

May 18, 2021

Arts Advisory Commission

Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON, L8P 4Y5

Re: Cultural Executive Working Group

For the attention of the Arts Advisory Commission,

Recently, a group of 12 senior cultural executives met to discuss how we could work together to ensure the sustainability of the cultural sector in Hamilton, post-pandemic. Representing \$39,592,000 in economic impact (TREIM 2019), we are particularly dedicated to providing programs and services that will support the COVID-19 pandemic recovery and help ensure the sustainable future of the arts and culture sector in the City of Hamilton.

We are looking to work together with the local government to reshape the sector, its infrastructure, and supports, so it can thrive and contribute even more to the social, mental, and economic health of our community.

Cultural organizations have been the hardest hit, with few options for short term recovery, and we are projected to be the last to be able to fully open and recover. The cultural sector is incredibly vulnerable to disruption. The risks and impact are equally devastating to large cultural organizations as to small local galleries and museums, performing arts groups, schools, concert halls, and individual artists.

The Cultural Executives Working Group are seeking support from the Arts Advisory Commission that includes:

- Clarification on how the recommendations made by the Mayor's Taskforce on Economic Recovery will be initiated, and on what timeline.
- Identification of a key contact for communications, providing clarification on programming limits, and expectations for reentry into in-person engagement
- Provision of a (temporary) directory for the latest programming updates from arts and cultural organizations
- Development of a city-wide communications plan to highlight the importance of Hamilton's cultural organizations and motivate attendance and support
- Recommendations for how the cultural executive group may formulate their discussions to best serve the purpose of the AAC in the fulfilment of their mandate

As representatives of the cultural executives working group, David Hudson (Hamilton Arts Council) and Claire Lougheed (Dundas Valley School of Art), would speak to the request for support, as part of the May 25th Arts Advisory Commission Meeting.

Sincerely,**Joanna Johnson**

General Manager | Hamilton Arts Council

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