

As the founder of a creative arts academy that offered free art and music programming and summer camps to underprivileged children for five years, I have seen how the arts can energize a community and build confidence in kids and youth who are given opportunity to develop their gifts. I honestly am not well-versed on all the city does to support the arts, but I do know we have a vibrant arts community (I have acted at the Fringe as well as performed at both the Winspear Centre and the Jubilee Auditorium). Perhaps my favourite official EPSB function is the annual "Night of Music" where the musical talents of students from all parts of the city are put on display. I am well-aware and affirm that the arts are significant for the life of our city!

I think the "Percent for Art" concept is a splendid way to remind ourselves that the arts are vital to the vibrancy of any community.