

From: [Orkid Gallery](#)
To: [North York Community Council](#)
Cc: silkroad.event@gmail.com; [Atefeh Javadian](#)
Subject: [External Sender] My comments for 2025.NY28.15 on December 5, 2025 North York Community Council
Date: December 4, 2025 5:59:17 PM

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the December 5, 2025 North York Community Council meeting on item 2025.NY28.15, 45 to 47 Sheppard Avenue East - Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment Application - Decision Report - Approval

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

My name is Orkideh Salehi and I'm writing as the owner and CEO of Orkid Gallery and the organizer and owner of the Silk Road cultural events, both active in the Willowdale and Sheppard community.

Our work is strongly community-based, welcoming artists, families, newcomers, and multicultural groups from across North York.

The proposed community space within this development is extremely valuable for our neighbourhood. A dedicated, accessible, and inclusive cultural and community hub would support:

- local and emerging artists,
- cultural programming and workshops,
- youth and seniors' participation,
- and stronger multicultural engagement across the area.

Given the diverse population of North York, this space has the potential to make a significant positive impact and become a catalyst for cultural growth, creativity, and community connection. As someone actively involved in arts and community events in the neighbourhood, I strongly support this project and believe it will bring meaningful benefits to residents and strengthen the cultural fabric of our community.

A few days ago, on November 30, I organized Beyond Silk concert through Orkid Gallery and the Silk Road event in Aga Khan museum. During this event, I realized that we do not currently have an appropriate space in North York to host such cultural and community programs.

Having a dedicated community space within this development would allow us to hold concerts, workshops, and cultural events locally, making it accessible to all communities living in the North York area. This space could significantly strengthen

community engagement and cultural participation in the neighbourhood

Thank you for considering my comments

Sincerely,

Orkideh Salehi

Owner and CEO:

Orkid gallery collection in

Silkroad.event