



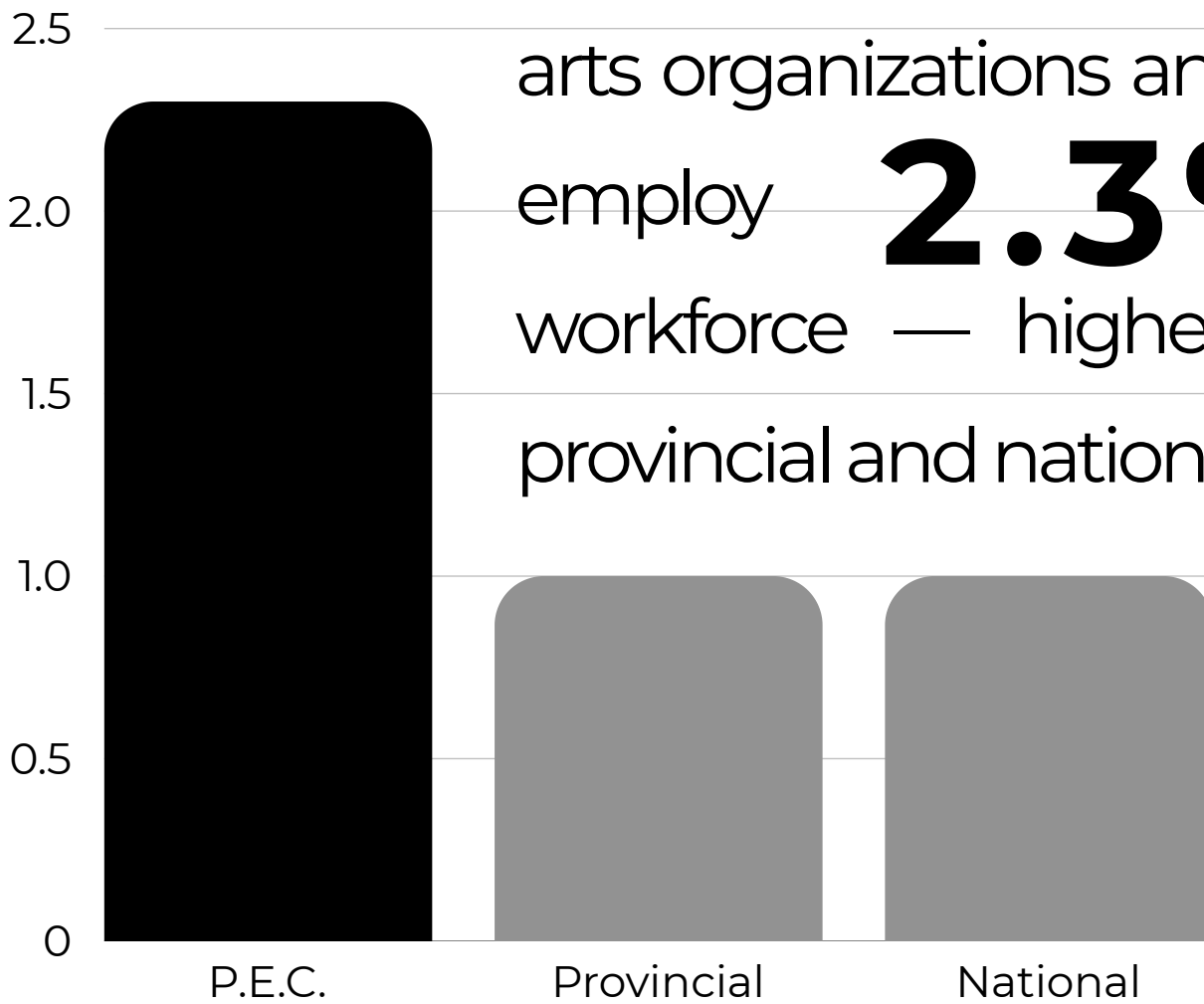
**A THRIVING ARTS
SECTOR BENEFITS
EVERYONE.**



**20 MUNICIPAL
26 ELECTION**



In Prince Edward County, **30+**
arts organizations and businesses
employ **2.3%** of the
workforce — higher than both
provincial and national averages.



**IN OTHER
WORDS...**

130% HIGHER

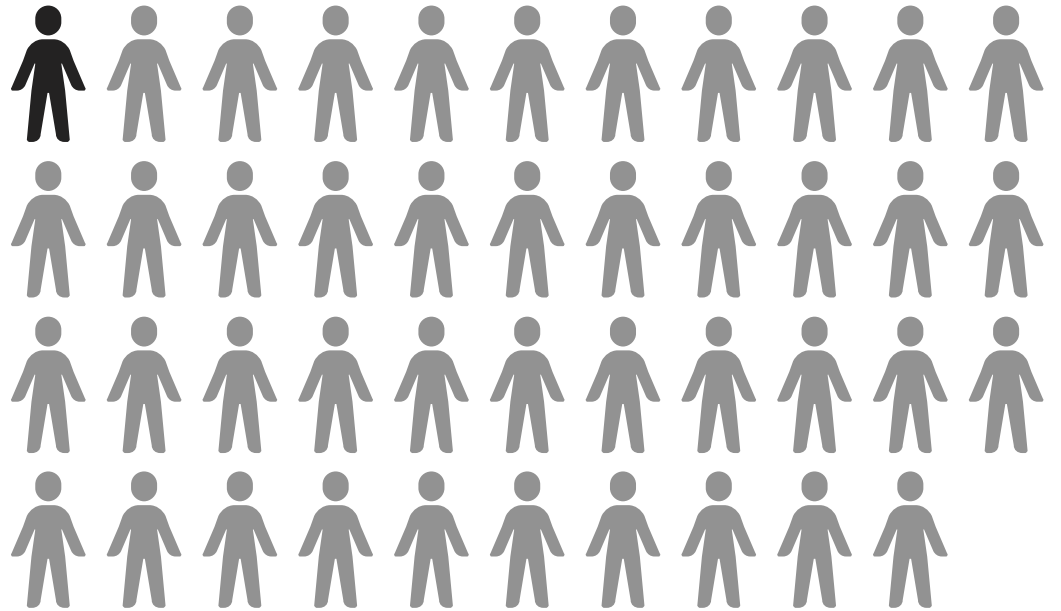
**THAN BOTH THE PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL
AVERAGES OF ARTIST DENSITY POPULATIONS**

With arts and culture outpacing the growth of key industries such as oil and gas, wholesale and retail trade, construction, and manufacturing, helping to boost employment in PEC's arts & culture sector should be a top consideration for Council.

BACKGROUND

1 IN 43

**LABOURERS IN
PRINCE EDWARD
COUNTY ARE
ARTISTS**



BACKGROUND

According to Hill Strategies, **300+** professional artists call the County home. Tied with Stratford and Niagara-on-the-Lake, that is **THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS PER CAPITA IN ONTARIO.**

Leveraging this abundance of creativity and entrepreneurship to attract arts & culture tourists - who stay longer and spend more - is a logical step in maintaining vibrant main streets, preserving cultural heritage, and raising environmental awareness.



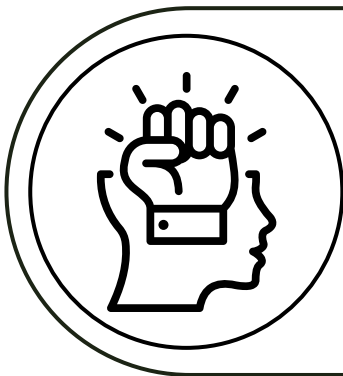
2 IN 3

**CULTURE GOERS SAY THAT CULTURAL EVENTS
POSITIVELY IMPACT THEIR SENSE OF
BELONGING TO CANADA.**

[BUSINESS/ARTS ARTS RESPONSE TRACKING SURVEY]

BACKGROUND

**IT IS WELL DOCUMENTED
THAT THE ARTS FOSTER
COMMUNITY WELL-BEING BY:**



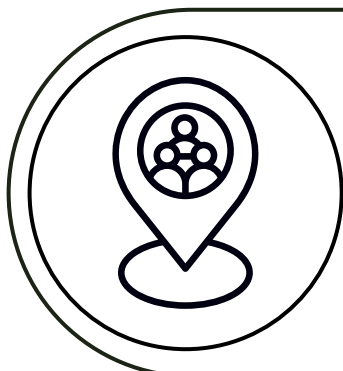
SUPPORTING RESILIENCY

Art-making and visual arts programs lower blood pressure, alleviate pain distraction, and support recovery for people dealing with chronic conditions, mental health challenges, or aging.



REDUCING LONELINESS

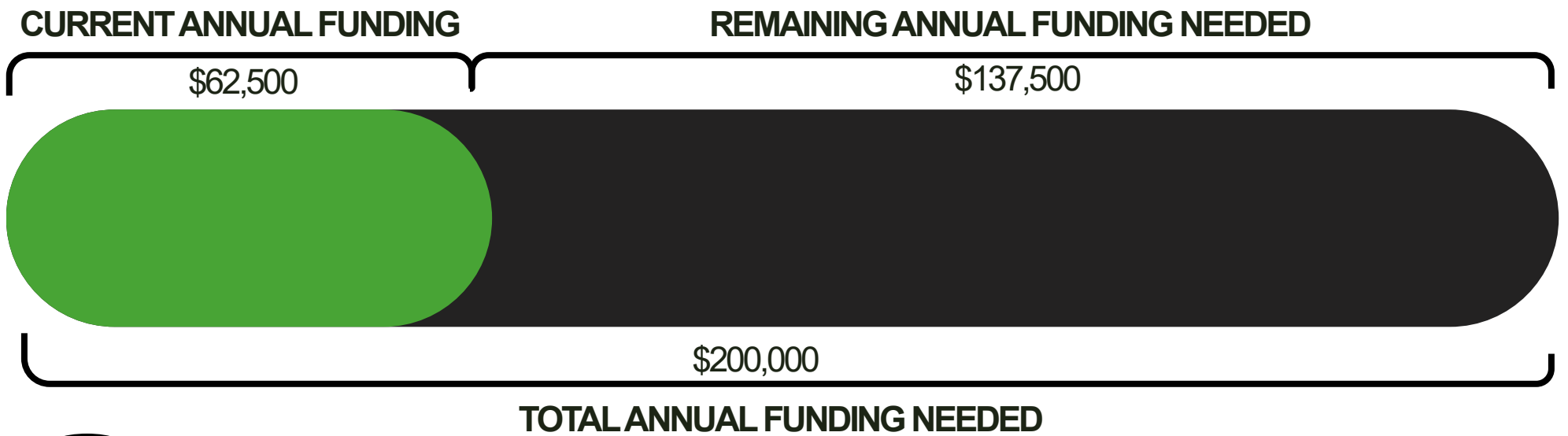
Shared arts programs, choir groups, and public workshops rebuild social connections and combat isolation, particularly among seniors and isolated populations.



STRENGTHENING LOCAL IDENTITY

Murals, public performances, and cultural hubs make neighborhoods vibrant, safe, and welcoming. Active local arts scenes directly elevate community quality of life and pride. ([Ontario Arts Council](#))

CURRENT ARTS SECTOR FUNDING STRUCTURE



BACKGROUND

In late 2024, Council demonstrated its commitment to the arts by dedicating \$50,000 per year from Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) revenues to establish the PEC Arts Fund for 2025 and 2026. Administered in partnership with The County Foundation, the Fund also benefited from a \$25,000 contribution from TCF over a two-year period. While this represents a significant investment in the sector...

LOCAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE IDENTIFIED A NEED FOR APPROXIMATELY \$200,000 IN FUNDING TO SUSTAIN CURRENT PROGRAMMING AND SUPPORT FUTURE GROWTH.

RECOMMENDATION

County Arts recommends that the municipality **triple its investment in the arts sector** to better align with the funding needs of local arts organizations, whose activities:



**GENERATE
EMPLOYMENT**



**CONTRIBUTE TO
LOCAL GDP GROWTH**



**ATTRACT HIGH-
SPENDING TOURISTS**



**STRENGTHEN QUALITY
OF LIFE ACROSS THE
COMMUNITY**

RECOMMENDATION

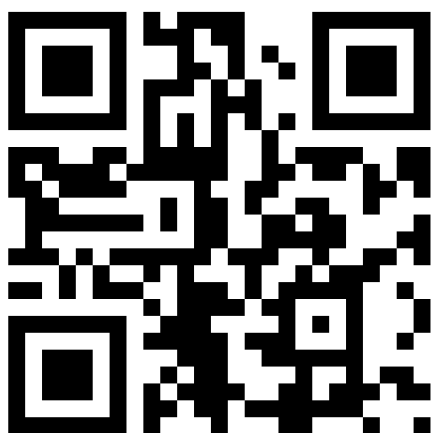
[ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL IMPACT REPORT 2025]

Every dollar invested via operating grants leverages \$25 in total sector revenue.

IF MUNICIPAL INVESTMENT IN LOCAL ARTS-MANDATED ORGANIZATIONS IS TRIPLED, REACHING \$150K, IT WOULD PROJECT TO

\$3,750,000

IN TOTAL GENERATED REVENUE AND LEVERAGED SECTOR FUNDING.



ENGAGE

www.countyarts.ca/engage

Learn about and support County Arts' advocacy efforts!

RECOMMENDATION

WAYS TO INCREASE INVESTMENT IN THE ARTS

- Maintain commitment to designate 10% of Municipal portion of MAT (or \$50,000 of \$500,000) to the PEC Arts Fund.
- Reinstate tax-supported funding of \$2.50 per resident in 2027 (or \$65,000).
- Create more service agreement opportunities within the arts sector, which is an efficient way to fulfill municipal objectives. For example, County Arts administers the municipality's Public Art Program for \$30,000 per year.
- Provide matching funds to support arts-focused grant applications to entities such as Rural Ontario Development Program and EcDev Ontario.
- Keep the arts top of mind for opportunities to showcase our community to broader audiences across Canada and beyond.

WE ASKED CANDIDATES:

“

If elected, to what extent will you be willing to advocate for increased municipal investment in arts and culture as an economic development strategy to support local job creation, attract high-spending visitors, and grow the local economy?

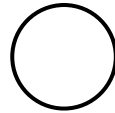
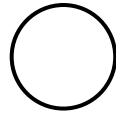
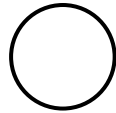
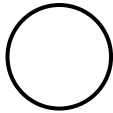
[2026 MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE SURVEY]

”

RESPONSES →

THOSE WHO RESPONDED VERY WILLING

VERY WILLING



NOT AT ALL WILLING

WARD 1: PICTON



**PHIL ST-
JEAN**

WARD 6: SOPHIASBURGH



**MEGAN
HUTTON**

WARD 9: SOUTH MARYSBURGH



**JOHN
HIRSCH**

WARD 2: BLOOMFIELD/HALLOWELL



**ERYNN
AHERN**



**MARK
HOPPER**



**VICTOR
LIND**

WARD 5: ATHOL



ANNA ZAK

WARD 8: NORTH MARYSBURGH



SIOBHAN HARRISON



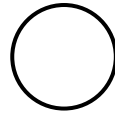
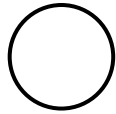
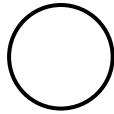
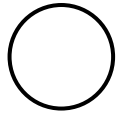
HALEY WOODS



TRACEY STEVENS

THOSE WHO RESPONDED SOMEWHAT WILLING

VERY WILLING



NOT AT ALL WILLING

MAYORAL CANDIDATES



**TERRY
SHORTT**



**ERNIE
MARGETSON**



**BRAD
NIEMAN**

WARD 2: BLOOMFIELD/HALLOWELL



JOANNE FRALICK



MARK HENRY



KYLE MAYNE



KANE RUTGERS

WARD 5: ATHOL



**EMILY JANE
PICKSTOCK**

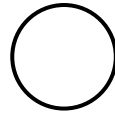
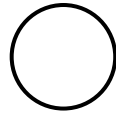
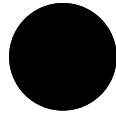
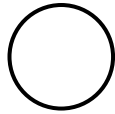
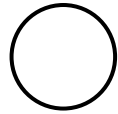
WARD 6: SOPHIASBURGH



BILL ROBERTS

THOSE WHO RESPONDED NEUTRAL

VERY WILLING



NOT AT ALL WILLING

WARD 1: PICTON



JANE LESSLIE

WARD 4: AMELIASBURGH



PAUL BOYD

WARD 5: ATHOL



**TYLER
LANGMUIRE**

THOSE WHO RESPONDED NOT VERY WILLING

VERY WILLING ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ NOT AT ALL WILLING

WARD 4: AMELIASBURGH



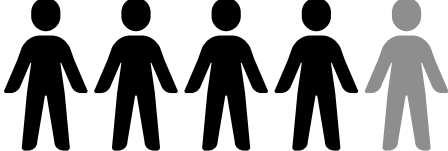
**DOUG
VILLENEUVE**

WARD 8: NORTH MARYSBURGH

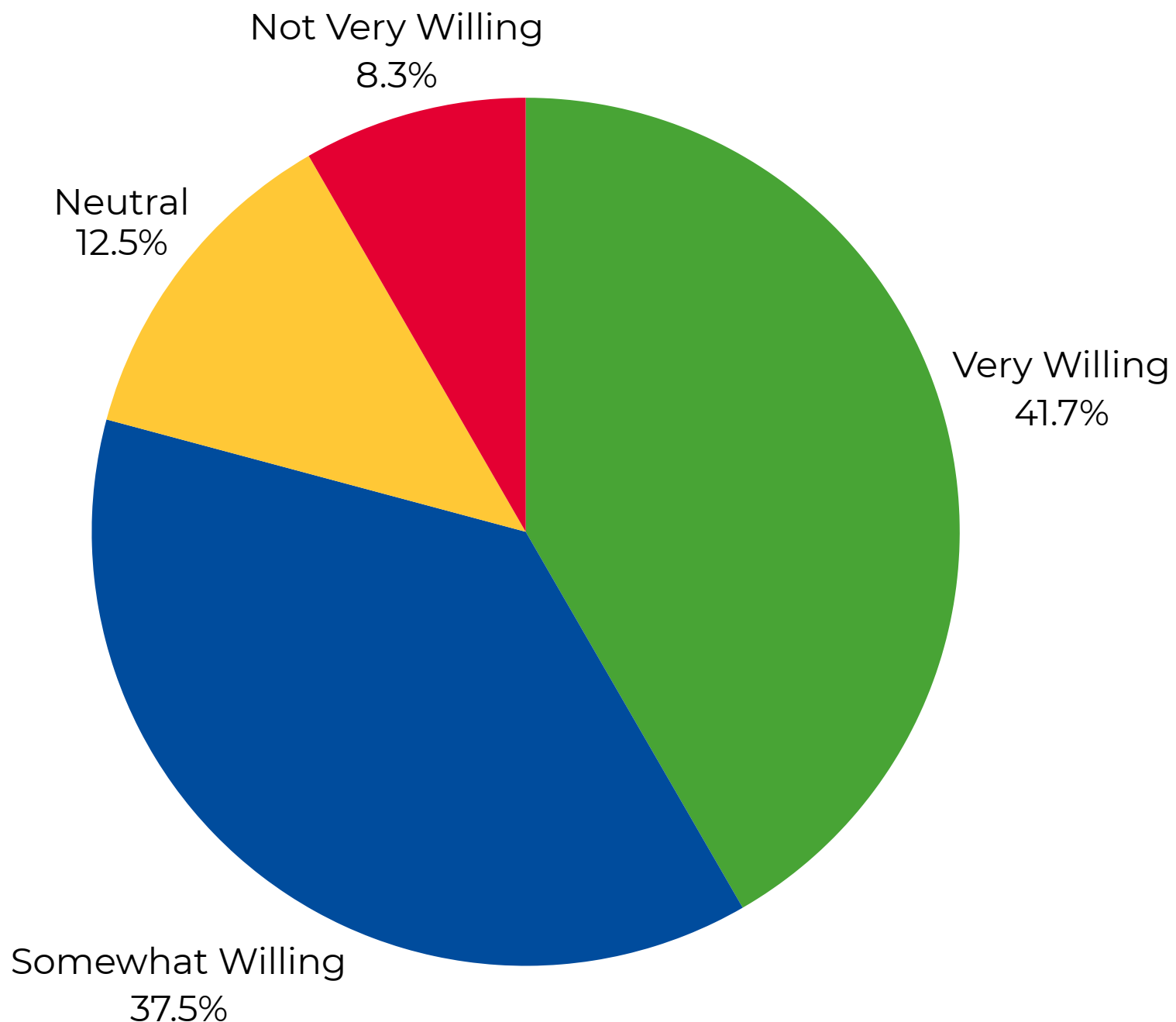


KEN MORTON

Notes: All respondents were given an option to select 'not at all willing.' No respondents chose this option. This summary includes all responses received by the survey deadline. An absent response doesn't necessarily represent a lack of interest in arts-related issues.

Nearly **4 in 5** responding candidates are willing to advocate for greater arts investment 

SUMMARY



Of the 24 candidates who responded, 19 were very or somewhat willing to advocate for increased municipal investment in arts and culture to support local jobs and economic growth.