CONVERSATION STARTER: ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

BACKGROUND
Kamloops is home to a vibrant cultural landscape that is anchored by strong, dynamic professional organizations. The Kamloops Art Gallery, Western Canada Theatre, Kamloops Symphony and Museum & Archives are cornerstone contributors and the community is further supported through the leadership of the Kamloops Arts Council and countless smaller organizations that contribute to the quality of life in Kamloops.

The meeting of the North and South Thompson Rivers has defined the area’s historical identity and its heritage is enriched with the shared living of the Secwepemc First Nations people.

CURRENT TRENDS
- Aging population seeking to enhance well-being
- Strong cultural and historic relationship between the City of Kamloops and the Tk’emlúps Indian band
- A diverse multi-cultural community
- Increased reliance on and access to technology
- Younger generations rely on the internet for entertainment
- Computer-based media expanding the way society interacts with art
- Stronger reliance on government funding for programs
- Emergence of the film industry sector
- Increased desire for municipal public engagement
- Increased access to City services online
- Cultural mapping through Cultural Strategic Plan (2003)
- Community and local government working collaboratively to plan for new cultural infrastructure

WHAT DOES KAMPLAN 2004 SAY?
- Ensure all citizens have adequate opportunities for personal growth in their leisure
- Protect, preserve and enhance the environment for the enjoyment and enrichment of the community
- Ensure art, cultural, athletic, and other recreation services are accessible to all citizens
- Identify demographic and leisure trends and ensure needs are met with leadership, facilities, and programs
- Develop/maintain an aesthetically pleasing environment
- Support the development of a strong community image
- Preserve, enhance and promote the community’s cultural heritage

WHAT DOES THE SUSTAINABLE KAMLOOPS PLAN SAY?
- Ensure residents of all ages, income levels, and abilities have access to quality recreation facilities and opportunities
- Continue to enhance Kamloops’ reputation as the ‘Tournament Capital of Canada’ and develop the Tournament Capital Program and related facilities
- Encourage on-going recreation through all stages of life
- Provide adequate facilities and programming to serve the needs of the City’s evolving population
- Develop a Parks Master Plan and Trails and Pedestrian Master Plans
- Continue to operate the Kamloops Museum, Sagebrush Theatre, Kamloops Courthouse, and other vital arts and culture spaces
- Maintain the historical buildings registry
- Work with the Tk’emlúps Indian Band to promote First Nations culture in Kamloops
CURRENT CHALLENGES

• Aging population and declining birth rate
• Kamloops’ strong persona of “Tournament Capital of Canada” needs to broaden focus to include event hosting to achieve a greater balance of social and cultural aspects
• High cost of maintaining heritage sites and infrastructure
• Continuing to create inclusive and innovative programming
• Aging infrastructure (buildings and facilities)
• Competition for fund development
• Heritage considerations and planning need to focus on everything that defines our sense of place, not just architecture
• Lack of programming space for arts/culture organizations
• Ensuring cultural opportunities remain affordable
• Rising costs of professional production of cultural experiences

OPPORTUNITIES

• Our warm climate, centralized location, and strong hosting amenities
• Creating an all-encompassing Performing Arts Center
• Reviewing and updating the Cultural Strategic Plan
• Promoting local culture and heritage through community engagement and involvement
• Collaborating with Tk’emlúps Te Secwépemc to mutually promote heritage
• Increasing participation in cultural activities with programming and promoting diversity and inclusive values
• Supporting collaboration between arts groups
• Continuing to develop festivals, events and programs that build on our unique qualities, heritage, and culture

Did you know?

1,100 students visited the Kamloops Museum in 2013

KAMPLAN (2004) SUCCESS STORIES

• Growth in the number of provincial, national and international visitors
• Encouraging development of a Performing Arts facility
• Opened BC’s first Children’s Museum
• Continually adding to the Kamloops Heritage Register
• Encouraging local musicians though “Music in the Park”
• Increasing space for arts and culture with the Old Courthouse Cultural Centre
• Developed Heritage Walking Tour of the downtown area with Kamloops Museum and Archives
• Participated in Communities in Bloom
• Developed and maintained public amenities
• Enhanced focus on collaboration between arts groups through the Cultural Strategic Plan
• Recognition of local arts through annual Gala for the Arts
• Implementation of the ARCH (Affordable Recreation for Community Health) program
• More City services available online
• Development of innovative and inclusive programs
• Promoting local artists through the Kamloops Art Walk
• Promoting heritage of Kamloops and Tk’emlúps people through celebration of Kamloops Bicentennial 2012
• Installation of public art with community partnerships

What would you like to see in the updated KAMPLAN?