

May 24, 2013

General Issues Committee

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

Dear Chair and Members of the General Issues Committee

Re: AAC Arts Funding Task Force

I am writing to you as a former member of the Hamilton Arts Advisory Committee and current Chair of the Board of the Dundas Art and Craft Association, which operates the Carnegie Gallery in Dundas.

During my term on the AAC there was much discussion and work begun on the then current arts funding and application form. Since that time much work has continued on these issues and consultations with the general arts community have been made, including the well-attended forum at the Hamilton Public Library, hosted by the AAC. I would like to lend my support to the recommendations being made by the AAC that have resulted from all the efforts of the Commission, City staff and members of the arts community.

The Carnegie Gallery from its very modest beginnings in the early 1980's has continued with its original mandate to support regional artists of high calibre and the arts in general, in a heritage building that is in a key location in the Dundas downtown core. We have had the generous support over these years from the community, our then local Council and more recently from the City of Hamilton.

What has happened in Dundas over these years is a true reflection of what is possible when a community works together. We have an active and strong arts and culture community which is recognized outside of our own Town as well as within. It has been used as a reason to visit and as a desirable place to live, where there are opportunities for young and old to participate in many activities from art classes at the DVSA, exhibits and talks at the Museum as well as the exhibitions, concerts and lectures at the Gallery. There is also an active sports community and environmental groups who also volunteer many hours to make our community a great place to be. We believe we have contributed to the economic viability and quality of life of the greater community as has, for example, James Street North. Over the past four years we have engaged with all levels of Government for funding to renovate, expand and improve the DVSA, the Dundas Historical Society and Museum, and the Carnegie

Gallery. During this time there has been an expansion of new businesses, building construction and a healthy real estate market.

I support that the recommendations put forward by the AAC address the role that the arts community can play in creating a greater Hamilton that provides quality of life with economic viability while providing an opportunity for artists with a more affordable place to live and work. The recommendations also reflect how much the arts community has grown and provide a broader plan that is both more flexible as well as ensuring accountability.

I believe that an increased investment in the arts would be good for Hamilton and pay great dividends for the people who live here as well as present a positive image of the City outside of our boundaries.

We at the Carnegie Gallery have been very grateful for the support we have received from the City of Hamilton and for the assistance of its staff.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Nancy McKibbin Gray