



Ed Video
Media Arts Centre

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October 21th, 2021

Dear Councillors,

Please accept this letter in support of the City investigating the Drill Hall as a potential arts hub.

Ed Video exists to foster the creation and exhibition of independent media arts. We are open to the public and anyone can become a member, take workshops, rent equipment, or take part in our engaging events.

We believe art matters.

We take that belief seriously. Since our inception in 1976, Ed Video has been involved in the development of over 7,500 independent productions, has produced over 3,000 exhibitions, and has provided over 50,000 hours of hand-on instruction. We work hard in and for our community.

The following stats are a little old (2015), but it is still important to note that arts and culture play a significant role in Ontario's economy. Ontario's arts, culture, and heritage sector represents \$23.8 billion or 4 per cent of the province's GDP and over 301,000 jobs.

The arts also benefit the social, cultural and civic life of Ontarians. According to the Ontario Arts Council study, *The Arts and the Quality of Life*, commissioned from Environics, a resounding 95 per cent of Ontarians said that the arts enrich the quality of our lives.

The arts matter to Ontarians too.

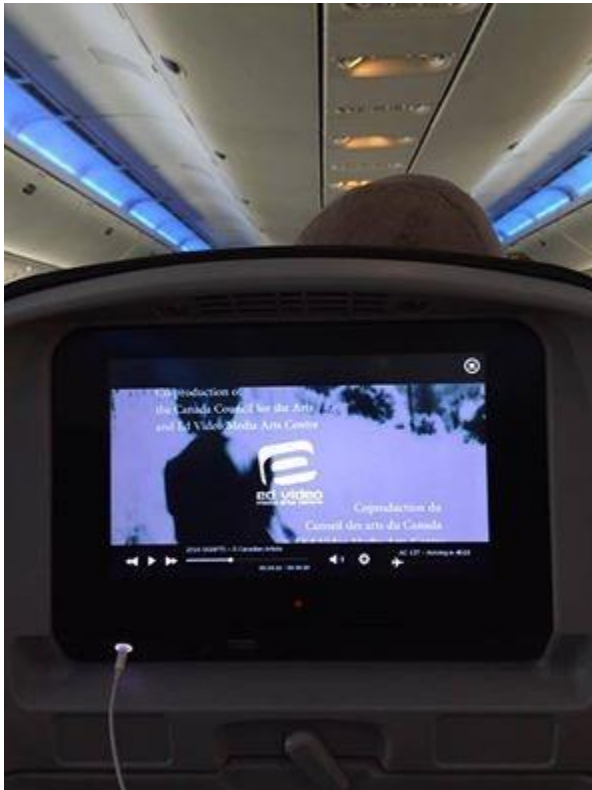
Over the years Ed Video has been involved with several attempts to develop an arts hub in Guelph. In this soon-to-be post-pandemic world, recovery will be slow, and we will need to look at ways to encourage people out of their houses, and particularly back into the downtown core. The idea of an arts hub in the Drill Hall would animate the area and would be a destination to draw people to the core. If there is one thing we have learned through the pandemic, it's how to stay home. In order to foster economic recovery, we need to work on bringing people back, creating interesting and safe activities, and ultimately becoming the place where people want to be.

An arts hub in the Drill Hall would make that happen.

Warm regards,

Elizabeth Dent

Elizabeth Dent
Executive Director
Ed Video Media Arts Centre



Ps: And this is a cool pic of one of our member's work being shown on an Air Canada flight...yes that's our logo