



June 25, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing in support of Trinity Theatre and their work engaging youth in meaningful committed service opportunities that address needs in of Bruce County. We are particularly excited by this project “Reconnecting through Community Journalism” that encourages youth-led citizen engagement using digital technologies and solutions to address the ongoing needs arising from COVID-19.

Trinity’s “Reconnecting through Community Journalism” project is a youth-led response to the concerning COVID-19 related effects of isolation in Bruce County. The pandemic has exacerbated the already existing effects of geographic isolation, underutilization/ unawareness of community resources, lack of reliable internet connectivity in some areas, the experience of loneliness, and limited intra-regional community connection. This mixed-media project entails youth seeking out and sharing local good news stories with area residents, reacquainting them with the many resources and opportunities in Bruce County as they return post-pandemic. The good news stories will be shared digitally as photos, interactive maps, ezines, videos, podcasts, documentaries, etc. These reconnection stories will be made publicly accessible via online platforms, newsletters, articles in local newspapers, and as public health restrictions ease, meetings in public libraries and community centres.

Trinity is more than capable of carrying out this project. In the summer of 2020, Trinity partnered with the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie to establish the Arran-Elderslie Youth Council. I am impressed with the talent and skills of Trinity/AEYC. The youth have taken on projects ranging from resource and asset mapping and walking tours, an online Youth Forum, and the creation of the aeyouthhub.ca a one-stop resource for youth seeking mental health support and volunteer opportunities. Trinity/AEYC partnered with Paisley Artscape Society to execute the Milne/Crawford Reboot interactive arts-based community-building event, and more recently the Arran-Elderslie Archives intergenerational podcast series.

This project will provide additional community benefits, by encouraging meaningful engagement with community assets, promoting creative expression as a means for reconnecting with one another, and by making Bruce County more welcoming to people of all groups and ages by representing a diverse community voice.

Sincerely,

Mark Paoli, M.Sc., MCIP, RPP
Director
Planning and Development