

Crystal Saunders

From: Ryan Boyko [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2026 10:19 PM
To: NC Clerks
Cc: director@lynnwoodarts.ca
Subject: Lynnwood Arts Centre concerns.

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Dear Norfolk County Councillors,

I am writing regarding the future of Lynnwood Arts and its current home at 21 Lynnwood Avenue, a designated National Historic Site.

I will be direct. Council's past decisions have not strengthened downtown Simcoe. We are already dealing with vacancy, visible disorder, poor property and garbage management, deteriorating buildings and sidewalks, and a clear decline in the condition of the downtown core. So called "Social programs" have been allowed to operate in ways that concentrate disorder and strain the area further. Those outcomes did not happen by accident. They are the result of choices.

Against that backdrop, the idea of removing a functioning arts organization from a heritage building that is well suited to its purpose is difficult to justify.

Lynnwood Arts is part of what still works. It brings activity, community engagement, and cultural value into a downtown that needs more of it, not less. Removing it risks further hollowing out the core and sends the wrong message about priorities and stewardship.

What is the plan for this building if Lynnwood leaves? And what confidence should the public have, given the current state of downtown, that the outcome will be better?

Once a property like this is lost to a different use or falls into decline, it is not easily recovered. Council has an obligation to protect assets like this, not create more uncertainty around them.

I strongly urge you to work with the Lynnwood Arts board to find a viable path forward that keeps them in place. This should not be treated as a disposal problem. It is a stewardship decision, and it will be remembered as such.

Downtown Simcoe cannot afford another misstep.

Sincerely,

Ryan Boyko

Taxpayer, Norfolk County

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