



Ontario Association of Architects

The Honourable Michael Coteau, MPP
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
9th Floor, Hearst Block,
900 Bay Street,
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E1

May 13, 2016

Re: Ontario's Draft Culture Strategy

Dear Minister Coteau,

On behalf of Ontario's Architectural community, the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) supports the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport in its plan to develop a multi-year culture strategy. This could represent an important step in strengthening Ontario's culture sector, and we hope the final strategy will be inclusive and comprehensive of Ontario's vibrant and diverse cultural community.

The Association is entrusted by the Government (via the *Architects Act*) to regulate the practice of architecture "in order that the public interest may be served and protected". We are also mandated by the Government to "promote public appreciation of architecture and the allied arts and sciences". In this vein, the OAA remains concerned over the continued omission of architecture—and design in general—from both the discussion paper (*Telling our stories, growing our economy: Developing a Culture Strategy for Ontario, 2015*) and subsequent draft Culture Strategy (April 2016).

While the OAA was encouraged by the promise of a broad and open consultation process, we are disheartened by the Ministry's disregard for the feedback it received during the consultations. Despite extensive participation from the public, architects, architectural schools, the OAA, and many other design-related organizations, all of whom recommended the implementation of architecture and design related aspects, strategies, and goals in the Culture Strategy, there remains no mention of either in the proposed strategy.

The omission of architecture and design from the strategy will negatively impact Ontarians. Not only will Ontarians lack a complete, comprehensive policy framework from which to grow and promote our vibrant cultural sector but it will be a clear signal to other jurisdictions that Ontario does not value or embrace its rich architectural and design industry or the community and talent behind it. Indeed, some of our leading architects do their best work abroad—often exclusively so—in jurisdictions that welcome and promote

architecture as an important aspect of culture. This is a troubling trend that should be of concern to the Province, and which the Government has an opportunity to rectify through the creation of an inclusive Culture Strategy that recognizes and values the cultural merits and contributions of architecture and design.

Only a week ago, the Premier commented that “creativity and design drive innovation and a thriving knowledge economy.” Ontario’s first Culture Strategy should be seen as an opportunity to reinforce these ideas and aspirations through sound public policy which encourages and supports design. It is alarming then, if not outright contradictory, that a key Government Ministry would then take so little interest in architecture and design. Leaving out such a critical aspect of Ontario’s cultural landscape would be counterproductive to the government’s goals of building a strong economy and vibrant communities, attracting tourists and investment, and contributing to job creation.

The Government can do much to improve its support for architecture and design, starting with the recognition of architecture and design as cultural activities and products in their own right, and as enablers of culture. A wrong must be righted: architecture and design must be recognized prominently in the Culture Strategy. To facilitate this and in response to the Ministry’s call for feedback on the core elements of the strategy, the OAA has attached a number of direct additions to the current draft which would be an important step forward to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive Culture Strategy.

We have also attached nearly 300 comments that have accompanied the more than 850 signatures received in just over a week on a petition addressed to you (<http://chn.ge/225PbeG>), urging the prominent recognition of architecture and design in Ontario’s first Culture Strategy. These signatures reflect Ontario in its entirety, and the petition additionally contains many more from other provinces and abroad.

The OAA hopes the Ministry will incorporate and fully support these recommendations, and will engage with the architectural community prior to the publication of the final Culture Strategy in June. A legitimate Culture Strategy must recognize architecture and the design as a central part of Ontario’s culture.

Sincerely,



Toon Dreessen, Architect
OAA, MRAIC, AIA, LEED AP
President

CC: Premier Kathleen Wynne



Core Elements of Ontario Culture Strategy

Draft for Public Comment

[Ontario Association of Architects additions in RED]

Background and Purpose of this Document

The process of developing Ontario's first Culture Strategy began with the September 2015 release of "Telling Our Stories, Growing Our Economy," a discussion paper to stimulate a conversation about culture in Ontario. In the fall of 2015, we held public town halls and community conversations with smaller groups and met with representatives from Indigenous communities. We also encouraged people to submit ideas online or post them on an interactive discussion forum.

We heard from a wide range of culture sectors, communities and individuals, including artists, educators, youth, seniors, people with disabilities, newcomers, Indigenous communities, Francophone communities and people living in urban, rural and northern communities. We reported back with "Culture Talks: A Summary of What We Heard from Ontarians" and published an environmental scan describing culture in Ontario and other jurisdictions.

We used the input we received through the public consultations to develop the core elements of Ontario's Culture Strategy. Now, we invite your comments and ideas on them. They include a vision statement, guiding principles, and three overarching goals, along with strategies, actions and expected results. This document also includes a brief description of the Arts Policy Framework we will be developing as part of the implementation of the Culture Strategy.

Your comments on this document will be considered as we develop the final Ontario Culture Strategy. When complete, it will contain more context on the importance and impacts of arts and culture and more detail on Ontario's vibrant culture sector.

A Vision for Culture in Ontario

An Ontario where every person has the opportunity for creative expression and cultural participation, and where the diversity of our stories and communities is reflected and valued.

Principles to Guide Government Support for Culture

Creativity and Innovation

Culture exposes us to new ideas, inspires new ways of thinking, and fosters creativity and innovation. Support for culture should help to enrich our lives, animate our communities and build a dynamic business environment in Ontario.

Quality of Life and Economic Development

Culture contributes significantly to both quality of life and economic development in Ontario. Support for culture should maximize the social and economic benefits of culture for individuals and communities.

Diversity and Inclusion

Ontario's rich diversity is one of our greatest strengths. We should all have the opportunity to participate in Ontario's diverse cultural life, regardless of age, background, language, ability or where we live in the province.

Respect for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples

First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures, languages and heritage represent distinct identities, histories and ways of life. Ontario is committed to reconciliation by strengthening and transforming its relationship with Indigenous communities and by implementing changes that reflect their own priorities.

Collaboration and Partnerships

The talents and contributions of many people and organizations make our culture sector strong and vibrant. Support for culture should encourage collaboration and partnerships among them, including provincial ministries and agencies; municipal, provincial/territorial, federal and Indigenous partners; culture and not-for-profit organizations; the private sector and all communities and individuals.

Public Value and Accountability

Government investment in culture should be guided by what Ontarians value and by what makes a positive difference in the lives of individuals and communities. The Ministry, its agencies and the organizations we fund are accountable for achieving the best possible outcomes within available resources.

GOAL 1: Strengthen Culture in Communities

Focus on strengthening community-based arts, culture and heritage

Strategies and Actions

Help build strong community-based culture organizations

- Work with government partners and culture stakeholders to maximize the use of public libraries and other culture facilities as community hubs, and explore opportunities to integrate arts and culture activities and spaces into schools and other community hubs.
- Review and update provincial funding programs for public libraries to build the capacity of libraries serving rural and remote communities, improve digital services, and support leadership and innovation.
- Work with First Nation public libraries to better understand their unique needs and identify how we can respond through improved supports.
- Review and update provincial funding programs for community museums and heritage organizations to build capacity, strengthen leadership, and support more diverse organizations.
- Collaborate on the continued implementation of the Ontario Volunteer Action Plan, and promote the Partnership Grant Program, which helps build the capacity of the not-for-profit sector, including culture organizations.
- Collaborate with cultural and community stakeholders, architects, landscape architects, developers, and the building industry to increase opportunities for purpose-built cultural spaces across Ontario that maximize the impact of these groups, reflect the community's identity, and recognize the role of architecture as an enabler of cultural activities.

Conserve and promote Ontario's diverse cultural heritage

- Develop additional tools to help communities identify and protect their cultural heritage, including guidance on cultural heritage landscapes, cultural planning and the interests of Indigenous communities in conserving cultural heritage to support municipalities in implementing the Provincial Policy Statement (2014).
- Work with Indigenous partners, archaeologists, museums and other stakeholders to develop a framework to improve conservation of archaeological artifacts so that current and future generations can learn about and understand our past.
- Review the “Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists” to reflect the evolving practice of archaeology in the land use and development contexts, including the engagement of Indigenous communities and the care of artifacts.
- **Develop stronger, more inclusive programs and tools that promote and highlight the full scope of Ontario's architectural landscape, from heritage structures to contemporary buildings that showcase design excellence and Ontario's unique sense of place.**

Connect people and communities by sharing and celebrating our diverse heritage and cultures

- Provide online access to information about Ontario's cultural heritage, including designated heritage properties and provincial heritage properties.
- Bring together culture and tourism agencies and attractions and Indigenous partners to increase public awareness and understanding of Indigenous histories and contributions to arts and culture in Ontario.
- Collaborate with sport and recreation partners to strengthen opportunities to integrate cultural engagement into community recreation and sport, and encourage cultural celebration as a part of multi-sport games held in Ontario.
- **Create opportunities for Ontarians to engage and understand their built heritage, working together with provincial and local partners to foster public awareness and understanding of architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design, and their significance.**

Goal 1 Expected Results

- Funding more targeted to support a greater diversity of organizations and key priorities (e.g. digital services)
- More recognition and use of public libraries and other cultural facilities as community hubs
- Greater understanding of cultural heritage conservation and more tools to assist in conserving Ontario's unique cultural heritage
- Greater involvement of Indigenous communities in cultural heritage conservation
- More awareness of Indigenous contributions to arts and culture in Ontario
- Greater understanding and appreciation of our built cultural heritage, and understanding of how it is shaped.
- More awareness of the value of contemporary and heritage architecture as part of our cultural heritage – understanding that architecture of any era is part of our cultural identity.

GOAL 2: Fuel the Creative Economy

Focus on maximizing the contributions of culture and creativity to a strong and competitive knowledge economy

Strategies and Actions

Make Ontario a culture leader at home and internationally

- With the permanent Ontario Music Fund as its foundation, further develop the Ontario Live Music Strategy to set a vision and directions to continue to build Ontario as a leading North American centre for production and performance.
- Encourage, promote and implement architecture and design competitions for public projects, fostering innovation, debate and research within the design and architecture industry, and offering opportunities to new and young practices.

- Continue to work with Ontario’s growing interactive digital media companies to build a globally competitive industry that can innovate and succeed in the next generation of interactive digital media products, including video games, mobile content and transmedia storytelling.
- Establish a public/private film and television industry advisory panel to examine priority issues facing the industry and collaborate on strategies to promote the growth, innovation and global expansion of Ontario’s film and television sector.
- Help ensure Ontario's competitiveness as a top production jurisdiction by modernizing provincial supports to the screen-based industries.
- Seek opportunities to grow the culture sector within the framework of the Business Growth Initiative by working with partner ministries to foster innovation and help scale up companies in the **design**, arts and cultural industries:
 - Explore the development of entrepreneurship and commercialization programs designed for the **design**, arts and cultural industries.
 - Explore the development of risk capital programs designed with an entertainment **and design** focus and reflecting the rapid product development cycle of the **design**, arts and cultural industries.
 - Attract investment that increases Ontario’s productivity, creativity and global competitiveness in the culture sector.
 - Accelerate the creation and adoption of new disruptive technologies¹ to strengthen the culture sector’s role in the knowledge economy.
- Work collaboratively with the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure and other ministries across government to inform the development of a long-term infrastructure plan for Ontario.
- Collaborate with government partners and the tourism industry to identify opportunities to grow cultural tourism in Ontario, including Francophone tourism, Indigenous-led tourism, and **architectural tourism**, and offer authentic and compelling visitor experiences.
- Continue to engage with the federal government on issues impacting Ontario’s Entertainment and Creative Cluster to help ensure the health of the province’s broadcasting and production industries.

- Modernize provincial supports and grants to increase inclusive programs that recognize the cultural value of innovation in the design fields, including architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, graphic design, and industrial design.
- Work collaboratively with the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure and other ministries across government to develop policies and procurement procedures that recognize the cultural value of architecture, and ensure the highest levels of design and quality that can contribute to the development of future built heritage.

Build the talent and skills of Ontario's cultural workforce

- Develop a better understanding of the impact of the digital transformation on culture and, as a first step, work with partners to organize a digital culture symposium to bring together stakeholders from all culture sectors to share experiences and expertise, build capacity to address digital challenges and take advantage of new opportunities.
- Increase awareness and uptake of the Canada-Ontario Job Grant among employers in the culture sector to assist them in developing their workforces through employer-led digital skills and other training.
- Help ensure that Ontario's cultural workforce is positioned to succeed in the knowledge economy by fostering experiential learning opportunities and creating opportunities to enhance business skills training for the people who work in the arts and culture sector.
- Explore ways that provincial and federal immigration programs can contribute to the growth and success of Ontario's culture sector and eliminate barriers to the successful integration of cultural workers.
- Engage federal, provincial and territorial culture partners on strategies to improve the socio-economic status of artists and to improve support for cultural infrastructure.
- Provide support to the next generation of Ontario's cultural workforce by developing financial aid, tax credits, and grant opportunities for students that reflect the higher costs of design education and the resources required to

support the unique pedagogy of design schools, making design education accessible to a wider range of Ontarians.

Goal 2 Expected Results

- More effective government tools to help Ontario's cultural industries compete in a digital world
- More opportunities for government/industry collaboration to drive cultural industry productivity, innovation and exports
- Better coordination across government to integrate the cultural industries into Ontario's broader economic agenda
- More Ontarians equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to contribute to the creative economy

GOAL 3: Promote Cultural Engagement and Inclusion

Focus on removing barriers and increasing opportunities for cultural participation

Strategies and Actions

Inspire the next generation and help youth build careers in the culture sector

- Continue to identify opportunities for collaboration and partnerships between the culture and education sectors to increase opportunities for participation in arts and culture and learning through the arts.
- Continue to support Ontario's culture agencies, attractions and organizations in offering exciting opportunities for children and youth to engage with arts and culture.
- Build new community partnerships through Student Success to support high school students who are interested in further learning or exploring careers in arts and culture.
- Promote youth engagement in the heritage sector by continuing to support programs offered by culture agencies and provincial heritage organizations and by identifying new ways to engage youth in the sector.
- Review the K-12 curriculum in Ontario to ensure design thinking is introduced throughout the curriculum so that every child has the opportunity to engage the world through the lens of design.

Reduce barriers and allow for greater participation in culture

- Bring together cultural granting partners to share best practices and increase access and inclusion throughout the grant application and assessment process for Indigenous communities, Francophone communities, ethno-cultural communities, people with disabilities and others who may face barriers to accessing culture funding.
- **Encourage and implement architectural competitions for the commission of public buildings and structures, bringing visibility to the design process, promoting public debate and interest in design and architecture, and creating opportunities early on in the process for stakeholder and community participation and engagement.**
- Continue to support culture agencies, organizations and other partners to remove barriers for people with disabilities and people who are Deaf² to increase opportunities for participation in arts and culture.
- Identify ways to increase opportunities for Ontario's seniors to engage with arts and culture in their communities.

Strengthen our relationship with Indigenous communities and work toward reconciliation

- In collaboration with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, establish a forum for ongoing dialogue to address shared culture priorities, such as preservation of Indigenous cultural heritage and languages.
- Help facilitate cross-cultural understanding between First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities and museums and other culture organizations to create stronger relationships and partnerships.

Goal 3 Expected Results

- Fewer barriers to accessing culture funding
- More opportunities for Ontarians of all ages and abilities to engage with arts and culture
- More information and supports to help youth pursue careers in the culture sector
- Stronger relationships with Indigenous communities to address culture priorities

GOAL 4: Cultural Diversity

Recognize, embrace and support the full breadth of cultural practices in Ontario.

Strategies and Actions

Create an inclusive cultural landscape

- Recognize and support the full breadth of activities that contribute to Ontario's cultural identity by expanding the areas supported by the government or reviewing the existing definitions of each area to include other cultural practices.
- Recognize design as a significant cultural industry in Ontario, encompassing architecture, industrial design, graphic design, interior design, and landscape architecture, and provide programs which promote these fields and support innovation.

Goal 4 Expected Results

- More public awareness of full breadth of cultural practices in Ontario.

Arts Policy Framework

Developing an Arts Policy Framework will be part of the implementation of the Ontario Culture Strategy. The Framework will build on the *Status of Ontario's Artists Act*, which recognizes the invaluable contributions artists make to Ontario's economy, quality of life and sense of identity.

Jurisdictions around the world have recognized the arts, not only for their intrinsic value, but also for their contribution to achieving broader policy goals, like improving health and wellness, supporting better academic outcomes for children and youth, and decreasing isolation for seniors and others in the community.

The Framework will help increase awareness within government of the size, scope and diversity of Ontario's arts sector, and of the many opportunities available to creatively integrate the arts into other policy and program areas. In turn, this will create new opportunities for artists and arts organizations to engage with other sectors. The Framework will also encourage and support government ministries and agencies to consider the needs of artists and arts organizations when they develop or review programs.

The Arts Policy Framework will provide a toolkit of information: key facts about Ontario's art sector, key sector organizations and associations, best practices and case studies for successfully integrating the arts into policy development and program delivery, information on monitoring use and measuring outcomes and links to additional resources.

[Comments on the Petition at time of submission]

The issue's an important one!

Michael Hannay, London, Canada

Our built heritage helps define who we are and where we live as City and by extension province. Our architecture and design tells a unique and important cultural story of our past accomplishments, the context of our present ideas and the ambitions of our future.

Matthew Green, Hamilton, Canada

Architecture Matters

Sarah Gelbard, Ottawa, Canada

As one visits other countries we get to understand their various past and present cultures. Promoting good Architecture should be a key integral element in Ontario's Strategy. I want the Ontarians of the future to view our generation (us) through our buildings, our cities, etc.

Jerry Glos, Windsor, Canada

architecture should most definitely be part of a Culture Strategy!

Luigi Marcan, Saint Catharines, Canada

Why oh why would Ontario ignore design and architecture in its Culture Strategy when such a vibrant community supporting both exists in Ontario. Culture is not only enhanced by the spaces it is celebrated in, but is expressed through the place itself, even when it's (apparently) not even being recognized. Let's make the role of architecture and design obvious, by acknowledging and supporting them in the Culture Strategy!

Craig White, Toronto, ON

I'm a concerned architecture student.

Alexander Preiss, Waterloo, Canada

As per the letter from OAA the Government of Ontario consultations failed to make mention of architecture and, generally, design. I hereby request the Government and Hon. Michael Coteau, Minister, Tourism Culture and Sport that architecture and design is an integral part of Ontario's culture, and must be prominently integrated into Ontario's Culture Strategy.

Chintan Virani, Windsor, Canada

It should have been done ages ago.

José Castel-Branco, Toronto, Canada

Design and Architecture enrich the lives of both those who live in the communities and those who visit!

Kelley Hrovat, Kingsville, Canada

Architecture matters in shaping a society and therefore is integral part of culture.

Ivan Pinto, Markham, Canada

#architecturematters

Cassandra Kotva, Orangeville, Canada

Culture needs expression, architecture is the best expression of culture, providing a reason for people to come and visit.

Hannah Hyder, Toronto, ON

I am an intern

Marie Thanh-Truc Nguyen, Toronto, Canada

We need architecture as part of our realm

Domenic Esposito, Toronto, Canada

I think this is an important issue.

Cleo Buster, Montreal, Canada

Architecture is important.

Melissa Shea, Toronto, Canada

Architecture matters

Daniel Boulanger, Ottawa, Canada

Because architecture is EXTREMELY CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT!

Cassandra Murphy, London, Canada

Architecture has EVERYTHING to do with culture.

Jennifer Beggs, Cambridge, Canada

This is important

Mu De Chen, Markham, Canada

Architecture: A window to the past and a light for the future.

Phil Roberts, Montreal, Canada

I'm an Architect and I believe in the value that design and architecture bring to our culture

Kristy Almond, Toronto, Canada

Architecture and design are part of our culture and need to be recognized as such in Ontario's Culture strategy.

Mike Olivier, toronto, ON

Architecture enforces culture.

Shaun Gignac, Amherstburg, Canada

This is the right thing to do !

Architecture tells volumes about the community's culture !

Stuart Miller, Windsor, Canada

As an Architect I believe design and Architecture has a very meaningful impact on future Cultural Strategy and short sighted for the government to willfully dismiss an important driver of culture the Architect and Architecture!

John Bortolotti, Windsor, Canada

Buildings give us great joy. I was born in Ontario and visit often.

Norma Sharp, Gimli, Canada

I can't believe you are not considering architecture and design as a cultural necessity in our society.

Endri Poletti, London, Canada

Architecture matters, and we do it.

Joseph Passa, Windsor, Canada

Architecture is culture and important

Neil McDonald, Oakville, Canada

I believe architecture is not integrated enough in Ontario's cultural fabric

Allaa Mokdad, Windsor, Canada

The built environment influences the way we live every day of our lives. It plays a major role in our culture and needs to be recognized as such.

Brandon Markham, Windsor, Canada

Architecture is incredibly important to human culture.

Deshpal Malhotra, London, Canada

I believe architecture is a fundamental component of design and the creative community and needs to be recognized as such in the upcoming government document.

John Hrovat, Cottam, Canada

I'm signing because it's time we stopped complaining and started demanding better buildings.

Sheena Sharp, Toronto, Canada

Architecture matters! It is the art of our community our culture and physical identity. It expresses our values and gives form to the Ontario we love and the Ontario we aspire to be.

Chris McQuillan, Toronto, Canada

Architecture is integral to our culture and history! A monumental map of where we've been and where we're going!

Michelle LaHaise, Oakville, Canada

Architecture Matters

Paul Backewich, Toronto, Canada

Architecture and design impacts everyone.

Nedra Brown, Toronto, Canada

What we do connects us - it impacts people's lives and the quality of life around us.

Cathy Capes, Toronto, Canada

I believe its time we look at the building of the past and present and preserve our history. This defines our culture.

Lesley Sheldrick, Burlington, Canada

So many terminal patients have lived because of this brave doctor's care. Why stop something that actually has good results?

Elaine O'Reilly, Espanola, Canada

The excellence of Architecture defines our villages, towns and cities, and the quality of life that is possible in the environment that is manmade. Without good architecture, both old and new, there is no place for culture to reside, and no physical inspiration other than the natural world. If architecture is embraced as culture, and without architects embracing culture, there is little future for the people of our province. Architecture remains, when other cultural events have ended.

Jill Taylor, Toronto, Canada

There needs to be a longer term architecture strategy in Ontario

Michael Otchie, Liverpool, United Kingdom

I'm signing because I believe that design and art IS NATURALLY part of culture and to not even acknowledge it makes me afraid that we have degraded into a culture with no beauty or spirit.

Anna Wilson, Toronto, Canada

Architecture was through Millenias

the most Important Part of Culture

in every Civilization. It is unbelievable to exclude Architecture from any discussion regarding Culture

Andrzej Krendler, Toronto, Canada

lack of architectural understanding

Carrie Hunter, Toronto, Canada

Architecture is a key component of our culture. It's central to how we live in the physical world and affects our experiences on all levels.

Elie Newman, Toronto, Canada

Strongly believe architecture & design are facets of a culture that make it possible to bridge between unique cultures.

George Wang, Markham, Canada

We (the North) need this, right about Now! j

john anthon di sabatino, Mississauga, Canada

I agree with it 100%

Ranju Bansal, Markham, Canada

Architecture Matters!!

Steven Hewis, Burlington, Canada

I am signing because the design and beauty of Toronto matter to me. I have already seen how careless the Ontario/Toronto government has been allowing poor quality builders construct condos in our beautiful city. I am extremely concerned with the future outlook of our urban landscape. Part of it starts with saving our historical buildings that reminds us of our roots.

Parul Bansal, Markham, Canada

The exclusion of the field and practice of architecture is an astonishing omission from any policy that claims to support broader culture in the province of Ontario.

It is astounding to learn that those responsible for defining policy goals for the future advocacy and development of culture - in the home of the one of the most dynamic urban development areas on the continent - cannot perceive the need to encourage and promote the appreciation of one of the primary professions striving for a sustainable, healthy and meaningful built environment.

Mark Wronski, Toronto, Canada

I do practice design of buildings in Ontario and frankly, well...

Lisa Harmey, Kitchener, Canada

Architecture is culture... having to fill out a petition that makes this claim seems a bit ridiculous, but that's why it is necessary!

Andrea Hunniford, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada

I'm signing because I'm an architecture student and hopefully future architect who cares about the preservation of Ontario culture which 100% includes architecture. Innovative designs are worth preserving for future generations to enjoy and for future architecture students to analyze and learn from.

Regina Arcia, London, Canada

I believe architecture plays a major role in our cultural history and to dismiss it as merely a subset of real estate is insulting to the architects to whom we owe a debt of gratitude and respect.

Pauline Rockwood, Halifax, NS

I believe architecture is a very meaningful part of Ontario and should be a part of the culture strategy

Tyler Gerrard, Barrie, Canada

Architecture is an expression of Culture

David Fujiwara, Toronto, Canada

I agree with the letter from Ontario Association of Architects regarding that architecture is important.

Stephen Januskiewicz, Sarnia, Canada

As editor of Canadian Architect (Canada's national architecture magazine since 1955) I can say with great confidence that architecture and design has been - and is - a valuable part of Ontario's culture. Buildings and landscapes not only house some of the province's best known cultural institutes, but are landmarks in themselves that Ontarians identify with the cultural aspirations of their cities and province.

Elsa Lam, Montreal, Canada

Architecture should be part of the culture strategy.

Alison Hannay, London, Canada

Architecture matters and I am sick and tired of eye sores popping everywhere in our cities and poor design brought forward by many developers

Maire Gonzalez, London, Canada

I care about architecture and design in our society..

Bill Kahansky, Toronto, Canada

Natalya telenchenko

Natalya Telenchenko, Richmond Hill, Canada

I'm signing because I believe architecture is the framework for everyday life, especially culture.

Heather Button, Toronto, Canada

It is unfair not to include Architecture is Culture.

Naeem Oureshi, London, Canada

Kids deserve to have these things so why take it away from them, they deserve to have things too

Nina Richer, Sudbury, Canada

I'm disgusted, this is more than criminal.

David Rich, Toronto, Canada

Architecture and design is integral to our culture and community.

Michelle Gibson, Thunder Bay, Canada

Architecture matters!

Lorna Lang, Ottawa, Canada

I'm signing because we have lost too many of our historical buildings. Architecture and design are part of our daily life which makes it more interesting.

Carolyn Larden, Toronto, Canada

Architecture is certainly of cultural importance. I'm embarrassed we need to petition in the hope that this will be recognized.

Sam Vaughan, Toronto, Canada

Architecture defines culture and culture defines architecture.

Boian Dabov, Toronto, Canada

Architecture matters beyond the ROI of real estate

Nancy COHEN, Toronto, Canada

Architecture is an integral part of any culture

kay klein, North Liberty, IA

Because architecture matters!

Ryan Stitt, Barrie, Canada

Architecture is an important part of our cultural heritage, and should be supported by government policy!

Hans Riecko, Toronto, Canada

The first draft is a good start, but the most significant and culturally beneficial use of our schools, libraries, parks, monuments and all other cultural spaces will depend on an engaged architecture and design community! Please keep us involved!

N A, Barrie, Canada

Correct this oversight now!

Julie Lang, Lisle, Canada

The built environment and appreciation of design reflects the values and culture of the day - how can it not be part of our culture that is worth acknowledging.

Les Pomeroy, London, Canada

I'm a designer and lover of architecture and feel they should be part of our Cultural Strategy.

Stacey Hill, Flesherton, Canada

Architects and Architecture are a prominent part of our Culture. Culture is who we are. Our Heritage and our vision for the Future can be seen through Architecture. Architecture visually reflects the culture of our Times. It is disrespectful and short sighted not to have Architects in The Ontario Cultural Strategy Documents.

David Mills, Oshawa, Canada

Architecture should be at the forefront, driving the cultural strategy. It should not be left out of the conversation entirely.

julie bogdanowicz, toronto, Canada

Architecture is Culture in every way. We live and work in buildings and houses that have a definite impact on ourselves and together our community. It's the framework for culture in our communities.

Peter Higgins, Toronto, Canada

Architecture Matters

Heidi Hanson, Toronto, Canada

Architecture Matters

Sandra Burnell, Acton, Canada

Architecture has been recognized as an art form since the time of the ancient Greeks, and it is appalling that Ontario would make no reference to it in its draft cultural policy.

Robert Sirman, Toronto, Canada

Architecture matters

Denis Gregoire, Sault Ste. Marie, Canada

Architecture is the expression of society's collective culture and self image.

Walter Kuch, Gorham, Canada

Architecture and Art, the Man Built Environment, Urban Design and the advancement of man's endeavours in our province are intrinsic to Ontario's culture!

Marcelo Graca, Toronto, Canada

Because architecture matters.

Toby Rayman, Toronto, Canada

Architecture is key to our urban fabric and culture

Chris Voit, Toronto, Canada

Architecture must be considered and included

Dennis Bryan, Oshawa, Canada

Buildings are art we live in. Architecture Matters.

Will Prange, Ottawa, Canada

Architectural is a visual manifestation of what we value and where we are in time.

Donald Ardiel, London, Canada

Architecture is a valuable cultural piece.

Ailan McKenzie, Bewdley, Canada

I'm an architect and teacher

Duncan Harvie, Toronto, Canada

#architecturematters for all of us as professionals, as parents, as citizens

blair davies, Mississauga, Canada

This is an important cultural matter for all Canadians

Ricky Taylor, Saint Andrews West, Canada

Architecture is among the arts that affects all of us. Architecture can be made to care about culture, inclusion and environment.

Dave Hollands, Toronto, Canada

I am an architect- I understand the impact of architectural on shaping culture

Philip Hollett, Toronto, Canada

Architecture matters and is part of our shared culture.

James Bushell, Toronto, Canada

I think architecture has a cultural impact not just today but a hundred years from now. Buildings last!

Kathleen Kurtin, Toronto, Canada

Architecture is the most durable expression of culture.

Allen Humphries, Pickering, Canada

I love good architecture

Denis Lefebvre, Toronto, Canada

Architecture is a cornerstone of culture. It builds the material networks throughout which we communicate and live.

Douglas Oliver, Brant, Canada

Architecture matters

Peter Zurawel, Denver, CO

Architecture Matters

Robert Gallant, Toronto, Canada

I am an architect

Stephen King, Toronto, Canada

Architecture Matters

Clayton Payer, Hamilton, Canada

Architecture matters!

Ross Hanham, Burlington, Canada

Architecture Matters!

Harry Christakis, Toronto, Canada

Architecture is Culture and art

John Bradica, Thunder Bay, Canada

Architecture matters, so much!

Mary Ellen Lynch, Toronto, Canada

Architecture matters and is an essential component of culture

Colon Graham, Toronto, Canada

Architecture matters

Anna Richter, Toronto, Canada

Architecture matters!

Michael Lam, Toronto, Canada

I believe that Architecture matters within culture.

David Dodaro, Mississauga, Canada

Architecture defines culture

Nicholas Caragianis, Ottawa, Canada

Architecture matters

Holly Jordan, Toronto, Canada

Architecture needs to be better understood

Frank Vanbetlehem, Burlington, Canada

Architecture Matters

Maureen O'Shaughnessy, Toronto, Canada

Architecture and design impacts everyone, everyday.

Toon Dreessen, Ottawa, Canada

passion & imagination are more important & powerful than knowledge

Arthur Lierman, London, Canada

Architecture matters

Ionescu Carmen, Mississauga, Canada

We all need to live with architecture - let's do what we can to make it good!

Robert Waller, Ottawa, ON

Architecture is definitely and obviously part of culture in Ontario.

Mary-Jean Page, Ayr, Canada

Architecture is a crucial element of culture; both in our Canadian history and more so for our future.

Paul Loreto, London, Ontario, Canada

I am an architecture Student.

Paul McCoy, College Station, TX

Architecture Matters.

Tara McLaughlin, London, Canada

Architecture Matters

Scott Barker, Toronto, Canada

I work in the industry and feel that the spaces and objects we create are an important reflection of who we are and what we believe in. We're also quite talented and severely under acknowledged!

Jake Whillans, Toronto, Canada

Architecture is one of the most important signifiers of culture, the future and the past.

Andrew Hill, Toronto, Canada

I am an architect and firmly believe that the quality of our built landscape is truly indicative of the quality of our culture.... Make it matter please...

Gerry Pilon, Barrie, Canada

I believe architecture and design are significant drivers of the economy and of creativity, in Ontario and Canada

Catherine Osborne, Toronto, ON

Architecture provides the safe and inspiring places where culture can thrive

Victoria Healy, Toronto, Canada

Architecture is a culture

Parisa Amiri, Toronto, Canada

Design Exchange is the only museum in Canada dedicated exclusively to design. We've been fighting for architecture and design to be included within the definition of culture by the Ministry for years. It's about time to bring the issue front and centre.

Shauna Levy, Toronto, Canada

Architecture is unquestionably culture!

John Archondakis, Toronto, Canada

As a practicing architect I know that architecture IS culture ...and creates enduring cultural assets.

Paul Dowsett, Toronto, ON

Architecture and Design should be a necessary element of our culture not a corporate luxury.

Fernanda Hannah, Vancouver, Canada

Architecture matters

Carlos Antunes, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada

It is shocking that architecture has been omitted from a cultural framework. Why do people visit Paris? London? New York? The Taj Mahal? Because of the architecture and the exhilaration of experience of physical space and home for other art forms that it delivers.

Stasia Bogdan, Toronto, ON, Canada, Canada

Architecture matters!

Chiara camposilvan, Toronto, Canada

BECAUSE ARCHITECTURE MATTERS

Jenna Maw, Ottawa, Canada

Architecture matters

Przemyslaw Myszkowski, Burlington, Canada

Architecture is our history and culture. If you don't protect it, you don't value it.

sandra bekhor, Toronto, Canada

Every culture identifies itself through its architecture. It would be shameful if we did not aspire to do the same.

Yvonne Ip, Kitchener, Canada

The omission of reference to architecture in any discussion about culture is like excluding language or music....this omission needs to be corrected.

R Craig Goodman, Toronto, Canada

Architecture and its relationship to our history and Canadian Identity is very important and deserves support, recognition and preservation.

Catherine Eby, Kitchener, Canada

I'm signing because I believe architecture and the allied arts are not just part of our culture but a fundamental cultural influence on our future and build on our past.

Titania Truesdale, Ottawa, Canada

I am signing because it is essential that architecture be included as part of any cultural strategy.

David Robinson, Sudbury, Canada

Architecture is the house of culture

graham bourgeois, Hudson, Canada

Architecture and design are essential to the identity of a culture. To be ignorant of the role that architecture and design makes in cultural identity is a grave mistake that undermines the structure of culture - literally. It is easily proven by the countless travel magazines, brochures, blog posts, news articles, etc, that use architecture and design to exemplify and communicate the identity of different cultures.

Culture is about people and place. Architecture and design are not only invaluable to the creation of place but absolutely essential.

ryan nelson, Vancouver, Canada

Design and architecture contribute as much – if not more – to the culture of a place as other forms of arts and media. In fact nothing addresses many

cultural issues as directly as design can, accessibility and inclusiveness chief among them.

David Agnew, Toronto, Canada

I believe architectural design is an integral part of our culture, and it continually is ignored. Everything that surrounds us is designed, and the group of people that spend most of their time designing our environment should be included in a discussion around culture. One way to test this it to try to imagine a world without architects and designers... there would be very little to imagine.

Jeff Laberge, Sudbury, Canada

I'm an architecture student at UBC and I am constantly confronted with the fact that architecture continues to be under recognized in Canada. This needs to change!

Kristina Strecker, Vancouver, Canada

There is a beautiful church in my neighborhood that is going to be turned into condos. I'm glad it will not be torn down but when this happened to another church down the street the beautiful stained glass windows were removed. I am not religious but I would like to see buildings like this protected because they are part of our heritage and culture.

Christine Murdoch, Toronto, Canada

Le design et l'architecture sont importantes pour moi, la population et le patrimoine.

Lise GAUTHIER, Ottawa, Canada

Architecture is a key cultural activity, and should be recognized as such in the Ontario Culture Strategy.

Michael Leckman, Toronto, Canada

I'm president of my community association and we have a large parcel of land up for development; also I worked at OAA when I graduated from university

Angela Lukach, London, Canada

Me semble évident que l'architecture est un élément important de la dimension culturelle de la société. Oubli/exclusion incompréhensible.

Pierre A. DANIS, Clarence-Rockland, Canada

Our Architectural heritage is culture and important to our community stories.

Carolyn Coakley, Baden, Canada

Architecture is critical to the character of our cities and towns and is an integral part of Ontario's Culture!

Graham McNally, Hamilton, Canada

Architecture Matters, without it you can't talk about culture.

Grace Sengul ersoy, Cambridge, Canada

Architecture is Culture !!! Built Heritage is important in towns and cities across Ontario / Canada and the world.

Brian D.

CET B.Arch

R Brian Dietrich, Kitchener, Canada

I'm an intern interior designer and design must be included with other creative industries. It is insulting that we are not

Shana Anderson, Toronto, Canada

Architecture is culture. Design is culture.

Sam Dal Monte, Toronto, ON, Canada

The buildings of the past and present are a constant reminder of who we are and where we have come from, that defines our culture.

Gord Trimble, Owen Sound, Canada

Design deals with understanding humans, and imagining possibilities. Design and architecture are imperative to crafting the Toronto identity as they go beyond simply what we see, becoming an integral part of all facets of society. Design requires a frame of thinking that embraces ambiguity and imagines what could be possible. When this is achieved, designers have the ability to create products, services, platforms and frameworks that change the world.

Matthew Guida, Vaughan, Canada

Too many historic architectural buildings and/or

low relief sculptures have been destroyed because of lack of acknowledgement. There is no sense of culture to build upon if we don't embrace this art by constantly tearing these structures down. Heart breaking. Recognition is a valuable tool in preserving culture.

Pj Bell, Mississauga, Canada

I'm signing because I believe that design will be crucial to crafting a real Toronto identity. Currently, the best that anyone can muster is the 6ix - taken both from our 416 area code and the 6 boroughs that make up the amalgamated city. Surely we will have to do better than, 'yeah, Scarborough is different from North York and the downtown core', and design/architecture is that answer. We have such a passionate and talented creative industry here, and we would be remiss to ignore these cultural trendsetters and tastemakers by excluding them from the definition of what the government considers culture.

Andrew Kroetsch, Toronto, Canada

I believe that we need to include architecture as culture. It is one of the physical representations of culture and has a long standing effect on community.

Megan Mucignat, Caledon, Canada

Architecture and design is the way we present Ontario to each other and to the world. We need to recognize the importance of both.

Phil Parker, Toronto, Canada

I care about Architecture

Dieter Janssen, Toronto, Canada

Stupid that this is happening.

Allan Walsh, Val Caron, ON

I feel strongly that architecture must be included in Ontario's Cultural Strategy

Margaret Rowell, Baden, Canada

Architecture is culture. Exhibit A: Doors Open Ontario!

Sarena Seifer, Toronto, Canada

The Ontario Cultural Strategy gives scant attention to protecting our built heritage. We need stronger rules to preserve what we have.

Gail Pool, Kitchener, Canada

Our BUILT HISTORY is a VERY IMPORTANT component of our Culture ... and PRESERVATION of our built history is vital to our Culture.

David J Westfall, Saint Agatha, Canada

Architecture, especially historic architecture, embodies many tangible and intangible cultural heritage values. It is our duty to manage, conserve and enhance these values for future generations.

Carly Farmer, Lindsay, Canada

This is an omission that must be corrected. The culture embodied in and transmitted by the designed buildings, spaces, and structures that make up our living environments is one of the most vital and powerful forms of culture. It certainly must be taken into account.

Gillian Barker, London, Canada

Ontario's culture strategy must include architecture -- our built heritage. It must also stress the importance and include measures which enable the conservation of our built heritage.

Kae Elgie, Waterloo, Canada

Architecture and design influence us daily, whether we consciously notice it or not. Architecture Matters!

Eric Sorenson, Toronto, Canada

I am also concerned that our architectural heritage is not considered part of our culture

Phil Elsworthy, Waterloo, Canada

I believe that the city and built environment we live in is a major component and expression of our shared culture here in Ontario.

Let's make sure that our architectural heritage is prominently integrated into Ontario's Culture Strategy.

Ian Fairlie, Toronto, Canada

I live in downtown Toronto and the way I interact with the city and my neighbours is through architecture, design and placemaking.

Kristine Morris, Toronto, Canada

Architecture and Design is an integral part of Ontario's culture and must be prominently integrated into Ontario's Culture Strategy.

Janet Noble, Toronto, Canada

Our cities matter, and the design within our cities matter. Architecture is a long-term and very visible statement of our culture and art, which is incredibly important to the development of society.

Sarah Trimble, Toronto, Canada

Growth. Jobs. Service.

Paddy Harrington, Toronto, Canada

#Architecturematters

alex egberts, Calgary, Canada

I'm signing because I recognize the cultural value created by promoting strong design and architecture.

Michael Putman, Brockville, Canada

Architecture Is Culture

Nicolas MARIER, Montréal, Canada

I strongly believe that any cultural policy must include Architecture at it's core - not relegated to the periphery.

Dino Di Sano, Ottawa, Canada

I am an architect and the design profession in Canada has been mistreated by public clients with little aspiration for our collective built environment. The fees are low, the assumed responsibilities are enormous and the deadlines are incredibly tight. Young people starting out in this profession often quit because their finances and health are put under tremendous pressure. Small firms cannot compete with large corporate offices because the procurement process for public projects often favours low bids and large firms with years of experience in the same building types. Design excellence is never a consideration in the procurement process. The design world is driven to the brink with the sole mission to deliver projects on time and on (tight) budget. If the Canadian built environment is to have any lasting cultural value, there has to be healthy funding for encouraging good design - designs that solve problems, beautify our everyday spaces and establish lasting physical environments that outwardly project our collective values as Canadians. This profession has been neglected for too long. Our schools are dilapidated and run by bureaucrats with no visions. Our housing stock is filled with badly planned, small yet expensive condos. We are in serious need to reshape our priorities in a society where everything is about

the bottom line. Time to support the architectural profession that struggles so hard to make the environment we live in more functional, pleasant and livable. Support design because we all share the same built environment.

[Read more](#)

Jason Hong, Toronto, Canada

Architecture Matters!

Caroline Prochazka, Guelph, Canada

Architecture needs and deserves recognition

Brenda Ryan, Parry Sound, Canada

We need to celebrate and highlight our architecture.

John Thompson, Georgina, Canada

I have a degree in Fine arts, and a very important part of the curriculum was the study of architecture. Without structures representing all eras, a city is dead and lifeless. Please include architecture in Culture Strategy.

Claire McIntosh, Toronto, Canada

I agree wholeheartedly that architecture is part of culture. If you look at the history of art, architecture, painting, sculpture, music and literature all express the essence of who a people are. None can stand alone.

Lawrie Carter, Waterloo, Canada

Architecture is culture. I am utterly amazed to think that architecture could be left out of cultural policy. It is fundamental to the profile, identity, creative profile and quality of life of every person who lives in Ontario. It is a creative industry. It creates the places in which we live, work and play.

Eric Haldenby, Kitchener, Canada

Design if why we visit the many European cities why not in Ontario can we pay homage to the many examples of architecture.

karyn stone, Georgina, Canada

Architecture matters!

Kristi Doyle, Georgina, Canada

Architecture matters ALOT !!!!

Bill Curran, Hamilton, Canada

I agree that architecture in Ontario is important and needs to be recognized

Tina Carfa, Toronto, Canada

Architecture is the most public of the arts. It affects the lives of all people every day. Recognition of the power of architecture as a language is an important cornerstone of the value of culture in our society.

Bill Birdsell, Guelph, Canada

The Ont. Government is not acting in the best interest of its constituents unless it recognizes the cultural value and contribution of architecture and design in this province.

John Gittings, St. Catharines, ON, Canada

Architecture is not just about building houses and edifices but also a major part of life and culture is an important aspect of life.

Magno Nick Faustino, Mississauga, Canada

As an architect, having travelled broadly, architecture is an intrinsic response, reflection and expression of a place, the people of a place, and the culture of a place. I feel it is important to include architecture in Ontario's culture strategy, if it wishes to establish an identity of place. For example - this is the difference between the OnRoute stations (of a place, unique for international tourists and residents) and the Home Depot (absolutely the same everywhere in the world).

Andy Thomson, Aylmer, Canada

It's appalling that the government of Ontario in drafting a "broad strokes" strategy could imagine that architecture is not central to culture!

Philip Toms, Hamilton, Canada

Architecture reflects culture. You cannot have one without the other. A cultural strategy must include a vision and policies for how architecture contributes to culture.

Wilson Jung, Toronto, Canada

Architecture is a part of everyone's world and influences how we as a society, move forward. By not including design and architecture in a Cultural Strategy is doing a huge disservice to the community.

C. Kissel, Pelham, NY

Canada and Ontario would be better places if they recognized that Architecture has a direct and significant influence on society and as an art form, in turn expresses its values and character.

Zoe Khoee Ward, Ottawa, Canada

a society that doesn't value and include design and architecture in the cultural conversation is short sighted and meek minded.

Tomer Diamant, Toronto, Canada

architecture and design informs art.

Steve Quinlan, Bobcaygeon, Canada

Architecture and Design are integral to the ARTS, and are part of our developing Culture in all societies

Fred Vermeulen, Hamilton, Canada

architecture and design are very important parts of the culture of a society and even more important in a rapidly developing place like Ontario

Alex Taranu, Toronto, Canada

Architecture is the most public of cultural expression.

Gary Kembel, Yarker, Canada

I can't imagine that Architecture could be left out of a discussion about Culture!

Rosaline Hill, Ottawa, Canada

As a licensed practitioner with over 30 years experience I have witnessed first hand the importance of architecture to our heritage and culture, the need for better recognition and understanding of architectural and urban design values, benefits and necessities to society and the environment in Ontario and the lessons to be learned from other cultures (historical and contemporary) abroad.

william krohn, Kitchener, Canada

Architecture enriches the entire community

Rob Andrews, Markham, Canada

Architecture is the most evident and tangible demonstration of a peoples' culture both in the processes leading to its creation and in its final, physical manifestation; it is vital to Ontario's Culture Strategy.

Jurij Leshchyshyn, Toronto, Canada

Culture, meaning and architecture intimately connected. The physical presence of our public and private spaces defines us.

Tim James, Sudbury, Canada

I'm signing because I believe that Ontario has some of the most distinctive examples of architecture, both historic and contemporary, found in North America. Our architecture and urban design reflect who we are. They are inseparable from our identity as a province and as a family of regions and municipalities.

Evangelos Kalmantis, Windsor, Canada

Architecture influences our daily cultural experiences more than people consciously recognize - it's important!

Ryan Schwartz, Toronto, Canada

Design is a process, it is the way we think, the way we imagine, the way we learn and apply our thoughts. The best way to integrate our thoughts in our society.

angelo spadola, Ottawa, Canada

follow-up to my email w/ attachments Minister Coteau, Ontario MTCS

William Kachmaryk, Windsor, Canada

I believe Architecture has a positive impact of art, science and technology onto our collective cultural identity, economic health and creative arts.

Patrick Trottier, Brantford, Canada

It's important. It's 2016.

Rebecca Watkinson, Markham, Canada

I am signing because is is a serious overlook not to include the architecture as the most important part of the culture of a country that pretends to be a world leader. Architecture is what shows what is the level of the country's culture.

Constantine Radeff, Toronto, Canada

I'm an architect. I travel the world soaking up culture, especially architecture and urban design. I can't believe the Ontario government refuses to recognize the critical role our built environment plays in celebrating the culture of Ontario.

Brian Watkinson, Markham, Canada

culture without architectural input is incomplete

BARBARA KEMENY, THUNDER BAY, ON, Canada

Architecture is culture.

Michael Sobota, Thunder Bay, ON

Many cultures recognize architecture as an integral representation of their collective identity. In Japan for example, the principles of traditional and contemporary architecture, art and design correlate closely with all aspects of daily Japanese life and culture, driving tourism and greatly influencing business enterprise. Japanese view their art, architecture and design as a representation of their national creativity and unique heritage. Ontario would benefit from recognizing their own culture in a similar way.

Hatton Gordon, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Architecture is an expression of community and people represented in design. This is public art.

Margaret Woods, Thunder Bay, Canada

I'm signing because design and architecture constitute vital forces of cultural production. A Canadian government should surely recognize that these processes, disciplines and discourses are an integral part of progressive social, economic and cultural change.

Roderick Grant, Toronto, Canada

architecture is culture

Martin Riese, Hong KONG, Hong Kong SAR China

As an Architect, a life-long resident of Ontario and a former executive leading the design and construction of provincial buildings, I strongly support this petition to recognize the importance (past, present and future) of architecture in Ontario's Culture Strategy.

Rob Lowry, Toronto, Canada

Architecture matters and has been vastly underrepresented in Canadian cultural policy.

Cameron Ridsdale, Toronto, Canada

I am an interior designer and architecture and design most certainly represent culture more so than anything else!

Shana-Rae Price, Thunder Bay, Canada

Architecture matters.

Afsaneh Asayesh, Toronto, Canada

I was a member of the Board of the Union of International Architects-UIA(affiliated with UNESCO).From 2011 through to 2014, the Council (Board) discussed at length and adopted "ARCHITECTURE IS CULTURE" slogan at a meeting in France in October 2012 and supported by members of all countries present.

Ranjit Dhar, Toronto.Ontario, Canada

Architecture and design is fundamentally and inextricably at the nexus of culture and civilization. The failure to include architecture and design as significant in shaping culture is a gross misunderstanding of the role of design, let alone myopic ambition.

Jonathan Friedman, Toronto, Canada

Design is a direct expression of culture

Stewart Adams, Toronto, Canada

The quality of our Built Environment matters profoundly -to our collective health, productivity, prosperity, social-structure and general quality of life.

Clarice Kramer, Ottawa, Canada

It is said that the cultural level of a nation can be determined by the quality of the graffiti on the walls of its public buildings. Where would culture express itself if there was no architecture.

Tony Jackson, Oakville, Canada

It is very disappointing to say the least, that design in all its forms (architecture, urban design, etc) is not more relevant in the draft of Ontario's cultural strategy document. I hope significant changes are introduced so we can be proud and be a society where we all enjoy the convenience, simplicity and beauty of good design.

Hector Tuminan, Toronto, Canada

Architecture is arguably the most enduring expression of a culture. Not only the one which LASTS the longest, but which for the most part instills the strongest and most enduring impressions of a culture.

A failure to integrate it into Ontario's Culture Strategy would be reprehensible and would be laughable in any other country.

Charles Simon, Eden Mills, Canada

I just want to make an example: when I travel around world, what I would like to see and know from an old city is this city's history, custom, local food, arts, language and buildings. Building is a part of culture, because buildings create physical structure of city. Building material usually comes from local resources, and building design principle is based on local weather. Different place has different building feature, which is reflect local people's thinking and mind.

Betty Chen, Vaughan, Canada

Architecture and great design should matter as a fundamental aspect of culture.

Rick MacEwen, Ottawa, ON

I'm signing because I am disappointed by the ministry fo tourism's lack of consideration of built form as part of Ontario culture.

heman shih, Richmond Hill, Canada

#architecturematters

Architecture is direct reflection of how much a culture values its people: as user groups, inhabitants, citizens and participants. Great architecture creates environments that incubate activities and behaviours our culture proudly promotes.

Barbora Vokac Taylor, Toronto, Canada

I am an architect and heritage consultant. The interest in heritage architecture is increasing, while the number of heritage buildings [listed and designated] are disappearing, especially on the smaller and outlying communities. Architecture is important to people.

Mark Hall, Toronto, Canada

To ignore Architecture and Design as part of culture and an immense area of human accomplishment betrays a great ignorance on the part of those making these determinations. Architecture has been a part of human effort and aspiration for at least 5000 years, it boggles the mind that it can be summarily dismissed.

Margaret Wong, Toronto, Canada

As an Ontario Citizen and a practicing architect it seems fundamental to me that an Ontario Culture Strategy include the most significant public cultural component of the Ontario cultural landscape in terms its economic and social contribution to Ontario Society - Architecture. A policy that doesn't consider architecture as part of Ontario culture is a FAIL in my opinion.

John Stephenson, Thunder Bay, ON

Architecture and design are vital components of Ontario's future and a major contributor to Ontario's economy. Ontario architects are chosen by clients all over the world for their skills and design expertise.

Michael Visser, Toronto, Canada

Architecture is a cultural manifestation. More recognition needs to be given to the art of architecture and the cultural value architecture can provide to ALL

members of our society. Unfortunately, this potential to create beauty and bring inspiration is not being recognized by the Ontario government. Architecture is culture and must be included in Ontario's Cultural Strategy!

Amber Baechler, Toronto, Canada

All I see around me is Architecture.

Chetna Chauhan, Mississauga, Canada

I passionately believe that Architecture and Design are fundamental and integral to any culture.

Graham Hunter, Toronto, Canada

I'm signing because I think it's ludicrous the Ontario Government can't see the connection between architecture and culture.

Idette de Boer, Toronto, Canada

Architecture became the only witness of many cultures, we would not even know about today.

Is Ontario Government trying to make sure nobody remembers our culture in the future?

Joseph Kokot, Stratford, Canada

I believe that architecture, design and architects should be recognized

Louise Lalande, Ottawa, Canada

Architecture matters!

Bryan Beca, Toronto, Canada

Know architecture, Know life.

No architecture, no life.

Anthony Provenzano, Toronto, ON

Architecture is an important and lasting expression of our culture and needs to be included in our culture strategy

Heather Kembel, Yarker, Canada

Architecture Matters!

Jessica Jepp, Guelph, Canada

I believe that importance of architecture as well as urban design is widely ignored in Ontario. Please, sign this petition if you agree that architecture is an important part of Ontario's culture and should be integrated into Ontario's Culture Strategy.

Jana Kelemen, Burlington, Canada

So much of our cultural identity is shaped by where we live, work and play!
Ontario needs to make architecture and design cultural priorities!

Joel L., Toronto, Canada

#ArchitectureMatters

Adam Tracey, Toronto, Canada

Minister Coteau, recognize that #ArchitectureMatters by making architecture and design a prominent part of Ontario's Culture Strategy!

Ontario Association of Architects, Toronto, Canada