

Cultural Services

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368/2010

Lead Role: Chief Commissioner

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Last Review Date: November 20, 2017

Next Review Date: 11/2020

Administrative Responsibility: Recreation, Parks and Culture

Policy Statement

Strathcona County values culture as essential to quality of life. A vibrant, inclusive and diverse culture reflects the character of the County and speaks to our future community aspirations. A strong arts and cultural sector contributes to community wellness and sustainability, fosters civic pride, encourages innovation and entrepreneurship, strengthens education, and furthers economic development.

Sustaining our current and future cultural infrastructure and the allocation of resources to culture through the annual budget process will ensure that Strathcona County provides its residents and visitors with opportunities to share and celebrate our past, present and future.

Special Note:

The Cultural Services Policy supports the Open Space and Recreation Facilities Strategy, the Heritage Resources Management Plan, the pending Local History and Heritage Policy, the Community Heritage Legacy Initiative, the Environmental Sustainability Framework, the Social Sustainability Framework, the pending Economic Sustainability Framework and the County Strategic Plan.

Definitions

Arts, Culture & Heritage Community Investment Program - Strathcona County's funding program to encourage and support cultural development in Strathcona County. The grants program is operated by Strathcona County to fund not-for-profit organizations that meet eligibility criteria.

Cultural Policy – typically addresses the arts, heritage, traditions, celebrations, place-making, design/architecture, symbolic and linguistic resources within a community or geography. Because heritage, history, land use planning and libraries usually have their own plans, cultural policy typically places primary focus on arts, traditions, celebrations, and design infrastructure. Some include recreation within culture, based on the linkage of creativity and re-creation as key elements of wellness.

Cultural Services - a functional section of the Strathcona County Recreation, Parks, and Culture Department, combining all the arts, cultural and heritage programs, services, education, and cultural facilities operations into a centralized functional team.

Culture – The way that people in communities or locations classify, symbolize, and represent experiences and act imaginatively or creatively.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Director of Recreation, Parks and Culture is responsible to:

1. Ensure the effective implementation of this policy, including:
 - Management of Municipal cultural facilities;
 - Management of County cultural programs and events;
 - Facilitation of partnerships and shared ventures within the nonprofit cultural sector, and between the sector and the County to provide access to arts, culture, and heritage for residents and visitors;
 - Ensuring the availability of arts education opportunities for County residents, outside of K-12 school settings;
 - Administration of the County grants program(s) in arts and culture;
 - Collection, maintenance and preservation of works of public art owned by the County;
 - Facilitation of professional development, training, and related assistance to the County's nonprofit cultural organizations;
 - Inventorying and mapping of cultural resources, opportunities, sites, and services and the development of related databases.
 - Lead role in planning and provision of cultural services that address culture, within County departments and external agencies;
 - Marketing and publicity that builds public awareness, participation and appreciation of County cultural activities and destinations.
2. Broaden the definition of arts and culture in order to encourage the development of organizations and activities in each category and have greater positive impact on quality of life for Strathcona County residents.
3. Develop a Cultural Services section within Recreation, Parks and Culture that coordinates all cultural, arts and heritage programs, services, grants, public art, cultural facilities operations and programming, cultural audience development, and other related functions.
4. Similar to the fee for services relationship with the Strathcona County Heritage Foundation for Museum operations, expand upon/develop the fee for services partnership with the Arts and Culture Council of Strathcona County (ACCSC). This enhanced partnership will help strengthen the capacity and sustainability of the arts, heritage and cultural service providers in Strathcona County.
5. Expand the Permanent Art Collection program into a comprehensive Public Art Program.
6. Through facilitation support and expansion of the Arts Culture & Heritage Community Investment Program, excellence, accessibility and ensure the operational sustainability of Strathcona County's cultural assets, inclusive of facilities and non-profit organizations.
7. Explore how we will incorporate arts, culture and heritage into the County's sustainability platform.
8. Evaluate the need for expanded and additional facilities for cultural activities within Strathcona County.
9. Recognize the important role of the artist and artists' work.
10. Working with partners, expand public knowledge of, access to and involvement in arts and culture in Strathcona County.
11. Facilitate the arts, culture and heritage programs offered by not for profit community organizations, maintain and enhance programs offered by Strathcona County for all ages, in the arts.

The **purpose** of Cultural Services is to guide the cultural development of Strathcona County by providing management, programming, grants, facilitation, and evaluation of services in arts, culture, and heritage. The **goal** of Strathcona County's Cultural Services is to ensure access to culture, for all residents; to champion excellence in all cultural endeavors; and to promote the important role of culture in community well being, economic vitality, and quality education.