

**From:** Jessica Tse  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2020 7:55 AM  
**To:** Clerks Richmondhill <[clerks@richmondhill.ca](mailto:clerks@richmondhill.ca)>  
**Subject:** Richmond Hill Community and Cultural Grant Decisions

I am writing to you about an online article in the Liberal about the Richmond Hill Community and Cultural Grant and how the potential recipients have been asked to validate their requests at the Feb. 12 council meeting (<https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/9845266--it-s-a-sad-day-richmond-hill-community-groups-to-face-council-scrutiny/?fbclid=iwar32obzdxfnhz2ljfgp8blvxee9zkyjyfgwr9utsensbslbeztnfmwmqqyi>).

The requirement of publicly validating requests for funding after completing the lengthy grant application is abnormal. It makes sense to request additional information or financial documents from community and arts organizations but it is unreasonable to expect every group and individual artist to be available on a Wednesday morning. It is unclear what information is needed from these groups that was not already provided in the initial application or cannot be provided in a less intimidating manner. This is not standard procedure for the Canada Council for the Arts grants, Ontario Arts Council grants, or Toronto Arts Council grants. Local charities, non-profit organizations, community groups, and artists are not populations rife with corruption or criminal activity. They are full of volunteers and underpaid individuals who want to enrich the lives of others.

I hope Council will continue to work towards building a safe and vibrant Richmond Hill.

Thank you,

Jessica Tse