



City of Dawson

Arts and Culture Policy

#2021-04

1.00 POLICY STATEMENT

1.01 The City of Dawson is dedicated to enhancing Arts and Culture as an integral part of our community. The City of Dawson's goal is for a vibrant, dynamic arts and cultural community as identified in the municipal Sustainability Plan and Official Community Plan. The City of Dawson recognizes that arts and culture is an essential part of the community's growth and overall good health. The City of Dawson supports and encourages arts and culture through policy development, advocacy, education and financial support. The goal is to help individuals; groups and organizations realize their full creative, social and economic potential to the greater benefit of all citizens.

2.00 PURPOSE

2.01 The Arts and Culture Policy provides a clear framework within which the City of Dawson will define and take action on its commitment to support arts and culture in the city.

3.00 DEFINITIONS

- (a) "Arts" shall include design arts, visual and performing arts, music, literary arts, electronic arts, communications and media, crafts, festivals and events.
- (b) "city" means the City of Dawson;
- (c) "council" means the Council of the City of Dawson.
- (d) "Culture" shall include arts, built and natural heritage, the history of the area, ethno-cultural identity and expression, language and literacy, urban design, artistic expression and creativity in all sectors of the economy and the community.

The City of Dawson also recognizes that The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) defines culture as:

- 1. *The practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills—as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces associated therewith—that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their heritage.*

- II. *This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.*

- III. *Culture comprises the whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterize a society or social group, and includes not only arts and letters, but also modes of life, fundamental rights of human beings, value systems, traditions and beliefs.*

4.00 VISION

4.01 The city's vision for Arts and Culture includes:

- (a) The City of Dawson as a vital arts and cultural centre, a source of pride for the residents and a recognized arts and culture destination.

- (b) Opportunities and access to arts and culture as the right of every person.

- (c) Recognition of the value, creativity and imagination as necessary to a vibrant, developing community; supporting the development of human imagination through arts, culture and education.

- (d) Arts and cultural festivals and events throughout the year to enrich and enhance our downtown, neighborhoods, parks, public spaces and places of work and as a valuable economic engine for our community.

- (e) Our evolving identity as a sense of place, heritage, innovation, diversity and inclusiveness, celebrated and explored through the arts.

- (f) Long-term investment and collaborative planning that sustain the city's cultural health and the strength of its vital cultural organizations; where support for our arts community promotes the City of Dawson as a significant arts destination sustaining artists and cultural institutions into the future.

5.00 PRINCIPLES

5.01 The following principles are adopted by the city and shall be considered in the development of any arts and culture program or project.

(a) Importance of Arts and Culture

- I. Arts and Culture will be recognized, nurtured, encouraged and promoted as an integral part of life in Dawson.
- II. Arts and Culture is a fundamental core component of community identity, and contributes strongly to community quality of life.
- III. Arts and Culture is important as it encompasses many elements, including arts, built and natural heritage, the history of the community, ethno-cultural expression, language and literacy, urban design, artistic expression, and creativity in all sectors of the economy and the community.
- IV. Dawson's unique cultural assets and identity strengthen the community as a cultural tourism destination, supporting and enhancing other attractive features of the City.
- V. Dawson's arts and cultural activity, organizations, resources and products are key elements for educating residents and visitors.

(b) Sustainability and Growth of Arts and Culture

- I. A vibrant arts and culture sector helps to attract and retain creative, entrepreneurial, skilled, committed and enthusiastic businesses, workforce, and volunteers.
- II. An environment supportive of creativity is a catalyst for innovation and imagination, inspiring renewal, growth, prosperity and vitality.
- III. The arts and culture community is comprised of a diverse group of artists, artisans, organizations, arts and cultural workers and volunteers who are involved in the creation, production, presentation and distribution of arts and culture. Whether professional, semi-professional or non-professional, all are important and valued.
- IV. As an advocate and steward of arts and culture in Dawson, the City will strive to create an environment in which the arts and cultural community can be sustained and nurtured through economic investment and cultural renewal.
- V. Cultural identity is important to providing a framework for sustainability. A community that embraces and protects its sense of identity is able to respond to the evolving dynamics and needs of its citizens both young and old.
- VI. Growth of a vibrant arts and culture community requires strategic partnerships with private and public investors, and alliances between the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors.

(c) Municipal Support

- I. The City of Dawson is committed to investing in Arts and Culture and endorses the following:
 - i. Support of artistic and cultural activities may be represented by financial or other resources.
 - ii. By virtue of funding or other support, including advocacy efforts with other groups, the City lends groups, artists and not-for-profit organizations credibility and accountability. This recognition raises the status of artists, projects and organizations in the eyes of potential supporters, funding groups, levels of government and the private sector.
 - iii. Recognition through financial and other resources encourages capacity building of events, activities and programs within the community.
 - iv. Public spaces can often be enhanced by the presence of public art.
 - v. It is important to provide cultural organizations with support and assistance, in a pro-active manner, for promotion; when appropriate, use of public land; advertising; and marketing of cultural opportunities, activities and happenings in Dawson for residents and visitors.
 - vi. Council, by resolution, may appoint a writer laureate for the community for a term not to exceed two years.

POLICY TITLE: *Arts & Culture Policy*
POLICY #: 2021-04
EFFECTIVE DATE: September 21, 2021
ADOPTED BY COUNCIL ON: September 21, 2021
RESOLUTION #: **C21-20-22**

Original signed by:

Wayne Potoroka, Mayor
Presiding Officer

Cory Bellmore, CAO
Chief Administrative Officer