

Subject: From Rosanne Morris Regarding the Old Drill Hall

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Counsellors,

I am writing to encourage you all to respect the consultation process that was initiated by the city to accept applications for community use of the old Drill Hall. The working group that put together the proposal to have the Drill Hall transformed to a Guelph Centre for Visual Arts is thoroughly researched and thoughtfully formulated. It has behind it tremendous community support. The working group has put in hundreds of volunteers hours over years preparing a proposal you have requested to honour the process. It must not be blithely discarded.

My request is that you do not sell the Drill Hall. Please respect the ongoing process of consultation that the City of Guelph established, and consider carefully the GCVA proposal to transform the Drill Hall into dynamic community space for the visual arts in Guelph.

I have rented an art studio downtown on Wyndham Street for over a decade. It is expensive – too expensive – and the opportunities for networking with other artists in a community hub do not exist. The GCVA would offer such opportunities, and so much more.

The GCVA vision includes a range of flexible spaces within the Drill Hall, to include sections for exhibition and display, communal co-working environments, specialized workshops, private studio spaces, and adaptable zones suitable for educational events, meetings.

The GCVA working group approach to this proposal is dynamic and alive. It involves collaboration with local organizations, community stakeholders, and individual artists, together with the City of Guelph to establish a space to mingle, collaborate, share ideas, and foster connections between artists, enthusiasts, students, visitors, supporters, and customers.

Guelph needs such a space which will serve the wide community while attracting visitors (and revenue) to the city. I ask each of you individually and collectively to put your support behind this project to make it happen.

I live in hope within my community, respectfully,

Rosanne Morris

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