

My Name is Tristan Surtees, I am one half of the arts practice Sans façon, and a member of the Public Art alliance. Sans façon works locally, nationally and internationally and we are proud to consider Calgary our home.

I have come here today to Thank you councillors, Thank you for listening and acting unequivocally, thank you for investing the time needed in doing things collaboratively with this community, thank you for not throwing the baby out with the bathwater, or passing the program to a third party at arms length, as I am sure you have been tempted to do. Thank you for standing up for art and artists in this City. Citizens?

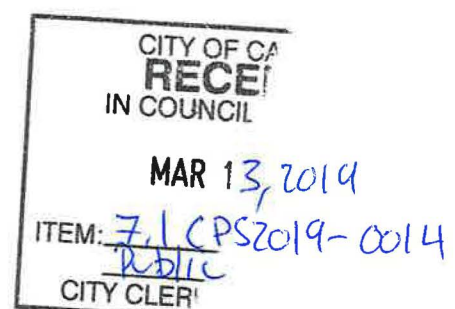
Council's directives last year, leading to new leadership, have brought about a change of attitudes, approaches and energy, and in a few short months righted a ship which had been led off course.

We moved our practice from Scotland in 2011 because Calgary was at the time a place of innovation, your City's Public Art Program was a place of innovation like nowhere else, a very special place where art could be imbedded within the works of the municipality;

Please don't underestimate the importance of this, working in unison with your 61 lines of service means art can touch all people throughout the city, it can respond and contribute to important questions and challenges we face as a community. Over the last 18 years I have worked in all manner of commissioning systems in different cities, Calgary's is by far the best; you get more integration, more alignment, and honestly more bang for your buck. For artists it is also the most incredible toolkit, to work with the expertise and talents of your administration, frankly it means artists can be part of Calgary's 'voice'. This work wouldn't be possible outside of the corporation, you would have more artworks less relevant to citizens, more shop-and-plops and more controversies.

For many years, Councillors, your City was at the very forefront of innovation in the field, winning awards, cities around the world looked to you for leadership, Seattle looked to you, Toronto looked to you. In a few weeks we will be giving a key note address at a national Public Art conference ^{as} ~~called~~ ^{have been invited to} 'the art of developing a City' in Oslo, Norway, we will be talking about about Watershed+ created within your public art program, within your Utilities and Environmental Protection department. The managers, project managers in UEP and public art staff are still here, this talent, experience and expertise is a huge asset to you - I'm delighted that one of the main visionaries behind this program of embedding art in the work of your utilities now sits on you public art board. ^{invited}

Artists here in Calgary work all over the country and world, please I implore you don't engage in protectionist commissioning based on geography thinking it supports 'local artists', it does not, it isolates us. We need artists from other places



working here, as much as we benefit from working there, this is how the arts work, how citizens benefit, how we stay connected, how contemporary cities behave.

Over recent months we have been invited to partake in discussions hosted by the Public Art team, these have been honest, frank and ambitious, I've seen the comments offered and reaction from participants turn into actions and inform the report in front of you today, this is the program and leadership we have been missing, and it has been done with admirable passion and dedication.

12 months may seem a long time, but I am of the belief you can either have it done right or done quickly. With this leadership and critically, this time, with the support and participation of the other city departments -Communication, Procurement- and the support of CADA and of yourselves councillors, your program has a bright future, once again set to be an asset to this city, **to the citizens.** to the community and artists who live here.

As a member of the Public Art Alliance, and an artist who lives and works here in Calgary, I am very happy to support this report and look forward to continuing to be a part of the conversation as the city shapes its program for the future.

Today we are engaged,

The expertise is here

Oslo – Plus, key note

Innovation – came here because of this

Diversification of our economy

International – learning and exchange, not protectionist but participants

Value of being imbedded within the cities line of service

Other departments collaboration and support