



Kingston Arts Council

Delegation of the Advocacy Committee to the
City of Kingston Standing Committee
Arts, Recreation and Community Policy
27 April 2006



History of Arts Support in Kingston

- √ Culture was made a priority in the 2001 Strategic Plan
- √ City support for operating expenses of arts groups was eliminated in 2001
- √ Kingston Arts Board was disbanded in 2001



Purpose of this Presentation

- √ To make the problem clear from the arts perspective
- √ To offer solutions
- √ To present core recommendations to nurture a strong arts sector in Kingston



Current Support for the Arts

- √ Support for the arts is piecemeal; problems are looked at in isolation
- √ Arts support is crisis driven



Call For Action

- ✓ Implement the Strategic Plan with attention to the arts, distinct from recreation, heritage and social services
- ✓ Undertake an immediate audit of existing art services and their funding, including the Healthy Community Fund



Backlog of Ignored Studies

- √ Cultural Facilities Needs Assessment Study (2003)
- √ Cultural Framework Strategy for the City of Kingston (2004 & 2005)
- √ Capacity Building for the Arts for Mid-size Communities Study (2005)



The Crisis

- √ Uncertain tenancy and inadequate funding paralyses artists and organizations
- √ Absence of municipal operating support cripples anchor arts groups
- √ The Healthy Community Fund in 2005/6 gave an inadequate \$93,000 to the arts



Solutions

- √ Models of support for a vibrant arts sector exist in peer cities in Ontario.
- √ These include well considered mechanisms of delivery, sustained fiscal support balanced across disciplines and visionary projects



Solutions contd.

- √ Their programs respond to numerous studies defining the positive economic, social and quality of life benefits of a healthy arts sector
- √ Artists and arts professionals are given meaningful avenues for input and participation



Kitchener

- √ Arts and Culture Budget (2005) \$3.7 million
- √ KWAG \$154,000
- √ Kitchener symphony \$161,000
- √ Capital projects support
- √ % for art in new building projects
- √ Broad spectrum of support across arts disciplines



St. Catharines

Cultural Policy and Plan includes statement of the principle of self-determination for the cultural community and financial support through fee-for-service contracts



Peterborough

- ✓ Arts and Culture \$3.7 million (2005)
- ✓ Art Gallery \$500,000
- ✓ A 2.8% tax levy for Arts and Culture
- ✓ Plans for public art program
- ✓ Arts professionals on City Committee



London

- ✓ 2004 Creative City Task Force, supported by a Working Group of arts professionals
- ✓ Strong vision of leadership recognizing the role of arts and culture in a vibrant and growing city.



Key Recommendations

- 1. Adequate funding for programming and operating**
- 2. Balance resources among disciplines**
- 3. Give artists a voice in the form and allocation of support**
- 4. Respect arts organizations as vehicles of arts delivery**
- 5. Establish goals and commit to a course of action**