PRIORITY 5

BUILD COMMUNITY BY STRENGTHENING ARTS & CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

MOC can assess community needs and engage community partners to address gaps in current cultural offerings, ensuring a more inclusive and diverse range of opportunities for all residents. It is well documented that a vibrant arts sector is linked to increased livability, community identity and social wellbeing. Research ties the benefits of arts and cultural participation to a sense of pride and community ownership.

As identified in community consultations, engaging local youth is also critical. By partnering with schools and securing funding for arts programming, MOC can nurture young talent and ensure the arts remain a key part of MOC's future.

Reimagining artist-in-residency programs is an opportunity with local partners to bring new artists to MOC, inspire creativity, offer workshops for residents, and boost tourism. New initiatives developed with the Arts & Culture Sector focusing on community and youth engagement, cultural events for newcomers, and cross-cultural collaborations, will ensure greater accessibility and inclusion. These targeted actions will establish MOC as a cultural hub that benefits residents, attracts visitors, and strengthens its role in Nova Scotia's arts scene.

By connecting diverse communities and artists, enhanced programming can bring people together, and create a vibrant, inclusive cultural landscape.

GOAL

To improve and expand local arts programming to meet community and artist needs, encourage participation and to build community connections across a diversity of groups.

OBJECTIVE 5.1
Collaborate with sector partners to reimagine and expand artist-in-residency programs in MOC, emphasizing benefits for artists, communities, tourism and the cultural industry.

MOC Role:

- Support and collaboration with the Arts & Culture Sector

ACTIONS

PHASE 1

1. In collaboration with community partners and the Municipal Arts Organization, facilitate evaluation of current artist-in-residency programs.

2. Explore new opportunities (ie funding) and share information.

3. Identify municipally owned spaces where artists-in-residence could operate from.

OBJECTIVE 5.2
Increase youth engagement in arts and culture by encouraging and supporting partnerships and funding opportunities with Artist in the Schools programs, local artists and local schools and groups.

MOC Role

- Support for artists to undertake Arts in the Schools role
- Identify additional funding opportunities
- Information and communication support

ACTIONS

PHASE 2

2. Review how the Municipality could facilitate conversations with schools/teachers, arts & culture organizations and artists around art programming. Aid in identifying and removing barriers.

OBJECTIVE 5.3
Broaden arts and culture programming to explore diverse genres, encourage experimentation, and introduce new cultural experiences that promote community and youth engagement, understanding and brings communities and newcomers together.

MOC Role

- Support and collaborate with community partners
- Funding support
- Identify additional funding opportunities

ACTIONS

PHASE 3

3. Conduct an assessment of current cultural programming within MOC. Assess community needs/wants to identify any gaps in programming.

a) Invite the Arts & Culture sector to propose programming or events to fill these gaps.
b) Collaborating with successful proponents to develop and implement programming.
c) Review incentives/funding for programs.