

Richmond Hill's Cultural Plan

Program: Creative Communities Prosperity Fund

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Richmond Hill Council approved the Town's first Cultural Plan on December 6, 2011. This plan was prepared with financial assistance from the Ontario Creative Communities Prosperity Fund.

Cultural planning involves integrating cultural resources into economic and community development. Richmond Hill's Cultural Plan was developed through an extensive community engagement process, with approximately 500 participants taking part. As part of the Cultural Plan, a cultural mapping exercise was completed to gain a better understanding of the cultural resources of the community. This inventory allows the Town to identify gaps in current cultural services, and take action to strengthen culture in Richmond Hill.



The Town's Cultural Plan recommends an overall vision and set of strategies to guide cultural development in Richmond Hill. The vision articulated by the Cultural Plan is:

"Richmond Hill is admired as a vibrant community in which culture is a part of all facets of the Town's planning and decision-making; where diversity, gender and age are reflected in all aspects of cultural expression; and where our authentic and distinctive identity inspires a creative spirit."

The Plan also lays out a series of goals which will realise this vision and a series of recommendations and strategies that will be used to achieve these goals.



Project Highlights:

Shared provincial and municipal investment in municipal cultural planning

Priorities include:

- Supporting cultural organizations in Richmond Hill
- Improving awareness of cultural resources and activities
- Promoting the importance of culture to Richmond Hill's prosperity
- Expanding cultural services and facilities



“ We are excited to have our very first Cultural Plan in place... and what makes it even more gratifying for us is that it was developed in collaboration with the community. This document will help us ensure that we continue to transform Richmond Hill into the vibrant community we all envision. ”

Mayor Dave Barrow



Richmond Hill, where people come together to build our community.

PROJECT FACTS



PROJECT BUDGET: \$90 000
COMPLETION DATE: December 2011

PROJECT BENEFITS

This project and its recommendations will be carried out over a ten year time period. The project will contribute to the vibrancy and economic prosperity of Richmond Hill through the achievement of the Cultural Plan goals:

Goal 1 | Demonstrated Leadership

Richmond Hill will take steps to ensure that culture is integrated into all Town initiatives. At the same time, the Town will work to strengthen partnerships and engage the community in the implementation of the plan.

Goal 2 | A Dynamic Cultural Sector

The Town will work with our diverse cultural sector to make connections and provide support for organizations through networking, collaboration and coordination opportunities. This includes an Annual Cultural Summit and a strategy for Festivals and Events.

Goal 3 | An Inclusive Cultural Community

The Town will seek to expand youth engagement in culture through volunteer opportunities, an apprenticeship program and the creation of a Cultural Fusion Event for Youth.



Goal 4 | Places and Spaces for Culture

As part of this goal, the Town will implement a Public Art Master Plan, undertake an inventory of cultural spaces and will look for opportunities to develop affordable and accessible spaces for culture.



Goal 5 | A Celebrated Story

The Town's unique cultural stories will be shared and promoted. A portal for all cultural information in the Town will also be developed.

The completion of the Cultural Plan has given Richmond Hill a strategy to develop its rich cultural resources and become a more vibrant town.



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This project received financial assistance from the Government of Ontario through the Creative Communities Prosperity Fund.

