

BRENDA SLOMKA



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Thriving Arts and Culture Help Spur Innovative Economy Says Slomka

(Kingston ON) Mayoral candidate Brenda Slomka confirmed her commitment to Arts and Culture in Kingston calling for the restoration and enhancement of the City's Cultural Plan.

Slomka commented after her campaign office displayed the work of local painter Shari Doseger during Friday evening's open gallery event "Art After Dark."

"Arts and culture have important economic and social returns for our community. It is unacceptable for City Council to have slowed down the promised investment in arts and culture. Leading researchers note that 'innovative cities develop a creative union of technology, arts and civics'" said Slomka quoting the late Peter Hall, renowned urbanist.

In 2010, City Council unanimously passed the Kingston Cultural Plan and voted to invest \$2.25 million towards its implementation. In 2014, Council went back on their decision and decided to fund the Plan at a slower rate, creating over half a million dollar shortfall according to the Kingston Arts Council.

"Within 100 days of assuming office, I commit to moving for a community engagement process to develop creative marketing and commercial strategies to increase revenues spent on Arts & Culture in Kingston," said Slomka.

Slomka mentioned that the number of attendees at events funded by the Kingston Arts Fund was over 94,000 last year. She thanked local artists and expressed gratitude for the many performances and productions she has attended in Kingston, including the four events she has already been to at the new Isabel Bader Centre located on the shores of Lake Ontario.

"We know that for every dollar spent in the arts, \$4 are generated for the economy. As Mayor I would vote to keep Council's arts and culture spending at the rate originally committed to. This is not only good for local arts and culture but also the local economy," closed Slomka.

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