



March 13, 2019

Public Art Board Address to City Council

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak to you.

I understand you have received the statistics and plans we have been working on over the last year.

Now, I would like to bring an understanding of what we in Public Art are doing overall.

The arts and those working in the arts bring innovation and creativity, in that they make new or see the old in a new light.

In the public art realm, not only do the arts bring culture to cities, but they create culture.

Working together, our public art program gives us the opportunity to create a culture that is unique TO CALGARY.

Through the Arts we all dream of bringing beauty to our city.

Beauty is subjective.

Our many different communities bring their ideas of beauty from their own traditions. Some

see beauty in pictures of windmills, while others see it depicted in colorful sand art images.

How do we find beauty for all of us here in Calgary?

We in Public Art Administration and the Public Art Board, want to build a Public Art Program that takes on our city in its own right and celebrate who we are together.

How do we celebrate us here and now?

How do we find our voice together and celebrate our unique position in the world?

How do we create a common ground where no ONE dictates.

We on the Board and in Public Art Administration are finding the answers through listening to all our stakeholders.

We understand our education is in the listening.

Let us learn about each other and learn about ourselves -at this time- in this moment of being together

- of being together in Calgary.

Let us take our city in its own right and celebrate our NOW with fun and excitement.

Most of the artists that work with our program, and the artists and galleries that support our program not only serve the citizens of Calgary, but also ARE citizens of Calgary, and will also be respectfully regarded.

The arts and the artists, with their creative spirit see traditions as pliable- to be seen and used in different ways, creating our own unique traditions.

We, at the Board, as with the Public Art administration, are working to listen more intently and discuss all ideas brought forward, with openness and respect,. Regarding all as having something important to contribute, and discussing these ideas with open transparency, Keeping the needs of our prime stakeholders, the citizens of Calgary and ultimately City Council in view.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Linda Shaikh
Chair
Public Art Board