



Meeting Date: August 6, 2025
Prepared By: Sam Cormier, Recreation Coordinator
Submitted by: Scott Mairs, Director of Community Services
Report No: CMS-06-2025
Subject: Arts & Culture Policy

Recommendation:

THAT Report CMS-06-2025 re: Arts & Culture Policy be received;

AND THAT Council approve the Middlesex Centre Arts & Culture Policy as outlined in this report;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to implement the policy as part of ongoing program planning and community engagement initiatives.

Purpose:

To seek Council approval for the new Arts & Culture Policy developed by the Community Services Department.

Background:

The Community Services Master Plan (2023–2027) identified the development of an Arts & Culture Policy as a key recommendation to support inclusive programming and strengthen community identity through creative expression. This policy responds to that recommendation by establishing clear principles and objectives for how the municipality will support and grow its arts and culture programming.

This was established as a staff-led initiative to ensure a consistent, coordinated approach to cultural programming that aligns with broader goals around recreation, inclusion, and community engagement.

The policy also aligns with the Framework for Recreation in Canada, which identifies artistic and cultural participation as a key contributor to active living and well-being across all stages of life.

In the development of this policy, municipal staff engaged with the Community Services Advisory Committee, who provided input and feedback throughout the drafting process. The Committee supports the vision and direction of the policy and has recommended that it be brought forward for Council's consideration and adoption.

Additionally, the Arts & Culture Policy is designed to complement the Municipality's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy and the Age-Friendly Community Action Plan, further reinforcing Middlesex Centre's commitment to accessible, inclusive, and community-driven service delivery

Analysis:

The Middlesex Centre Arts & Culture Policy is built around the following core components:

- **Vision & Guiding Principles:** It commits to fostering a vibrant, inclusive arts scene that encourages participation, supports creative talent, and reflects the diverse values of the community.
- **Program Development:** The policy outlines a commitment to offer a broad range of programs, such as art, music, dance, and theatre, for residents of all ages and skill levels. It also prioritizes community feedback to ensure program relevance and impact.
- **Partnerships:** Strong emphasis is placed on collaboration with local organizations, schools, and artists to enhance offerings and extend the reach of arts programming.
- **Sustainability & Infrastructure:** The policy encourages the pursuit of external funding (grants, sponsorships) and the use of inclusive, welcoming spaces for program delivery.
- **Alignment with DEI:** The policy complements Middlesex Centre's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy, supporting access to cultural expression and representation across all demographics.

Implementation of the policy will include ongoing program evaluation, expansion of current offerings, and strategic investments in partnerships and infrastructure to foster long-term success.

Financial Implications:

There are no immediate financial implications associated with adopting the policy. Implementation will be managed within existing operating budgets. Any future financial requirements, including potential investments in infrastructure or external funding opportunities, will be brought forward through the annual budget process or separate Council reports as necessary.

Strategic Plan:

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- Engaged Community
- Responsive Municipal Government

Attachments:

A1 – Arts & Culture Policy