



Working together with our community

## Deputation

<b>Name</b>	Paul Hammond
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<b>Meeting Type</b>	Council-in-Committee
<b>Agenda Item</b>	Charting a Future for Lynnwood Arts
<b>Meeting Date</b>	2026-01-13
<b>Meeting attendance</b>	In-person
<b>Materials or a presentation</b>	Yes

<b>Purpose of Deputation</b>
<p>On January 6, 2021, the Lynnwood Arts Board entered into a five-year lease agreement to re-establish Lynnwood Arts at its historical location. Since its reopening in 2022, Lynnwood Arts has grown into a vibrant cultural hub in Norfolk County. We have implemented responsible financial management, secured consistent corporate sponsorship and grant funding, and established successful community partnerships, including the Indigenous Arts program with the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board, the Creative Expressions program with the Alzheimer's Society, and the Norfolk Studio Tour. With increasing attendance, 7,500 visitors annually, and numerous exhibitions, Lynnwood Arts exemplifies a strong partnership between Norfolk County and a non-profit organization. However, the county has identified significant capital improvements to be completed by 2027, totalling approximately \$1.26 million. This poses a significant financial challenge for Lynnwood, given our responsibility for 60% of these costs. We are skeptical regarding our ability to raise these funds by 2027 in today's competitive fundraising environment. In addition, discussions regarding the extension of our current lease have made it clear that the current assistance provided by Norfolk County to Lynnwood (Utilities - \$9,100, Maintenance - \$37,400, Operating Grant - \$30,000, declining by \$10,000 annually) will expire by December 31, 2028, greatly increasing our annual operating expenses.</p> <p>Given the challenges we face with immediate capital fundraising needs and pending increases in operating expenses, the Lynnwood Arts Board has been exploring two options to ensure the long-term viability of Lynnwood Arts Center. Fundamentally, we</p>



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believe that a thriving Arts center provides great value to the community and to tourism and serves as a component of Simcoe's downtown revitalization. We are seeking support and input from Norfolk County Council on each option to ensure we have all the required information to make an informed decision.

Option 1 – Relocation of Lynnwood Arts Center to the Eva Brook Donly Building

Option 2 – Lynnwood Arts Purchasing 21 Lynnwood Avenue and Self-Managing