

Letter From the Chair of the Kingsland Public Art Committee

SPUR report
submitted by Colleen Philippi

There were two public art items on the SPUR list: Painting the Traffic Signal Boxes on Kingsland's portion of Macleod Trail and Glenmore Trail (four in all) and two Paint the Pavement events. Neither were funded by SPUR money, but rather with monies from Counsellor Pincott's office, Stepping Stones (Paint the Pavement) and The City of Calgary Public Art (Traffic Signal Boxes). The newly created Kingsland Public Art Committee oversaw these projects. Its creation was a direct result of SPUR activity. It currently has six members and will continue beyond SPUR to focus on bringing public art opportunities to the community.

Paint the Pavement went very well and was seen as a terrific success by the community. We received terrific support, information and even some free paint from Robert Dickinson. Due to the flood at the end of June, we were able to complete only one Paint the Pavement this year on September 21st at the intersection of 67th Ave and 5th Street SW. We will complete the second intersection next spring. We have yet to determine exactly where this will be.

The Traffic Signal Boxes proved to be a bit more challenging. We had hoped to have all of the boxes painted by community members. Sadly three of the four boxes were mistakenly given out to the general applying public. I am unsure as to how this happened. The Kingsland Public Art Committee and SPUR contacts from the City of Calgary (Rachelle Dillon and Natalia Zoldak) all understood that these were to be Kingsland's boxes. We had several meetings where these Traffic Boxes were discussed. Whether we would have been able to, in fact, paint them all from within the community was somewhat uncertain. (Some of the artists who wanted to participate were elderly and did not understand the application process as set out by Calgary Public Art.) But sadly we never had the chance to find out if we would have been successful, since the boxes were "given away" prematurely. This contradictory communication with both Calgary Public Art and Roads was frustrating and confusing. Despite these complications the painted boxes have been popular with the community.

It was thrilling to have public art rank so highly on the community's list of priorities for SPUR. Through SPUR we have discovered that art does, in fact, matter to the residents of Kingsland.