

October 26, 2017

Dear Chair Denzil Minnan-Wong and members of the Striking Committee,

I am writing this letter to request membership with the Toronto Arts Council.

Arts within the City defines our identity, and it should reflect our diversity that today defines Toronto.

I want to help expand Toronto's art culture into the City's cultural and ethno-racial communities. I would like to help the City make inroads into visible minority communities that today represent the majority of our population.

By supporting artists and performers from all walks of life, and from all of the City's communities, we can begin to foment a culture of creative production that taps into new talent and is representative of our diversity in the context of our City.

As a Scarborough City Councilor, I believe we can bring the entire city together, beyond downtown, by working in the Arts under the theme of One Toronto.

I have worked for many years within racialized communities, and with young people, and can use my experience as an educator with non-profit organizations to expand the City's arts programs into Scarborough's communities.

I have been an active leader in a number of community organizations, including the Scarborough Youth Task Group, Malvern Community Coalition, Malvern Family Resource Centre, and the Community Use of Schools Council, to name a few.

In addition to being a longtime community development worker and a city councillor representing a highly diverse ward, I am also a racialized Canadian who came to this country as a refugee at the age of 16 with hopes for a better life.

With my unique experiences and distinct perspective, I look forward to bringing the City's arts programs to all of our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neethan Shan".

Councillor Neethan Shan  
Ward 42, Scarborough-Rouge River