



Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, Ontario, Canada
K0L 3C0
05-448-2981 Ext.422

March 10, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation - Letter of Support for Grant Submissions

Please accept this letter of support for the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation on behalf of the Municipality of Highlands East, located in Haliburton County, 2.5 hours North East of Toronto.

Highlands East and the County of Haliburton have long been a home of natural wonder, rich cultural history and the beauty of the arts with multiple art installations in the community, the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost, and the historic mural in Wilberforce commemorating soldiers returning home from WWII. Since then, the region has become home to many artists, eventually spurring the creation of multiple annual studio tours, including our own Highlands East Studio Tour. The County has also attracted a number of residents and cottagers active in all disciplines of the arts -- instrumental music, singing, film, stage, painting, sculpture, pottery, and jewelry - just to name a few. Thanks to a number of community leaders, this ultimately led to the Guild of the Arts becoming the Haliburton School of the Arts, a campus of Fleming College.

The Municipality of Highlands East supports in principle the creation of an arts centre in Haliburton County. Our latest Cultural Plan, developed in 2014, includes a number of goals which support this mission: Provide Municipal Leadership; Promote Community Engagement and Inclusion; Provide Support for a Strong and Dynamic Cultural Sector; Use our Cultural Assets to help advance Tourism and Economic Development - notably in leveraging creativity, culture and quality of place to grow the local economy, which are goals of the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation in the creation of an arts centre.

Haliburton County is well known for being a community that has been very supportive of the arts. Being the home of the Haliburton School of the Arts, multiple amateur performing arts groups, plus two annual summer performance events (The Highlands Summer Festival and Highlands Opera Studio), a new arts centre is a logical next step in the evolution of cultural offerings of our growing community. Add to that, with a population growth rate larger than the provincial average, a

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new arts centre would be a driver for the local economy and increase tourism year-round in the entire region.

Sincerely,

Dave Burton, Mayor
for the Council of the Municipality of Highlands East

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