighbourhood Tour that one size does not fit all. If it's true in the rural economy, and it is, it's also true in the arts economy, and others economic sectors. Creative approaches, including newly invented ones, are a hallmark of a vibrant community, in my view. Just imagine harnessing the creative energies and ideas of our arts community and ensuring the City acts as a partner, not a barrier to such creativity.

Fred Eisenberger:

We need to be flexible in both the use of zoning and in the zoning and application process to ensure that the creative community can take advantage of adaptive reuse both to fuel the creative industries and ensure the preservation of our built heritage. We could utilize the planning tool of a community improvement area which enables the city to offer grants or loans. We could look at reducing development charges, planning fees or parkland dedication for heritage properties.

Michael Baldasaro:

I will assume the un-assumed alleyways, turning them into safe well lit pathways, connecting and utilizing any spaces that are being neglected, especially because of absentee landlords and crack houses. I will crack down on both of these. I will raise taxes on such landlords to pay for the up keep and create an arts program that will profit from these extra tax dollars.

Artistic investment has made downtown Hamilton an increasingly attractive market for new business, resulting in increased property values. As real estate prices continue to climb, how do you propose to retain artists and cultural communities who may no longer be able to afford to live and

work in these neighbourhoods?

Michael Pattison:

We can support our artists in a number of tangible ways.

One idea is to challenge the Federal government to remove the capital gains tax on Hamilton's rental-residential homebuyers. By removing the capital gains tax on one secondary rental property, a home that is formally being presented to the market as an affordable/accessible living space, we can get more people (residents on limited incomes, artists beginning their careers) into homes.

Brian McHattie:

Gentrification is a new phenomenon in downtown Hamilton but clearly happening along the James Street North corridor. One aspect is establishment of more affordable live/work spaces. Following the lead from Artscape in Toronto, in my role as President of CityHousing Hamilton, we established artists space at 95 King Street East, combining housing with the Mills Hardware space now being managed by Sonic Unyon. I will seek similar opportunities, along with investigating municipal tax options to stimulate affordable arts space.

Fred Eisenberger:

We could use the deferral of property tax increases to permit artists to remain in neighbourhoods. However economics will continue to drive this process. There are any number of neighbourhoods that would benefit from the cultural lift that ensues from creative industries developing in their midst i.e. Barton and Kenilworth. "Equitable urban revitalization means new development doesn't displace existing communities...The solution seems to be more community empowerment from the bottom, and more thoughtful, respectful urban planning from the top...The answer is to develop people and then place." (Moulden)

Michael Baldasaro:

Sounds all too much like Yorkville in Toronto.
There will always be unwanted areas for starving artists to move into. This is the cycle, like it or not.

Our culture defines our neighbourhoods. In what neighbourhood to you see your culture and identity best

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reflected? All neighbourhoods is not an option.

Michael Pattison:

As a born and raised Hamiltonian I do find the Kirkendall neighbourhood really speaks to me, from a Hamilton culture perspective. It's a caring and accepting community that takes pride in its surroundings.

Brian McHattie:

Even though I'm running for Mayor, and even though I have visited all 190 neighbourhoods in Hamilton, I will take your request to heart and focus on a single neighbourhood. I'll choose my own backyard, the Kirkendall South

neighbourhood containing the Locke Street business area and the annual Artists Studio Tour. The Locke Street hydro poles are the best place to learn about upcoming musical acts. I've been pleased to provide funding for the Live on Locke concert series (and the important Instrument for Every Child program) and the perennial favourite Locke Street Festival.

Fred Eisenberger:

Dundas is a neighbourhood that best represents both my values and culture. It is a community of history and built heritage. It features connectivity, walkability, inclusivity and accessibility. It has all the things that you look for in a neighbourhood and community.

Michael Baldasaro:

Bartonville is a great example of stupid drug/prostitution laws and enforcement taking \$\$\$ away from supporting the arts. Pretty stupid when you realize that many of our best most successful artists/musicians etc. have been and/or are into illegal drugs to boost their performance. The deadliest of all drugs and stepping stone to others of course, being alcohol.

Active engagement in local culture is a key component of building civic pride and a sense of belonging in our community. How would you encourage Hamiltonians (in your ward) to participate in cultural experiences?

Michael Pattison:

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I am proud to be so involved in the local arts and culture scene in Hamilton. Helping accomplished and emerging artists of all art forms, from music shows to visual art displays – having an art-filled hub here at Homegrown Hamilton has been personally inspiring and I hear everyday from appreciative artists. As mayor I would encourage more businesses to consider including artists at every stage of their career. Having this segment of our society received more as the professionals they are will go a long way towards encouraging broader acceptance. Artists need and deserve our support.

Brian McHattie:

I think many arts organizations, retailers, organizers, and entrepreneurs have done a remarkable job of bringing the arts to the people and the people to the arts. All forms of the arts. Art Crawl, Super Crawl, An Instrument for Every Child, Cultural Planning, Annual Awards ceremonies, Festivals, Food-related events, music, and theatre, are all examples of Hamiltonians embracing various art forms. Having said that, I believe we need to move to the next level in ensuring residents fully embrace the arts around them. Whether the HPO, or a single, private art gallery, and every art organization in between, how residents define their own quality of life must include the arts. Not a want, but a need. And, part of the civic fabric of how we live our lives.

Fred Eisenberger:

I would encourage Hamiltonians to look upon culture and the creative industries as a quality of life issue. I would advocate for increased volunteerism and participation in the arts. I would encourage Hamiltonians to better understand the value of the cultural and creative arts as a community asset to be nurtured and appreciated.

Michael Baldasaro:

I am in favor of holding mini-festivals for local neighborhoods which promote art and culture.
I am open to all ideas from the art world.

What is your favourite piece of art or cultural experience you've encountered in Hamilton and why?

Michael Pattison:

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Dave Hinds, 'The Pollinator' at the Royal Botanical Gardens. To me it expresses the 'hands on' message of what is required, and/or embraces. Also the Hamilton World Music Festival this past summer. What a phenomenal cultural experience to have so many people from around the world here in Hamilton.

Brian McHattie:

The first piece of original art I purchased - a Steve Mazza sculpture!

Fred Eisenberger:

My favourite cultural experience encountered in Hamilton is the tinikling dance of the Philippines. It mirrors the actions of the tikling bird and alludes at the same time to resistance to the Spanish occupiers. It is both physical and musical. It is representative of the diversity which is Hamilton's cultural and artistic scene.

Michael Baldasaro:

The Statue of the Headless Injured Worker at the north west corner of City Hall, at Bay St., S. and Main St. W.

Injured workers are over-looked as are the arts and culture, which Hamilton and Canada has very little of their own, if you rule out hockey which is in declining numbers.

A Canadian today is identified by the country they came from in their little china and other towns. What ever happened to you are a Canadian so be one. We must stop sending money to these countries and put it in our food banks and feed the arts.

Candidate Responses - WARD 1

Responding Candidates: Jason Allen, Aidan Johnson, Brian Lewis, Sandy Shaw

No Response Received: Tony Greco, Ira Rosen

Active engagement in local culture is a key component of building civic pride and a sense of belonging in our community. How would you encourage Hamiltonians in your ward to participate in cultural experiences?

Jason Allen:

I would encourage participation in cultural events by using the promotional tools available from my office. Ward 1 has an active email list for all four neighbourhoods that I would be looking to expand, which would be used to promote events. I would also sponsor local arts events to the extent that my budget permitted, perhaps with money to print posters or spread the word. Finally, in my discussions with HSR, I determined that any facility owned by the city or receiving city funding (e.g. museums, AGH, etc) are eligible for very low cost advertising in unused space on the inside of HSR vehicles. I would work to expand this eligibility to any arts program that was receiving city funding.

Aidan Johnson:

As Councillor, I would support existing cultural events, and promote them to ward residents through e-newsletters, by posting them on my website, and by tweeting about them.

I would encourage neighbourhood associations, religious groups, and other local organizations in the ward to let me know about cultural events in the ward, so that they can be effectively promoted.

Further, I would reach out to Ward 1 residents in order to gain an understanding of any barriers that they face, in terms of their engagement with culture. I would work to remove those barriers.

Brian Lewis:

We are fortunate to live in such a diverse community in Hamilton; I feel that I am a positive product of the influences of this type of environment, in that I possess a respect and appreciation of arts, though may come across personally as a

conservative businessman. Our Lewis family was fortunate to be raised with an appreciation of art, and encouraged to pursue creative means; we have a professional musician and others that have been engaged directly.

I would continue to do what I do on a personal level, if elected to public office and that is to attend a variety of events, participate, and encourage others to be involved at various levels including youth through our school systems and the many operators, instructors and people of influence.

As the Founding Chair of the Hamilton Sports Hall of Fame, our mandate is twofold – to honour the athletes and builders of sport in our City who achieved success locally, nationally, and internationally, but also to ensure that our children are educated to its successes. To do so, we created the Pathfinders Program in partnership with the Public and Separate School Boards and The Hamilton Spectator NIE Program; we cross multiple disciplines (including the arts) with curriculum based learning. In fact, this past year, we had local artists present renderings of the 2014 Inductees at our annual Induction Dinner.

I will take a leadership role and use my marketing and communications skills to ensure that arts groups of all sizes are supported in sharing their messages. And I will use my business acumen to share the opportunities of public-private partnerships that can be created, implemented and maximized.

Sandy Shaw:

The culture of any community is rooted in the people - the places and events where they gather, the things that have meaning to them. All great cities have a thriving arts and culture. We are blessed that so many artists, musicians and cultural workers make Hamilton their home. In Ward 1 we have great music venues, local theatre and engaging events like Jane's Walk, Live on Locke, Westdale's Bluesfest and the West Hamilton Artist Tours. There are many places where people gather and feel a sense of community - Victoria Park, Royal Botanical Gardens, Churchill Park. Hamiltonians do participate in cultural experiences. For this to continue and to grow, we need to ensure that public art and cultural events are accessible and affordable and that we are inclusive and respectful of our many forms of diversity. We know that our communities have embraced and engaged in the participatory budgeting process and a similar vehicle could easily be looked at being adopted for the arts and culture.

Funding for the arts in Hamilton has been frozen for upwards of 10 years. A newly approved funding structure approved unanimously by Council in September 2014 included a

recommended increase of \$500,000 in arts funding for 2015 budget deliberations followed by further increases over the next two years to reach an additional \$1 million in new arts investment by 2017. Would you support this staff recommendation or propose an alternative strategy for increasing the City's investment in the arts?

Aidan Johnson:

I support the city's new arts investment model. The model is a huge step forward: the process proposed by the model is significantly more transparent, reflects the principle of artistic merit, and is peer-evaluated. These qualities are all broadly recognized "best practices" in arts funding policy.

Simultaneously, I understand that the additional \$1 million dollar investment proposed for the next two years is still not sufficient to meet the true needs of the arts community. It is my understanding that the increase to funding will be debated as part of the 2015 budget process. In that process, I would support the staff recommendation and work to find ways to bring in additional funds, in order to increase the city's investment in the arts over the long term.

Jason Allen:

My understanding is that the staff recommendation was arrived at through extensive public consultation with arts groups, so I would support that recommendation.

Sandy Shaw:

While it may be said that our city is ready to "embrace culture" – the question remains are we ready to invest in culture? Hamilton has been lagging behind many other Canadian cities in our arts investment despite the significant role the arts are playing in Hamilton's renaissance. I do support Council's recent changes to both the amount and the funding formula through a revised City Enrichment Fund.

However I question if the increased investment is adequate to achieve many of the goals outlined in the City's own Cultural Plan. While a traditional form of grants and contributions is vital, I do believe that we must also explore social financing as an innovative way of investing in our arts sector. The City of Hamilton can play a role in developing an Arts Investment Fund that supports sustainable arts enterprises and strategies. Investment in the arts will drive positive economic, social, cultural and environmental change across our community.

Brian Lewis:

In principle I do support this recommendation, but I would also wish to apply my knowledge of budgeting from my business experience in both the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors before committing; I believe we can collectively look at many options for funding, and also identify and prioritize how these monies are applied in order to most effectively answer the first question with increase funds to market, and to ensure that the City is doing its utmost to invest in the cultural personality of our city, which helps to make us so unique.

Many of Hamilton’s neighbourhoods have underutilized space that could provide low-cost infrastructure for artists and creative workers to establish new ventures in this city. What measures would you take you reduce the barriers artists face in the adaptive reuse of these spaces for cultural purposes?

Aidan Johnson:

As Councillor, I would work with the many businesses and cultural institutions in Ward 1 to investigate the possibility of creating “artist-in-residence” initiatives -- for the enrichment of the business, the artist, and the broader community, all three. The city’s museums should be approached about the possibility of partnering in artist-in-residence initiatives, along the lines of (for instance) the Spadina Museum residency, in Toronto. Ward 1’s empty storefronts, parks, and other public spaces should each and all be considered as potential locations for studios, and for exhibition or performance.

Similarly, I would approach the ward’s many churches and religious groups (i.e. those with space) about artist-in-residence initiatives. As church communities evolve, the provision of greater space for public art often proves to be one of their most rewarding and prized adaptations. (To be clear, this idea is not about favouring or promoting one religious group over another, or about “church” versus secularism, but rather about finding the greatest possible amount of quality work space and display or performance space for our artists.)

Additionally, Council needs to recognize that, in a significant number of cases, zoning barriers stand in the way of the adaptive re-use of buildings by arts and culture organizations, and by artists. As Councillor, I will investigate and implement the best possible strategic responses to this problem. These

responses would include improved, rationalized re-zoning rules and principles, to favour re-purposing for “art use”.

Jason Allen:

I believe we need to be creative about removing roadblocks to revitalizing our city. Part of that is with outdated zoning standards that fail to take into account the diversity of possible uses by artists. I would support re-examining the official plan and any secondary plans in Ward 1, and city-wide to incorporate cultural elements into those plans.

Sandy Shaw:

We can certainly look at by-laws, licensing and zoning regulations. An approach to develop and integrate good planning policies and provisions within Hamilton’s Official Plan, Secondary Plans, Zoning and other planning documents is a good start.

As councillor for Ward 1, I will be looking closely at residential and commercial building development in general, and Inclusionary zoning is one such initiative that could also incorporate looking at some of that lower cost space to be made available for artists with integration of the arts into larger commercial/retail initiatives as part of the growth of a resilient local economy.

Brian Lewis:

I believe that if we can replicate the success of James St. North, and its method of growth and development in areas of Ward One that are underutilized, then we are better able to move forward culturally, as well as economically, adding to the improved health within the community.

In removing the barriers, we would look at this strategically, putting a plan in place that analyzes and identifies the challenges, developing solutions for short/mid/long term success. I would definitely consider this a viable option, and as such, I would look for ways to support this.

What is your top priority item from the 78 recommendations in the City of Hamilton Cultural Plan?

Aidan Johnson:

My top priority item falls under the recommendation to recognize culture as an essential tool in city-building, and to plan for culture in our community. It is to *“develop or modify existing programs and incentives, and economic development strategies to support and develop geographic creative clusters, renewal and new development projects to encourage the growth of creative businesses and industries.”*

We need more funding for the arts, from all three levels of government, including the municipal. There is a very large amount of social science evidence proving that cities with thriving, well-funded arts sectors are better economic engines. They produce more jobs and opportunity -- and not “just” in the arts. Higher-income individuals and families often want to live in (and/or visit) cities and neighbourhoods with thriving arts sectors. When they move in, or visit, their dollars support both artists and (other) local businesses, from restaurants to services to shops. This creates jobs, across the economy.

Moreover, Hamilton’s art sector has already begun to effectively re-brand the city, i.e. change Hamilton’s image, in a positive, cosmopolitan direction. This serves to attract business and tourism. Communities with strong arts sectors thus prove to be “magnets” for broader investment, and jobs.

Ensuring that there is space in the city for both higher-income people (artists and non-artists), as well as lower-income people (artists and non-artists) is a necessity. The task is challenging, but doable, and essential.

There would be a strong case for funding the arts on aesthetic and spiritual (i.e. “spiritual” as opposed to “religious”) grounds, even if the arts sector were not key to a strong economy. But the arts sector is key to a strong economy.

Jason Allen:

My top priority would be (two fold) to have cultural considerations included in the official plan, secondary plan and zoning guidelines (as per above). The way I would get that done, is to enact the other recommendation to have cultural dept staff present at discussions regarding zoning and secondary plans. I'm a big believer in cross departmental communication, and believe that with the huge economic lift that the arts and culture bring to Hamilton, culture staff have earned a seat at the table for more of these discussions.

Sandy Shaw:

One of the key recommendation areas is Culture as an Economic Engine- The particular point 1.3 means we have an opportunity to develop or modify existing programs and incentives, and economic development strategies to support and

develop geographic creative clusters, reward renewal and new development projects to encourage the growth of creative businesses and industries.

The success I have seen and been part of with micro-lending and other forms of alternative financing convinces me that this is definitely a model we can look to encourage and extend out to the arts community and one I believe will be readily embraced by artists as a way to follow their passions and build sustainable businesses. This is of particular importance for individual artists, who may not have access to traditional funding and are looking to build their business outside of institutional and organizational funding.

Brian Lewis:

10.4 Connect with existing community groups and networks to facilitate cultural programs directed at social issues and inclusion.

The ability to network, to expand, to grow, is paramount to any organization's success, let alone building arts and culture in a tangible as well as emotional manner.

We have more work to do; I'm the type of leader that "gets it" and can make things happen positively.

What is your favourite piece of art or cultural experience you've encountered in Hamilton and why?

Aidan Johnson:

While it is hard to choose, Supercrawl is my favourite cultural experience in Hamilton. The scale of it is unlike anything else in the city. Supercrawl is diverse. You can see great large scale installation art, have an intimate gallery experience, listen to the HPO, rock out to the Arkells, or bring the kids in your life to the Family Zone for hands on art activities. There is great energy and community spirit at Supercrawl. Essentially, we all come to James Street North for three days to celebrate together as a city. It makes me feel proud to be a Hamiltonian.

Jason Allen:

There are almost too many to pick just one, and if I was to keep the peace at home, I'd be wise to pick a literary event (I'm married to Hamilton's only literary publisher), but a really honest answer would be the Bruegel Bosch Bus at the AGH. I must have stared at it, and examined every detail for 20-30 minutes

during my last visit. I especially love the fact that all the watertowers on the buildings contained some sort of unhealthy beverage, and was a little surprised to see the addition of GO Trains in the rail yard, as I know how much those HO Scale locomotives fetch on E-Bay (I'm a 'railfan'). In my house we are far more into literary arts and music than visual arts (although to be fair, there is an awful lot of art on our walls, almost all of it original paintings and limited edition prints), but this installation had me completely transfixed.

Sandy Shaw:

Hardly a fair question for someone whose daily life is rich with artists and musician. My children were raised in a musician's home, both my son and daughter make their living in the music industry, my sister is a musician, my sister-in-law is a visual artist and my brother is a gifted writer. I am not so talented but breathe in the incredible richness of arts in the Hammer every single day.

It would be impossible to highlight one experience over the many fantastic events that happen throughout the city each year. Without ignoring so many talented male artists, I have a particular fondness for female artists and find it remarkable that the Women's Art Association of Hamilton was established in 1894 and is still going strong. Let me name just a few of the incredible female artists that I am blessed to know personally....Krista, Nancy, Svava, Sylvia, Judi, Lori, Steph, Fiona, Sherelle, Robin , Lisa, Mimi, Denise, Miranda, Tobi, Renee...I wish I had the space to mention each and every one.

Brian Lewis:

Supercrawl is one of the most creative and progressive methods of promoting Arts and Culture in Hamilton, marketing our community as a "Place to Be" to our own residents, let alone visitors. It originated from the grass roots inspiration of Hamilton Residents who are passionate about our community which is inspirational. It is a cross representation of our current cultural climate, while also respectful of Hamilton's important historic role in the arts.

The fact that my brother Gord Lewis who founded "Teenage Head" headlined a stage on Saturday night this past year, and also participated with "Tongue Fu" that same afternoon, one of his new efforts, was personally gratifying as well.

Candidate Responses - WARD 2

Responding Candidates: Jason Farr, Terri Wallis, Kristina Heaton

No Response Received: Ed Dallas, John Vail

Unable to Contact Candidate: Ryan Henry

Active engagement in local culture is a key component of building civic pride and a sense of belonging in our community. How would you encourage Hamiltonians in your ward to participate in cultural experiences?

Jason Farr:

I regularly send the Ward 2 Word to constituents that shares with them the many events and happenings throughout the ward. I would continue to that in addition to publicly announcing events at Committee and Council meetings.

Terri Wallis:

I would encourage everyone to take part in his or her favourite cultural activity whether that involves going to see live theatre or a concert, visiting an art gallery or supporting a dance troupe. Children should also be encouraged to take part in cultural events, as there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Kristina Heaton:

Have some venues run auctions, and/or raffles to win a piece of art, at some of the community events.

Funding for the arts in Hamilton has been frozen for upwards of 10 years. A newly approved funding structure approved unanimously by Council in September 2014 included a recommended increase of \$500,000 in arts funding for 2015 budget deliberations followed by further increases over the next two years to reach an additional \$1 million in new arts investment by 2017. Would you support this staff recommendation or propose an alternative strategy for increasing the City's investment in the arts?

Jason Farr:

I fully support this and have been honoured to do so publicly as Councillor and rep for both HAC and AAC.

Terri Wallis:

I would support this recommendation if it were suitable to the arts community.

Kristina Heaton:

Since it was approved, there is a plan in place.

Many of Hamilton's neighbourhoods have underutilized space that could provide low-cost infrastructure for artists and creative workers to establish new ventures in this city. What measures would you take you reduce the barriers artists face in the adaptive reuse of these spaces for cultural purposes?

Jason Farr:

Continue to be bold in decision making as we were with 95 King on the City Housing Hamilton board. Work to permit uses where zoning may not and well in advance of potentially divisive protests at higher levels of government

Terri Wallis:

As an artist myself I feel that it is extremely important for artists to have a place to create and display their art. There are many empty buildings that could be

repurposed as community centers and/or artist studios and made available to those who need them for galleries, studios or theatres.

Kristina Heaton:

Approach all future developers to keep certain areas to be designated for art.

What is your top priority item from the 78 recommendations in the City of Hamilton Cultural Plan?

Jason Farr:

Top 3 in order:

1.2 – Develop and integrate policies and provisions supportive of culture in the City of Hamilton’s Official Plan, Secondary Plans, Zoning and other planning documents where appropriate.

1.1 – Include the Cultural Policy and priorities in the City of Hamilton’s Strategic Plan.

1.11 – Develop a Culture Report Card, annual performance measures and benchmarks to track and report on the impact and benefit of cultural resources to economic prosperity and social vitality.

Terri Wallis:

I am very sorry but I have not had a chance to read the entire document so I can not say.

Kristina Heaton:

Not sure.

What is your favourite piece of art or cultural experience you’ve encountered in Hamilton and why?

Jason Farr:

Supercrawl. Because it has it all. Brings 8 million to local economy. Brings folks from across the city to our core. Celebrates and promotes Art Crawl. Pedestrianizes James N. Is tons of fun.

Terri Wallis:

I love the art crawls. As an artist, I can sell my work or I can wander around and see what others are contributing to Hamilton's art scene

Kristina Heaton:

The Beasley Park community centre painted wall, and adjoining skateboard park, resonates with the talents of locals, in the core. I always walk through there, talk to the people and I belong to the association. My recommendation for spray painters, is to set up a wall to attach old quilts, so these artists can make their works portable to display at rec centres, and halls.

Candidate Responses - WARD 3

Responding Candidates: Tim Simmons, Matthew Green, Drina Omazic, Brian Kelly, Bob Assadourian

No Response Received: Ralph Agostino, Mark Dimillio, Sean Gibson, Jol Hess, Eva John, Victor Mejia

Unable to Contact Candidate: Byron Wayne Millette, Carlos Pinho, Bernie Szajkowski

Active engagement in local culture is a key component of building civic pride and a sense of belonging in our community. How would you encourage Hamiltonians in your ward to participate in cultural experiences?

Tim Simmons:

I would promote local events with my constituent communications. It is also important for city councilors to attend events (at their own expense) when they can.

Matthew Green:

Ward 3 has a rich history of cultural participation as the past home to Festival of Friends, It's Your Festival, Ivor Wynn Stadium and Grant Avenue Studios. We were once the cultural epicentre of Hamilton and have the potential to return to that place in our city.

Gage Park has vast potential to stage world class musical and theatrical events in the Band Shell on a more frequent and better promoted manner. With this in mind, I believe that a big part of the continued success of participation will rest on Recommendations 8.1-8.3 of the Cultural Plan that involves "Neighbourhood Revitalization". These aspects go hand in hand and it is only through authentic resident led involvement and empowerment will we be able to anchor events with building civic pride and a sense of belonging. We need to have some ownership in order to make it feel like "ours."

Drina Omazic:

I would encourage it by raising awareness of events and bringing cultural experiences to the ward. And also to make those experiences available for all in the ward to participate in.

Brian Kelly:

I would encourage more use of Gage Park for cultural events, more capital construction and attractions (e.g., bocce courts, a reflecting pool with seating a la Luxembourg Palace grounds, light refreshments on site, winter skating area – all relatively discreet requiring modest construction) and modernization of seating arrangements at the bandshell for greater capacity and comfort.

Bob Assadourian:

Resident should be encouraged to participate in all of the great cultural events our city offers, events such as Gage Parks Festival of friends, it's your festival, get out to these events and taste all the great foods and interact with all the people of our community, get involved, get out and meet people!

Funding for the arts in Hamilton has been frozen for upwards of 10 years. A newly approved funding structure approved unanimously by Council in September 2014 included a recommended increase of \$500,000 in arts funding for 2015 budget deliberations followed by further increases over the next two years to reach an additional \$1 million in new arts investment by 2017. Would you support this staff recommendation or propose an alternative strategy for increasing the City's investment in the arts?

Tim Simmons:

I would definitely support this plan. Compared with other municipalities in Ontario, Hamilton provides very little funding to the arts.

Matthew Green:

I fully support staff recommendations to reach \$1 Million in new arts investment by Council.

Further, I will be advocating that in 2015 Ward 3 fully leverage the Pan Am

games as an opportunity for local procurement of all cultural aspects of the events, arts and creative services associated with the soccer games hosted at CIBC Field. At stake are substantial investments in cultural infrastructure that we need to ensure a lasting legacy to the games.

Lastly, I would like to have City staff report on the potential for revenue by using Section 37 to fund arts as other major cities do.

Drina Omazic:

We need a culturally vibrant city not only to attract people but more importantly to create the innovative and imaginative talent needed to be successful in the knowledge and digital age of today and tomorrow. To borrow a line from Economist Todd Hirsch, we need to think of arts and culture as, “infrastructure of the mind.”

I would love to look at if we are getting our fair share of provincial and federal funding. I'd want to make sure that they too are at the table with us supporting arts funding.

Brian Kelly:

I support the proposed increase in municipal funding for the arts.

I also propose establishment of a Hamilton Music Hall of Fame with the objective of both recognizing the many great musical artists that have come from or developed their craft in Hamilton and to encourage the development of young musicians in Hamilton. Everyone knows there are many great artists and builders from here but there is nowhere to go to learn about them. The goal would be to have a financially independent facility that would attract visitors from within this city and beyond.

Bob Assadourian:

I fully support this increase to the arts funding, however I must note that this is not enough. Council must work to find creative ways to further increase this funding. One suggestion would be to offer interest free grants and or loans to encourage and help new artists start up ventures in the city. This must be in the form of interest free start up grants or loans. A city that does not help artists (of any age) is a city that is not investing in itself.

Many of Hamilton’s neighbourhoods have underutilized space that could provide low-cost infrastructure for artists and creative workers to establish new ventures in this city. What measures would you take you reduce the barriers artists face in the adaptive reuse of these spaces for cultural purposes?

Tim Simmons:

Pre zoning is an effective way to do this. I expect Barton Street might be a prime area for this kind of strategy. I have been working with John Crawford and the Blues Society and discussing ways we might get musicians involved with the revitalization of Barton Street. Barton is also flanked by James Street and Ottawa Street, which can act as anchors for Barton. Barton Street is not the only area; we need to hear from the Arts Community as well.

Matthew Green:

I would work to remove antiquated industrial zoning requirements that effectively block adaptive reuse potential by making zoning adjustment cost prohibitive. Our local example for this present type of barrier to adaptive reuse for the arts is the Pearl Theatre Company which has had ongoing financial barriers presented by staff. Upon election I would work with staff to bring the roll out of the New Master Plan in line with the existing adaptive reuse potential of Ward 3 essentially removing barriers as experienced by the Pearl.

Another opportunity to support new ventures in Ward 3 would be to attract shared gallery/studio/live/work space through public private partnerships such as Cobalt Connects and ArtsBuildOntario.

Drina Omazic:

Looking at urban renewal, land banks in the United States have a lot of success in transforming spaces that are underutilized. In turn, the artists often revitalize the areas that artists move in to. I would support the Community Land Trust effort here, and build upon that.

Brian Kelly:

I’m not sure which barriers this question refers to but tell me what the barriers to artists are and I will find a way to overcome them. God knows that we have plenty of underused space available. Artists often seem to be among the initial re-entrants to such districts partly because of the low cost or perhaps in some cases, artists see the ‘poetry’ in facilities that others would dismiss for their

needs. We should encourage such ventures – such as the Pearl Company – and support establishment of corollary businesses in the area such as restaurants, coffee shops and galleries and the residential development that will follow.

Bob Assadourian:

A priority must be put on relaxing all zoning rules and city red tape, allowing an easy application process to establish these new ventures. The key word here is underutilized space, that is being wasted and would greatly benefit our community by being used for the arts.

What is your top priority item from the 78 recommendations in the City of Hamilton Cultural Plan?

Tim Simmons:

It is difficult to have a top priority item because the 78 recommendations don't stand alone. However, recommendations 2.3 and 3.1 stand out because many of our performing artists do not receive a living wage. As a city we need to support a living wage for artists. In many ways, they are skilled workers

Matthew Green:

The 78 recommendations in the Cultural plan contained the following three recommendations which related directly to two of my platform planks: vibrancy and opportunity. As all three directly relate to my platform policies I would like to include all 3 as top priorities.

“Entrepreneurs are, by definition, visionaries. The use of art to change attitudes is the heart of my vision of education. I see a connection between the creativity instilled by a love of the arts, and the skills needed for business success. Artists are by definition entrepreneurs. They can visualize something that doesn't exist, to look at a canvass and see a painting. Entrepreneurs and artists are interchangeable.” ~ Bill Strickland Manchester Craftsmen's Guild.

OPPORTUNITY:

2.3 Recognize artists and creative workers as entrepreneurs and develop and provide tools/services to support them in collaboration with the Hamilton Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) and other arts/culture service organizations.

I have a vision for moving Ward 3 into the future by making it not only the best place to raise a family but also the best place to raise a small business. With our rich stock of commercial and residential real estate we have an incredible

opportunity for live/work and small office home office opportunities. We also have enormous opportunities for industrial adaptive reuse as witnessed by 270 Sherman with room for serious capital investment in film production and staging. By treating our creative class as as both cultural and economic drivers, our City can fully recognize the value and investment that can follow the support of the arts sector.

VIBRANCY:

6.2 Develop a long term civic facility, parks and open spaces plan for culture activities based on community need and usage

6.4 Incorporate public art throughout the City as outlined in the Public Art Master Plan

With the rail trail along the escarpment, Gage Park and hundreds of unclaimed alleyways and under utilized parkettes, Ward 3 has the opportunity to reclaim our public space and with it add public art that can inspire entire communities on a daily basis. All people deserve to be inspired by art regardless of their income or neighbourhood.

As mentioned previously in this survey, I would like to see action item 6.2 supported by action items listed in the “Neighbourhood Revitalization” recommendations 8.1 through to 8.3 that include cultural planning through a neighbourhood lens.

Drina Omazic:

Developing Cultural Businesses – we need to create jobs and the arts help create people to fill those positions in the future as well. As the arts community is migrating here for affordability, we need to attract them to stay.

Brian Kelly:

I am most comfortable with the action items under the category of Culture as an Economic Engine as this is a concept to government, business and the public can most easily relate and is therefore most likely to attract public resources. It also lends itself to quantifiable returns which are used to justify additional resources. The arts community now has the Super Crawl as proof of concept in its favour.

Bob Assadourian:

Identify municipal bylaws, licensing and zoning regulations that are barriers to cultural sector activities and remove impediments where possible. This recommendation would be my first priority, we must begin by removing barriers before we can truly accomplish anything.

What is your favourite piece of art or cultural experience you've encountered in Hamilton and why?

Tim Simmons:

I love the Blues and going to places that showcase blues musicians... I do this because the Blues puts a smile on my face. I think the Hammer Blues is an under-utilized resource in Hamilton.

Matthew Green:

Over the course of the past two summers the "7 Sundays in Gage Park" has become something we look forward to as a community. It has offered Ward 3 and neighbourhoods beyond an opportunity to connect space and place with a shared identity and genuine feeling of community belonging. The experience of a multi generational, community wide picnic while enjoying the diversity of music and food has helped restore the feeling of vibrancy to Gage Park.

Drina Omazic:

Street busking. I love street busking, and never pass by one with change in my pocket.

Brian Kelly:

The cultural asset in Hamilton that I enjoy most frequently is Gage Park (as a near neighbour) whether it's simply for the walk, to visit the hothouse (my son who is developmentally delayed likes the parrots) or to look in on the regular summer events.

I also visit the Central Library on a weekly basis.

Bob Assadourian:

Hamilton Arts Council & Cobalt Connects, 2014 Hamilton Municipal Election Arts and Culture Survey | Mayoral and Councillor Candidate Responses 31

Visiting the "Its your festival", "festival of friends" at Gage Park. The incredible variety of people and the variety of foods always makes for a great weekend experience, year after year.

Candidate Responses - WARD 4

Responding Candidates: Sam Merulla

No Response Received: Lorna Moreau, Tina Whalen

Unable to Contact Candidate: John Laurie

Active engagement in local culture is a key component of building civic pride and a sense of belonging in our community. How would you encourage Hamiltonians in your ward to participate in cultural experiences?

Sam Merulla:

The key to increasing participation is creating awareness through multi medians such as social media, email, and newsletters.

Funding for the arts in Hamilton has been frozen for upwards of 10 years. A newly approved funding structure approved unanimously by Council in September 2014 included a recommended increase of \$500,000 in arts funding for 2015 budget deliberations followed by further increases over the next two years to reach an additional \$1 million in new arts investment by 2017. Would you support this staff recommendation or propose an alternative strategy for increasing the City's investment in the arts?

Sam Merulla:

I did support the initiative and I believe there will be a shortfall. Hence, the issue is, we need more of an allocation as I communicated publicly.

Many of Hamilton's neighbourhoods have underutilized space that could provide low-cost infrastructure for artists and creative workers to establish new ventures in this city. What measures would you take you reduce the barriers artists face in the adaptive reuse of these spaces for cultural purposes?

Sam Merulla:

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We have plenty of incentive programs in our BIA's and as well as Kenilworth Ave N where the entrepreneur and artist can coexist in a financially realistic endeavour.

What is your top priority item from the 78 recommendations in the City of Hamilton Cultural Plan?

Sam Merulla:

Focusing on the Arts and Culture as an economic development tool.

What is your favourite piece of art or cultural experience you've encountered in Hamilton and why?

Sam Merulla:

The headless seamstress at the Ottawa St Parkette, because I was one of the judges to allowed it to be chosen.

Candidate Responses - WARD 5

Responding Candidates: Larry Storm

No Response Received: David Brown, Chad Collins, George Rusich

Active engagement in local culture is a key component of building civic pride and a sense of belonging in our community. How would you encourage Hamiltonians in your ward to participate in cultural experiences?

Larry Storm:

Ward 5 needs more arts, cultural and music events! I would ask organizers of successful programs elsewhere in Hamilton to participate or consult in the development of events in local facilities I would like to see local art featured and possibly for sale commission free through those facilities.

Funding for the arts in Hamilton has been frozen for upwards of 10 years. A newly approved funding structure approved unanimously by Council in September 2014 included a recommended increase of \$500,000 in arts funding for 2015 budget deliberations followed by further increases over the next two years to reach an additional \$1 million in new arts investment by 2017. Would you support this staff recommendation or propose an alternative strategy for increasing the City's investment in the arts?

Larry Storm:

I want to look at ways to increase resources to the arts and culture through cooperation of other city services. Can we work with the cultural, arts and music associations in the city to create an Art's Cultural and Music Wall (Hall) of fame for Hamilton? We could have an annual award for arts and culture. The Hammie's perhaps? At the very least we should look at increasing contributions in proportion with inflation. But I think we also need to engage all residents and develop a system of matching funds from the city and the community for some projects.

Many of Hamilton’s neighbourhoods have underutilized space that could provide low-cost infrastructure for artists and creative workers to establish new ventures in this city. What measures would you take you reduce the barriers artists face in the adaptive reuse of these spaces for cultural purposes?

Larry Storm:

If there is a possibility to use underutilized space for co-op art studios or music halls, or even mini art galleries we would be wise to look at the opportunity to give those who want to make art and culture their career.

What is your top priority item from the 78 recommendations in the City of Hamilton Cultural Plan?

Larry Storm:

I don't think there is just one I can focus on as so many of them are inter related and complimentary. If we eliminate the barriers of commerce for culture in Hamilton we can have artists painting at Bayfront, and mini music festivals all over the city all year long. This will see gains in tourism and redevelopment in many areas. Being proactive with promoting culture is the key to all of this.

What is your favourite piece of art or cultural experience you’ve encountered in Hamilton and why?

Larry Storm:

My family and I toured the Steam and Technology museum, Dundurn Castle and the AGH on Friday. I am amazed of all of these facilities and that in many regards they're relatively unknown. But I love architecture as art. I love the art deco entry to National Steelcar and the Scottish Rite building is striking. The most interesting piece of art has to be the VW combi van in the AGH. My daughter loved it and I love the fact that it looks like it will never be done!

Candidate Responses – WARD 6

Responding Candidates: Dan Rodrigues

No Response Received: Tom Jackson

Unable to Contact Candidate: Brad Olynchuk

Active engagement in local culture is a key component of building civic pride and a sense of belonging in our community. How would you encourage Hamiltonians in your ward to participate in cultural experiences?

Dan Rodrigues:

As the Ward Councillor and representative for Ward Six, I am planning on creating a Ward Community Council to create a culture of inclusion for all residents of Ward Six. With this in place, residents will have the opportunity to be educated and aware of the numerous cultural events and activities which take place throughout the entire City.

Funding for the arts in Hamilton has been frozen for upwards of 10 years. A newly approved funding structure approved unanimously by Council in September 2014 included a recommended increase of \$500,000 in arts funding for 2015 budget deliberations followed by further increases over the next two years to reach an additional \$1 million in new arts investment by 2017. Would you support this staff recommendation or propose an alternative strategy for increasing the City's investment in the arts?

Dan Rodrigues:

It has been proven that a vibrant arts presence can create more the positive cultural experiences within a City, it can generate new revenue. With this in mind,

it is important that any financial commitments are balanced to ensure that Hamilton does not place themselves in a position of greater risk over reward. I would continue to support the staff recommendation, while seeking alternative strategies to ensure continuous funding for not only the arts, but other areas of investment opportunities.

Many of Hamilton's neighbourhoods have underutilized space that could provide low-cost infrastructure for artists and creative workers to establish new ventures in this city. What measures would you take you reduce the barriers artists face in the adaptive reuse of these spaces for cultural purposes?

Dan Rodrigues:

Hamilton needs to re-visit public and private spaces wherein artists can ply their craft. In Ward Six, we have a number of empty and underutilized spaces which could be rejuvenated through the support of creative workers and artists. I would support such an initiative completely.

What is your top priority item from the 78 recommendations in the City of Hamilton Cultural Plan?

Dan Rodrigues:

If I'm reading the report correctly, I would have to say that I would place one of the 8-transformational goals as a top priority, specifically: Building Community Identity, Pride and Image. Residents of the Upper-City or "The Mountain" have long been described as just that - "residents of the mountain", despite the fact that every resident within Hamilton lives in a Neighbourhood Community. I want to restore and build that community identity through a variety of concepts, such as unique street signage, and other identifiers which promote identity, pride and image in where one lives and plays.

What is your favourite piece of art or cultural experience you've encountered in Hamilton and why?

Dan Rodrigues:

The Battle of Stoney Creek re-enactment. I applaud Culture and Recreation for maintaining a very importance piece of Canadian history. The work that the staff and volunteers put into ensuring generations to follow will never forget our role in the War of 1812 is vital to all Hamiltonians and Canadians.

Candidate Responses – WARD 7

Responding Candidates: Greg Burghall

No Response Received: Scott Duval, Keith Beck

Active engagement in local culture is a key component of building civic pride and a sense of belonging in our community. How would you encourage Hamiltonians in your ward to participate in cultural experiences?

Greg Burghall:

I agree that active engagement is extremely important. I believe that we need more local community arts and cultural events. These events also need to be marketed better, perhaps by a semi-annual event newsletter and a city of Hamilton smartphone/iphone app. I have written about my ideas for a Hamilton app on my website.

Funding for the arts in Hamilton has been frozen for upwards of 10 years. A newly approved funding structure approved unanimously by Council in September 2014 included a recommended increase of \$500,000 in arts funding for 2015 budget deliberations followed by further increases over the next two years to reach an additional \$1 million in new arts investment by 2017. Would you support this staff recommendation or propose an alternative strategy for increasing the City's investment in the arts?

Greg Burghall:

Yes, I approve of this recommendation. I would also like to investigate additional strategies to find arts funding from the private sector that could be added to this fund. I would also like to attract more business related to the creative industries to our city to provide more direct employment to the arts community.

Many of Hamilton's neighbourhoods have underutilized space that could provide low-cost infrastructure for artists and creative workers to establish new ventures in this city. What measures

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would you take you reduce the barriers artists face in the adaptive reuse of these spaces for cultural purposes?

Greg Burghall:

This is a great idea. Obviously every situation would be different and would require consultation with the local community, however I would approve of putting a process together that would speed up consultation for these projects with minimal red tape.

What is your top priority item from the 78 recommendations in the City of Hamilton Cultural Plan?

Greg Burghall:

I believe that targeting youth for cultural experiences and work opportunities is extremely important. Being relatively young myself, I see a growing disconnect between our youth and their communities. We need to strengthen this bond and teach its value for our youth and our future generations.

What is your favourite piece of art or cultural experience you've encountered in Hamilton and why?

Greg Burghall:

The Festival of Friends has always been a favorite of mine. It's nice to experience such a vibrant, energetic event for free with my family.

Candidate Responses – WARD 8

Responding Candidates:

No Response Received: Joshua Peter Czerniga, Terry Whitehead

Candidate Responses – WARD 9

Responding Candidates: Frank Rukavina, Cam Galindo, Marie Robbins, Geraldine McMullen, Tone Marrone

No Response Received: Lee Austin, Doug Conley, Nancy Fiorentino, Christopher Rosser

Active engagement in local culture is a key component of building civic pride and a sense of belonging in our community. How would you encourage Hamiltonians in your ward to participate in cultural experiences?

Frank Rukavina:

Local culture is key to attracting new business. I would see that more funding be channeled in the promotion of culture, which is like any business.

Cam Galindo:

Ward Nine is made up of a diverse population, thus we have lots to offer when it comes to creating diverse and cultural experiences that strengthen our community. Through community engagement and advocacy, we can encourage Hamiltonians in my ward to participate in cultural experiences such as attending multicultural events, holidays, and celebrations.

Marie Robbins:

Heritage Stoney Creek is fortunate to have a strong cultural and historical endowment with many vibrant heritage sites such as Battlefield Park and Olde Town Stoney Creek. Thus in Ward 9, the best way to promote culture and the arts would be to enhance these existing cultural institutions and support their future development. A good example would be the development of the Jones Homestead into a museum, an overlooked opportunity that will celebrate local culture at the same time as spurring new redevelopment in Olde Town Stoney Creek. I have dedicated a full article to this [here](#) on [my website](#).

Geraldine McMullen:

One idea might be to have free shuttle services to the outer lying areas for cultural events such as the Art Crawl. Pick up and drop off in Ward 9 could take

place at Battlefield Park where residents of Stoney Creek could walk or drive to and then be shuttled downtown.

Funding for the arts in Hamilton has been frozen for upwards of 10 years. A newly approved funding structure approved unanimously by Council in September 2014 included a recommended increase of \$500,000 in arts funding for 2015 budget deliberations followed by further increases over the next two years to reach an additional \$1 million in new arts investment by 2017. Would you support this staff recommendation or propose an alternative strategy for increasing the City's investment in the arts?

Frank Rukavina:

I would support this investment into the Arts and Culture.

Cam Galindo:

Arts in Hamilton play an important role in giving our city an identity that can be distinguished around the world. I do support this staff recommendation to increase arts funding, as it is an essential tool when placing Hamilton on the World Stage.

Marie Robbins:

Making smart investments pay for themselves and given the important role that cultural industries are playing in Hamilton's new economy, supporting these industries through measured and thoughtful investment will be a great way to promote Hamilton's culture and future economic prospects. The expression 'Art is the New Steel' rings true and City Hall needs to begin supporting our creative industries as it would any other important local industry. With all of that in mind the recent funding proposal put out by City staff seems to be in line with what I have envisioned and will be a good start.

Geraldine McMullen:

Yes I would support the City's investment in the arts.

Many of Hamilton's neighbourhoods have underutilized space that could provide low-cost infrastructure for artists and creative workers to establish new ventures in this city. What measures

would you take you reduce the barriers artists face in the adaptive reuse of these spaces for cultural purposes?

Frank Rukavina:

Removing the red tape in licencing of some business would help.

Cam Galindo:

If space is not being used, it should be made easily available to artists in our community. As Councillor, I will work towards taking down barriers that artists face in the adaptive reuse of spaces for cultural purposes. Again, it gives our city identity.

Marie Robbins:

I wholeheartedly agree with the idea of using and repurposing the underappreciated spaces in Hamilton and I have some specific [thoughts on brownfield redevelopment](#) that are very much in the same spirit of what is being suggested. Of course, the repurposing of these underutilized spaces is something that will have to be investigated on a case by case basis since there can be no 'one size fits all' solution. I think that the best role that I can play as a city councillor would be to facilitate these projects as they come up by helping to cut through red-tape, bureaucratic duplication and most importantly, by making myself and other councillors more accessible to the community. This is part and parcel of a larger [accountability package](#) that I want to see implemented at City Hall which I think will go a long way to making councillors more responsive to citizens and towards improving the quality of government in Hamilton on the whole.

Geraldine McMullen:

Many licensing bylaws and zoning regulations are creating barriers. Changes are necessary in order to remove impediments and efforts should be expedited to accommodate new ventures for cultural purposes.

What is your top priority item from the 78 recommendations in the City of Hamilton Cultural Plan?

Frank Rukavina:

Subsidizing transit to and from cultural events and attractions.

Cam Galindo:

My top priorities from the 78 recommendations in the City of Hamilton Cultural Plan is to install more outdoor art, and to update Hamilton's Tourism Strategy.

Marie Robbins:

My top priority item seems to be aligned with the top priority of the authors of the City of Hamilton Cultural Plan and its item #1 – Recognizing Culture as an Essential Tool in City-Building and Plan for Culture in our Community. Hamilton has a lot of great culture that is just waiting to be discovered, nurtured and appreciated by residents and tourists alike. If properly nourished, Hamilton's cultural industries will not only spur economic well-being, but they will strengthen our sense of community spirit and identity. This is all part and parcel of improving quality of life for our city's residents, which should be the #1 priority of each and every city councillor.

Geraldine McMullen:

While many of the recommendations are appealing this one stands out for me: 6.2 Develop a long term civic facility, parks and open spaces plan for culture activities based on community need and usage.

What is your favourite piece of art or cultural experience you've encountered in Hamilton and why?

Frank Rukavina:

I love live theatre and have been attending Theatre Aquarius showings for years.

Cam Galindo:

I am a big fan of the art masterpieces by local artists Josh Tiessen. He's a good friend of mine who has shown me what it really means to be an artist in Hamilton. At the same time, my favourite cultural experience I've encountered in Hamilton is Super Crawl. Never have I witnessed so much energy, art, and culture at once. Simply outstanding.

Marie Robbins:

Well there is a wealth of things to choose from, making it hard to pick a favorite, it is hard not to pay attention to a success as impressive as the Supercrawl. I remember going to the very first Supercrawl back in 2009 and it's amazing to see how far it's come since then with this year's event attracting 150,000 people! The

Supercrawl is a great example of how art and cultural industries are putting Hamilton back on the map.

Geraldine McMullen:

I must admit I am a bit biased on this one. My mother, Patricia McMullen had one of her plays performed for the first time in 2003 at the Hamilton Fringe Festival, Two Oul' Wans. It was great fun and introduced me to the Fringe Festival which I have grown to love and enjoy.

Candidate Responses – WARD 10

Responding Candidates:

No Response Received: Teresa DiFalco, Maria Pearson, Luana Yachetti

Candidate Responses – WARD 11

Responding Candidates:

No Response Received: Brenda Johnson, Vincenzo Rigaitano

Candidate Responses – WARD 12

Responding Candidates: Grace Bryson, Lloyd Ferguson, Anthony Nichol

No Response Received: John Iachelli

Active engagement in local culture is a key component of building civic pride and a sense of belonging in our community. How would you encourage Hamiltonians in your ward to participate in cultural experiences?

Grace Bryson:

To get out and participate. Take a friend along.

Lloyd Ferguson:

This will be a key objective for me in the next term. On Sept 15th we closed the deal to purchase Memorial School in the heart of Ancaster to be converted into an Arts and Cultural Centre.

Anthony Nichol

Ancaster Ward 12 offers a vast array of cultural activities and events. I would encourage residents to participate and attend shows at Theatre Ancaster, support theatre Youth programs, and local talent. There has been discussion of transforming Memorial School into an Arts and Culture Centre which could be good for the community and showcase local artistic talent.

Funding for the arts in Hamilton has been frozen for upwards of 10 years. A newly approved funding structure approved unanimously by Council in September 2014 included a recommended increase of \$500,000 in arts funding for 2015 budget deliberations followed by further increases over the next two years to reach an additional \$1 million in new arts investment by 2017. Would you support this staff recommendation or propose an alternative strategy for increasing the City's investment in the arts?

Grace Bryson:

Yes. The arts community will bring in events that will return this money in other venues such as hotels, food, shopping.

Lloyd Ferguson:

If this is the staff recommendation I would give it serious consideration.

Anthony Nicholl

Yes, I would support the staff recommendations as this would be a great stepping stone for the Arts in Hamilton to grow over the next couple of years. After two years, I would like to see council revisit the budget to accommodate the possible further increases.

Many of Hamilton's neighbourhoods have underutilized space that could provide low-cost infrastructure for artists and creative workers to establish new ventures in this city. What measures would you take you reduce the barriers artists face in the adaptive reuse of these spaces for cultural purposes?

Grace Bryson:

The city needs to look at revising its policy to allow new ventures which will eventually lead to new jobs.

Lloyd Ferguson:

Use the newly acquired Memorial School site as an Arts and Cultural Centre.

Anthony Nicholl

I would initiate an urban renewal policy which would create a similar organization to the "No longer empty" collective in New York City by which empty underutilized spaces are transformed into artistic and creative exhibits.

What is your top priority item from the 78 recommendations in the City of Hamilton Cultural Plan?

Grace Bryson:

I think it is all vital to the growth of Hamilton.

Lloyd Ferguson:

Redevelopment of memorial School.

Anthony Nicholl

Create a Cultural Roundtable of representatives from the cultural community, creative industries, neighbourhood organizations and the general public to act as a catalyst to build community capacity in culture.

What is your favourite piece of art or cultural experience you've encountered in Hamilton and why?

Grace Bryson:

I dint have a favorite. I love art and I think people who are able to create art are to be valued.

Lloyd Ferguson:

(no answer)

Anthony Nicholl

My favorite recollection was when my wife and I saw the opera Tosca at Hamilton Place. It was our first opera experience and it was truly amazing.

Candidate Responses – WARD 13

Responding Candidates: Danya Scime, Marc Risdale, Toby Yull

No Response Received: Mark Coull, Pamela Mitchell, Kevin Norton, Arlene Vanderbeek

Unable to Contact Candidate: Christeen Urguhart

Declined to Answer Questions: Rick Court

Active engagement in local culture is a key component of building civic pride and a sense of belonging in our community. How would you encourage Hamiltonians in your ward to participate in cultural experiences?

Danya Scime:

I own mizener's antiques & flea market and welcome all artists to come and sell their creations here. The market is going through some great growth including a name change to antiques, artisans and more market. We are very fortunate to have a large base of artisans in dundas and just had our artists tour this past weekend. Dundas has many ma & pa local businesses that sell local art, of course i continue to support these companies and all of the artists across the city.

My motto " art is the language that unites the world, whether it be through, music, clay, paint, sculpting etc." it is a universal communication experience that enriches all ages, genders, ethnicities!

Marc Risdale:

Luckily, Dundas already has an extremely active and involved arts community. From the Carnegie Gallery to the Dundas Valley School of Art to the Hamilton City Ballet, we are blessed with a number of great arts organizations. As Councillor, I will make it a priority to actively participate (as I do now) in local art events and encourage all residents to do the same through promotion using social and printed media.

Toby Yull:

Dundas is an arts-centered community, a magnet to potters and painters and crafters of all sorts. Many people move to town 'for the arts' and to live in an 'artsy' community. The DVSA has been an arts hub and a venue for teachers and students (and students who have become teachers) for 50 years now. School kids can walk to it and taste the huge menu of art on display every April for the annual auction, which is a great introduction to the many facets of the arts available to us. Keeping art programs alive in our schools is vitally important. The Carnegie is an active gallery that engages with the community in a whole host of ways, with frequent shows of local artists, a fabulous garden tour every year, and speakers who come to town. A new Art-in-the-Park event is in its (I think) 3rd year here and growing – we are having arts experiences in Dundas all the time.

Funding for the arts in Hamilton has been frozen for upwards of 10 years. A newly approved funding structure approved unanimously by Council in September 2014 included a recommended increase of \$500,000 in arts funding for 2015 budget deliberations followed by further increases over the next two years to reach an additional \$1 million in new arts investment by 2017. Would you support this staff recommendation or propose an alternative strategy for increasing the City's investment in the arts?

Danya Scime:

I wrote letters to the councillors in support of what was sent out by art vote...in a perfect world, more funding would be available and i will strive to find creative ways to increase funding for local hamiltonians!

Marc Risdale:

Yes, I would support this staff recommendation. As an event organizer myself, I am also looking forward to the simplified grant application process currently under development. I think it will make access to funding much more equitable and evenly distributed.

Toby Yull:

I am aware of this situation but I do not have sufficient info at hand to give a proper answer.

Many of Hamilton’s neighbourhoods have underutilized space that could provide low-cost infrastructure for artists and creative workers to establish new ventures in this city. What measures would you take you reduce the barriers artists face in the adaptive reuse of these spaces for cultural purposes?

Danya Scime:

I am originally from montreal and love how they have embraced the artists in mixed usage buildings. We are slowly getting there and i would continue the momentum of offering working/living space for the artists...a gallery on the main floor and living space above which could house a number of artisans and their creations. Some of our industrial spaces need to be rejuvenated and this is our opportunity to allow our artists to thrive!

Marc Risdale:

In Dundas, we recently lost one of our high schools to the ARC process. As councillor, I would actively pursue acquisition of the building by the City with the aim of transforming the space into a community hub, including dedicated space for artists and other creative workers along with space for start-up businesses, day care and a senior's centre.

Toby Yull:

Hamilton’s Zoning regulations have been a hindrance to adaptive re-use of buildings for the arts (witness The Pearl Company’s zoning hell, now close to a decade long). This needs to change and come into alignment with the City’s stated goal of brownfield re-use, community-building, reinvestment in tired neighbourhoods, best place to raise a child....etc.

It’s time to really get hold of what are the bureaucratic obstacles to creative use of the built environment, find out if they are valid – and how to remove any that are not valid. Putting new life into derelict properties is a no-brainer; let’s do it!

What is your top priority item from the 78 recommendations in the City of Hamilton Cultural Plan?

Danya Scime:

I will read the entire paper to give you a more definitive answer by the end of tomorrow evening! I am quickly replying today with out reading the recomendations.

Marc Risdale:

My top priority is 5.1 "Ensure culture is considered in the planning and development of major city initiatives including for example: Waterfront; West Harbourfront, and Confederation Park and transportation planning." I am particularly interested in Planning and Public Works and believe incorporating culture into new projects from the start is the right way to do things. Culture is so much more than special events and building that mindset into everything we do is the best way to ensure equal access for all.

Toby Yull:

“Recognize culture as an essential tool in city-building and plan for culture in our community. 1.8 Identify municipal bylaws, licensing and zoning regulations that are barriers to cultural sector activities and remove impediments where possible.”

What is your favourite piece of art or cultural experience you’ve encountered in Hamilton and why?

Danya Scime:

Super crawl! What i envision is having some of the industrial sites on the water front being rejuvenated with mixed use artists live work space with a beautiful boardwalk meandering in front of the water leading to the new artisans area which would be a tourism attraction year round.

Marc Risdale:

My family and I really love Supercrawl. The blend of music, visual art, dance, vendors and food is incomparable. I especially like it because it attracts people from across the City, drawing patrons from the core and suburbs alike.

Toby Yull:

I feel a lot of pride in the old Art Bus, and believe it was instrumental, starting 8 years ago, in reintroducing Hamilton to its north end, Barton and James Street. Much has flowed from that. Regular Art Crawl nights, Dundas Valley and Locke St area studio tours, and of course, SuperCrawl, are true-blue Hamilton experiences with a lot of heart

Candidate Responses – WARD 14

Responding Candidates: Scott Stewart

No Response Received: Steven Knowles, Robert Pasuta

Active engagement in local culture is a key component of building civic pride and a sense of belonging in our community. How would you encourage Hamiltonians in your ward to participate in cultural experiences?

Scott Stewart:

People in Ward 14 are active in local culture, much of which ties into the significant agricultural activities in the ward. As Councillor, I will work to ensure that the folks in Ward 14 also look to other areas of the City to explore the great events that take place each year. I will utilize website postings, constituent flyers and personal interaction to promote cultural activities.

Funding for the arts in Hamilton has been frozen for upwards of 10 years. A newly approved funding structure approved unanimously by Council in September 2014 included a recommended increase of \$500,000 in arts funding for 2015 budget deliberations followed by further increases over the next two years to reach an additional \$1 million in new arts investment by 2017. Would you support this staff recommendation or propose an alternative strategy for increasing the City's investment in the arts?

Scott Stewart:

I understand the need from many organizations to seek funding from various sources, including all levels of government. To be honest, I will want to review and discuss 'Arts' funding with City staff once in office. Initially, my opinion is that funding should be increased. I have an overall concern regarding the lack of critical review of Hamilton's budget by existing councillors. I believe that we can increase 'Arts' funding with amounts offset by other cost reductions. I also want to see City funding generally used to assist the newer organizations to a greater extent and to a lesser extent, those that are managing on their own. I believe that basic financial submissions are required by all groups.

Many of Hamilton’s neighbourhoods have underutilized space that could provide low-cost infrastructure for artists and creative workers to establish new ventures in this city. What measures would you take you reduce the barriers artists face in the adaptive reuse of these spaces for cultural purposes?

Scott Stewart:

I believe that the City has to ensure that its staff in Planning, Economic Development and other areas coordinate their efforts and not overlook smaller businesses and as the question suggests, the artistic communities. Whether affecting your community or more broadly, I have heard that changes are needed to streamline the processes at City Hall. I will investigate with frontline staff and then managers to understand why it appears so difficult to ensure fair, flexible and timely approvals for projects. I have had recent personal and business experience in dealing with building projects to draw upon.

What is your top priority item from the 78 recommendations in the City of Hamilton Cultural Plan?

Scott Stewart:

Drawing from the lengthy list I believe a priority is to make certain that as the waterfront and similar areas are developed, arts and culture are incorporated (5.1 from the list). Once elected I will research planning and development progress for the waterfront, whether the Waterfront Trust is the appropriate vehicle to utilize and frame a proposal to have commercial/residential development in such key areas, if approved, mandated to include for example space for display, workshops, etc. As always, items 1.2 & 1.8, relating to a more efficient process and easier steps through City departments are needed.

What is your favourite piece of art or cultural experience you’ve encountered in Hamilton and why?

Scott Stewart:

More traditionally, I've enjoyed shows at Theatre Aquarius and Theatre Ancaster.

Candidate Responses – WARD 15

Responding Candidates:

No Response Received: Neil Bos, Judi Patrirdge