

## Update: Arts and Culture Initiative

**Initiative Title:** Arts and Culture  
**City Council Lead(s):** Councillor B. Henderson / Councillor S. McKeen  
**Department Lead(s):** Citizen Services, L. Brenneis / K. Gunn

### **Recommendation - Renew for 2017-2021 Council Term**

---

#### **Objective**

The Arts and Culture Initiative is broad and includes many facets of City support for arts, heritage and culture and their advancement in the next three decades. The Initiative is rooted in and guided by the Art of Living Implementation Plan and Edmonton 2040: Prosperity and Creativity.

#### **Key outcomes, projects or activities and their status as of May 2017**

##### Art of Living Implementation Plan Annual Report

In September 2016 an update on progress on the 10-year Art of Living Implementation Report was provided to City Council. The plan is moving into the final quarter of its time frame.

The Edmonton Arts Council and the Edmonton Heritage Council have received \$200,000 in funding for a strategic refresh of the Arts and Culture Strategic Plan to get underway in the year ahead. This will also include identifying mechanisms to track progress and outcomes for the plan.

##### City as a Museum

Edmonton Heritage Council received funding for the City as a Museum virtual or living museum project until the end of 2017.

##### Nuit Blanche

City Council committed \$150,000 toward planning a second Nuit Blanche contemporary art festival for 2018. Over 50,000 people attended in 2016.

##### City's Public Art Collection

Council approved \$100,000 toward the Conservation Assessment of the City's Public Art Collection.

##### Youth Poet Laureate

Edmonton's 2017 Youth Poet Laureate (YPL) is Nasra Adem. She performed at the March 8, 2017 International Women's Day event at City Hall and was the recipient of the Emerging Artist award at the Mayor's Celebration of the Arts 2017.

### MacEwan West Project

On November 21, 2016, Council passed a motion for City Administration to continue with the next steps necessary to re-purpose MacEwan West University Campus into a shared space, an "intercultural, interagency, community hub for arts, recreation, wellness and learning".

The City has developed a process to select tenants and allocate space under the tenancy model approved by City Council. A Tenant Selection Review Advisory Committee has been established to assess applications, recommend tenants and allocate space. The Tenant Selection Review Advisory Committee is composed of four independent external members representing the arts, non-profit, intercultural and local community groups and five City staff from supporting sections.

To ensure that applications will be assessed by a fair and transparent process the City's Corporate Procurement and Supply Services will develop the MacEwan West Tenant Application Form (NRFP) and aligned Evaluation Criteria. The results of the tenant selection and a final business plan will be presented to Council on August 21, 2017.

### Canada 150 - Community Celebrations and Events

- July 1, 2017 - The downtown Canada Day event will be a celebration of the region's diversity. For the first time, Canada Day 2017 will be fully planned in collaboration with the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and the Edmonton Celebrates Canada Committee. All Edmonton Canada Day events will be free and family friendly, with both indoor and outdoor components.
- Civic Events and Partnerships have been tracking "Significant Initiatives/Events" for 2017 in Edmonton. As of early May 2017 Administration is aware of over 200 activities, the majority of which are Canada 150 specific or have a Canada 150 component.
- The City's *Canada 150 Sponsorship Fund* has allocated \$150,000 to support 45 non-profit organizations with costs related to producing a celebration for Canada 150. Sponsorships range from \$500 to \$5,000.

### Federal Funding

- Canadian Heritage allocated a \$200,000 grant to the City provided for the 2016 New Year's Eve / Canada 150 Kick-off event. There has been \$551,400 awarded to six Edmonton community groups for arts and culture projects including \$300,000 for The WORKS International Visual Art Society Capital Boulevard Legacy Public Art Project.
- Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program (Western Economic Diversification) has provided approximately \$5 million to support projects in Edmonton. A large number of these projects are recreational places

(community leagues, YMCA, curling rinks). Fort Edmonton Park received \$500,000 in 2015 and Queen Elizabeth Park (Indigenous Art Park) received \$500,000 in 2017.

#### Edmonton Arts Council Live Music Initiative

The intent of this project is to explore different ways to bolster the live music scene. The aim is to improve circumstances for all stakeholders involved to ensure long term sustainable growth. ELM has been working with musicians, venues, promoters, community leaders, educators, economic agencies and other industry experts to advance the entire live-music ecosystem.

Edmonton will be hosting the Western Canadian Music awards - Breakout West 2017. Winners will be announced live from the stages of the Breakout West Festival and at the annual Industry Awards Brunch, September 13-17, 2017 in Edmonton. In addition to sponsoring this event, the live music initiative will be sponsoring other live music events including Next Fest in 2017.

#### Ociciwan Contemporary Art Collective

A request for funding for a feasibility study will be completed in 2017. This request, if awarded will allow for planning of a Contemporary Indigenous Arts Centre in the City of Edmonton. This would provide support to Indigenous contemporary art exhibitions, contemporary artists, curators and culture workers.

### **Future Steps**

Continue to support the many arts and culture initiatives underway as listed above.

### **Evaluation**

The Arts and Culture Council Initiative was launched over ten years ago. The work should continue as the development of a new Arts and Culture Strategic Plan is underway and will be led by the Edmonton Arts Council. The new Arts and Culture Strategic Plan although drafted by the Edmonton Arts Council (with Edmonton Heritage Council), will be a City plan, providing a vision and actions for both the community and the corporation to advance. The Arts and Culture work adds value and ensures an ongoing City profile with strong Council champions for the arts communities. This work does not need to be modified or merged with another initiative.