

June 12, 2020

Dear City Council,

I am heartened to hear about the proposal to support the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour community in Calgary through a public mural project. The Black Lives Matter movement has ignited a potential positive sea change in our culture. A significant work of art is an excellent way to mark this historic moment in our City.

I especially want to endorse Katie Green's participation, because her sensitivity positions her as the most excellent midwife to make sure the project arrives in a healthy, inclusive way. I have been fortunate to watch Katie Green develop from a young painting student to one of the most outstanding emerging artists in Alberta today. She skillfully blends understanding of human nature and observations of the natural world in extraordinary public mural projects.

Green engages the community in remarkable ways, encouraging people to take part in creative activity with the result that they can see themselves in the work with pride. Her more recent project in East Village is outstanding. She worked with residents of a neighborhood in transition. With the collaboration of sixteen individuals, she created supersize murals that were adhered to walls, utility buildings and bridge abutments in eighteen locations in the neighborhood along River Walk. The project gave supersize presence to the dreams and creativity of neighborhood residents who often are marginalized or ignored.

Katie Green continues to stretch as an artist. She has worked in places as disparate as northern Canada, Berlin, Taiwan, Vermont and Santa Fe. She sought out expertise in her hometown, working with and learning from the brilliant Old Trout puppeteers here in Calgary. She is a tireless hard worker and has now completed several mural projects in Calgary and abroad.

As a curator, writer and educator who has worked in Calgary for thirty-five years, I believe this is project is worthy of civic support. I understand that the Beltline Urban Mural Project is on board to secure wall space in the City, a key factor to make the project a success.

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