

Arts district touted for town

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Kingsville has the potential to create an arts district around the vacant Carnegie library, and design a cultural plan to attract retirees and stem the loss of young people, London consultant Gord Hume said Friday.

"One of the big issues is going to be what kind of community Kingsville wants to become in the future," he said a day after speaking at the Pelee Island Winery at a BIA event.

Hume, who speaks around the world on cultural planning, said it isn't about adding an art gallery. It's a vision for a vibrant community and what Hume calls a CRINK economy -- a creative, innovative and knowledge-based community.

While Kingsville's waterfront is "an enormous missed opportunity" with no connections between people and the lake such as waterfront restaurants, Hume said Kingsville can exploit its location near locally produced food and a wine route.

The town could create a downtown arts district where artists live and work and people can gather at cafes, wine bars and a farmers' market. He said Kingsville has to make sure it's fully wired for the Internet. "Retirees today are not going to be satisfied with sitting quietly in their rec room observing the world go by."

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