

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.

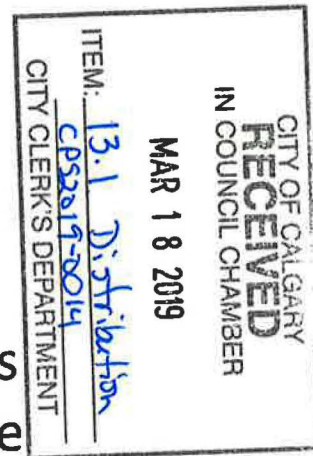
The arts and those working in the arts bring innovation and creativity, in that they make new or see the old in a new light.

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.

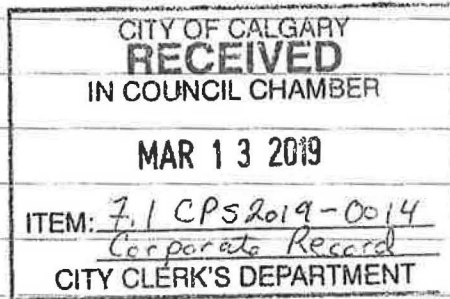
The arts and the artists, with their creative spirit see traditions as pliable- to be seen and used in different ways, creating our own unique traditions.

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

Date



1. gathering lesson learned ^{experience into}, investing resources
consolidation of ^{expertise}
2. understanding how to best leverage what
the City's strengths, assets & partnerships
to create a ~~strong~~ ^{strong} ~~program~~ ^{program} thoughtfully
integrated program right for our city
3. diversified economy of professional
opportunities for local artists
4. ~~movements~~ changes around procurement
- accessible applications

MARCH 13th. 2019

Dear Council,

My name is Daniel J Kirk. I am born and raised in Calgary, a fifth generation Southern Albertan. From my earliest memory, I wanted to be and have been an Artist. Though I make no claim to be "From" this place, my ancestors origins are predominantly Northern European, I am for the sake of this discussion "A Local Artist."

From where I stand now, I see real efforts being made by Calgary Public Art to listen and to consider, meaningful engagement with some of Calgary's Arts community. As a member of the Calgary Public Art Alliance I have attended several of the Public Art engagement sessions and feel, thus far, that the process for changing the current policy is being mindfully approached and executed.

I have 10 years of Public Art-making in a Professional capacity. Working with individuals, communities, private commissions in Public space, partnering with BIA's and working directly with various municipalities as a contracted Artist / Lead Artist ^{With these various roles} I am able ^{and involve myself directly in} to observe the complexities of making Public Art.

It takes time, support and a spirit of collaboration to realize meaningful Public projects.

I support the process that is ^{being} outlined ^{today} ^{Also...} ~~and~~ so that it is on record; support for Great Art in our city benefits the local art community, regardless of where in the world the Artist ~~may~~ ^{conceptualized} who ~~made~~ the work may live. I feel...

Support for Local Artists requires support for process-based

Instead Support for the ARTIST. to do their work.

Keating's remarks: Acceptance...

Even with clear dislike for several of
Calgary's most recent Public Art Project...

The resounding voice is: "don't get me wrong,
I support ART."

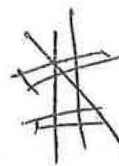
We are being asked to be visionaries, to lend our imaginations
to a community voice... This will lead us to unknown results,
and may not always be something that everyone "LIKES."
What that voice is saying, could be considered research.

Using what I would call success through failure...

Travelling Light



drew a circle in
space so that ~~for~~ → ALL
the first time Calgarians
knew that we even
have a Public Art plan



Bowfart towers
Lifted the fact that
our relationship, as
a city, with Indigenous
~~the tradi~~ people is in
a state of disrepair...

That we
and their
cultural practices,
the traditions that
inform the basis
for human relationships
with ~~the~~ this ~~place~~ LAND.



12/03/2019

My name is Shauna Thompson, I'm a curator at the Esker Foundation Art Gallery in Inglewood and a member of the Public Art Alliance.

I wanted to be present today as a member of both the Alliance and as a cultural worker in Calgary's art community to place my support behind the Administration's plan for the Public Art program through 2019.

What I have seen since I was last standing in this spot speaking to you 8 or 9 months ago has been really encouraging. I've seen from the program a level of openness and engagement with the local art community that I haven't seen or experienced in all the years I've lived in Calgary.

It feels like we are being actively and thoughtfully listened to; I recognize points from engagement sessions that I've participated in being reflected back to me in the review documents, and I'm encouraged by it. The chance to both offer information to, and also to learn from the people who are invested in working for our civic public art program, has been exciting and enlightening. And I think the more chances for this kind of dialogue to happen, especially with artists involved, the better.

As much as the idea of continuing the freeze pains me as a cultural worker, I also recognize that there isn't a quick fix to the issues and concerns that have been raised over the course of several years. It's important to take the time to do this right; it's not about just figuring out a way to simply mollify people who loudly complain, it's about education, and building and rebuilding relationships--this can be slow work, but this is how we're going to move forward with success.

→ Artists as advocates → Counsellor Keating's point about making work acceptable
I also just wanted to take a moment to highlight something that is particularly important to me, and which is included as a subpoint in the review document: that is the importance of the involvement of international artists with our public art program.

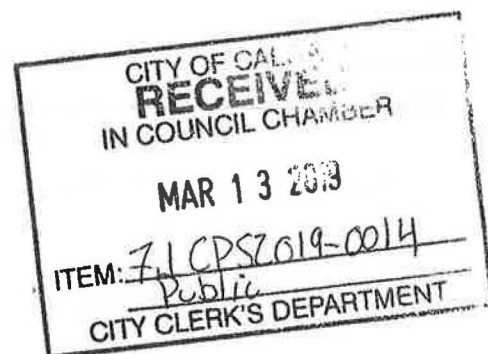
I moved to Alberta from Ontario in 2010 because of an amazing opportunity to work in my field. I was hired at The Banff Centre, which is foremost among other things, a residency-focused incubator for artists and arts workers of all kinds--and a particularly important place for visual artists--from Alberta, Canada, and throughout the world.

One of the things that makes Banff so successful and so important to artists is the bringing together of artists from all over the world into one place to live and work alongside one another. This creates opportunities that are hugely important

to contemporary artists: opportunities for the exchange of ideas and knowledge, the growth of professional networks, new connections which can allow their work to be shown in places outside of their home communities, and thus the potential to grow their careers.

Our public art program has been a place and opportunity for those kinds of wildly beneficial things to happen, particularly through programs like Watershed+. I want to make sure we keep sight of the importance of the involvement of international artists; that our local artists will benefit from their presence and work in our community, and also that international artists will benefit from us; Calgary and its artists have a helluva lot to offer.

Finally, but certainly not least of all, I'd like to thank you--members of council, staff, and my peers and colleagues who have participated in this process so far--for supporting this direction for the program. I recognize that there has been a great deal of pressure to address the various concerns around our Public Art program, so I appreciate the resolve, tenacity, and commitment to this process of making our civic Public Art program a global benchmark.



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?

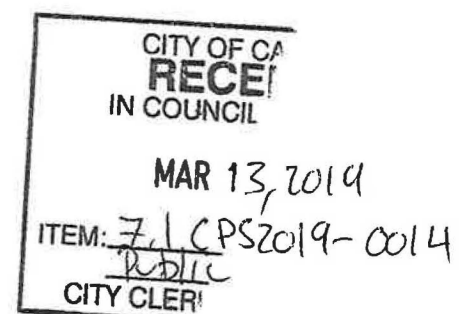
Council's directives last year, leading to new leadership, have brought about a change of attitudes, approaches and energy, and in a few short months righted a ship which had been led off course.

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 ^{has been added to} called '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

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