

THE CITY OF BRAMPTON  
POLICY ON THE ARTS

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A HISTORY AND SUMMARY

Transcribed From Original Documents by the  
Brampton Arts Council

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# **POLICY ON THE ARTS**

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## **A HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BRAMPTON POLICY ON THE ARTS**

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In November, 1981, the City of Brampton Parks and Recreation Department hosted an Arts Policy Workshop at Sheridan College. The Brampton Arts Community and interested organizations and individuals were invited to participate.

The purpose of the Workshop was to create a Policy on the Arts for Brampton, seeking input from all interested parties.

The process of developing an Arts Policy took two years with expertise sought from the Brampton Arts Council, other Municipalities (with an Arts Policy in place) and legal counsel.

The fourth and final draft policy on the Arts was presented to the Community Services Committee for endorsement in July 1983. The policy was then presented and adopted by Brampton City Council in August, 1983.

In 1988, The Brampton Arts Council began a review process to update the Policy on the Arts. The revisions contained in this final version do not change the content or focus of this Policy, but merely represent fine tuning of grammar and sentence structure.

This final Policy on the Arts was adopted by Brampton City Council in February, 1989 and will serve as a guidance for the preservation and promotion of the Arts in Brampton.

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## **A HISTORY OF THE BRAMPTON ARTS COUNCIL**

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The Performing Arts Council was founded in 1978 and represented 12 Performing Arts Organizations in Brampton. Its mandate was to foster and promote the Arts by providing a unified voice for the Arts in Brampton.

In 1982, The Performing Arts Council expanded to include all art disciplines and officially changed its name to the Brampton Arts Council, representing the Performing, Creative, Visual, Literary and Media Arts in the City of Brampton.

The Brampton Arts Council is financially supported by its membership, corporate fundraising, core funding from the City of Brampton, and the Ontario Arts Council.

From its humble beginnings of 12 performing groups, the Brampton Arts Council now boasts a membership of 45 arts organizations representing in excess of 4,000 people from all artistic disciplines.

## **POLICY ON THE ARTS**

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### **A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

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The City of Brampton through the development of a “Policy on the Arts” for the performing, visual and creative arts, is indicating support for the “Arts” in their broadest sense, both amateur and professional, as an essential and integral component of the quality of life for the citizens of Brampton.

### **B. IMPLEMENTATION**

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This statement of commitment on the part of the City is based upon the principle that the Arts Community, through the Brampton Arts Council, is best qualified through sensitivity, expertise and dedication to enhancement of the Arts in Brampton. Accordingly, while the City Council by the approval of this policy has indicated its support for the goals and objectives therein, the Council has the primary responsibility for assessing and establishing need and responding to those needs directly or in concert with others. It is understood that the City will assist physically and financially where feasible in the opinion of the City Council. It is also understood that the applicable City departments will try to meet requests for administrative and other assistance, which are both reasonable and achievable.

The Brampton Arts Council will represent the consensus within the Arts Community. The City Council undertakes to respond to this representation within the framework of this policy.

It must be recognized that implementation of some parts of the general commitment to the arts represents significant financial long term obligations and in these instances the means to be used and the ability to achieve the objective will have to be supported by confirmation of need and guarantee of funding support. It cannot be assumed that the City Corporation will represent the primary source of funding in any and all cases and the Arts Council should review on a continuing basis and give consideration to structuring itself so as to promote its ability to seek and secure other funding.

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## **C. DEFINITION**

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The Arts are to be defined as all those activities or pursuits in which a person chooses to participate to satisfy the individual need for creativity. This, therefore, encompasses the performing, visual, creative and media arts, museums, buildings and sites of historical and architectural significance, and the overall visual and natural aesthetics of Brampton.

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## **D. GOALS & E. OBJECTIVES**

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1. **To provide adequate opportunity for all citizens of the City of Brampton to enjoy and participate in the arts, at the level of interest or skills appropriate to their needs and choice.**
  - 1.1 Periodic surveys of all artistic opportunities available to the citizens of Brampton, in order to establish and maintain an ongoing inventory, and in addition the production and maintenance of a Directory which will provide current information regarding the Arts in the City of Brampton.
  - 1.2 Broadening of services for participants at all levels of artistic ability in cooperation with organizations and agencies such as School Boards, etc.

- 1.3 Efforts by the Arts Council and others towards diversity in the Arts by supporting individuals and organizations in the City.
  - 1.4 Expansion of entertainment opportunities for citizens of Brampton through co-sponsoring of performances and events.
  - 1.5 Provision of adequate facilities and administration to further the opportunity or touring groups or individuals to be available within Brampton for the enjoyment of the citizens of Brampton and for the promotion of business and tourism.
- 2. To support the Brampton Arts Council and encourage its development as the representative to the City of Brampton, of the Arts Community.**
- 2.1 Recognition of the Brampton Arts Council as a source of advice and assistance to the City in applicable matters of City participation in artistic affairs including programme and facility needs, planning and administration, training and organization, funding and grants, affiliation policies and promotion for the Arts.
  - 2.2 Recognition of involvement of the Brampton Arts Council and its members in surveys, research and the identification of artistic needs in Brampton.
  - 2.3 Recognition of an annual review by the Brampton Arts Council of existing policies affecting the Arts and their implementation.
  - 2.4 The establishment by the Brampton Arts Council of policies and criteria for membership in the Arts Council which may be considered appropriate by the City Council to permit the Brampton Arts Council to perform its assigned function.
  - 2.5 Recognition of membership in the Arts Council as the basis for municipal financial assistance to Arts Groups and individuals.
  - 2.6 Assistance to Arts Council member groups and individuals through reduced facility fees, promotion, liability insurance coverage and advisory service.

**3. Use of present facilities and the planning and development of future facilities which recognize the importance and needs of the performing, visual, creative and media arts.**

3.1 Support for the operation, improvement and replacement of theatres and consideration of expansion or upgrading thereto if necessary and/or feasible.

3.2 Support for the Brampton Heritage Board (L.A.C.A.C.) in its endeavors within the City.

3.3 Support for the City of Brampton Public Library and Art Gallery in the allocation of available funds and through encouragement and support for the expansion of artistic public viewing displays at the Art Gallery and other public places.

3.4 Support for the continuance and expansion of the Region of Peel County Museum and Art Gallery as expressed through the representatives on Regional Council.

3.5 Enhancement of the aesthetic appearance of all buildings which are open to the public and the acquisition, through purchase, rental, loan or donations of visual arts for the buildings, including city owned buildings, giving preference to works of local artists, seeking and considering where appropriate, the recommendation of the Brampton Arts Council.

3.6 Consideration to the acquisition/adaptation and/or construction of centres for the arts.

3.7 Identification of existing facilities appropriate for artistic activities in the opinion of the Arts Council and determination of individual adequacy in relation to perceived needs.

**4. Promotion and encouragement of adequate planning and administration in order to achieve coordinated development of artistic activities and facilities within the City.**

4.1 Recognition of the Brampton Arts Council as the advisory and information resource by City committees and departments involved in the various planning aspects of the City.

- 4.2 Inter-agency training courses and seminars for persons engaged in leading or instructing in the Arts, to pertain to all individuals and organizations.
  - 4.3 Review and determination of the most appropriate method of administering and operating City owned theatres.
  - 4.4 Efforts by all appropriate sources to increase public information and communications concerning the Arts by utilizing all levels of government.
- 5. Advancement of quality and excellence in the arts and the promotion of the benefits of the arts to all citizens of Brampton through:**
- 5.1 Encouragement to the Arts Council to organize and conduct exhibitions, workshops, seminars and training courses for the benefit and improvement of its members.
  - 5.2 Consideration of the need for and creation of appropriate facilities for the Arts in Brampton.
  - 5.3 Assistance in the acquisition of teachers, instructors, judges and technical expertise for art disciplines within the City.
  - 5.4 Financial and other assistance to art groups or individuals resident within the City as a method of promoting the Arts, where appropriate and available and as recommended by the Brampton Arts Council.
  - 5.5 Support for City-wide events that promote all aspects of the Arts in Brampton.
  - 5.6 Establishment of a distinct annual recognition event which will honour individual and group contribution or achievement in the Arts.
  - 5.7 Promotion of the Arts in all available opportunities and locations including City owned facilities and through all available promotional material.

6. **“Establishment of a clear grant policy of support and assistance for the arts that reflects the total financial position and capability of the City” through:**

6.1 Establishment of a separate policy with criteria and procedures for grants to the Arts.

6.2 Establishment and review of financial guidelines for grants to the Arts in consultation with the Brampton Arts Council.