

# **Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee—Community Consultation**

## **Summary Report**

### **Executive Summary:**

In the fall of 2023, the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee, with the assistance of SPARC, engaged in a community consultation (on-line survey and in-person event) with the express purpose of gaining a better understanding of the current arts and culture climate in North Grenville. This was done so that we might create an informed work plan for our committee as a means of advising the municipality on how they might better serve the North Grenville community and its stakeholders from an arts and culture perspective.

### **Problem Statement:**

The committee needed to identify the concerns of the community from an arts and culture perspective in or to make relevant and valid recommendations to the municipality.

### **Description of Options:**

The committee engaged in an extensive analysis of the data collected, the result of which was the identification of four main themes that were presented as challenges:

- Space: available, affordable, dedicated art spaces (to work, to display, to perform, to store)
- Marketing: advertising, promotion, awareness, on-line calendar of events
- Finances: funding and/or in-kind financial support
- Resources: dedicated and/or shared resources (several references to a Municipal Resource, and a few asks for shared volunteers, storage spaces, also a Tool Library),

**Space:** Discussion of Oxford Mills Town Hall, Kemptville Campus, Kemptville Legion, Various Municipal spaces. Recommendation that a working group identify, document the existing spaces within North Grenville including fees to ultimately be made available for public access via publication.

**Marketing:** Identify existing municipal resources. Increase awareness of calendar and existing marketing/advertising options.

**Finances:** Identifying existing municipal resources. Increase awareness of various existing options and potentially provide guidance on completion strategies.

**Resources:** Identify and create awareness of useful/applicable resources and how the arts & culture community can engage with said resources. Example: a “Survey Resource”, who can help committees and others to create strong, efficient surveys, with output that easily quantified or graphed.

### **Final Recommendations**

In summary, although each individual recommendation can be actioned at the municipal level, a more efficient and suitable option would be for the municipality to support the creation of a separate not-for-profit or nonprofit Arts Council governed by a volunteer board (with the hopes of having a paid administrative employee funded internally via the arts council—i.e., grants). It would be advised that at least one member for the Arts Council be a member of the Arts Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee. Municipal Support, to be reviewed and renewed on an annual basis, would recognize a single North Grenville Arts Council as the collective representative of the various artistic and cultural endeavors in the community.

### **Conclusion**

Key findings indicate that the arts and culture community are ready for the creation of Municipally supported arts council. There are numerous organizations in the community starting to work at cross purposes and it is time to bring everyone together. The potential benefits to the community and stakeholders are numerous and far reaching: increased engagement, accessibility, community cohesiveness etc.