

Letters of Support for the Proposed Downtown District

Experience Art And Culture At Glenbow

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Urban Initiatives-Downtown District
Calgary Growth Strategies
The City of Calgary
Floor 1, Municipal Building, 800 Macleod Trail SE
P.O. Box 2100, Station M, Calgary, AB Canada T2P

February 25, 2020

To Committee Members

At Glenbow, we believe in bringing art and culture to life, inviting new perspectives, inspiring creativity and moving our community forward. We reach beyond the walls of our building and make connections throughout our community and around the world.

At the center of our work today, is a focus on the Glenbow experience – approachable, inclusive, and authentic. Through our exhibitions and programming we provide an inspiring and accessible platform for navigating compelling and challenging stories, ideas and concepts. With carefully curated travelling exhibitions and by using our diverse and remarkable collections, we contribute to and shape the conversation about the important role that art and culture play in our communities, in a way that only Glenbow can.

Glenbow has made a concerted effort to deepen relationships with other arts organizations, civic partners, community organizations and all three levels of government. We recognize that Glenbow is part of a large and diverse ecosystem. We know we play an important role in contributing to the vibrancy of the arts sector, activating the city centre and enhancing our communities. We are establishing strong allies across many sectors who are working towards shared goals to build a strong and resilient city.

Glenbow is excited to support Urban Initiatives Downtown District as they work to engage stakeholders, build strong partnerships and work to establish a Downtown District.

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As a cornerstone institution in the proposed Downtown District, Glenbow is very supportive of the initiatives being suggested by the Urban Strategies group to pilot projects and interventions and investigate programming opportunities to activate this area. Glenbow values our strong relationships with the City of Calgary, Calgary TELUS Convention Centre, the Calgary Downtown Association and Arts Commons. We look forward to working closely with these partners as we move to define the Downtown District.

Respectfully,



Nicholas R. Bell
President & CEO



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February 26, 2020

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RE: Update on Convention District Report to SPC on PUD March 4, 2020

The Calgary TELUS Convention Centre is pleased to endorse the proposed projects and initiatives outlined in the updated Downtown District report.

Established in 1974 as Canada's first purpose-built convention centre, the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre continues to deliver professional, customized and personalized service to our clients, and more than 175,000 of our delegates each year. The offerings and contributions of the Centre's downtown partners and fence-line neighbours, identified in the report, not only helps to enrich the lives of Calgarians but also puts our city on the global cultural map. Collectively our organizations have for decades created a distinctive downtown Calgary experience that welcomes visitors to our city and draws them back in the future. Unfortunately, recent challenging economic and social conditions have threatened the health and vibrancy of Calgary's downtown core. It is critical that the revitalization plan, as outlined in the Planning & Development Report, can be actioned with the full support of Council.

We are supportive of the development and approval of a Downtown Strategy to formalize and strengthen these trusted neighbourhood relationships in order to sustain the positive metropolitan experience our clients and delegates, as well as leisure tourists in Alberta and locals, are seeking. The long-term health of Calgary's downtown core and business community would benefit greatly as a result of enhanced conversations and strategic solutions developed through a focused 9 Block lens. We believe that this guiding strategy will unlock even greater potential to shape historic Stephen Avenue into a marquee destination for both Calgarians and their visitors.

On behalf of the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre, I am confident that together we can set achievable goals and work together to revitalize the downtown so it remains desirable to current and future businesses, residents and visitors to Calgary. We are looking forward to this important collaboration with our partners and the City of Calgary.

Sincerely,

Kurby Court
Acting President & CEO
Calgary TELUS Convention Centre

CC: Members of Council
SPC on Planning and Urban Development
Thom Mahler, Urban Initiatives, Calgary Growth Strategies
Wellington Holbrook, Chair of the Board of Directors, Calgary Convention Centre Authority