

Thursday, February 19, 2015

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council,

The City of Hamilton has come to an important crossroads in deciding the future development, health and economy of our community.

I am writing on behalf of the Board and Membership of the Dundas Art and Craft Association, which operates the Carnegie Gallery in Dundas. It is in regards to the Arts Community's request to increase the funding from its present static state to an amount which will better reflect the needs, recent growth and potential of the benefits for the greater community.

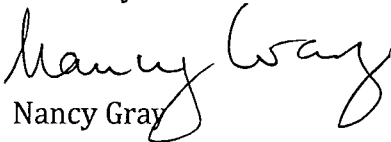
What has happened in Dundas in the arts over the past ten years is an excellent example of what can be achieved when all parties, work together to find solutions to challenges each are facing. A plan was developed, funds raised through community engagement resulting in three organizations being able to secure their buildings, upgrade them and by doing so make a valuable contribution to the vibrancy and appeal of the town. By investing in the community the City helped make Dundas a place where real estate value has increased, the downtown core is a busy place with a wide variety of successful businesses and there is a strong sense of community. All are healthy and desired outcomes.

Over these past ten years there has been a surge of energy in the greater Hamilton arts community, James Street North maybe the most recognized but it has happened throughout the amalgamated city.

We respectfully appeal to City Council, that with a changing industrial environment, a significant increase to arts funding would better reflect its achievements, the need for growth, and the recognition of its potential as an investment in the City's future, its economic health and as such a productive use of taxpayers' dollars.

Thank you.

Sincerely


Nancy Gray

Chair, Dundas Art and Craft Association



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