



6.5 ARTS & CULTURE

The concept of Arts and Culture covers a vast spectrum of ideas, products and practices: visual arts & crafts, performing arts - theatre and music, libraries, festivals, cultural industries (film, broadcasting, recording, publishing).

Participation in Arts and Culture has many community benefits including:

- *Helps people understand their neighbours, their history and their environment;*
- *Enhances perceived quality of life for individuals, families and communities;*
- *Reduces racism by building understanding between diverse cultures;*
- *Attracts tourism and businesses to the community;*
- *Provides a mechanism for exploring identity and spirituality.*

ISSUE:

Arts and Culture are an integral part of all aspects of community life. The availability of Arts and Culture within a community is one of the important aspects contributing to the livability and quality of life of the community. Richmond, as a growing and diverse community, has seen a tremendous increase in the level of participation in cultural activities. Culture helps people understand their neighbours, their history and their environment, and are significant attractions that draw tourism. While there are many excellent facilities and high-quality services in Richmond, keeping pace with a growing and aging community with increasing expectations will be the challenge.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Facilitate provision of a broad range of facilities and services that allow Richmond residents to participate in a variety of arts and cultural events and programs.

POLICIES:

- a) Work with community groups and individuals to define a coordinated vision for the arts in Richmond;
- b) Work with the board of the Gateway Theatre Society to fulfil its mandate of providing quality performing arts opportunities in Richmond, including the introduction of alternative facilities suitable to the community's emerging needs;
- c) Maintain community input into art exhibitions, and ensure participation by community members, and first time shows by emerging artists;
- d) Provide opportunity for community members to be involved in arts activities through provision of specialized spaces and programming at the Richmond Cultural Centre;
- e) Encourage, through policies and working with the private sector, a cultural industry (films, recording, publishing) within the City;
- f) Recognize the importance of community festivals in the cultural life of a community;



- g) Create opportunities for people to experience art in everyday life and for artists and communities to participate in the design, look, and feel of the City through civic, private sector and community public art initiatives (see 5.0 Natural & Human Environment);
- h) Work with community groups and the private sector to ensure facility needs are met.