

To whom it may concern,

Over the past four years, the Beltline Urban Murals Project has helped promote public art throughout Calgary's Beltline and Downtown, and in doing so has revitalized the area with large public art. As the project continues to grow, we are constantly learning just how important this initiative is. While it introduces vibrancy to neglected walls and spaces, it also takes on the crucial role of connecting Beltline and Calgary residents through artistic communication. Having thought-provoking art pieces on our city streets allows people to come together to explore and discuss new ideas in the city.

We've watched firsthand at how transformative a mural can be in our communities, and to actively pair that power with forces for equality, betterment, and justice has and will continue to prove crucial in the progression towards a city free of discrimination against people based on their race, colour, gender, national origin, age, religion, creed, disability, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

To date, some of the most powerful BUMP murals have been those depicting prominent yet underknown people of cultures who suffer from racism and discrimination. The prime example is Kevin Ledo's 2018 BUMP mural $c^{in} b \cap c \Delta^{.2}$, meaning "sôhkâtisiwin" or strength/power in Cree. It illustrates Angela Gladue, a Cree hoop dancer and beadwork artist known for dancing with A Tribe Called Red and many other prominent music artists. As one of the largest BUMP murals to date, this piece has made an enormous impact on Calgary's Beltline streets by both representing a powerful female indigenous figure and demonstrating that Calgary has strong multicultural roots and interests.

The proposed project to paint four murals in support of Black/BIPOC Lives Matter is something that strongly resonates with us for many reasons. To represent the voices often underrepresented in public discourse and art is crucial to living in a diverse and pluralistic city. Having these voices communicate a strong message like Black Lives Matter, especially in the times of ongoing systemic racism and institutionalized discrimination, is extremely important for helping to broaden the understanding of the struggles felt by those communities. And to be able to support those communities by ensuring they are fairly-compensated for artistic expression is incredible.

BUMP also strongly believes in Katie Green to manage and coordinate this project. As a former BUMP muralist, we have seen her extraordinary capacity for artistic expression, project management, and interpersonal communications. As she has begun this process, we have again been amazed at her ability to carry out strong, rational, and balanced work. We have every trust that she will perfectly coordinate between BUMP and the organizations and artists involved to bring about the best possible outcomes for the project.

In summary, the Blacl/BIPOC Lives Matter proposal is an excellent and timely project that will enrich our city. We are excited to offer our organizational knowledge, processes, and contacts towards the end of supporting the creation of four new murals. We understand the impact public murals can make, and combined with the strength of voices from oppressed communities, we will be able to take strong steps towards helping to improve life for all Calgarians.

Dexter Bruneau, Executive Director Beltline Urban Murals Project

