

Summary of Arts Calibre Feedback Sessions

On Sunday June 13th, eight feedback sessions (seven at the 10am service and one at the 8am) on the proposal to house Arts Calibre school at St. Georges for a period of up to three years were held. The sessions were well attended and the response from parishioners was constructive and sincere. It was heartening to see the feeling and care people have for St. Georges. A big thanks to all involved.

Several common themes emerged from the sessions. The following comments were raised in more than half of the groups:

- Concern that Parish / parishioner access to meetings, events and the spaces to prepare for events would be problematic. This concern was particularly acute for events like funerals and the Christmas bazaar.
- Belief that this is an exciting opportunity for the Parish.
- Questions about the financial stability of Arts Calibre and their intended level of growth (will they grow too large for our space?)

The concern about access to meetings and events has been addressed within the Frequently Asked Questions published as part of the parishioner information package. Readers are referred to that document for further information. It is recognized that conflicts between Parish and school events will occur. We believe the way to address these is to maintain effective communication between the two organizations. We intend to facilitate this through establishment of a joint “communication group” to address, amongst other factors, such conflicts. Flexibility on the part of both the Parish / parishioners and the school will also be required to create and maintain a harmonious relationship.

We have posed the questions on financial stability and growth plans to Arts Calibre. Their responses will be made available once received.

While there were of course other concerns raised during the session, most have been addressed in the information package. These will also be reviewed at the planned upcoming evening feedback sessions. However, there were 2 concerns that will be further commented on here:

- Length of commitment to Arts Calibre – the proposal before the Parish, and to be voted on at the 11 July Special General Meeting, is to house Arts

Calibre for a maximum of three years. It is true that Arts Calibre desires a permanent home, but the current proposal is for three years at most. During that time St. Georges and Arts Calibre will explore the feasibility of a long-term relationship, but both parties recognize that such a relationship is not guaranteed. Parish approval, via an AGM or SGM vote, will be required for any extension of Arts Calibre's presence beyond three years.

- Location of the Parish Administrator's office – there was strong feeling amongst many that the Parish Administrator's office should not be moved; that its location at the entrance to the office wing is an important factor in maintaining our deserved reputation as a welcoming parish. Parish council recognizes this. If the vote at the SGM agrees to house the school, Parish Council has authorized expenditure of up to \$1000 to hire a designer to explore options for re-design of the office wing to accommodate both Parish and school needs. While the end result of the design process is not yet known, parishioners can be confident that your valid concerns about this matter have been heard and that they will form a significant factor for consideration by the designer.