

From: City of Hamilton <hello@hamilton.ca>

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To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

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Reference number 71524

Submitted on

Committee Requested

Committee

General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

Yes

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Gail Lord

Lord cultural Resources

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[REDACTED]

Preferred Pronoun

she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request

The Art Gallery of Hamilton (AGH) stands as one of Canada's premier cultural institutions, renowned for its outstanding permanent collection of over 11,200 works. The AGH holds

the third largest collection in Ontario and ranks among the five most important art collections in the country, surpassing other major institutions like the McMichael Canadian Art Collection. This is not a regional collection—it is a cultural asset of national significance, entrusted to the AGH for the benefit of the community and future generations. For more than 110 years, the AGH has been deeply embedded in Hamilton's evolution as a major urban, industrial, and cultural hub. Today, it plays a central role in driving tourism with iconic works by artists such as Tom Thomson, Emily Carr, Norval Morrisseau, and the Group of Seven. The AGH also delivers award-winning programs in education, wellness, and community engagement—including services for over 10,000 students annually, children and family programming, and inclusive city-wide events like the AGH Festival. Despite its vital role, the Gallery has received no increase in City operating support in nearly 20 years, while continuing to bear the costs of maintaining both a City-owned building and a shared collection of immense cultural, historical, and monetary value. This financial model is no longer sustainable. As the building ages and the demand for access and programming grows, increased investment is urgently needed to preserve the AGH as a community space, educational resource, and national cultural institution. The time is now for the City of Hamilton to reaffirm its commitment and ensure the AGH not only survives, but thrives.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

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