

SNAPSHOT: Cultural Planning Policies, plans, legislation and committees

Creative City Network of Canada – Intermunicipal Comparative Framework Project

Municipalities create a range of different instruments to guide and support the cultural development of their community, ranging from legislation, policies, chapters in general community plans, and specific cultural plans and strategies (as well as programs and other initiatives, examined later in this report). Some of these documents are general in nature, encompassing a range of possible activities within articulated strategic directions, while others are very precise instruments that enable particular actions. In addition many municipal documents have a multidimensional nature and serve as both policy and plan.

TABLE 1

Legislation, policies, and plans by subject area

Subject	Legislation			Policy			Cultural Plan/ Strategy		
	Yes	In proc.	Total	Yes	In proc.	Total	Yes	In proc.	Total
Culture (arts and heritage)	14	2	16	17	2	19	18	4	22
Arts	12	2	14	12	5	17	9	4	13
Heritage	30	1	31	23	4	27	16	7	23
Public Art	15	4	19	16	9	25	7	10	17
Civic Art Collection	11	4	15	14	8	22	4	6	10
Community Arts	5	3	8	5	5	10	3	2	5
Festivals & Special Events	9	6	15	17	6	23	5	3	8
Civic Awards	12	0	12	12	0	12	4	1	5
Cultural Facilities Development	3	5	8	5	2	7	8	7	15
Cultural Facilities Support/Use	8	4	12	10	5	15	6	7	13
Cultural Tourism	3	2	5	3	3	6	4	1	5
Heritage Tourism	1	2	3	4	2	6	6	0	6
Heritage Registry and/or Designation	24	4	28	20	3	23	15	4	19
Archaeology	7	1	8	7	2	9	2	4	6
Cultural Industries	7	1	8	8	1	9	3	0	3
Other *	6	1	7	1	0	1	4	1	5

31 municipalities responded to the *Cultural Planning* section of the survey.

Data years reflected in this report: 2003–2005

* Other responses:
Legislation: Public libraries (3), Provincial Act for Heritage Properties, Public Art Trust Fund, Twinning, Volunteering, Affiliation, Council Standing Committee for heritage
Policy: Community cultural development
Cultural plan/strategy: Community cultural development, General Grants Policy, Investment, Youth in the Arts

Overall, all 34 respondents indicated they had legislation, policies, and/or cultural plans/strategies in one of these subject areas.

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Legislation, policies, and plans

All responding municipalities report having policy and legislation related to culture (see Table 1). The breadth of the responses indicates that cultural policy and legislation are developed by all sizes of municipalities.

Other plans or strategies

Twenty-three respondents reported they have already developed plans or strategies focused on culture (arts and heritage), or have them in development. Thirty-seven heritage-related plans are complete, with an additional eleven in process. Only nine plans are focused on the arts alone.

Ten municipalities are working on a public art plan or strategy, more than doubling the number of such plans already in place.

Chapter in Official Community Plan

Based on responses to date, municipal legislation is reported in documents as far back as 1965, but cultural topics only began appearing in an official Community Plan or its equivalent after 1990.

In the survey a total of 32 respondents report an Official Community Plan, City Plan, or equivalent that explicitly includes reference to culture, arts, heritage, or archaeology (see Table 2). Heritage is identified in an Official Community Plan in 21 of these municipalities (68%) and culture (arts and heritage) in 19 (61%). The arts, the more recent focus, appear in an Official Community Plan or its equivalent in 13 municipalities (42%). Policies for archaeology appear in six (19%). Although policies for cultural industries (generally the film industry) are reported in various municipalities, there is no indication that this topic is incorporated yet into any Official Community Plan.

TABLE 2

Official Community Plans including specific goals and objectives for cultural development

Subject	In Community Plan	In process	Total
Heritage	21	3	24
Culture (arts and heritage)	19	4	23
Arts	13	2	15
Archaeology	6	4	10
Public Art	2	1	3
Cultural Industries	0	0	0
Other *	4	4	8

* Other responses: Community development, strategic plan

Overall, 32 respondents indicated their municipality's Official Community Plan already included, or had in process, specific goals and objectives for cultural development.

Council-appointed committees, commissions, boards, and advisory groups

Local government often has a Council-appointed committee, commission, board, or advisory group mandated to address cultural issues, generally or specifically, on behalf of the municipality (see Table 3). If there is more than one body in a particular area, respondents were asked to list all of them. If Council members are included in some committees but not in others in the same topic area, respondents could add these to the end of the list.

DEFINITIONS

Culture:

Includes the performing, visual, literary, and media arts; library, archives, and heritage resources; and socio-cultural activities as practiced and preserved in a community. These practices are multicultural and reflect the beliefs, experiences, and creative aspirations of a people in a specific geographic and political area.

Legislation or by-laws (at the municipal level):

Resolutions describing intent, approved by a majority vote of Council.

Policy:

A consolidated statement of vision, purpose, goals, and objectives for the description and development of activity, production, services, and related resources. It may include details of scope and roles, with attendant analysis and recommended actions and implementation strategies.

TABLE 3

Council-appointed committees, commissions, boards, and advisory groups mandated to address cultural issues on behalf of the municipality

Area of Mandate	Yes	In proc.	Total	Council members?	
Heritage	33		33	21	64%
Libraries	29		29	21	72%
Recreation, Parks, & Culture	20		20	11	55%
Arts	19	3	22	13	59%
Public Art	16	2	18	7	39%
Festivals/Special events	12	2	14	6	43%
Cultural affairs/arts and heritage (combined)	9	3	12	7	58%
Community Development (including culture)	12		12	6	50%
Civic-owned Facilities	12	1	13	5	38%
Cultural Tourism	8	1	9	7	78%
Civic Art Collection	6	2	8	3	38%
Cultural Industries (e.g., Film Commission)	3	1	4	0	0%
Other *	16		15	5	33%

Note: In most cases, the "Other" response indicated a second committee in one of the above areas (most commonly Heritage) in which only some of the committees (not all) included Council members.

All respondents indicated they had Council-appointed committees, commissions, boards, and/or advisory groups mandated to address cultural issues on behalf of the municipality.

Intermunicipal or regional shared-cost programs

Regional governments may be involved in policies and programs for culture.

The programs are usually based on a cost-sharing arrangement with the regional municipalities. Contributions to multi-municipality or shared cost regional services are reported in a limited number of cases.

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Arm's-length agencies

In a limited number of municipalities, a **non-profit organization or agency**, often facility-specific, may be mandated by Council to manage all or some of the arts or heritage issues in the municipality (see Table 4). More frequently, there is a key community organization or agency (not mandated by Council) that may be formally or informally contracted by the municipality to provide a perspective on cultural issues, or to assist with particular programs. These **umbrella organizations**, representing a broad array of interests and citizen involvement, can be key to planning and implementation of broad cultural initiatives in a community.

TABLE 4
Arm's-length agencies and non-profit organizations

Area of Mandate	Organizations/agencies mandated by Council			Key orgns/agencies not mandated
	Yes	In process	Total	
Arts	8	0	8	22
Heritage	12	0	12	15
Other *	10	1	11	5

Other responses: Six of the seven non-profit organizations or agencies mandated by Council are facility-specific. The other area was "cultural tourism and industries."

Overall, 14 respondents indicated an arm's-length agency or non-profit organization was mandated by Council, and 23 indicated a key organization or agency not mandated by Council.

Snapshot: Public Art has been updated from the Creative City Network of Canada's *Intermunicipal Comparative Framework Project (Phase One Pilot)* to incorporate additional responses that followed the pilot group of respondents.

The full Phase One Pilot Report is available at www.creativecity.ca/framework

Respondents: Banff, AB; Brantford, ON; Camrose, AB; City of Kitchener, ON; City of Windsor, ON; County of Oxford, ON; District of Saanich, BC; Edmonton, BC; Fredericton, NB; Grand Prairie, AB; Halifax Regional Municipality, NS; Hamilton, ON; Highlands, BC; Kelowna, BC; Kingston, ON; Mississauga, ON; Moncton, NB; Nanaimo, BC; New Westminster, BC; North Vancouver (City & District), BC; Ottawa, ON; Port Coquitlam, BC; Port Hope, ON; Port Moody, BC; Portage la Prairie, MB; Prince George, BC; Red Deer, AB; Regina, SK; Richmond, BC; Saskatoon, SK; Sooke, BC; St. Catharines, ON; St. John's, NL; Strathcona County, AB; Toronto, ON; Township of Esquimalt, BC; Vancouver, BC; West Vancouver, BC.

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