

Dear Councillors and Mayor for the City of Guelph,

I am an active artist (filmmaker and novelist) and am proud to call Guelph my home. I've known about the initiative to convert the former Drill Hall into a public space but just heard that city staff are recommending that Council abandon a four-year public process and attempt to sell the Drill Hall, despite a 2021 consultant report concluding there was no private market interest in purchasing the building and recommending its use as a "community share space."

How is it possible that city staff can choose to subvert an in-progress public process? I urge you to vote to allow this process to continue. While we can't control the outcome of the assessment process, I fully support that the Drill Hall be repurposed into the Guelph Centre for Visual Art. I believe it's vital to our city's culture and its community of artists that we nurture our unique artistic expressions of life in Guelph, Ontario, and Canada.

Thanks for your serious consideration of my request.

Regards,
Peter Szabo