

October 30, 2015

Mr. Kevin Finnerty
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Culture Division
Culture and Strategic Policy Branch, Culture Policy Unit
401 Bay Street, Suite 1800
Toronto, ON M7A 0A7

From: Creative City Network of Canada (CCNC) Ontario Municipal Members

Re: Ontario's Culture Strategy

Dear Assistant Deputy Minister Kevin Finnerty,

We congratulate Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Honourable Michael Coteau, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS), for working with Ontario artists, educators and communities to develop an Ontario Culture Strategy and Arts Policy Framework that maximizes the economic benefits of arts and culture to individuals and communities.

Culture contributes to a dynamic quality of place and robust business environment, and engages youth in our communities. Local governments know this, and in Ontario manage a wide range of programs and services related to culture in the province including investing in cultural grants and public libraries, safeguarding cultural heritage, developing public art, working directly with cultural industries, and programming culture events.

Therefore, we strongly urge MTCS, Culture Division, to reflect the role that local governments play in Ontario's Culture Strategy. Specifically, the Ontario Culture Strategy should:

- *Emphasize* the importance of local governments in the Ontario Culture Strategy Guiding Principles by recognizing that culture is different everywhere and highlighting the unique role of local governments in supporting Ontario's diverse municipalities;
- *Invest* in funding for municipalities to boost the implementation of municipal cultural plans, and strengthen the management and development of local cultural resources; and
- *Advance* the role of local governments in fostering an environment in which arts, cultural industries, cultural heritage, and public libraries thrive in communities by partnering with relevant professional networks and organizations on the creation of new resources and tools, professional training, and knowledge sharing opportunities.

Thank you for undertaking the Ontario Culture Strategy, and for the opportunity to contribute to such an important initiative.

Sincerely,



Nichola Reddington
President, Board of Directors, Creative City Network of Canada
On behalf of CCNC Ontario Municipal Members

Creative City Network of Canada

Suite #415 – 402 West Pender Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1T6

Phone: 604.688.2489 Fax: 604.688.6701 www.creativecity.ca info@creativecity.ca

cc: Jennifer Lord
 General Manager, Creative City Network of Canada

2015 Creative City Network of Canada - Ontario Municipal Members

Creative City Network of Canada Ontario municipal members represent about 75% of Ontario's population in urban, rural and remote communities. We are all proud members of the Creative City Network of Canada.

Municipality	Contact
City of Barrie	Onalee Groves, Culture Officer, Development
City of Brampton	Bernice Morrison, Manager, Arts and Culture
City of Brantford	Nicole Drake, Manager, Tourism and Marketing
City of Burlington	Angela Paparizo, Manager of Arts and Culture
Town of Collingwood	Karen Cubitt, Manager, Culture and Events
City of Guelph	Ella Pauls, Manager, Cultural Affairs and Tourism
County of Haldimand	Anne Unyi, Community Liaison
Town of Halton Hills	Jamie Smith, Cultural Centre Supervisor
City of Hamilton	Anna Bradford, Director, Tourism and Culture Division
Town of Huntsville	Teri Souter, Manager of Arts, Culture and Heritage
City of Kawartha Lakes	Debra Soule, Development Officer
City of Kingston	Colin Wiginton, Director, Cultural Services
City of Kitchener	Silvia Di Donato, Manager, Arts and Culture
City of London	Robin Armistead, Manager, Culture and Municipal Policy
City of Markham	Moe Hosseini-Ara, Director of Culture
Town of Minto	Gordon Duff, Treasurer/Deputy CAO
City of Mississauga	Paul Damaso, Acting Director, Culture Division
City of Niagara Falls	Katharine Moldenhauer, Director of Recreation and Culture
Town of Oakville	Nina de Vaal, Director, Recreation and Culture
City of Orillia	Ray Merkley, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture
City of Oshawa	Julie MacIsaac, Manager, Culture and Centralized Recreation
City of Ottawa	Debbie Hill, Manager, Cultural and Heritage Services
Town of Pelham	Vickie van Ravensway, Director, Arts, Culture and Recreation
City of Peterborough	Becky Rogers, Manager, Arts, Culture and Heritage Division
Town of Pickering	Jeff Goring, Acting Coordinator Cultural Services
Town of Port Hope	Julia Snoek, Program Coordinator
Town of Richmond Hill	Karin Ash, Manager, Cultural Services
Municipality of Sioux Lookout	Gerson Agustin, Manager of Recreation and Culture
County of Simcoe	Donna Goodwin, Culture Development Co-ordinator
City of St. Catharines	Rebecca Cann, Cultural Planning Supervisor
City of Greater Sudbury	Emily Trottier, Business Development Officer
City of Thunder Bay	Beverly Ball, Director, Recreation and Culture
City of Timmins	Karen Bachmann, Director/Curator
City of Toronto	Terry Nicholson, Director, Arts and Culture
City of Vaughan	Angela Palermo, Manager, Cultural Services
City of Waterloo	Astero Kalogeropoulos, Manager, Arts and Culture
Region of Waterloo	Lucille Bish, Director of Community Services
City of Windsor	Cathy Masterson, Manager of Cultural Affairs

About the Creative City Network of Canada (CCNC)

The Creative City Network of Canada is a national non-profit organization of municipalities, organizations, and individuals working to support cultural development in their communities.

Through its work the Creative City Network of Canada helps build the capacity of local cultural planning professionals – and by extension local governments – to nurture and support cultural development in their communities. By doing so, the Creative City Network of Canada aims to improve the operating climate and conditions for artists, arts, heritage and cultural organizations across the country, and the quality of life in Canadian communities of all sizes.

Our Vision: Every community strategically integrates their local cultural resources in the social, economic, cultural and environmental sustainability of their community.

Our Mission: The Creative City Network of Canada is a national non-profit organization that operates as a knowledge sharing, research, public education, and professional development resource in the field of local cultural policy, planning and practice.

Our Values:

- Direct sharing between communities
- Professional excellence
- Encourage a diversity of ideas
- Respect local community decision-making