

# ArtsVOTE 2014 Survey

## 1. Welcome!

### **Welcome!**

Thank you for participating in the ArtsVote Niagara 2014 survey. Artists, audiences, workers and patrons of the creative and cultural sectors will be very interested in your views relating to culture and government.

The survey is comprised primarily of yes/no and multiple choice questions – 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.

Should you have trouble advancing to the NEXT page, check to make sure you have not missed a question.

There are 3 sections to this survey:

#### Section 1

Candidate Information (5 Questions)

#### Section 2

a) Questions for All Niagara Candidates (16)

b) Additional Questions for St Catharines Candidates (10)

*Candidates will be automatically directed to the appropriate section*

#### Section 3

Candidate Comments

If you have any questions, please contact the ArtsVote Niagara Committee at [arts.vote.niagara@gmail.com](mailto:arts.vote.niagara@gmail.com)

All the best and thank you for your community service!

## 2. Section 1 - Candidate Information

### Candidate Contact Information

Name:

Website:

Phone Number:

### Is the candidate a(n)

- Incumbent?
- Challenger?

### Is this questionnaire being completed by the candidate?

- Yes
- No

**If not, please fill in the name, position, and contact number of the person who is filling out this questionnaire.**

Name:

Relationship to Candidate:

Telephone Number:

### Riding

- |                                     |   |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Fort Erie     | <input type="radio"/> Niagara-on-the-Lake | <input type="radio"/> Thorold      |
| <input type="radio"/> Grimsby       | <input type="radio"/> Pelham              | <input type="radio"/> Wainfleet    |
| <input type="radio"/> Lincoln       | <input type="radio"/> Port Colborne       | <input type="radio"/> Welland      |
| <input type="radio"/> Niagara Falls | <input type="radio"/> St Catharines       | <input type="radio"/> West Lincoln |

## 3. Section 2 - Candidate Perspectives on Culture - Arts and Heritage

**While some of these statements may be true or false to some extent, please indicate to what degree you agree or disagree with the following statements.**

	Strongly Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Don't Know	Slightly Agree	Strongly Agree
Cultural institutions and activities are important, but not as popular as sports institutions and activities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The arts are important for all the unique ways they inspire ideas, creativity and innovation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The arts and heritage can be a labour intensive, non-polluting, renewable source of economic development.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cultural programs, operations and buildings may be provided with public funding initially with the expectation that allocations will diminish over time.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In Niagara, the arts are primarily a recreational pursuit that should be sustainable without public support.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Heritage institutions are important to forging our sense of individual, community, and national identity.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The arts tend to be elitist and don't engage a lot of ordinary people.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An education in the arts enhances aptitudes for lifelong learning, communication and versatility in the workplace.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## 4. Section 2 - Municipalities and the Arts

**I believe every municipality in the Province of Ontario should:**

**(Please check ANY or ALL that apply.)**

- Promote access to cultural opportunity for all citizens
- Integrate culture into the municipality's broader vision and goals
- Encourage diverse artistic creation
- Recognize the contribution of culture to life in a community
- Act responsibly to pass on cultural legacies entrusted to us
- None of the above

**I believe it is the responsibility of every municipality to facilitate the acquisition and allocation of resources toward the development and maintenance of:**

**(Please check ALL that apply.)**

- Infrastructure affecting transportation, community health, and safety
- Infrastructure affecting social, cultural, and economic exchange
- Environmental stewardship
- Social conditions and issues
- Economic prosperity
- Cultural expression

**In your opinion, which of the following public gathering places or cultural institutions require ongoing government investment to sustain their infrastructure and operations to serve community groups and citizens:**

**(select ANY or ALL you feel are applicable)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Art Gallery      | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Fairgrounds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts Centre | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arenas                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Centres     | <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Sites         | <input type="checkbox"/> Museums                  |

## 5. Section 2 - Municipal Investment in the Arts

**Which arguments are you most comfortable making in support of municipal investment in the arts?**

**(Please check ANY or ALL that apply.)**

- Funding contemporary arts and artists is a way of encouraging democratic dialogues and ensuring alternative perspectives on our social, economic and environmental conditions.
- Arts and heritage are important as expressions of ourselves, our stories and our local culture.
- The arts and heritage, and especially cultural attractions, have significant economic impact.
- The arts are agents of social change and important partners in social problem solving.
- Arts and heritage are in the public interest because they improve the quality of community life.
- None of the above

**The best way of judging the merits and program content of professional public art commissions is through:**

**(Please read all and check the ONE that best reflects your opinion.)**

- Consultations with community-based teachers and religious leaders.
- Qualified municipal or regional staff who specialize in the arts.
- Arms length, peer juries of local and regional arts professionals.
- Volunteers with an interest in the arts.
- Elected politicians or politically appointed advisory committees.

**Ideally, Municipal programs and participation for funding arts and heritage should include:**  
**(Please check ANY or ALL that best reflects your opinion)**

- Capital infrastructure** to develop and maintain unique cultural institutions and support their interpretation and delivery of local programming
- Special projects** by community-based or professional organizations
- Annual **festivals** and/or parades featuring local culture
- Professionally led **programming** and audience or visitor engagement
- Operations** of professionally managed organizations
- None of the above



## 7. Section 2 - Culture and Education

In 2010, 96% of school board trustees recognized the critical role of professional arts in the education system. They agreed that experiencing high quality art and practicing the arts 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 also true that school boards have less and less Provincial funding to support guest artist fees.

In the same survey, 96% of school board trustees also recognized that visits to museums and cultural attractions are an excellent learning opportunity.

**If professional arts exposure foster a better education for Niagara children, will you take that into consideration when you make decisions about funding allocated to professional artists and arts organizations?**

**(select the ONE option that best reflects your opinion)**

- Yes
- No
- I would need to see evidence of impact before considering it
- No, education is the purview of the Province
- No, funding for arts should be raised privately

**If excursions to museums, cultural attractions, and heritage sites foster a better education for Niagara children, will you take that into consideration when you make decisions about funding allocations to Heritage organizations and programs?**

**(select the ONE option that best reflects your opinion)**

- Yes
- No
- I would need to see evidence of impact before considering it
- No, funding for such excursions should be raised privately
- No, Heritage is a Provincial and Federal responsibility

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## 8. Section 2 - The Niagara Region and the Arts

The Regional Municipality of Niagara approved its first Cultural Plan in 2010. The plan listed four strategic directions – Creative Economy, Creative Places, Creative People and Creative Identity.

In 2010, 100% of the candidate survey respondents supported the allocation of Regional resources to implement the Cultural plan. Regional Council voted to support a \$250,000 Niagara Investment in Culture (NIC) program on June 25, 2014 to be included in 2015 budget considerations. The fund would be administered by Planning staff to provide special project grants for municipalities and arts organizations.

In 2010, 100% of the candidate survey respondents thought that one or more of the following tasks should be undertaken. The majority of candidates (74%) suggested that all of the following tasks should be undertaken by the Region.

### How would you rank the Region's progress in these areas since 2010?

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Don't Know
Develop tools related to cultural policy implementation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop partnerships in research and cultural policy implementation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Undertake an economic impact analysis of the cultural sector.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Investigate the development of cultural incentives related to the Smarter Niagara Incentive Program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Complete cultural mapping of the Region.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Would you support further action on these recommendations?

- Yes
- No

In 2010, over 78% of candidate respondents supported Regional investigations into the ways in which the social services sector could partner with the arts sector on social problem solving.

### Would you support further investigations into social service partnerships with the arts?

- Yes
- No

In 2010, over 82% of candidate respondents supported the Region's engagement in a public art program whether it be leveraging private sector options on rezoning, requiring a levy of 1% on capital projects or embedding public art policies and funding in Regional planning.

### How would you rank the Region's progress with a public art program since 2010?

- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Very Good
- Excellent
- Don't Know

### Would you support further engagement with a public art program?

- Yes
- No



## 9. Section 2 - Cultural Participation

**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?**

	No	1-4 times	4+ times
Collected local art	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Volunteer work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Donations to arts, cultural or heritage organizations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Culture (Arts or Heritage) Board or Committee service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Membership in arts, cultural or heritage organizations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attendance at events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please share some examples of how you've participated:

**In the last year, in what ways have you experienced locally based, not-for-profit or commercial arts, cultural and heritage activities in the Niagara Region?**

	No	1-4 times	4+ times
Music Recitals or Concerts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historical Museums	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dinner Theatre, Night Club, or Cabaret	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic Sites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Libraries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Festivals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Films	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Theatre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Art Galleries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please share some examples or additions of what you've experienced:

## 10. Section 3 - Candidate Comments

**Candidates may provide further comments or position statements on arts or arts-related cultural, multi-cultural and heritage issues and priorities, including relevant education, work experience and volunteer work.**

**Candidates may write in the space provided below or provide a link to a platform website.**

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

- Yes
- No

**Affirmation: 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.**

Name

Date

Thank you for participating in the ArtsVote Niagara 2014 survey.

The results will be tabulated and each candidate will be assigned a grade based on their survey answers. These grades will be gathered into a report card that will be published in the news media, the internet and widely distributed throughout the cultural sector in the Niagara Peninsula.

If you have any questions, please contact the ArtsVote Niagara Committee at [arts.vote.niagara@gmail.com](mailto:arts.vote.niagara@gmail.com)

All the best and thank you again for your community service!

## 11. Section 2a - St Catharines Candidates

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.*

From the City's website:

*MCP is a process for leveraging a community's cultural resources to support economic development and integrate culture across all facets of local planning and decision making.*

*Since City Council committed to its first Municipal Cultural Policy (MCP) in 2000, there have been major changes in the cultural sector, including significant growth in arts activity, the establishment of new arts venues and festivals.*

On July 25, 2011, City Council entered into a funding agreement with the Province of Ontario to accept a grant for the development of an updated culture plan. A draft plan has been on the City's website since December 12, 2012. The plan has not come before Council and Cultural Services staff contracts expire at the end of 2014.

The new draft Cultural Plan 2020 states the following objectives:

1. Communicate the experiences and value of culture to all St. Catharines' residents.
2. Foster participation in the arts, heritage and cultural experiences.
3. Cultivate the growth and development of the creative sector.
4. Further develop the planning, management and coordination of heritage assets and historical services.
5. Recognize and embrace the city's cultural diversity as a cornerstone for civic engagement.
7. Foster the cross-departmental management and delivery of arts and heritage service delivery, planning and community development.

### **Are there objectives with which you disagree?**

Yes

No

Comments

### **Will you support the plan and ongoing resources for the Cultural Services office?**

Yes

No

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**Will you support community consultation in the development of strategies and measures for the objectives?**

- Yes
- No

**Do you support the principal of collaboration between City departments and the local cultural sectors on development proposals and other issues that directly affect this sector?**

- Yes
- No

## 12. Section 2a - St Catharines Cultural Services

The City of St. Catharines established a Cultural Services office in 2000 to implement the City's first Cultural Plan and Policies. This office, its programs and its personnel have been much appreciated and respected by constituents.

In the 2010 ArtsVote survey, 100% of candidate respondents agreed that resources should be directed toward a 10 year review of the services provided by the Cultural Services office and its future role.

### **To your knowledge, were resources directed toward a 10 year review of the services provided by the Cultural Services office and its future role?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

### **In view of new developments, would you support directing resources toward a 14 year review of services that includes consultation with the sector and the community?**

- Yes
- No

In the City of St. Catharines, Cultural Services has been a small unit with a broad mandate within the Department of Recreation and Community Services. The Unit facilitates advice from a number of community-based committees and shepherded a feasibility study which resulted in the Performing Arts Centre initiative.

In the 2010 ArtsVote survey, 82% of the candidate respondents supported consideration of an independent Office of Culture interacting with Recreation and Community Services, Economic Development and Tourism, Communications, Planning Services and Transportation and Environmental Services.

### **What action should be taken to clarify goals, objectives, measures and effectiveness of the unit?**

#### **Check ANY or ALL of the answers that most closely represents your response to this situation:**

- The City Administration should consider disseminating cultural resources in every department.
- The City should commission a review of the options to effectively raise and distribute resources for cultural projects, programming and operations and to integrate cultural planning across City departments.
- The City should consider consolidating all cultural programs in an independent, interactive unit or arm's length agency with multifaceted goals, objectives and measures.
- The City should consult with the cultural sector on needs and best practices to make better informed decisions about how cultural services can be leveraged.
- The City should review its expectations, encourage a consolidated approach to cultural affairs and allocate resources appropriately.
- None of these. Recent changes are fine as they stand for the time being.

## 13. Section 2a - SCCIP

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. The Program has clear guidelines commensurate with the City's Cultural Plan; it follows the best practices in the field of arts grants, and; it protects the taxpayers' money by insisting on strict measures of financial accountability.

The cultural community of St. Catharines has been very appreciative of SCCIP but noted in the 2010 survey that it is limited in scale and scope compared to other similar Ontario municipalities. The program started with a granting pool of \$124,000 and in 2008 the pool was expanded to \$150,000. Three programs are funded through the granting pool. No arts organization is granted more than \$26,000 per year in operational sustainability funding.

In the ArtsVote survey of 2010, 76.5% of respondents supported the idea of an assessment of the needs of the local sector, municipal interests, cultural funding trends and results in similar communities, and consideration of an expansion of the SCCIP program.

### **Would you support the implementation of a public review of the SCCIP program?**

- Yes
- No

Participants in the SCCIP program have been concerned about a history of cultural industries and cultural festivals going directly and successfully to Council for funding appropriations and bypassing the scrutiny, the expertise and the financial accountability of Cultural Services and its Committees.

### **Will you support a consistent protocol for all cultural clients seeking funding from the City of St. Catharines?**

- Yes
- No

## 14. Section 2a - St Catharines Performing Arts Centre

From The City of St. Catharines Website:

*Most recently, the City has committed to investing in a major cultural project in the future Downtown Performing Arts Centre. This new facility represents an increase in the City's investment in culture. It will enhance the provision of arts infrastructure in the region, create more jobs, re-energize the downtown and make local arts experiences and events easier to find.*

One of the objectives of the Performing Arts Centre was to provide good quality venues for local arts organizations. A local User Group Committee and Cultural Services staff were instrumental in developing a building program for the centre and scrutinizing drawings and specifications.

The SCCIP funding pool has not been increased to help finance the development of programs and operations by local organizations that would be commensurate with a \$60 million facility, despite 82% of respondent candidates in 2010 supporting a review of increased cultural spending.

Without stronger operating support locally, most local professional arts organizations will not be able to afford to rent a venue in the new Downtown Performing Arts Centre (PAC).

### **What is your response to this situation?**

**(Check ANY or ALL options that represent, in your opinion, an appropriate approach)**

- The City's operating investment into the PAC should allow for a subsidized rental rate of the venues by local, not-for-profit professional groups.
- A program fund should be set up to offset the costs of showcasing local professional groups at the PAC.
- The PAC should concentrate on arts and corporate clients who **can** pay the costs of operating the centre, and once the PAC covers its costs, it could offer some low cost dates to local groups.
- Local, not-for-profit, professionally managed arts groups such as those who served on the User Group Committee should have the status of "Resident Company" and be presented and marketed by the PAC with costs recovered through a share of the box office.
- If local groups can not pay the rental rates, then the PAC is not the venue for them.

**15. Spare Questions**