

MEMBERS' RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (2)

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 2026

**TITLE: YOUTH CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY AND SPORTS
THROUGH ART BANNER COMPETITION**

FROM:

Mayor Steven Del Duca
Councillor Adriano Volpentesta
Councillor Gila Martow

Whereas, the City of Vaughan continues to celebrate sport as a unifying force that promotes community pride, healthy lifestyles and civic engagement;

Whereas, Council recently celebrated the opening of the Treasure Hill Soccer Centre, further strengthening Vaughan's reputation as a destination for high-quality sport and recreation facilities;

Whereas, the City has a long-standing practice of recognizing athletic achievement through ceremonial presentations by Members of Council to local sports teams and athletes;

Whereas, at the December 3, 2024, Committee of the Whole (1) meeting, Vaughan Council endorsed a Members' Resolution from Mayor Del Duca and Councillor Gila Martow to support the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games, which is expected to bring together over 2,000 Jewish teen athletes from across North America, including local Vaughan youth, to compete in Olympic-style events. Beyond athletic achievement, the Games are a celebration of Jewish identity, resilience and community-building at a time when collective connection is of the utmost importance;

Whereas, Canada will host the upcoming FIFA World Cup, representing a significant global sporting event that resonates with Vaughan's residents and thriving soccer community;

Whereas, in February 2026, the Winter Olympics takes place in Italy, hosted jointly by the cities of Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, offering an opportunity to celebrate excellence and perseverance while supporting Team Canada athletes competing for gold;

Whereas, sport plays a vital role in advancing inclusion through the Paralympic Games which highlight accessibility, resilience and achievement for athletes of all abilities;

Whereas, the sports tourism market is an important contributor to Vaughan's local economy and supports broader economic development objectives;

Whereas, the implementation of the community and sports banner art competition has been established in a manner emulating the best practices of Vaughan's annual successful Earth Hour programming;

Whereas, the community and sports banner art competition will support the local business community by providing participating classes with gift cards to Soho Art Supplies, a business which has previously received support from the City's Economic Development's Digital Boost initiative; and

Whereas, engaging youth through creative initiatives such as a sports-themed art campaign encourages civic participation and has proven successful through past initiatives, including Earth Hour programming.

It is therefore recommended:

1. That the City of Vaughan launch a youth art banner competition, subject to rules and eligibility set by City staff informed by the successful Earth Hour program, inviting elementary school classes to design banners celebrating what community and sport means to Vaughan through art;
2. That a public information call for art submissions be issued in Q1 2026 with class submissions due by Q2 2026;
3. That the Economic Development department provide the necessary resources for participating classes to design their banners;
4. That up to fifteen (15) participating banners will be displayed in the Atrium at Vaughan City Hall;
5. That City staff be responsible for reviewing and judging all submissions;
6. That up to five (5) winning submissions be selected;
7. That the selected winners be recognized through a City of Vaughan led event to mark the unveiling of the banners at a future date; and
8. That this Members' Resolution be approved by Council.

Financial and Staff Resource Impact

Existing budget will be used to support this initiative.

Existing staff resources will be used to support this initiative.

Attachments

N/A