s-PARK Pilot Project Recreation Programming Summary

The Council Innovation Fund supported free public recreational programming that included street performers, musicians, visual artists, food trucks and Open Streets Calgary activation.

Weekend 1 kicked off with Community Street painting which became a visual place-making anchor in the centre of the s-Park, connecting the north and south ends of the block.   Street performers provided live music, a crew of Bboys entertained everyone with hip hop street dancing, children got creative with sidewalk chalk, food trucks provided tasty fare, and the s-PARK was officially open for enjoyment. The rest of the weekend unfolded with the construction of the "Before I Die I want to....." wall; that would remain ongoing through to the closure of the s-PARK. This interactive project invites the public to write their hopes and dreams on a large chalkboard wall that was photographed and registered as part of the International "Before I Die" Project.

Weekend 2 saw a continuation of the Before I Die wall, as well as, Recreation's Culture Division busker piano that was on site and available for anyone to play. Saturday was a high-energy day of programming presented by Open Streets Calgary (OSC) which included a live swing band, dance lessons, public invitation to ride "penny farthings" and mini bikes, pedal-powered bike blender smoothies, participation by community initiatives like Car Share, Dr. Seuss in the Park and an interactive engagement opportunity called We Should Know Each Other presented by Mark Hopkins. On Sunday local artist, Tekoa Predika, treated those in attendance to a sand mandala performance art installation. On Monday s-PARK visitors had the unique pleasure of listening to the winners of the Banff International String Quartet Competition "Quartet in the Community" residency program.

Weekend 3 featured an art installation by local ACAD graduate Hannah Doerksen. Street performers and food trucks made for a tasty and enjoyable final weekend to round out the s-PARK pilot cycle of direct programming.