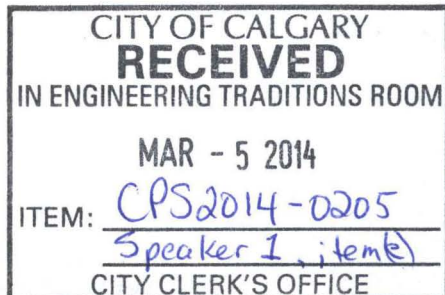




**Calgary Board
of Education**

1221 – 8 Street S.W., Calgary, AB T2R 0L4

March 4, 2014



www.cbe.ab.ca

Letter of Support: Living a Creative Life: An Arts Development Strategy for Calgary

Dear City Council members:

Calgary Board of Education (CBE) welcomes the opportunity to be a signatory to *Living a Creative Life: An Arts Development Strategy for Calgary*. The CBE commits to working with you to build a strong, vibrant and sustainable creative community. Through this alignment we can more fully support and encourage youth to engage in the arts and live their passions, becoming engaged thinkers, ethical citizens, with an entrepreneurial spirit.

Exposure to and participation in the arts enhances student's creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving abilities, as well as improves student's performance in other core disciplines. The arts enable students to build self-esteem and self-discipline, to work cooperatively with groups and to effectively express themselves. Integrating the arts into other subject areas improves achievement, motivates attendance, increases test scores and promotes engagement. The arts contribute to building a productive and forward-thinking workforce by teaching skills and competencies required by an information-based economy. The arts serve as an essential bridge across language and cultural differences and build linkages, both within and between communities.

Presently we are embracing an opportunity to co-design curriculum for Alberta Education, which values the arts as a vital and an indispensable part of education for all students. This curriculum identifies several competencies that are practiced throughout the arts. In collaboration with 19 other Albertan school jurisdictions and with many business and community partners this new curriculum will for the first time incorporate the arts as a core discipline from kindergarten to grade twelve.

Our growing art partnerships help us ensure our students have opportunities to have authentic encounters with art and artists. We recognize that we will need to work with the art community to effectively teach in and through the arts. In our media-driven society, knowledge of the arts is a necessary part of cultural literacy. Each of us is exposed daily to a myriad of images, which we must be able to read and discern if we are to make informed choices as consumers and as citizens.

The *Living a Creative Life Strategy* brings us out of our traditional silo or isolation and holds us accountable not only for the students who are in our

learning | as unique | as every student



Copy sent to
Mr. [illegible]

schools but extends our commitment to youth throughout our communities. We look forward to sharing our expertise and facilities to ensure youth have art opportunities in and out of school. A strong and vital arts sector will have a positive impact not only on students, parents and schools, but also on post secondary institutions, the private sector and the community at large.

Please accept our commitment to the arts, youth and education in Calgary.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Cathy Faber".

Cathy Faber
Superintendent, Learning Innovation
Chief Information Officer

