



# CULTURAL POLICY

## VISION

Rooted in history and alive with creativity, Hudson is a close-knit lakeside town where culture thrives through connection, cooperation, and community spirit. Its cultural life is recognized for artistic vitality, passionate volunteerism, civic engagement, and a deep connection to land and water.

Cultural life in Hudson is powered by its residents. Volunteers lead a wide range of initiatives—from festivals and performances to heritage projects and arts programming. These efforts are inclusive, accessible, and woven into the fabric of the community, strengthening social bonds and nurturing a shared sense of belonging.

Hudson’s cultural identity is guided by values that inspire action and foster togetherness:

- **Belonging and Engagement:** A community shaped by civic participation, volunteerism, and local pride
- **Well-being and Sustainability:** A place that values care for the land and water, quality of life, health, and responsible management
- **Creativity and Openness:** A place of artistic expression, cultural diversity, and hospitality

Together, these values shape a unique identity—historically grounded, enriched by the community, and open to a shared, creative future.

## THE TOWN’S ROLE IN CULTURE

Over the next ten years, the Town plans to assume a dual role: directly delivering a portion of cultural programming while maintaining its role as a facilitator and collaborator with community stakeholders. This approach is rooted in ongoing dialogue with local partners and aims to support initiatives of shared significance. These are projects of a scope and impact that would be difficult for individual organizations to achieve on their own. In doing so, the Town affirms its commitment to ensuring that culture is accessible to, and connects with, the whole community.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles are rules of action that reflect the core values of cultural life in Hudson. They inform every orientation of the Cultural Policy. Emerging from ideas expressed during public consultations, they ensure actions that are coherent and responsive to local needs.

### **1. Cooperation and Civic Engagement**

Encourage cooperation between citizens, cultural stakeholders, and the municipality through active participation, volunteerism, and meaningful partnerships. This collective effort strengthens cultural vitality and deepens community connection.

### **2. Diversity and Inclusion**

Ensure cultural life is open and accessible by removing barriers—physical, economic, and social. Create a welcoming environment where all generations and identities are valued and can thrive.

### **3. Creativity and Innovation**

Support experimentation and fresh ideas that shape Hudson’s unique cultural identity. Celebrate freedom of expression and the full spectrum of cultural creativity, whether traditional or contemporary, individual or collective.

### **4. Environment and Sustainability**

Align cultural initiatives with the principles of sustainable development, with particular attention to preserving natural heritage. Promote the responsible use of resources and recognize the role of culture in raising awareness of environmental, social, and economic priorities.



## ORIENTATIONS

The orientations below define the Town's priorities for cultural development and establish the strategic framework for the Action Plan.

### **1. Heritage and History: Legacy in Motion**

Hudson places heritage at the heart of its cultural development, with pride and cohesion as key elements of its identity. The Town is committed to protecting and celebrating its history, landmarks, and traditions that continue to shape its sense of place.

Key directions:

- **Celebrate History**

Highlight stories, historical figures, and cultural contributions that reflect Hudson's diverse heritage. Support commemorative initiatives, research, archaeology, and education that deepen community connection.

- **Protect Built Heritage**

Ensure the preservation of Hudson's architectural heritage while encouraging its sustainable contemporary integration into community life.

- **Enhance the Diversity of our Heritage**

Preserve and enhance landscapes, natural heritage, and water ecosystems—lakes, rivers, and wetlands—together with the knowledge, traditions, and cultural expressions that shape the Town's tangible and intangible heritage.



## **2. Strengthen the Cultural Sector: Sustaining a Creative Ecosystem**

Hudson's cultural vitality depends upon the people and organizations that form its creative community. The Town supports this ecosystem through partnerships, infrastructure, and resources, recognizing the essential role of culture in community life.

Key directions:

- **Foster Cooperation and Synergies**

Build partnerships between the Town, artists, cultural groups, and related sectors such as tourism, education, and health, while deepening regional relations. Encourage networking and cooperation across these spheres to maximize resources and reinforce resilience.

- **Provide suitable infrastructures**

Work with partners to offer flexible and well-equipped spaces that respond to the evolving needs of the cultural sector—studios, venues, rehearsal halls, workshops, and storage—making them available to a broad diversity of organizations.

- **Leverage Investments and Resources**

Apply municipal resources efficiently and flexibly to achieve the Town's objectives, while respecting fiscal limits and pursuing additional funding opportunities.



### **3. Town Cultural Offering: Enhance Community Engagement**

The Town plays an active, complementary role alongside the cultural sector, proposing initiatives that meet community needs and engage people of all ages and identities. Through ongoing dialogue and collaboration with local partners, it positions culture as a driver of well-being and belonging.

Key directions:

- **Strengthen shared governance**

Establish mechanisms and strategies for cooperation between the Town, the cultural sector, and other community partners through advisory committees, open dialogue, and co-creation processes.

- **Stimulate participation and creative expression:**

Offer inclusive and accessible opportunities for cultural practice and expression that complement community offerings, tailored to different age groups and specific needs.

- **Celebrate diversity and underrepresented voices:**

Recognize the contributions, past and present, of Indigenous Nations, residents from diverse cultural backgrounds, and other underrepresented groups, encouraging dialogue, inclusion, and meaningful participation.



#### **4. Communications: Increase Visibility and Cultural Outreach**

The Town promotes Hudson's cultural life through shared tools and strategic communications, supporting pride, accessibility, and broader regional recognition.

Key directions:

- **Showcase Hudson's Cultural Identity**

Employ communication strategies to highlight Hudson's cultural assets, strengthen community pride, and affirm the Town's role within the regional cultural landscape.

- **Promote Local Initiative**

Assist artists and cultural groups with their outreach efforts, and encourage cooperative initiatives with local organizations and neighboring municipalities.

- **Create Shared Tools**

Develop user-friendly tools and resources to enhance visibility and facilitate information sharing across the cultural sector.