

## Main Heading



February 1, 2019

Kyle Ripley, Director, City of Calgary Parks

**RE: Support for Bow to Bluff Funding**

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Dear Mr. Kyle Ripley

The Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association (HSCA) is writing to you with the understanding that there is funding available to support the community citizen-initiated Bow to Bluff public parks project through the 2019-2022 Service Plans & Budget.

### Context

HSCA has been long been a partner with the City of Calgary. Hillhurst Sunnyside undertook the extensive three-year consultation process to amend the 1988 Hillhurst Area Redevelopment Plan in good faith with the promise of community benefits and amenities as a result of change and intensification. This process lead to City Council's adoption of the Part II Transit Oriented Development Area policy in 2009. Since then, Hillhurst Sunnyside has welcomed over 1,000 new residents to the now 10,800-strong community and will continue to welcome new community members as redevelopment continues.

### Engagement

- Initiated by the Bow to Bluff citizens' steering committee, the group was awarded the Council Innovation Fund Grant to develop a plan and engagement process in 2011, which has become foundational to how the City of Calgary conducts community engagement.
- The Bow to Bluff Urban Design Framework was adopted in 2012 and the Hillhurst Sunnyside Parks Improvement Fund was created and incorporated into the ARP.
- Bow to Bluff is supported by the community. Following a series of engagement events in spring 2017, the City of Calgary released the Bow to Bluff Public Realm Update in December 2017, which provides a detailed design plan and identifies priority projects.
- The citizen-led Bow to Bluff organizing committee, HSCA, community residents, councillor's office, development applicants and City of Calgary Parks, Planning & Development, and Affordable Housing departments have been working together to advocate for the implementation of Bow to Bluff improvements since 2012.

Improvements to the 9A Street NW LRT corridor has been highly anticipated since the 1980s. The Northwest LRT alignment and the impact of the LRT saw significant neighbourhood pushback, with the community physically divided and as triangular-shaped lots were created when the tracks were constructed. Through excellent public engagement and a plan amendment to include an at-grade crossing and community-integrated train station, the LRT has become a positive community asset. The 2011 Bow to Bluff initiative successfully seeks to further bridge this gap and make the 9A Street corridor a truly public space for all Calgarians. **We support funding Bow to Bluff and the collaborative process getting to its implementation.**

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Sincerely,

Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association

cc: Robert McKercher, Chair, Hillhurst Sunnyside Planning Committee & Vice Chair, HSCA  
Lisa Chong, Community Planning Coordinator, Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association  
Kate Stenson, Acting Executive Director, Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association  
Tyler Chalmers, Chair, Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association  
Bow to Bluff Citizens' Organizational Committee  
Daniel England, Project Manager, City of Calgary Parks  
Dale Calkins, Senior Policy & Planning Advisor, Ward 7 Councillor's Office  
Ward 7 City Councillor Druh Farrell  
City of Calgary Mayor Nenshi