



Dear Candidates:

ArtsVote Niagara is concerned with culture in our community. Culture encompasses arts and heritage and all the specific and unique ways in which people communicate, interact and express themselves. Arts and heritage are expressions of our current and past culture. Culture is also a field of endeavour and a business sector with commercial and not-for-profit interests.

We are very interested in your views and sensibilities relating to culture and government. Thank you for participating in the ArtsVote Niagara 2010 survey. Your survey responses will be graded, made public and widely distributed throughout Niagara prior to the upcoming election.

The survey should take about 20-30 minutes depending on how familiar you are with the issues. It is comprised primarily of multiple choice or short word answers – the answers provided may not perfectly reflect your view or sensibility but choose the answer that most closely represents your view. You may add comments at the end of the survey.

Section # 1

All Candidates, General Questions – 7 questions

Section # 2

All City of St. Catharines Candidates (including Mayoralty Candidates) - 12 questions

Section # 3

All Regional and Mayoralty Candidates - 8 questions

Section # 4

All School Board Candidates - 4 questions

Section # 5

All Candidates, Comments, Resume and Contact Information -9 questions

The results will be tabulated and each candidate will be assigned a grade based on their survey answers. The report card on all the candidates will be widely distributed throughout the cultural sector in the Niagara Peninsula.

The deadline for return of the survey is Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010 at 4 p.m.

SECTION #1 - GENERAL QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY ALL CANDIDATES

ArtsVote Niagara is a cross-disciplinary, non-partisan committee of volunteers who seek the views and examine the voting records of candidates on arts-related issues. **ArtsVote Niagara** provides this objective information to communities affected by the arts and cultural sectors so voters can make informed decisions.



THERE ARE QUESTIONS FOR ALL CANDIDATES, REGIONAL CANDIDATES, MAYORALTY CANDIDATES AND SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES ON THIS SURVEY. PLEASE COMPLETE ALL RELEVANT SECTIONS.

Please check the answer that *best* represents your answer or point of view.

1. Over the last four years, what are the ways in which you have participated in locally based arts, heritage and cultural activities or organizations in the Niagara Region? Check all that apply:

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	Regularly
Donations to arts, cultural or heritage organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteer work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attendance at events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collector of local art	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Membership in arts, cultural or heritage organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. In the last year, what are the ways in which you have experienced locally based arts, cultural and heritage activities in the Region of Niagara and City of St. Catharines? Check all that apply:

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	Regularly
Art Galleries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dinner Theatre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Festivals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Film	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historical Museums	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic Sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Libraries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Music Recitals or Concerts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Theatre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



3. While some of these statements may be true or false *to some extent*, please indicate to what extent the following statements represent your view or understanding.

	Not at all	Not Sure	Somewhat True	Agreed	Absolutely!
The arts are important for all the ways they inspire a greater understanding of humankind.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts are important for all the unique ways they inspire ideas, creativity and innovation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts are important for fostering relationships between individuals and cultures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural infrastructure provides community gathering places that reinforce the social fabric of our community and our sense of belonging.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heritage institutions are important to forging our sense of community and national identity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The cultural sector makes significant contributions to sustainable communities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participation in the arts can reduce truancy, racism and juvenile delinquency.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
An education in the arts enhances aptitudes for life-long learning, communication and versatility in the workplace.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts are a labour intensive, non-polluting, renewable source of economic development.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts are important for their role in the economic revitalization of downtowns.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts hold limited interest for me because they are not part of my background, but I remain open-minded.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts can be an alternative type of recreational activity but should continue to receive no more than a basic level of public subsidy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our cultural infrastructure should not be a funding priority during troubled economic times.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural institutions and activities are important, but not as popular as sporting activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts tend to appeal primarily to people who have particular artistic talents.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts attract people whose values do not represent the views of mainstream Canadians.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts are a real mystery to me; they tend to be elitist and don't engage a lot of people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts are primarily a recreational pursuit that should be sustainable without public support.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



4. Public funding of the arts has been justified by a variety of rationales over the years. Which are the arguments you are most comfortable making in support of public funding for the arts? (Please check all that apply.)

The arts for arts' sake – they are an expression of ourselves and our culture.

The arts are in the public interest because they improve the quality of community life and sustainability.

The arts and heritage have significant economic impact.

The arts are agents of social change and important partners in social problem solving.

The arts stimulate innovation by attracting and fuelling the knowledge-based worker.

None of the above. I am not in favour of public funding for the arts

5. In economically troubling times, which of the following statements best reflects your opinion? (Please read all the answers and check the one that best reflects your opinion.)

All cultural spending should be cut.

Arts, heritage and cultural grants, like other non-essential government spending programs, should be reviewed for opportunities to reduce government spending.

Politically, it is unlikely that the majority of my constituents would accept of increased cultural spending – a modest reduction would be more appropriate.

Cultural spending is modest in the scheme of things and, I would argue, should not be cut.

Cultural spending should be reviewed for opportunities to make strategic investments that may have an economic impact.

Investment in culture should be increased as a means of boosting morale and stimulating economic recovery.

6. While each of the following means may have their place, the best way of judging the merits and program content of public art commissions are through: (Please read all the answers and check the one that best reflects your opinion):

Arms length, peer juries of local arts professionals.

Municipal/regional staff who specialize in the arts.

Volunteers with an interest in the arts.

Politically appointed advisory committees.

Elected politicians.

Consultations with community-based teachers and religious leaders.



7. In the next four years, municipal/regional funding for heritage should focus on (check all that apply):

- Preservation and investment in Niagara heritage sites of national significance beyond those owned by the federal government.
- Increased access to local heritage sites, museums and related programming.
- Sustainability of heritage properties and sites maintained by not-for-profit organizations.
- Clarifying heritage policies and preservation guidelines for City/Regional property and objects.
- Preservation and investment in heritage sites of local significance.
- All of the above.
- None of the above. There shouldn't be any municipal/regional support for heritage.

8. Please indicate if you are running for:

- Mayor of St. Catharines
- Mayor of city/town outside of St. Catharines
- St. Catharines City Council
- Regional Council
- School Board Trustee



SECTION # 2 - ALL CITY OF ST. CATHARINES CANDIDATES, PLEASE RESPOND

Preface – Contemporary Cultural Policy Perspective

*Culture encompasses arts and heritage
and all the specific and unique ways in which
people communicate, interact and express themselves.*

The mission of the City of St. Catharines is to provide efficient and effective municipal service delivery in a way that promotes safety and security, environmental sustainability, local agriculture, cultural diversity, new business and employment opportunities for all of its citizens.

“Cultural diversity” is acknowledged in the mission of the City. “Culture,” together with economic, environmental and social factors, is one pillar of the four pillar UNESCO model of community sustainability which declares that our arts and cultural institutions are critical to our sense of social well being, our economic health and our understanding of environmental consequences. (2001)

Community sustainability relies upon a shared culture of interaction and collaboration, tolerance and inclusiveness, cohesion and fairness. This shared culture insists that we foster social well being, environmental sensitivity and thriving economies. This shared culture demands no less than Cities that are well run, well designed and built, well connected and well served.

9. I believe cultural policy has a role to play in the following municipal services (check all that apply):

Recreation and Community Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development and Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation and Environmental Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communications	<input type="checkbox"/>
None of the above. Culture should not be a municipal priority.	<input type="checkbox"/>



10. I believe cultural policy has a role to play in the following municipal issues (check all that apply):

Race Relations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beautification	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessibility	<input type="checkbox"/>
Graffiti Control	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delinquency	<input type="checkbox"/>
None of the above.	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. The City of St. Catharines established a Cultural Services office in 2000 to implement the City's Cultural Policy. This office and its programs have been much appreciated by its cultural constituents.

In light of the ever-increasing perception that the life and health of our cities rely on a climate of cultural collaboration, creativity and innovation, do you think resources should be directed toward a 10 year review of the services provided by the Cultural Services office and its future role?

Yes

No

12. In the City of St. Catharines, cultural services currently are a comparatively minor service of the Department of Recreation and Community Services. If a re-positioning of cultural services were to be considered in future, what potential options within the Departmental structure of the City do you think should be on the table for consideration (check all that apply):

Recreation and Community Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development and Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation and Environment Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
An independent office interacting with all of the above and other departments	<input type="checkbox"/>
None of the above. Cultural services should not be a Municipal priority.	<input type="checkbox"/>



13. The City established a St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP, pronounced SKIP) in 2004 to provide grants to the arts, heritage and ethno-cultural communities of St. Catharines. How would you want to assess the success of this program? (Please read all the answers and check the one that most closely represents your opinion.)

- The assessment of success should be finite – the program should be cut back or eliminated when organizations have received sufficient support to increase their capacity.
- Economic impact is key; assess the number of new dollars generated by the recipient organizations.
- Any sign of success should be touted, but should not have an impact on increasing or decreasing the level of funding available.
- Assess the level of demand within the program and determine whether an increase to the program's budget is warranted.
- Assess and consider the needs of the local sector, municipal interests, cultural funding trends and results in similar communities and consider expanding the program accordingly.
- Consider financing a broad-based assessment - defining and identifying trends in the presence, participation, impacts and systems of support for arts and culture in the city – and expanding the program accordingly.

14. The cultural community of St. Catharines has been very appreciative of SCCIP but notes that it is now somewhat limited in scale and scope compared to other similar Ontario municipalities. Would you support the allocation of resources to examine the funding trends in other municipalities in order to ensure that St. Catharines' programs are competitive and appropriate to meeting this community's needs? (Please circle one response.)

- Yes, within reason
- No, the program is fine as is
- No, the program should be reduced or cut

15. The city of St. Catharines is home to several commercial galleries and co-ops, an artist-run centre focussed on artist development and contemporary art exhibits and a University-owned regional art museum (Rodman Hall) but it lacks either a civic art museum or a purpose-built community gallery to serve the citizens of St. Catharines. (Please read these answers and check the one that most closely reflects your opinion.)

- A civic art museum and/or purpose-built or rehabilitated community gallery should not be a consideration for the foreseeable future.
- The lobby of the new performing arts centre should be designed as a long term solution to serve as a gallery for the City's art collections and community exhibits.
- The creation of a civic art museum and community gallery should join the list of identified facilities lacking in St. Catharines.
- The City should review public and private partnership and development opportunities to provide a civic arts museum and community gallery facilities for the community.
- Before building another complex, the City should undertake a more comprehensive plan for the sustainable development of its cultural sector and facilities in municipal life.
- A feasibility study should be commissioned in the near future to identify the current gaps in the City's visual arts sector and consider ways and means of addressing gaps.



16. Traditionally, municipalities have thought of “public art” as a temporary or permanent sculptural installation, mural or art exhibit in a public place to commemorate a civic event or to showcase local talent.

In an effort to move from a history of “plonk art” where statues, rocks and plaques are added to building grounds after the fact, many municipalities are exploring the value of public art to the public realm and to urban design. Specialized visual artists are engaged in the early stages of planning to help solve design problems, integrate art and facilitate more creative and people-friendly urban planning, design and installations in public places and spaces.

The City currently has a public art policy in place which offers guidelines. What is your reaction to these opportunities? Please read the answers and check the one that best reflects your view:

Commission public art on an ad hoc or case by case basis.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaborate with the private sector to encourage more art in public places.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide funding for artists to do public art independent of the region/municipalities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Investigate funding opportunities for long term investments in public art	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop a better understanding of implementing public art within infrastructure projects	<input type="checkbox"/>
Embed progressive public art practices and funding in municipal planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leave public art to the private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>

-
17. Do you support the principal of collaboration with City Cultural staff and the local cultural sector on development proposals and other issues that directly affect this sector?

- Yes
 No

The above question was asked in the ArtsVote Niagara questionnaire of 2006 as well. It was asked because of the community’s concern about the lack of consultation with the cultural sector on the proposed development of a theatre in Port Dalhousie.

Virtually all candidates answered in the affirmative.



THE NIAGARA CENTRE FOR THE ARTS PROJECT

The cultural community of St. Catharines is most appreciative of the leadership that the Mayor and Council have shown in the effort to establish a performing arts centre in downtown St. Catharines. The community is especially grateful for all of the hard work and commitment that the City's Chief Administrative Officer and his staff have contributed to this project.

Since the last election in 2006, this complex project has made swift progress in the completion of a major feasibility study, the acquisition of properties for the project and Brock University's Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts and the confirmation of core capital funding for the project.

In 2008 the Performing Arts Centre feasibility study engaged a diverse group of stakeholders and performing arts experts from the City and Brock through the Project Management Task Force, and from the community through the Niagara Centre for the Arts Task Force (NCAT) and ultimately its subcommittee, the Community Users Advisory Group (CUAG). The latter groups met regularly, were informed of the progress of the project, helped to develop an extensive list of qualified performing art feasibility study consultants, and were solicited for their views and advice. The committees created an awareness campaign and website to support the project.

A Joint Executive Committee was formed in the summer of 2009, with little continuity of membership from the feasibility study process. There has been little or no communication from the Executive Committee about the project with the performing arts community. CUAG made a presentation to Council in July 2009 offering assistance to which there has been no response as of September 20, 2010. A project management selection and architectural prequalification process was undertaken without an invitation to the performing arts community to submit names of project or architectural consultants who may be qualified and experienced in the fields required.

The performing arts community is fully aware that there are many aspects of the project which must be handled in confidence internally by City administrators. The community is equally aware that this project is not linear in progression. It is complex and multi-dimensional and there is much the community must do to help. There is concern that prolonged failures in communication, engagement and collaboration with user groups, local performing arts experts, providers and their audiences threaten the ultimate success of the project.

18. **The Joint Executive Committee governing the development of the performing arts centre is comprised of 9 men primarily from the fields of accounting, engineering and municipal and university management. None of them have any expertise in the performing arts field.**

Some may liken this scenario to having people who have never cooked a meal in charge of the design of a gourmet restaurant kitchen.

It is, of course, assumed that the Joint Executive Committee will be advised on a regular basis by professional theatre consultants. However, in the interests of diversity, collaborative governance and informed decision-making, would you support the appointment of *at least one* mutually agreed upon performing arts centre expert from the local community?

- Yes
 No



19. In light of the City’s imminent and significant upcoming capital and operational funding commitment to a new performing arts centre, what are your opinions about cultural spending?

(Please read the answers and check the one that most closely represents your view.)

- Any funding currently provided by the City to the performing arts sector should be reduced or eliminated altogether.
- Cultural spending continues to be a priority but must be assessed carefully and expect to hold the line at its current level for the next five years.
- Cultural spending should be reviewed for opportunities to increase the municipal investment in the health and well-being of our citizens.
- Cultural spending continues to contribute to the quality of life of our citizens and should be maintained and increased modestly.
- Cultural spending should be increased immediately to facilitate the successful start-up of the performing arts centre and the transition of existing performing arts organizations.

Additional comments?

20. In order to yield maximum value for the project, a commissioning team comprised of a building’s owners, trustees, managers and occupants should be established at the inception. Architects are only as good as their client group. Form follows function.

All of these truisms underline the importance of having a diverse team of collaborators leading a successful performing arts centre project. Currently, the Niagara Centre for the Arts project is selecting project management and architectural consultants before the centre’s owners, trustees and managers are all in place to coordinate the development of the Business Plan and the Owner’s Project Requirements documents.

(Please read the following statements and check those views which most closely represent your own.)

- The development of this building is a task that has to be governed by senior management alone – municipal governance has to remain intensely hierarchical.
- The City’s experienced staff is best positioned to get this building open in the next three years if they can proceed without interference.
- This project, and its partnership with Brock University, is too complex to include community expertise in its governance.
- There should be lots of public consultation on this project, as there is on any public project and the architects will take care of most of that.
- There should be lots of public consultation and committees on this project and community user groups should be afforded their say just like any other tax-payer.
- The City is still negotiating the arrangements between Brock and the City so it is best to get the architect started and worry about the management of the building later.
- The City has to stick to a budget and probably can’t afford everything the performing artists will want so it is best to keep them out of the governance process.
- It would be a conflict of interest to have local performing arts professionals involved in the building process – like having local medical professionals involved in the hospital building, local aquatic experts involved in the pool or local librarians involved in the library design.
- The project management firm should develop a comprehensive consultation process with the community, especially the performing arts community.



Consultation, collaboration and engagement with many cultural and performing arts constituents and experts will be the key to a successful performing arts centre.

The next most important step in this project is the selection of the Centre’s management team, who should be developing programming and guiding the architects.

More important than the selection of the architect is the selection of the theatre planning and technical consultants who will design and supervise the commissioning of the space.

If the selection of the Centre’s management team has to be delayed, it is important that there are people at the decision-making table who have experience planning and programming theatres in Ontario.

SECTION #3 - ALL REGION OF NIAGARA CANDIDATES, INCLUDING MAYORALTY CANDIDATES, PLEASE RESPOND

If this section does not apply to you, please go to Section #4.

21. The Regional Municipality of Niagara has recently approved its first Culture Plan as a strategic objective for Community and Social Well-Being. The plan organizes recommendations around four strategic directions – Creative Economy, Creative Places, Creative People and Creative Identity. Its guiding principals for implementation are accessibility, diversity, collaboration, engagement and accountability.

What is your response to this document? (Check all that apply)

The Region should complete its cultural mapping.

The Region should investigate the development of cultural incentives related to the Smarter Niagara Incentive Program.

The Region should be developing tools related to cultural policy implementation.

The Region should undertake an economic impact analysis of the cultural sector.

The Region should be developing partnerships in research and cultural policy implementation.

All of the above

None of the above until external funding sources are confirmed.

22. Do you support the allocation of Regional resources to implement the cultural plan?

Yes
No

23. In international, national and provincial forums, culture has been identified as one of the four pillars of community sustainability. The other three are economic, environmental and



social. What do you believe should be the regional government’s role in facilitating an understanding of the cultural pillar at the local municipal level? (Check all that apply.)

- The Niagara Region should be responsive to the individual cultural needs of each and every municipality in the region.
- The Niagara Region should play a role in research, analysis and the development of policy guidelines.
- The Niagara Region should encourage cultural planning at the municipal level through workshops and tool kits.
- The Niagara Region should host regional discussions to identify best practices and facilitate the development of regional standards in municipal cultural planning.
- The Niagara Region should extend funding support for municipal cultural planning that reflects best practices, regional distinctions and the regional cultural policy.
- None of the above. The Niagara Region should limit its role.
- None of the above. The Region should not move ahead with Cultural Plan implementation.

24. Three of Niagara’s lower-tier municipalities have culture-related policies and plans. The remaining nine municipalities do not. How should the Region of Niagara approach this inequity? (Check all that apply.)

- Be arm’s length and move its own plan forward to be a distinct voice for Niagara
- Focus on region-wide initiatives
- Build on the creative clusters that already exist in the region
- Focus on developing policies in municipalities without cultural policies in place
- Work with municipalities with policies to understand mutual and distinct priorities
- Facilitate coordinated policy development and action between the municipalities
- All of the above

25. I believe cultural policy has a role to play in the following Regional services (check all that apply):

- Social Services
- Economic Development and Tourism
- Integrated Community Planning



Public Works

Public Health

None of the above. Culture should not be a municipal/regional priority.

26. Over the last twenty years in the United States, the arts have been heralded as an important partner in social problem solving. In Niagara, little work has been done to promote opportunities and potential relationships between the arts sector and social services.

How do you see the potential development of a relationship evolving between the arts and social services? (Please check the answer that most closely represents your opinion.)

Not relevant to the Region

A low priority

An opportunity for the arts community to investigate

An opportunity for social services to investigate

Something the Region should consider facilitating through a series of pilot projects

27. Traditionally, municipalities have thought of “public art” as a temporary or permanent outdoor sculptural installation, mural or art exhibit in a public place to commemorate a civic event or to showcase local talent. (Please read the answers and check the one that best reflects your view.) Do you believe that (check one):

Public art has no measurable benefit to the region and when developed it has proven to be a burden to the taxpayer when issues of maintenance and restoration arise.

If the community is interested in public art they should make it happen – through donations by individuals and corporate sponsorship.

The Region should provide guidelines and oversight for the development of public art but should not fund public art.

Public art would be an asset to our region and the Region should consider leveraging private sector options when developers are seeking re-zoning.

Public art is important to improving the aesthetics of our community and the Region should consider adopting the model of allocating 1% of all capital projects to public art.

A regional public art program can have a transformational effect on a community and progressive public art policies and funding should be embedded in Regional planning.

28. Some municipalities or municipal agencies have developed subsidized housing or live/work space for artists as a means of reducing waiting lists for subsidized housing while simultaneously bringing low income artists into an area that can benefit from gentrification. Do you believe that (check one):

Artists should not be distinguished from other members of the population seeking subsidized housing.



Many artists are well educated and therefore low income by choice; they should not be eligible for units in low income housing developments.

The development of live/work space should be assessed and undertaken by local arts organizations.

Subsidized live/work space for artists is an opportunity that should be explored by the Region.

The Region should work with lower-tier municipalities to encourage the development of subsidized live/work space for artists.

29. The Bicentennial of the War of 1812 is inspiring the cultural community of Niagara to consider options for its celebration. Should the Niagara Region:

Encourage tourism staff to play a support role in the event, leaving the primary organizing and coordination to the Niagara 1812 Bicentennial Council.

Facilitate access to federal and provincial funding for celebrations.

Lead the development of arts, cultural and heritage activities and infrastructure for this event, dedicating staff resources to the celebrations to coordinate municipalities involved and maximize the impact, funding opportunities and tourism marketing initiatives.

Dedicate staff resources to encourage local initiatives, communicate with local municipalities and consider infrastructure opportunities related to the cultural sector.

Establish the Bicentennial period from 2012-2014 as the top cultural priority for the Region and leverage the opportunity to kick-start the creation of a Niagara Cultural Commission.

SECTION #4 - ALL SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES, PLEASE RESPOND

If this section does not apply to you, please go to Section #5.

30. What is your view of professional arts in the education system?

Professional art has its place in education, but we cannot take valuable teaching time during school hours to experience it. It is an extra curricular activity.

Professional art is important and it would benefit children to experience it, but it is not a funding priority.

Exposure to professional art is a core activity in the development of children and the School Board should work to find the resources to provide access for all children.

Exposure to professional arts and artists is a recreational diversion and has no place in the education system.

31. What is your position on professional artists teaching in the education system?

Professional artists have no place in the education system.

Professional artists are welcome to participate as volunteers in after-school programs.



Professional artists have a great deal to offer children and need to be a part of education system.

Art can be a tool for teaching core subjects, but only trained teachers should work with students. Students who have an aptitude for art should explore it outside of school time.

32. Is it more important for students to practice art or watch professional artists?

Neither is that important in the context of today's education system. Art is a recreational diversion and has no important place in the education system.

Art can be a good teaching tool, but only if used in conjunction with other subjects. It is more important for children to practice art than experience professional art.

Experiencing high quality art and practicing it are both very important. They have equal, but different benefits for the child and both should be a part of the education system.

It is more important for children to experience high quality art, than to practice it. Attending high quality art is more important than doing it at school.

33. What is your view on museum or cultural attraction student visits?

Visits to museums and other cultural attractions are a good idea but the students have to raise the money.

The school board supports visits to museums or other cultural attractions as an award for the students at the end of the school term.

Student visits to museums or cultural attractions are an excellent learning opportunity any time of the year. Furthermore, the visits are an excellent educational initiative that is supported financially by the school board.

The school board cannot afford visits to museum or cultural attractions.

None of the above. My view point is...



THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS TO BE PROVIDED BY ALL CANDIDATES

SECTION #5 - CANDIDATE'S COMMENTS, POSITION STATEMENTS and INFORMATION

34. Candidates may provide further comments on previous questions (please note the number on which you are commenting) arts or arts-related cultural, multi-cultural and heritage issues and priorities, including relevant education, work experience and volunteer work.

35. Upon completion I will forward my resume or biography to info@artsvoteniagara.com

Yes

No

36. Website:

www.

37. CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name:

Telephone Number:

Mailing Address:

Email:

38. Do you wish your completed survey to be made available publicly?

Yes

No

39. I have read and understand the previous questions and declare that the responses to this questionnaire are true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signed:

Date:

2010

,



40. Was this questionnaire completed by the candidate?

Yes

No

41. If not, please state the name, position and telephone number of the person who filled out this questionnaire.

Name:

Position:

Telephone Number:

Date:

The completed questionnaire is to be returned to the following address
no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010.

ArtsVote c/o Niagara Artists Centre
354 St. Paul Street
St. Catharines ON L2R 3N2

THANK YOU!