

**CITY OF LONDON**  
**CREATIVE CITIES TASK FORCE**  
**NOTES FROM MEETING 04 - PUBLIC MEETING**

Meeting held on November 22, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. – Aeolian Hall

**PRESENT:**

**Task Force Members:** Controller G. Hume (Chair), Councillor C. Miller, J. Adams, C. Bryan, J. Glaser, P. Hoffer, C. Kehoe, G. Kerhoulas, J. Nicholson, M. Sinclair, M. Williamson, R. Wood and L. Zajac.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillors J. Bachler and S. White, T. Johnson, R. Armistead, S. Keeping, L. Banach (Secretary).

**REGRETS:** J. Kennedy

Welcome  
and  
introductions

1. Welcoming remarks from the task force Chair. Controller Hume thanked everyone for agreeing to participate. He reminded everyone that task force meetings are open to the media and to the public.

Presenters

2. That, the Creative Cities Task Force received the following submissions at the Public Participation Meeting held on November 22, 2004;

- (a) Kathy Navackas, London Fringe Theatre Festival, that their organization is recognized nationally and internationally but received very little recognition from the City of London and that there seems to be a very low value put on the arts and culture in London; London needs to develop an arts and culture policy;
- (b) Stephen Harding spoke on the life of the Aeolian Hall and as to how in the past world class performs came to London and also with respect to the Western Fair and of how the Transportation Museum will be opening in three weeks time at the Western Fair Grounds;
- (c) Ryan Fraser, Secrets of Radar Museum, stated that the young are moving out of London to seek arts and cultural support and that what London needs is to assist these groups with services for resources and that there is a need for more functions such as the “Open Doors”;
- (d) Sarah Merritt, Old East Village Improvement Area, spoke of the re-establishing the vitalization and support and development of the arts, cultural and recreation in the City of London, support is needed for the growth in these areas;
- (e) Arelen Kennedy, Landmark London Committee, commented on the heritage of London and how heritage makes us what we are today and the importance of London’s museums being able to exchange art and cultural interest with other countries therefore there is a need to preserve and protect these areas in London;
- (f) Sheila Johnson, Fanshawe Pioneer Village, stated that London must preserve areas such as the pioneer village as presentations presented there give a history of London which provides an understanding as to how this city has evolved leaving a powerful feeling of being;
- (g) Wendi Waters, LaLa Land Studios, spoke on how in 2003 she opened a “creative studio” and to the financial difficulties both personal and professional and the need for more support of the up-and-coming artists, one suggestion made was to make better use of vacant store fronts to assist such people; please, support the arts;
- (h) George Goodlet, London Advisory Committee on Heritage, stated that Council should review the policy on heritage property and encourage retention of such buildings rather than destruction;
- (i) Greg Thompson, Old East Village Community Association, commented on the every increasing demands on money yet London does not seem to value the artist but that he does realize there are no quick fixes; one suggestion was for the City to review the Vagrancy By-law and possibly encourage street vendors and busters;

- (j) Maryse Leith, London Community Players – Palace Theatre, spoke on the need of support and that the LCP is the oldest running in London; it is a theatre open to young children and provides space to young theatre groups at a minimal cost. M. Leith addressed the concern of the public and the fear of attending due to either personal or property harm and she also addressed the need for lower cost media coverage;
- (k) Milyn Hall, 211 Halls Mill Road Committee, spoke of the historic value of London and the need to support the creative people in this city;
- (j) Janet Froot, Children’s Museum, offered comments regarding the Children’s Museum and as to how it was the first children’s museum in Canada and has been a part of this community for 30 years and even today over 50% of the visitors are not from London. Comments were also made on the importance of children and grown-ups to be able to celebrate the arts and culture in today’s society and the City should be encourage to invest in these areas;
- (k) Oliver Hobson, Eldon House, spoke on the need to protect this city’s heritage properties and that council needs to exercise more control in the saving of such properties;
- (l) Judy Potter, commented on the needs of programs such as the THAW program and the need for affordable housing; artist are suffering and the need for their support;
- (m) Wanda Grendys, spoke on the need for creativity in London and that the city should possibly look at cultural programs of Toronto and other large cities;
- (n) Darlene Pratt, London Potters Guild, commented on how the city did support the London Potters Guild (LPG) and on the growth of their membership and importance to the community and on how the LPG would like to see the city continue to support not only this group but also other organizations;
- (o) Sean Hurley, stated that London has a large group of creative people but that by building up the suburbs life is being take out of the downtown area;
- (p) Ben Benedict expressed his strong passion for the arts and indicated that the media needs to feature London artists;
- (q) Christine Wall, Forest City Gallery, commenting on the concern of the lack of commitment by the city to the arts and culture; wants to live in a city that supports and believes in its citizens;
- (r) Steve Wallace spoke on the concern that people won’t take a risk on the unknown and the need to send London artists out to be recognized and also on how the John Labatt Centre has brought in shows that once passed our City; mention was made of a program in Toronto that provides funding for artists;
- (s) Thomas Cermak commented that London needs to become a creative, vibrate, multicultural city and the need for artist to be able to network; and
- (t) Ian Gifford, Board of Directors for Jack Richardson Music Awards and the Home County Folk Show, spoke on the need and use of volunteers to further enhance arts and culture in London; give musicians the acknowledgement and respect they deserve.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.