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November 25, 2013

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco
Ward 4, Concord/Thornhill North
905-832-8585 ext. 8198
cindy.furfaro@vaughan.ca

Dear Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco,

I am delighted to be writing in relation to the concept of a Vaughan Arts, Design and Cultural Campus. Development of arts and creative space is critical to city-building and to advancing the quality of life in our society and communities. The prospective campus, although in an early and conceptual stage, presents an exciting opportunity rooted in this hard fact: the visual and performing arts and design, along with education, provide an enriching community foundation.

OCAD University has an international reputation and is one of the largest art and design post-secondary institutions in North America. We have a long and proud history in educating, training and engaging artists, designers and creative thinkers. We have explored some initial ideas about possible engagement for OCAD University in an Art, Design and Cultural Campus in Vaughan. Our involvement in such a campus could take many forms, from assisting in its formulation and programing through our Strategic Foresight Lab and through various engagements with our talented faculty and students. We could help to explore ways in which the university may have a role in activating space within the centre, through offering Continuing Studies opportunities, exhibitions, thought-provoking lectures or even delivery of credit curriculum. We also see possibilities in extending our Imagination Catalyst start-up incubation activities to your region. We already have a student base, as well as staff and faculty who hail from Vaughan and would like to expand our reach in Vaughan.

OCAD University has been fortunate to have a number of meetings with City of Vaughan officials. We are very impressed by their enthusiasm and vision for such a project and would welcome an opportunity to continue to work with them to assist in the realization of that vision, with or without extensive OCAD University long term presence.

Sincerely Yours,

Dr. Sara Diamond, President and Vice-Chancellor, RCA, Order of Ontario

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Communication
cw: <u>November 13</u>
Item: <u>33</u>