

Dear Councillors and Mayor,

My name is Elise Chung and I am writing to add support to the Guelph Centre for Visual Arts in their transformation of the abandoned Drill Hall into a community art space.

As a newer member of the Guelph pottery community seeking public space to interact with other potters, having a public space for the community to meet and practice would be an excellent addition to the arts and ceramics culture in the City. Artists in larger cities such as Hamilton and Toronto are supported by open studios offering spaces for artists to create and interact in, even having their own Potters' Guild. The City of Guelph currently does not have such a Guild or open public ceramic community space for potters, forcing those looking for community to travel outside of the City. Adding a public ceramic studio space in the Drill Hall would foster a growing community of ceramic artists and potters who are in need of a public space to create and socialize in. Establishing space for selling goods via Guild sales or a small storefront would also help return profit to the community and the centre in the Drill Hall as a whole.

In addition, a public ceramic studio in the city would increase artist presence and help artists completing degrees at the University of Guelph maintain their connection to the community.

I would like to reiterate my support for the Guelph Centre for Visual Arts in their transformation of the abandoned Drill Hall.

Thank you for your time,  
Elise Chung