

Submission to Planning Division Regarding Official Plan Update

The renewal of the City of Peterborough's Official Plan provides an opportunity to enhance key policies that contribute to the quality of life for residents and strengthen cultural and heritage assets that contribute, through its many talented and diverse artists, to the social and economic well-being of the community. In crafting a new OP, City Council has set out five key principles that provide an integrated approach to managing growth in the future. A vibrant Arts, Culture and Heritage component in the Official Plan is critical to implementing these guiding principles.

Peterborough has made important strides in supporting Arts, Culture and Heritage since the current Official Plan was approved in December 1981. Following extensive public consultation, City Council approved the Municipal Cultural Plan (MCP) in April 2012. The MCP was built around three key pillars: promoting economic development through culture; creating a liveable and sustainable municipality; and supporting a vibrant downtown and healthy neighbourhoods. The key principle underlying the MCP is the notion that cultural planning is an ongoing process that applies a "cultural lens" to all aspects of civic undertakings whether it be investing in public infrastructure, hosting various festivals, creating new subdivisions or installing public art. The Plan sets out seven strategic directions which collectively provide the recipe for a vibrant arts, culture and heritage sector. They include: Celebrate and Strengthen the Region's Waterways, Cultural and Natural Heritage; Strengthen the Arts; Strengthen Heritage, Strengthen Downtown as a Cultural Hub; Incorporate Culture in all Neighbourhoods; Encourage Inclusivity and Facilitate Diversity; Build Capacity of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Division.

In 2005, the City established an Arts, Cultural and Heritage Advisory Committee to support these initiatives and inform Council of opportunities, programs and policies to help achieve these objectives. Fundamental to achieving these Strategic Directions is a sufficient and sustainable funding formula that provides long term financial support. As part of its input to the Official Plan, ACHAC has provided recommendations in support of the new vision for Peterborough as it continues to grow and prosper. On behalf of the Committee, I wish to thank Council for the opportunity to contribute to the crafting of a new Official Plan

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Chair, ACHAC

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Arts

Arts encompass a wide range of artistic expressions and the institutions and organizations that produce, host and promote them. They include, but are by no means limited to, the visual arts, theatre, film, music, dance, literature and other creative activities. The City will continue to be a strong supporter through its various funding programs, professional staff and community initiatives of a vibrant Arts sector in Peterborough. City Council, through its policies and regulations, will ensure that opportunities to participate in these activities will be physically and financially accessible and accepting of all people.

- a) The City will continue to support arts organizations and institutions which offer opportunities for public enjoyment and education and serve to develop and highlight talented local artists
- b) The City will continue to support cultural institutions in developing both public and private sector financial partnerships
- c) The City will work with First Nations to express their experiences through art
- d) The City will to continue to support initiatives that address inclusion and accessibility in the Arts

Public Art

Public Art represents a special challenge and opportunity within the broad category of Art. The City, through the work of the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC), a subcommittee of ACHAC, has recently planned and executed a series of public art projects, principally murals on public and private structures. Other projects, such as the installation at the Library Commons and UN Peacekeeping memorial, are in progress. Public art animates both public and private spaces, enhances the quality of the urban landscape and supports our local artists. A successful public art program requires a number of critical elements.

- a) The City will promote a strong civic identity through public art to create favourable experiences that celebrate the attractiveness and rich history of our city. The City will continue to support the adoption of requisite policies and procedures for a successful public art program
- b) The City will continue to support public art projects through the one percent of the Capital Levy policy

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- c) The City will explore additional funding models for public art projects, including sponsorship and developing bonusing opportunities for developers.
- d) The City will integrate public art into public works and infrastructure projects.
- e) The City will continue to engage the community in the development and implementation of its public art program.
- f) The City will encourage the inclusion of public art in private sector, county, provincial or federal developments across the city

Culture

Peterborough is fortunate to have a rich and diverse range of cultural institutions at the federal, provincial and municipal level. Our community museums, archives, historic sites and public art installations, along with festivals, traditional crafts, cultural practices and a host of creative industries, all contribute to the vitality and public benefit of our community. However, culture can, and should, extend beyond these recognized expressions. Culture can also be found in creative street design, imaginative suburban development and our special green spaces and public parks. As noted in the MCP, culture is a process, a way of thinking, of bringing creative design to both large scale and small projects. The review of the Official Plan offers an opportunity to infuse this kind of thinking into the long-term strategies that will guide growth for the residents and visitors to our community.

- a) The City will continue to support the Electric City Culture Council in playing a lead role in building and sustaining cultural capacity in Peterborough
- b) In consultation with community organizations, the City will develop appropriate guidelines and a standardized approach to commemorating persons, places and events throughout the city
- c) The City will take a lead role in the provision of facilities for all arts and culture organizations in the community
- d) The City will support endeavours to repurpose spaces to support the arts in terms of studio and exhibition space

Heritage

Peterborough has a wealth of natural and built heritage that falls under the jurisdiction of the municipality. Council has established policies, programs and personnel to manage

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these assets and has been recognized at the provincial and federal level for its work in the preservation of built heritage. The City's Heritage Preservation Office (HPO) has responsibility for the application of the Ontario Heritage Act and the recently-approved municipal archaeological policy. The HPO is assisted in its work by the municipally-appointed Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (PACAC). The PACAC has prepared a detailed set of recommendations for the Official Plan that are endorsed by ACHAC. Peterborough also has numerous public parks that represent recreational opportunities for both citizens and visitors to the community. In addition, our parks contain significant natural features that warrant special care. The Official Plan should address appropriate measures to identify and manage our cultural and natural assets.

- a) The City will continue to develop and implement suitable policies and procedures for managing heritage resources, including financial incentives.
- b) The City will recognize cultural landscapes as heritage resources and implement measures to identify, protect and present their important natural and historic features
- c) The City will develop management plans for its parks on a priority basis taking into account the unique needs and assets of each park
- d) As the hub of the Kawartha tourism region, the City will devise a proactive tourism strategy that draws on the city's unique natural and cultural heritage to encourage visitors