



**Environment, Infrastructure and Community Services Committee**

**ACCOB written Delegation Dec. 8, 2022**

**Robert Bateman High School adaptive re-use project**

My name is Tim Park and I am the President of the Arts and Culture Council of Burlington (ACCOB). We began over 12 years ago as the Arts and Culture Collective to ensure that Arts and Culture in Burlington would have a voice in our City. ACCOB became a registered not-for-profit in 2018 and we continue to strive for our sector to have a voice here in the Burlington area.

One of the things we were involved with was the Cultural Action Plan. Along with the City's assistance, various new Grants have become a reality such as the BACF as well as the creation of an Arts and Culture Department within the City. Along with a strong Public Art program and community led neighbourhood project funding many of the things that the Action Plan called for have been realized. One other item that was a hope for Arts and Culture under the Cultural Action Plan was the creation of a local Board and thus ACCOB was created.

ACCOB has been supporting various local projects since 2018 and has been involved in Culture Days, education workshops, promotion of local Arts and Cultural events, workshops, and support, where we can, to local groups and individual Artists.

Another part of our mandate is to be an advocate on behalf of members of artistic and cultural communities. This is why we are talking with you today.

In our early workshops as the Arts and Culture Collective over 12 years ago one of the most needed things that our groups and Artists needed was space. This is still one of the top priorities that ACCOB is asked about throughout the year.

We feel that now is a good opportunity for the Arts and Culture groups and even single Artists to get some much needed space within the proposed Bateman site.

Here are some of our early thoughts for possibilities for this project.

There is always a need for office space, meeting rooms for local groups, places to hold clinics or workshops along with practice and rehearsal space. There could be spots that can display local Art throughout the year or events hosted by local groups or put on by the City.

We do know there is a good sized stage with a great backstage. We think they still may have a fly system installed that could come in very handy to local groups and performers to host shows that hopefully could be affordable for them to use. It may be outdated but at least the structure may still be there.

We believe a good local example of some of the uses that could exist at the Bateman location could come from the Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre that we are sure you are aware of. We don't believe the amount of space that will be left will be as extensive as the Oakville location but there are some good ideas there of what

could be possible. We also believe there could be an opportunity for private funding or maybe fundraising to help with some of the costs. ACCOB would be happy to help with any fundraising activities or events that may help with offsetting the costs.

We do understand that a portion of the space will go back to the School Board, Tech Place office space the Appleby Library will relocate there and there will be some space for Brock University. We do feel there is some room at this location that will still be available and we believe it would be well utilized by our local Arts and Culture community.

One of the key objectives in the City's Strategic Plan to 2040 is "An Engaging City" where it states that Culture and community activities thrive creating a positive sense of place, inclusivity and community.

It also states:

\*An engaged community where culture, civic activities, neighbourhood initiatives and recreational activities help to enhance and grow the sense of engagement, community, place and unity

- Accessible municipal programs, buildings, services and public spaces are available and welcoming to people of all abilities

ACCOB believes that enhancing Arts and Culture in Burlington will contribute to this objective in the Strategic Plan and having some space at this exciting new project will help the City and it's residents achieve this goal.

ACCOB is aware of the timelines for the current Phase and that community engagement will be requested in early 2023 with findings coming later in the year. If possible, we would like to be involved with some of the discussions throughout these early stages and see if we can all come up with a plan for our Arts and Culture community.

We thank you for your time and please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tim Park

President  
Arts and Culture Council of Burlington