



ALLIANCE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

2011 Civic Candidates Arts & Culture Survey City of Coquitlam

Mayoral Candidates

Barrie Lynch

Richard Stewart

City Council Candidates

Randy Delmonico

Massimo Mandarino

Neal Nicholson

Terry O'Neill

Mae Reid

Linda Reimer

Araz Rismani

Selina Robinson

Fred Soofi

Vincent Wu

*Please note that only candidates who completed our online survey are listed.

1. How do local governments, with increasing demands on their core service budgets, maintain or grow the cultural programs in their communities?

Mayoral Candidates

Barrie Lynch: By increasing the business tax base through retention and recruitment that would provide more taxes. A portion of the increased tax revenue can be allocated to cultural programs

Richard Stewart: I believe passionately in partnerships. Coquitlam is a growing community, with an incredibly diverse population and an exciting future. In that kind of environment, the city should be a catalyst for the great work of cultural and artistic groups. We should work with arts and cultural groups to make sure that resources are made available to grow those programs, and to ensure that culture is celebrated in our community.

City Council Candidates

Randy Delmonico: Look for new ways to finance those activities.

Massimo Mandarino: this should be implemented in our budgets, and reduce wasteful spending, arts is an integral part of any community, and investing in these projects, will create a stronger community, with dollars flowing through business, and job creation, these types of projects should be funded with the idea of investment not as charity.

Neal Nicholson: Providing as much encouragement, facilities, staff and financial, as possible to community organizations involved in arts & culture

Terry O'Neill: Look up, look across, look down. Look up to senior levels of government to ensure that our communities are getting their fair share of the cultural pie. Look across to local businesses, community groups and philanthropic organizations (such as The Vancouver Foundation or Coquitlam Foundation) to fill the funding gaps; Look down into the City's own books to ensure that funding is better prioritized, and more astutely administered.

Mae Reid: With partnerships from the business and other levels of government & the philanthropists in our City interested in promoting the arts.

Linda Reimer: Partnering with various service organizations, arts groups and other levels of government. Supporting existing cultural groups and programs. The support I refer to does not have to be financial but perhaps In Kind. Providing connections and networking opportunities. Reducing Red Tape so that doing business in the City for cultural groups is easy and hassle free.

Araz Rismani: Cultural programs not lead into having a livelier city for residents and have a significant impact on cultural developments, they can also open new opportunities to bring revenue to city and lead to economic development.

Selina Robinson: I think collaboration is the key to maintain and growing our cultural programs. I think the city can play a key role in facilitating relationships between all of our community groups.

Fred Soofi: I believe by allocating funding from local government toward arts and culture, will have a positive effect on the community, and in long term even will be a great saving financially for the citizens of the community (improved mental health, cultural awareness, and others).

Vincent Wu: I propose that municipal governments need to explore some innovative ways to increase revenue resources. I want my community maintain or even increase cultural and heritage programs.

2. Will you commit to maintain or increase the current arts funding in your community?

Mayoral Candidates

Barrie Lynch: Maintain. The latest Ipsos Reid poll indicated that residents would prefer a decrease in services over a tax increase. We must protect current funding for arts.

Richard Stewart: No question, increase. I believe that we need to continue to grow the arts in our community, including increasing the funding for the arts. So the answer is emphatically to increase.

City Council Candidates

Randy Delmonico: Maintain. Arts and culture are important activities just as sports and recreation for the community.

Massimo Mandarino: Increase; I like to see more put into art, and sports equally, these are worth while initiatives to make the city a destination for visitors

Neal Nicholson: Maintain; I won't "commit" to any course of action in advance of specific requests in a specific situation

Terry O'Neill: Other. After several years of dramatic property-tax increases in our City, it would be imprudent to commit to even status-quo funding, from city coffers, in this sector. That said, however, after core needs, including police and fire, arts is certainly among our community's--and my personal--priorities.

Mae Reid: Maintain. In these strange economic times, we need to keep our taxes as low as possible at least for the next year.

Linda Reimer: Other. Every year we look at overall City funding as part of our budget process. We have managed to maintain arts funding over the last 3 years. But we do have to look at things on that yearly basis. I cannot therefore commit, but think it most probable that we can probably maintain.

Araz Rismani: Maintain. I support city to maintain its current funding; yet, encourage and facilitate the arts and culture organizations to explore ways to generate revenue for sustainability.

Fred Soofi: Increase. Educating community of the benefits of art and culture so they will understand the benefit of increased funding.

Vincent Wu: Increase. I believe arts and cultural assets are key parts of our social fabric.

3. Will you take an active role on behalf of your community in lobbying senior levels of government to maintain or increase levels of funding for the arts, culture and heritage?

Mayoral Candidates

Barrie Lynch: Increase. Federal and provincial governments receive 92% of tax revenue. These levels of government have the ability to invest more in arts, culture and heritage.

Richard Stewart: With so much decision-making power at the provincial and federal level, I have always played an active role in lobbying senior governments. I make the point repeatedly that good governance is about building relationships, and I have made enormous strides in improving Coquitlam's relationships with Federal, Provincial and Regional governments over the past three years, with important results like the Evergreen Line and our new Homeless Shelter. We can – and SHOULD -- push for better partnerships with arts and culture, as these are both important parts of our "infrastructure". It's not just roads and pipes; arts, culture and heritage are the "soul" of a community, and need to be supported at all levels.

City Council Candidates

Randy Delmonico: Maintain. Funding from senior levels of government are essential.

Massimo Mandarino: Increase; yes all three levels of government should be supporting positive endeavors in our communities.

Neal Nicholson: Increase; happy to lean on senior governments

Terry O'Neill: Maintain. In these turbulent economic times, even in Canada's relatively calm economic waters, it makes good sense to target stability, not growth in funding areas such as these. In more prosperous times, we can refocus and aim to grow the sector.

Mae Reid: Increase. Absolutely, the other levels of gov. need to step up to the plate...we only get 8 cents of every dollar, they get the rest....part of their 92 cents is for the arts and culture...where is it being spent ??

Linda Reimer: Other. As a Council we have over the last 3 years lobbied senior levels of government. We did this in response to a special situation. Should a similar situation arise again, I would support similar action.

Araz Rismani: Increase. Federal and provincial programs need to be reached to for their further support of arts, culture and heritage programs and services.

Fred Soofi: Increase. Yes, I will, and will let senior government know that if they spend a fraction of the resources spent for military for arts and culture, it will have a much more positive effect on citizens.

Vincent Wu: Increase. Same reason as above.

4. Culture is an easy target when hard budget decisions must be made. How would you defend your support of funding for the arts in the face of further cutbacks?

Mayoral Candidates

Barrie Lynch: Arts is an integral part of a complete community and complimentary to sports and library services.

Richard Stewart: I believe our investments in the arts – and they truly are “investments” with a return – are vital to a community’s well-being. Funding for arts/culture isn’t something to apologize for, it’s something to celebrate. There is nothing to defend, in the same way that we don’t need to defend funding for education.

City Council Candidates

Randy Delmonico: It's an important part of the community

Massimo Mandarino: Looking at the Vancouver's Grandville Island, and the positive flow for its businesses is enough for me. We can create an arts hud in Coquitlam (i.e. Maillarville) will create more of a buss for our local businesses and potential for new businesses to come to the area (restaurants, cafes,) creating more jobs for many different industry’s

Neal Nicholson: Arts are the heart of our community

Terry O’Neill: Such funding is easier to support when it goes to broad-based community groups, or organizations that offer programs and services that a broad range of individuals can enjoy. On the other hand, in these demanding economic times, it is difficult to defend grants and other financial supports to individual artists.

Mae Reid: The Arts and Culture are the "color in our communities" without them, you do not have a community....that should be made obvious to the other levels of govt....I will definitely be an advocate

Linda Reimer: Arts is the heart of our community.

Araz Rismani: Art and culture is our grounds of educating and developing our next generations. It is a matter of education. It is a matter of quality of life for residents. It is a matter of promoting creative and innovative minds. It needs to be well attended and respected.

Fred Soofi: By bringing to their attention the benefits that investment in arts and culture bring to our society.

Vincent Wu: I will consult with stakeholders and try to reach a consensual agreement to protect some essential arts and cultural programs.

5. It has been said that many points in the available arts and culture platforms are "objective driven" (specific projects) and don't really speak to an overall vision of the role of culture in a

civil society. In 300 words or less, outline your own vision of culture's role in our communities and how, as an elected representative, you will support that vision.

Mayoral Candidates

Barrie Lynch: Funding for the arts continues to be a challenge as local government struggles to provide services downloaded from senior levels of government. A plan to allocate a percentage of the budget on an annual recurring basis would provide a sustainable commitment to the role of culture in a civil society. Community amenity agreements also provide an opportunity to enhance public art in our city.

Richard Stewart: I've lived all my life in Coquitlam. Our community is an amazing place partly because of the tremendous arts and cultural context in which it has thrived. Like many parents, my wife and I are proud that our children have performed on our community's stages – in music, dance and theatre – and have grown because of the cultural experience available here in Coquitlam. Culture is what makes a city great, and Coquitlam should be celebrating its rich cultural heritage, its diversity, and its arts community. We need to partner with our School District, our arts community, our service clubs, etc., in ensuring that we celebrate what is truly great about our city.

City Council Candidates

Randy Delmonico: Cultures role in a community help make a diverse and interesting place for people to live.

Massimo Mandarino: It will be a positive one. i strongly believe that if we do this right it will create all that i have outlined in the previous questions, better for businesses, and growth with potential new business and investment, and jobs come with it. Its win win, for all. I would definatly would work with the different groups to make this possible.

Terry O'Neill: G.K. Chesterton wrote, "There is no such thing on earth as an uninteresting subject; the only thing that can exist is an uninterested person." With this in mind, I see the "cultural" sector of our community as one that has the ability to turn an uninterested person into an interested one. This is vital, because an interested person is a better citizen and, ultimately, a better person. To stimulate someone with an engaging work, to open their eyes, to touch their heart--these are essential to human growth. It matters not whether we cry at a play, laugh during a circus, are outraged by an piece of performance art, or experience joy at a music concert; the important thing is that we have been moved--moved emotionally and, perhaps, intellectually. That's education. That's growth. That's being alive. A City Councillor can help direct a few dollars here and there to assist this, of course. But a Councillor's more important role is found in his or her ability to act as a community leader. Councillors can help open doors, facilitate planning, offer moral support, and set an example by attending performances.

Mae Reid: I believe I have answered this already in previous answers

Linda Reimer: Culture is really the outcome of these projects, described as the ribbon or the tape that binds us all together. It binds us all by bringing diverse

groups of people together to a shared experience. It may be one of common enjoyment, beliefs and tastes. This tape assists in bringing our community together, so that we can as one contribute more and make our communities and cities better places to live. As an elected representative, I can support the arts and culture in my community, by attending experiences, by sharing of information to the larger community, and by financially supporting the arts, both personally and City wise. I can assist in bringing people together, to ensure resources are not duplicated and by ensuring opportunity for the arts and culture to flourish is encouraged by the City.

Araz Rismani: I do agree with this comment. Coquitlam is a very diverse community with many active cultural groups. They need to be brought to a table. City needs to facilitate discussions and team work among these groups. This will save a great deal of resources and have more fruitful and more effective impacts on cultural developments.

Fred Soofi: I believe from answering all previous questions my vision is clear: I have been on the Board of NeWorld Theatre (Vancouver), Globe Theatre (Saskatchewan), Arts Connect in TriCities, Port Moody Arts Centre, and others.

Vincent Wu: I believe arts and cultural heritages play a key role in preserving and empowering civil society. I agree with American scholar Derek Bok's view of POLITICS OF HAPPINESS. Even domain of arts is a normative issue, it requires a demonstration that happiness is indeed something government ought to maximize. If local government is willing to protect and preserve genuine arts and cultural assets, the achievement of a good society will be one step closer.

6. Please provide links to coverage and information of events and initiatives where you have been involved in arts, culture and heritage.

Mayoral Candidates

Barrie Lynch: Evergreen Cultural Centre
Place Maillardville
Places des Arts
Douglas College Coquitlam Campus

City Council Candidates

Randy Delmonico: google my name.

Terry O'Neill: <http://www.coquitlamfoundation.com/news-releases/coquitlam-foundation-distributes-55000-during-annual-awards-event>

Mae Reid: I do not have any links....in the past 21 years of my Council experience, I have been very vocal on the arts, culture and heritage...I am deeply involved with the Riverview Lands, former chair of Evergreen, Heritage committee....and many other committees such as the Arts connect

Linda Reimer: www.wearableartawards.com, www.portmoodyartassociation.com
http://www.artsconnect.ca/artsconnect/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=151&Itemid=236,
<http://www.placedesarts.ca/content.asp?chapterID=5&subchapterID=21&pageID=3>

[0&portal=1&eventID=115](#)
<http://festivalcoquitlam.citysoup.ca/Festivals/Blue+Mountain+Music+Festival.htm>
<http://festivalcoquitlam.citysoup.ca/Festivals/Como+Lake+Fishing+Derby.htm>
<http://festivalcoquitlam.citysoup.ca/Festivals/Coquitlam+Grand+Parade.htm>
<http://festivalcoquitlam.citysoup.ca/Festivals/Teddy+Bear+Picnic.htm>
<http://www.thev3h.com/2011/10/artsconnects-regional-summit/>
<http://www.google.ca/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=www.coquitlamheritage.ca&source=web&cd=8&sqi=2&ved=0CEIQFjAH&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.citysoup.ca%2Fcal%2Fcalendar.asp%3Faction%3Deventdetail%26eventid%3D318472&ei=0im6TsLcBdHFsQLNwoy3CA&usq=AFQjCNHgI5kPp371nEwJiWKxSFV1nO6QIA>
<http://www.placedesarts.ca/content.asp?chapterID=7&subchapterID=34&pageID=45&SubpageID=471> <http://lightthelake.ca/>
<http://www.douglas.bc.ca/visitors/foundation/events.html>
<http://www.douglas.bc.ca/visitors/foundation/events/event-archives-2011/unwined.html> <http://www.douglas.bc.ca/visitors/foundation/events/archives-2010/fall-fair-2010.html>
<http://www.evergreenculturalcentre.ca/artgallery/Past+Exhibitions/Kwikwetlem.htm>
<http://www.evergreenculturalcentre.ca/artgallery/Past+Exhibitions/Amy+Loewan.htm>
<http://www.evergreenculturalcentre.ca/artgallery/Past+Exhibitions/Robert+Young.htm> <http://www.bchighlandgames.com/> www.tirgan.ca
<http://www.thev3h.com/2009/08/korean-heritage-day-festival/>
<http://www.culturecoquitlam.ca/festival/Canada+Day+2011.htm>
<http://www.maillardville.com/> <http://www.watersedgemusic.ca/>
<http://www.festivaldubois.ca/> <http://www.hsws.ca/> <http://www.koreandance.ca/>
<http://www.culturecoquitlam.ca/NR/exeres/7A207E9D-F494-4CA0-B013-319AB4FA997B,frameless.htm?NRMODE=Published>
<http://www.societyforcommunitydevelopment.com/>
<http://www.societyforcommunitydevelopment.com/>
<http://www.coquitlamcentre.com/> <http://www.placedesarts.ca/>
<http://www.culturecoquitlam.ca/NR/exeres/63188B34-D83B-467A-B38D-542987AE79FE,frameless.htm?NRMODE=Published>
<http://www.coquitlamheritage.ca/> www.austinheights.ca/
<http://www.maillardville.com/>
<http://www.culturecoquitlam.ca/NR/exeres/CB6EB80F-9252-4F7E-9F15-2466295ABBEB,frameless.htm?NRMODE=Published>
<http://www.placemaillardville.ca/> <http://www.metrovancouver.org/>

Fred Soofi: Sponsoring Wearable Art Peoples' choice in Port Moody, Preserving Heritage Buildings in Saskatchewan and TriCities (Old City Hall Mall, Gilmour Building, Appleyard Residence, Sims Residence, Alexander Residence, etc.

Vincent Wu: <http://www.coquitlamfoundation.com/>