

Media Release
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Edmonton Arts Council delivers five-year update on the Art of Living

Edmonton... The Art of Living, a 10-year plan for securing the future of arts and heritage in Edmonton, is now at its midway point. To mark the occasion, the Edmonton Arts Council delivered an update to the community on the plan's recommendations and progress.

"The first recommendation in the Art of Living concerned space" said Linda Huffman, executive director of Arts Habitat Association (Arts Hab). "In response to that recommendation, I am happy to say that Arts Hab is now in its fifth year of operations with a full time professional staff of two. We have worked on a number of projects, such as ArtsHub 118 and the McLuhan House, and we continue to develop new projects to connect artists with creative spaces."

Released in 2008, the Art of Living was a joint endeavor by the Edmonton Arts Council and the City of Edmonton towards the creation of a sustainable and progressive cultural environment in Edmonton – an environment that integrates culture into everyday life and one that strives to retain and attract cultural practitioners. The Art of Living has helped to inform aspects of major City of Edmonton documents, strategically aligning arts and cultural planning with civic plans such as The Way We Live and the WinterCity Strategy.

"The other four areas in the plan are education, investment, recognition and integration," said John Mahon, executive director of the Edmonton Arts Council. "Since the plan was released in 2008, we have worked on a number of projects to increase strategic investment in the arts and festivals through grants and awards, support education and mentorship in the arts, recognize the role of the arts and artists in the larger civic agenda and integrate the arts and artists into civic projects and life."

The Art of Living is being enacted with full support from Edmonton City Council, who receive regular updates on progress in implementation. The Edmonton Arts Council, on behalf of the City, leads the implementation of the 17 actions in the arts identified in the plan. The 10 actions in heritage are being implemented by the Edmonton Heritage Council.

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The Edmonton Arts Council is a not-for-profit organization that supports and promotes the arts community in Edmonton. The EAC works to increase the profile and involvement of arts and culture in all aspects of our community life.

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