



Hamilton Folk Arts Heritage Council



Dear Mayor Bob Bratina and City Councillors,

Hamilton Folk Arts Heritage Council was established in 1969. We have been celebrating and showcasing the Folk Arts and diverse cultural heritages by implementing and organizing the various educational programs in arts, cultures and heritage, thus benefiting many communities as well as building harmony among all cultures. We have organized "It's Your Festival", one of the biggest Canada Day festivals in Canada at Gage Park, Hamilton. Our festival has attracted over 6 million spectators during 42 years, representing over 25 diverse ethnic organizations. We co-ordinate the efforts of many diverse ethnic and arts organizations and interested individuals in developing Canadian Folk Arts to celebrate Canada Day with the top Canadian and local artists.

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On behalf of our member organizations, we would like to send our sincere appreciations to the Arts Advisory Council's Task Force who volunteered over two and half years to create the effective funding strategy which benefit many stake holders including Arts organization, artists and community as whole. We strongly support the AAC Task force effort to increase additional \$1 million City grant to benefit the Hamilton Arts community. It will help to flourish vibrant artistic exchanges and creative expressions adding the quality of life, improve the City image and have a positive impact on Hamilton's economy.

In the past, Hamilton's economy largely depended on manufacturing. We are now experiencing a significant transition of economic shift and cultural infusions. Therefore, return on investment of Arts and Cultures will have a long term dividend with the compound interest in return. It will stimulate the economic development of the City of Hamilton and attract investments including direct and indirect investments and foreign investments in the near future. We are very proud of our fellow Hamiltonians who have been volunteering many years in the arts and cultural sectors. They have created a foundation to embrace diversity and unison of artistic harmony with pure passion and devotion regardless of their background and religions. Hamilton's strength is our people who have the creative minds with a clear will to succeed and benefit others.

No support letters and reports will accurately translate a true value of ROI in the arts and cultural sectors and its path to the future. It has already deeply embedded in our city how we transformed and how we will broaden our future opportunities by making the right choices at the right time. The leaders of Art community have illustrated and painted the economic benefits on behalf of their stakeholders with their fine brush strokes. Thus, we trust our Mayor and City Councillors will help upgrade the palettes to infuse vibrant hues to sparkle.

Thank you very much for all your support.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Turner

Program Director of Hamilton Folk Arts Heritage Council

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