PRIORITY 6

IMPROVE PUBLIC SPACES, CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESS TO SPACES

Artists in MOC are seeking spaces to showcase their work. Some existing spaces remain underutilized. By partnering with cultural and private organizations, MOC can expand accessible venues for artists of all disciplines and stages, strengthening its cultural community. Additionally, by focussing on public space revitalization, MOC can boost social cohesion and connections. Public art and placemaking bring many benefits: it enriches community life, boosts tourism, and can foster reconciliation by honoring local heritage and local First Nations history in meaningful collaborative ways.

GOAL

Optimize and transform public spaces and cultural infrastructure to better support arts and culture, creating a more impactful, vibrant and inclusive cultural environment.

OBJECTIVE 6.1
Integrate cultural mapping resource data into broader community development and infrastructure projects looking at both opportunities and gaps for future planning.

MOC Role

- Incorporate arts & culture into planning processes

ACTIONS

PHASE 2

1. Develop an online searchable database that maps where arts & culture resources are located within the Municipality for public use.

PHASE 3

2. Continue with cultural mapping data collection to identify gaps and concentrations in community cultural resources.

OBJECTIVE 6.2
Work with local partners to make better use of existing spaces for community cultural and arts activities, ensuring accessible[3] venues for diverse programming and engagement.

MOC Role:

- Support and connect community partners.
- Leverage funding opportunities.

ACTIONS

PHASE 2

3. Identify under-used, adaptable spaces and potential cultural venues in the Municipality (e.g., schools, libraries, churches, businesses).

- Facilitate conversations between arts & culture community and underutilized venues. Identify what the potential spaces are appropriate for.
- Research and share potential funding sources to upgrade spaces to be more suitable for arts & culture events.

[3] For the municipal definition of accessible, refer to Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan (2021). For the purposes of this Arts and Culture Strategy accessibility is defined as venues (both private and public) being available and affordable for the usage of the Arts and Culture Sector within the municipality.

OBJECTIVE 6.3
Create vibrant, inclusive public spaces in MOC for community well-being, gathering and to strengthen community identity and connections.

MOC Role:

- Public space planning.
- Research support methods and plan for public art projects.

ACTIONS

PHASE 3

4. Review upcoming MOC-led infrastructure and planning projects where public spaces and public art can be incorporated. Research other municipalities and provide recommendations on how public art can be supported in these projects.

5. Develop a strategy for outdoor public spaces that prioritizes the creation of welcoming and vibrant places. Plans would include consideration of core placemaking elements including public art, active programming, and both temporary and permanent infrastructure and installations to attract people to linger. These spaces would serve as locations for community and industry organizations to hold events and both formal and ad-hoc arts & culture programming.

6. Develop recommendations for policies and incentives aimed at developers for incorporating public art into future private/commercial developments in MOC as a community amenity (ie community amenity contribution/percentage towards public art or cash contributions).

OBJECTIVE 6.4
Develop a plan through collaboration to preserve and manage heritage and archives while following national and provincial standards and trends ensuring an EDI lens is applied.

MOC Role:

- Collaborate and support local heritage/historical societies and First Nation Communities
- Research funding opportunities pertaining to preservation and management.
- Continued community engagement.

ACTIONS

PHASE 3

8. Collaborate with MOC Heritage/Historical Societies, local First Nations, and other key community partners to plan for the future of heritage and archives in MOC.

a) Support these efforts through a needs assessment, funding opportunities, and capacity-building initiatives, long-term planning and preservation.

b) Promote the integration of best practices into heritage planning including: prioritizing Indigenous voices, community-led narratives, acknowledging colonial histories, repatriation.

c) Share federal and provincial funding options (ie Digital Museums Canada grants) and research various models for heritage preservation from other Jurisdictions.