

#OTTAWACULTURECOUNTS

Good for our community, good for our economy

ARTS NETWORK OTTAWA SENT OUT THIS SHORT SURVEY TO CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION AND THE RESPONSES WE RECEIVED TO DATE ARE BELOW:

#OTTAWACULTURECOUNTS

Good for our community, good for our economy

A thriving arts and culture scene makes Ottawa a great place to live. Arts Network Ottawa represents over 400 artists, arts organizations and supporters from across the City. We wish to know where you stand on the City's role in advancing Ottawa's local arts scene for the next four years.

Do you know that the arts provide both important economic and social benefits to our City? The arts contribute to community-building, and offer valuable benefits to families, jobs and tourism. Yet our local artists and arts organizations are under-resourced. Please read the attached document or [Find out more about Ottawa Culture here.](#)

Please let us know:

1. How are you involved in the arts in your community?
2. If elected, will you make arts and culture a priority for the next term of City Council?
3. If elected, will you support the new Cultural Roadmap now in development by the local cultural community?
4. For School board trustees: Will you support increased attention to arts learning within the school system. Not just STEM, but STEAM!)

[Arts Network Ottawa](#) supports the #OttawaCultureCounts campaign of the [Ottawa Cultural Alliance](#).

For more information on the social and economic benefits of the arts go to the Ontarians for the Arts and the Arts Network Ottawa websites:

<http://ontariansforthearts.ca/>

<http://www.artsoe.ca/about-us/what-we-do/advocacy/>

#LACULTUREDOTTAWACOMPTE

Bon pour notre communauté, bon pour notre économie

Une scène artistique et culturelle prospère fait de notre ville un endroit où il fait bon vivre. Le Réseau des arts d'Ottawa représente plus de 400 artistes, organisations artistiques et supporteurs à travers la ville. Nous désirons apprendre comment vous comptez supporter la communauté artistique d'Ottawa au cours des quatre prochaines années.

Saviez-vous que les arts fournissent des avantages à la fois économiques et sociaux importants pour notre ville? Les arts facilitent la création de liens dans la communauté et offrent des avantages importants aux familles, à la création d'emplois, et au tourisme. Pourtant, nos artistes et organismes artistiques locaux manquent de ressources. [Découvrez plus d'information sur la culture d'Ottawa en suivant ce lien.](#)

Veillez partager avec nous :

1. Comment êtes-vous impliqué dans le domaine des arts de votre quartier?
2. Si vous êtes élu, est-ce que les arts seront l'une de votre priorité lors du prochain mandat du Conseil?
3. Si vous êtes élu, supporterez-vous la Feuille de Route Culturelle présentement en cour de développement par la communauté culturelle locale?
4. Pour les conseillers scolaires : Encouragerez-vous une attention accrue à l'apprentissage des arts dans la cadre du programme scolaire? Non seulement STIM, mais STIAM!)

Le [Réseau des arts d'Ottawa](#) appuie la campagne #LACULTUREDOTTAWACOMPTE de l'[Alliance culturelle d'Ottawa](#).

Pour plus d'informations sur les avantages économiques et sociaux du secteur des arts, consultez les sites du Réseau des arts d'Ottawa et celui des Ontariens pour les arts :

<http://ontarienspoulesarts.ca/>

<http://www.artsoe.ca/about-us/what-we-do/advocacy/?lang=fr>

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

Paul Armstrong

Presently, I run a small education company with an emphasis on Art Programs and academic tutoring. We have run summer art camps in our community in Barrhaven and winter art classes. If elected I will work alongside all stakeholders to build a strong cultural sector by impacting the new Cultural Roadmap in 2019. I will advocate for this with the leaders in our City Council. Yes, STEAM will be my priority.

Wesley Campbell

I am a big supporter of the arts, I believe creating something helps to grow somebody as a person whether that be through poetry, drama, drawing, painting or music. I think current especially should be encouraged to find something that makes them feel unique and uplifted. It is an essential part of our education as humans and I think that is where educators need to go, helping mold better people not just people who can find better jobs.

However I cannot in good faith say that I would increase the budget for the arts in my ward. The reason being my job is to help the students find out what they need to be not what I feel they should be, and if I am elected and find out that a large contingent of students would rather automechanics or woodshop or computer programming then I would be doing a disservice to them to not allocate funding to those programs instead.

So although I will always encourage the arts and will encourage our educators to help the students find their creativity I cannot commit to what you are asking when it comes to funding.

Rob Campbell

1. How are you involved in the arts in your School district?

I am not involved in the arts in my school district. I have been a school council chair, chair of the OCDSB's assembly of school councils organization, previous two-time trustee, former rep to equity and alt ed advisory committees, to Ontario public school boards association, student transportation agency, and chair of the board as well as other committees. My focus has been to try to gear the system to help marginalized students more, and I ushered in outcomes tracking for students in poverty, co-authored a special ad hoc committee's report on reforming OCDSB spec ed delivery, and have been engaged in other ways, including a stint as board member of the Social Planning Council of Ottawa (SPCO) focused on marginalized youth employment and community empowerment initiatives.

2. If elected, will you support increased attention to arts learning within the school system. Not just STEM, but STEAM!)

I definitely can commit to supporting increased attention to arts learning, as it is line with my general thrust and campaign message that we need to focus more on the whole child: citizenship, creativity, mental health, belonging, physical health, etc, and defocus somewhat from the rampant unrelenting one-upsmanship focus on academics. We need to grow whole people, reduce student stress, and

empower students also. Arts ed can be useful for kids to express themselves, to help them unlock their creativity, and to see things in new ways. And, kids not doing well in traditionally validated ways, can gain their validation through the arts, or can function as therapy. Arts ed can also provide more visceral and lasting messaging, with higher impact, than other forms of messaging, e.g. anti-bullying messages, or other. And, of course, it can bring joy to people. My focus though is more on students themselves doing or participating. And, I'm concerned that not all schools can afford musical instruments for instance, or to keep them in repair.

However, I'm concerned that not all schools can afford arts ed extras the same, and those schools and school communities most in need of extras and enrichment opportunities, are often those least able to provide for them through community support. My campaign platform also calls then for looking at the role of the School Board in equalizing the playing field more between schools when it comes to fundraising. I also think we need to reassess what is an extra and what is not: as long as the arts, and other extracurriculars, are regarded as extras, the School Board will find it hard to commit central money and will leave it up to school fundraisers. However, if school councils, and school staff, and central staff and Trustees are all so keen to facilitate fundraising in the schools for enrichment activities of one sort or another, then at some point one has to ask how much they are really to be regarded as extras and whether in fact equity demands that we start to cover some things centrally to ensure equal coverage and access, and frankly start to defocus school councils from fundraising mania. Of course, money is tight and the current Provincial government seems like to make it much tighter. I have to be honest in that, if push comes to shove, I will want to protect education assistants, psychologists, and social workers and similar labour categories and services within the OCDSB. Let's hope it doesn't come to that. As well, I commit to do my part to advocate Provincially for adequate funding for arts ed and generally for adequate DSB funding.

Marty Carr

1. I have been involved with the arts in a number of ways. First off, on a personal note, my husband (Christian McPherson) is a writer, and through this alone, I have attended and been present at many arts' events. Arts are very important to me and my family, and we attend plays, poetry and novel readings, visit art galleries, and attend concerts of all types. My children, who are in Gr 7 and Gr 9, have benefitted tremendously from the arts in schools, my daughter (gr 9) has learned the saxophone and is in her high school band and was in her intermediate band as well in Grades 7-8. (My son now plays the clarinet.) My daughter has participated in a number of music festivals, including one last year at Canada's Wonderland. As a very active school council mom (and former council chair), I led the efforts for our school council to fund registration for this event. As chair and co-chair of the council for many years, I ensured every year that arts was funded through our council- we were able to have quite a few arts initiatives through the school my children attended- through MASC and directly. These groups over the years have included Tradansa, Rag n Bone Puppet Theatre, Mr. B, Luv 2 Groove, Arts Express, and many others. I led a council that ensured there was adequate support for the arts within the schools. I also worked with the school to ensure art displays by students were included in the hallways, and that funding was provided for arts supplies for teachers leading arts programs outside of the classroom (e.g. one year our library tech worked with students on Islamic painting to be displayed in library, we raised money for this project). As the lead on the multicultural dinner last school year, I requested council to allocate funds so we could have Inuit throat singers (one of whom was a student at the school) and

Indian dancing incorporated with the pot luck (first time ever), the students loved it. Within the school community, I have and will continue to work on initiatives that showcase the diversity of our community through the arts. I led a school council that also provided money for instruments and cleaning and repair of instruments (we had both a strings and wind program) I am a member of my community association and for some time, I have been trying to conceive a project that community groups and schools could participate in , designing outdoor banners for display on a main thoroughfare, project on hold while I budget how much groups and schools who could not afford supplies would need to participate and where the money would come from. I have asked municipal candidates for city councilor in my area why they have no mention of Arts and Culture in their platforms, when it is a municipal responsibility.

2. I will support increased arts learning within the school system in a number of ways, through advocating for greater resources (e.g. a third Arts coach for teachers, OCDSB currently pays for two), by working with schools in my zone (if I were elected) to look at what their programs and needs are and seeking ways to equalize this (e.g. schools such as Alta Vista and Pleasant Park have school councils funding music programs, arts initiatives and others, whereas students at schools with lower socioeconomic populations such as Hulse and Arch, do not have the same advantages- there are opportunities to look at grants, working with other community organizations etc to improve this inequity). Working with the school councils would also allow me to suggest that parents interested in volunteering as the Arts representative on their council and then I would hope to facilitate discussions to bring more Arts events that the community could participate in, not just the school councils that could afford it. As well, given that OCDSB is already struggling with hiring teachers and EAs, were OCDSB to develop a recruitment plan, I would ask that considerations be given to include attracting teachers with instruction on arts and arts specialization, as this is currently not considered (we recruit teachers proficient in French to teach French, but teaching Arts doesn't have same proficiency requirement). I also support professional development for all educators, regardless of the disciplines that they teach, that demonstrates how to incorporate arts into standard subjects such as writing, math, science.

Travis Croken

Thank you for taking the time to draft and distribute your questions. I agree with you wholeheartedly when you express the importance of the arts. I am a firm believer in arts education and am actively involved in the art community, not only in my neighbourhood but across the city. I am a writer and artist myself. I have consulted on films in Pakistan, have had stories published internationally, and still have some artwork travelling on the sides of transport trucks today. I am an active volunteer with Ottawa's Chamberfest and also donate annually to the NAC's Music Education in Schools program. If elected I also intend on creating "Poetry and Arts in the Park" for the schools in my zone, in time I hope the idea is picked up by all the schools citywide.

In response to your second question, yes I will fully support STEAM. Our neighbourhoods, communities, and schools are growing ever diverse, allowing unique perspectives from around the globe. While we may have different customs and languages, one thing unites us all, the arts. Dance, music, paintings, speak to us all without words. They allow us to thrive and connect on a level of creativity and compassion. The arts allow each of us to express our innermost passions and help drive STEM, for what good are science and technology if we do not have the creativity to come up with new and fascinating inventions. The arts are at the core of our society, and I will work to keep them funded. I hope this answers your questions and please, let me know if you need anything further.

Jon Flemming

Thanks for your note and thanks for engaging in the election process - it's important, and I wish more people did. Let me answer your questions directly:

1. To be honest, other than being a patron, I'm not involved. My wife and I purchase art from local artists, my company is a patron of the NAC, I attend all sorts of live music events, theater and artisan shows. Simply put, I'm not the worlds most artistic guy but I have a strong appreciation for the arts, and firmly believe that arts and physical education BOTH need to be a regular part of students' school day.
2. I think we have to be honest with ourselves and recognize that there probably wont be a big infusion of cash from the provincial government to establish new arts programs, therefore fund would need to be re-prioritized within the district to get arts programs up and running again. I'm OK with that because anyone who's looked at the OCDSB budget can easily see there's plenty of money being spent on things that aren't enhancing academic outcomes for students.

Happy to answer any other questions you might have.

Adam Grodinsky

I would like to begin by thanking you for the work you do in promoting the arts and culture. The arts are incredibly important to me.

1. For nearly two years I worked at the Department of Canadian Heritage in book publishing policy and programs, helping to administer the Canada Book Fund, which supports the Canadian book publishing industry by providing funding for publishers and organizations that support book publishing. In that capacity, I gained an entirely new appreciation for the cultural industries and their impact on our identities, economy, and communities. I am now serving on the board of directors for the New Theatre of Ottawa, a local company focused on developing young and diverse local playwrights and other theatre professionals. From my work with the New Theatre of Ottawa, I have first hand experience of the dearth of resources available to the region's artists and have tried to make it easier for artists to get their work made and seen.
2. If elected, I will support increased attention to arts learning within the school system. Art is a fundamental part of a well-rounded education and cannot be relegated to a second tier subject area. Students interested in the arts need the resources and support necessary to pursue them.

Rawlson King

1. I have been a supporter of local arts and artists in Ottawa for over 10 years. From January 2011 to June 2017, I was President of Gallery 101, a non-profit local artist-run centre, dedicated to the professional presentation and circulation of visual and media art.

One of the best greatest achievements of the gallery during my tenure was gallery staff sharing an Award of Outstanding Achievement in Exhibitions from the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) with the Carleton University Art Gallery and the Walking With Our Sisters Ottawa and National Committees, recognizing the Walking With Our Sisters exhibition that took place in Ottawa from September 25 to

October 16, 2016.

The exhibition was hosted at Carleton's gallery and was presented in partnership with Gallery 101. The exhibition featured approximately 2,000 pairs of vamps (the decorated upper part of a moccasin), which were created in memory of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada. The vamps were made by hundreds of people around the world, in response to a call from Métis artist Christi Belcourt.

The work existed as a floor installation made up of beaded vamps arranged in a winding path formation on fabric and included cedar boughs, a traditional medicine in many Indigenous cultures. The centrepiece was a canoe, an homage to the Algonquin people who traditionally travelled the rivers through what is now Ottawa. Viewers removed their shoes to walk on a path of cloth alongside the vamps in order to reflect on the enormity of loss. The traveling exhibition was designed as a cultural memorial to draw attention to the injustice of missing and murdered Indigenous women and residential schools. It is estimated that between 600 and 1,200 Native women have gone missing or have been murdered in the last 20 years. The fundraising and production of the exhibition was all volunteer driven.

2. If elected, I would pursue greater art funding and programming in our schools through both school board budget reallocation and by means of advocacy for greater funding from Queen's Park. I would also advocate for more art programming in schools, which a specific focus on immigrant communities and Indigenous reconciliation.

Justin Laku, Sr

Thanks for sharing vision and objectives of Ottawa Culture Counts. I read it with great interest and impressed with you and the work your organization is doing in the National Capital to promote Arts and Culture scene. I am proud of your arts work.

I would like to congratulate you for taking time out of your busy schedule and served in the Arts Network Ottawa, I commend you for keeping Art and culture knowledge on top of your daily life.

Regarding your questions, please, see my answers and comments in color.

1. How are you involved in the arts in your School district?

I support the vision and objectives of Ottawa Culture Counts and it should be incorporated in school curriculum or after school program either in the evening hours or weekend.

2. If elected, will you support increased attention to arts learning within the school system. Not just STEM, but STEAM!)

For sure, I shall support and promote arts learning in the schools across the city through two options, either to incorporate it in the curriculum or after school program.

Please, rest assure if elected, the Art Network and Ottawa Culture Counts can count on my support 1000%. Should you have questions and concerns about education system in Ontario, please, feel free to write back.

Shelley Lawrence, rscj

Curriculum is mandated by the Ministry of Education. This does not come under the role of the trustee.

However, I can tell you that the Board rents space to local artists at a former school site on the campus of Immaculata High School and St. Nicholas Adult School on Graham/Main Street.

Sandra Moore

"What is best for some is good for all", I don't know who to attribute this quote to but feel it describes arts in the school. I have seen an amazing drum performance by a special needs class, dance showcase where almost every school participates, choir showcase and an amazing art show where every student in the school had a piece displayed. All of these activities are the final product of time, patience, perseverance and skill. The arts are a vocation for some where they will find a career and lifelong passion. For most of us, like me, the arts help me be well.

"BE Well" is one of the Ottawa Catholic School Board's strategic commitments for this year and into the future. I voted for this and believe in all our strategic commitments which include "BE Community" and "BE Innovative". These commitments underscore the value of the arts for our students and their families.

I support the arts.

Dragos Popa

1. How are you involved in the arts in your School district?

As a member of the Special Education Advisory Committee, a school volunteer and a parent, I have witnessed the importance of arts in the lives of students and their families. I support a holistic approach to education, one that focuses on learning and overall wellbeing - and in which arts play a key role in children's development. My two sons have benefited greatly from music, dance and visual arts over the years, both at school and in a private setting. My family is a supporter of the arts - we are subscribers to NAC's dance and theatre programming, among others; and help in any way we can with arts events at our children's schools. I will continue to do so, and be a strong proponent of the arts if elected as a school trustee.

2. If elected, will you support increased attention to arts learning within the school system. Not just STEM, but STEAM!)

Absolutely! As indicated above, I believe strongly in the critical importance of arts, and I commit to being a supporter and advocate of arts programming in schools and programs across the district. I would also welcome meeting with you and other stakeholders to better understand your needs and your vision.

Jolène Savoie-Day

Je vous remercie de votre courriel et de votre intérêt dans le processus électoral. Ça me fait plaisir de répondre à vos questions!

Je suis originaire d'Ottawa et j'ai moi-même fréquenté les écoles élémentaires et secondaires du CECCE. Je tiens un baccalauréat en journalisme et une maîtrise en leadership, et je suis présentement en congé de maternité de mon travail à la Chambre des communes en tant que greffière à la procédure. J'ai 2 enfants qui ne sont pas encore à l'école, mais ils fréquenteront une école du CECCE. Leur éducation me tiens à coeur et leur avenir est une de mes grandes motivations à me présenter comme candidate au CECCE. Je veux travailler avec les parents et la gestion pour mettre en place des politiques qui aideront les jeunes à s'épanouir et à réussir, tant au niveau académique qu'aux niveaux affectifs et interpersonnels. Notre monde change rapidement-- c'est important de rester à jour par rapport à la gouvernance des écoles et de prendre des décisions qui engagent les élèves à apprendre, à poursuivre leurs rêves et à bâtir un monde meilleur. C'est aussi important que nos écoles offrent un milieu sécuritaire qui prône la tolérance et l'acceptation des différences chez les gens pour que nos jeunes puissent grandir et s'épanouir en célébrant la diversité. J'ai confiance en mes capacités et suis passionnée de l'éducation, de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne et de faire de nos écoles des milieux enrichissants.

Les arts ont une place importante dans l'éducation et l'épanouissement des jeunes. Mes meilleurs souvenirs de mon secondaire sont les heures passées à jouer de la musique pendant les cours de musique et après les heures de classe avec l'orchestre, les pièces de théâtre et jouer de l'improvisation. Ce sont dans ces moments que j'ai bâti mon réseau d'amis, et aussi ma confiance et ma passion pour les arts. Aujourd'hui la musique prend toujours une place important dans ma vie alors que je joue le cor français avec un orchestre communautaire. Mettre en place des programmes afin que les jeunes puissent s'épanouir, développer leurs talents et leurs passions a un impact sur leur succès académique, leur santé physique et mentale.

Si vous avez d'autres questions, n'hésitez pas à communiquer avec moi!

Kevin Sawyer

I have been advocating for a more arts focused approach to schooling for some time. Primarily, as an advocate for mental health in schools, I am pushing for the Ottawa Catholic School Board to equip children with the skills necessary to be resilient when life becomes difficult for them. This social skills training is often missing in schools and it's seen as an option for school principals to support or not. The OCSB must allocate funds for programs that help children develop their mental health. These programs can incorporate many forms including art expression techniques, sand-tray play and sculpture. I hope this helps.