

## Edmonton Arts Council

### Service Agreement

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the service agreement between the City of Edmonton and Edmonton Arts Council for annual amounts approved by City Council through the operating budget process, as outlined in Attachment 2 of the November 15, 2021, Citizen Services report CS00821, be approved, and that the agreement be in form and content acceptable to the City Manager.

#### Report Purpose

##### **Council decision required.**

City Council is being asked to approve the service agreement between the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Arts Council as part of the ongoing partnership to support the arts community in Edmonton and the implementation of Connections and Exchanges: A 10 Year Plan to Transform Arts And Heritage In Edmonton (2019-2029).

#### Executive Summary

- The Edmonton Arts Council exists to support and promote the arts community in Edmonton, supported through a service agreement with the City of Edmonton. The Edmonton Arts Council board includes representatives from City Council and Administration.
- Administration and the Edmonton Arts Council collaborate through a service agreement that reflects an ongoing partnership and joint city-building efforts to make Edmonton a city that is alive with arts and heritage, a hub for creation and reputation, and that has a thriving art and heritage ecosystem.
- The agreement outlines the respective obligations and responsibilities of the Edmonton Arts Council and the City of Edmonton as they relate to the City's arts and heritage plan, investments and programs.
- The current agreement is set to expire on December 31, 2021. The new agreement would be in effect from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2026. There is a renewal clause that allows for an extension of the agreement for another five-year term.

# Edmonton Arts Council - Service Agreement

## REPORT

The Edmonton Arts Council is a civic agency established in 1995 to support and promote the arts community in Edmonton. The Edmonton Arts Council:

- invests in Edmonton festivals, arts organizations and individual artists through municipal, corporate and private funding
- represents Edmonton's arts community to government and other agencies and provides expert advice on issues that affect the arts
- builds partnerships and initiates projects that strengthen the community
- creates awareness of the quality, variety and value of artistic work produced in Edmonton

## Strategy and Vision

The Edmonton Arts Council, in partnership with the Edmonton Heritage Council and Arts Habitat Edmonton, is leading the implementation of Connections & Exchanges: A 10 Year Plan to Transform Arts and Heritage in Edmonton, approved by City Council on October 23, 2018. Connections & Exchanges will guide and strengthen the City's planning, investment and ongoing development of the arts and heritage sectors, support cultural makers and interpreters, and grow Edmonton's arts and heritage audiences. The three guiding ambitions of the plan will create the conditions for an Edmonton that is:

- Alive with arts and heritage
- A hub for extraordinary creation and reputation
- A thriving and well-funded cultural ecosystem

Connections & Exchanges was developed at the same time as ConnectEdmonton: Edmonton's Strategic Plan 2019 - 2028 and is aligned with the vision, principles and goals of the plan. Work advanced through Connections & Exchanges also has a measurable impact on several outcomes, intentions and directions of The City Plan through citizen leadership, capacity building, placemaking, public arts, programming, heritage interpretation, and partnerships.

## Service Agreement

Administration collaborated with the Edmonton Arts Council to create an agreement that reflects the partnership and joint efforts required in executing the City's strategic priorities. This five-year agreement would commence on January 1, 2022, with an option for a five-year extension.

Changes from the previous agreement include:

- Inclusion of a land acknowledgement
- Recognition of the Edmonton Arts Council's professional expertise and leadership in implementing Connections & Exchanges
- Updated content to ensure alignment with ConnectEdmonton, The City Plan, Connections & Exchanges, and City Policy C458D Public Art to Enhance Edmonton's Public Realm

## Edmonton Arts Council - Service Agreement

- Descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of both parties in investments, the public art program, civic precinct programming, partnership development, measurement and evaluation, advocacy and project management

### Budget/Financial Implications

The Public Art Reserve and funding provided to the Edmonton Arts Council is funded annually as part of the City's operating budget and is contingent on the EAC fulfilling its roles and responsibilities as set out in the agreement.

Funding levels are established in accordance with historical public art investment, public art maintenance requirements, and approved capital plans. The Edmonton Arts Council administers the delivery of the public art program funded by the Public Art Reserve.

### COMMUNITY INSIGHT

The agreement was developed in partnership with the Edmonton Arts Council.

Connections & Exchanges was developed with a dedicated consultation process including pop-up sessions across the city, online surveys and story collection, facilitated sector sessions, Edmonton Insight Community survey and dedicated sessions for Indigenous artists, youth, elders and seniors led by Indigenous facilitators.

### GBA+

The Edmonton Arts Council strives to address inequity of all kinds including linguistic, regional, cultural, racial, gender, disability, etc., in all its practices and procedures.

- At a board level, this commitment is guided by an equity policy and championed by a standing equity committee.
- Connections & Exchanges includes actions to increase support for a wide range of artforms and communities, including artists and arts professionals from Indigenous and equity-seeking communities.
- The Public Art Program is guided by a diversity and inclusion principle to ensure investment in public art reflects the diversity of the city's makeup with consideration for equity of marginalized communities and populations.
- The Equity and Access in the Arts Grant Program supports Edmonton-based artists and collectives from communities that face barriers to access. This includes, but is not limited to, groups whose members are treated differently because of systemic barriers that disadvantage people based on their Indigenous heritage, the colour of their skin, their disabilities, sexual orientation and identity, and/or immigration status.

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Connections & Exchanges: A 10 Year Plan to Transform Arts and Heritage in Edmonton

## **Edmonton Arts Council - Service Agreement**

2. Edmonton Arts Council Service Agreement Key Terms and Conditions