

# Background and Previous Council Direction

## Background

Calgary's downtown is a critical component to the city's resilience in the face of economic, social and environmental shocks. Downtown needs to transform to position it for success in the new economy and in a post-pandemic world. There is a need for a comprehensive and coordinated strategy that can leverage the efforts of The City and its strategic partners to invest in infrastructure and stimulate the economy.

The Downtown Strategy business unity brings together civic and community partners through coordinated and collaborative work with the commitment to making life better every day for citizens, customers, residents and businesses. The Downtown Strategy business unit is the principal driver and coordinator of implementation of the Greater Downtown Plan who also ensures ongoing community dialogue and alignment with other Civic Partners and partnerships.

## Previous Council Direction

DATE	REPORT NUMBER	DIRECTION/DESCRIPTION
2018 May 28	C2018-0671	<p>Notice of Motion: Establishing a Downtown Convention District</p> <p>Through a Notice of Motion (C2018-0671) Administration was directed to investigate the merits of establishing a Downtown Convention District as the focus for re-thinking and investing in programming and initiatives to improve the experiences of Calgarians, convention delegates and visitors. A district-wide approach helps to consolidate and coordinate various initiatives and projects occurring in the area with the objective is to create an environment that makes people feel welcome and comfortable to visit the area and the services and attractions nearby including private businesses.</p>

2021 April 26	C2021-0541	Realizing Calgary's Downtown Plan – Initial Investments and Incentives
		<p>In 2021 April, Council approved C2021-0524 Realizing Calgary's Downtown Plan – Initial Investments and Incentives, including investment categories and allocations, and with the \$200 million initial investment funded by \$60 million from the Budget Savings Account, \$63 million from the Fiscal Stability Reserve and \$77 million from the Canada Community Building Fund subject to receipt of the 2021 increase; Attachment 3 further broke down the funding allocation to Arts Commons Transformation Phase 1 with \$77 million from the Canada Community Building Fund and \$3 million from the Budget Savings Account.</p>
2021 July 20	PFC2021-1011	Calgary Municipal Land Corporate Project Development and Financing
		<p>Through the report recommendations (PFC2221-1101) Administration was directed to amend and restate the existing Development Management Agreement among The City, Arts Commons, and the Calgary Municipal Land Corporation, assigning the Calgary Municipal Land Corporation as development manager for design and construction of the Project, Arts Commons as the project sponsor and operator, and The City as a primary funder and interested party; the agreement to contemplate the potential inclusion of a residential tower or other viable uses on the site subject to feasibility, and to delineate the funding requirements for the respective share of the Project capital costs among funders in a form and with terms acceptable to the General Manager Community Services, Chief Financial Officer and the City Solicitor and General Counsel.</p>