

I feel fortunate to have a facility like Gallery in the Grove and The Bright's Grove Public Library in my community. For me, the building represents a place for learning, artistic expression, community engagement, and connection. My own connection with Gallery in the Grove extends back more than twenty-five years to my first solo exhibit there. As a young artist, it was important for me to show my work in a public venue and to develop exhibition experiences that have become so useful throughout my career as an artist. I was so honoured to recently share the space in a duo exhibit with my daughter who, launching her own career as an artist, has also benefitted from Gallery in the Grove in her formative artistic development both as a student and as a professional artist.

As a former educator, parent, and long-time resident of Bright's Grove, I am also excited to learn of the vision for the new facility as a community hub. Bright's Grove has been in need for a larger place of engagement for all ages for many years. Specifically, it is critical that our young people have a place for productive activity – a place that encourages development, learning, personal expression, and collaboration. This new facility will, no doubt, provide a venue for such rich and developmental experiences.

As a Bright's Grove resident, I am proud of my community and of the vision that lies ahead for this lively and engaging facility. I will be happy to lend my support to this very worthy project.

Ian McLean  
March 2021