

# THE ART OF LIVING

FIVE YEAR MARK

## PROGRESS RECOMMENDATION

### SPACE

- 1 Support of Arts Habitat Association of Edmonton (ArtsHab) dedicated to finding, developing and managing space for the arts in Edmonton.
- 2 A review and revision of all civic bylaws and regulations that unintentionally inhibit the responsible development and utilization of space for artists and arts activities.

### EDUCATION

- 3 A review of the curriculum of fine arts in public and separate schools.
- 4 A review of the state of post-secondary training in the arts in Edmonton.
- 5 Recognition of the value of connecting with internationally acclaimed arts mentors/artists, and the need to keep "elder" artists active and engaged as mentors.

### INVESTMENT

- 6 Increases to City grants for established arts and festival organizations.
- 7 Sustained support for all individual artists in Edmonton.
- 8 Increased support for community arts projects.
- 9 Strategic support of cultural industries, including direct investment in film and video production and a consideration of the creation of live music zones in the city.

### REGOCNITION

- 10 Increasing the value and range of City prizes in the arts.
- 11 More naming recognition of artists on city streets and parks.
- 12 The creation of a biennial festival of Alberta artists highlighting Edmonton as the capital city of the province.
- 13 Exclusive use of Edmonton-made cultural products for City gifts.

### INTEGRATION

- 14 Stabilization of the poet laureate position in the City and the creation of a Cultural Cabinet that would include the poet laureate, writer-in-exile and others.
- 15 Artist residencies in City departments.
- 16 Development of community sites for arts performances and exhibits throughout the city.
- 17 Reaffirmation of the position of the Edmonton Arts Council in the City.

- 1 Arts Habitat is now in its fifth year of operations with a full time professional staff of two. They have undertaken work on five projects and continue to develop new projects. Implementation is on schedule and on-going.
- 2 A review of the Bylaws Project was completed by Arts Habitat with City staff, with a report recommending changes presented to Edmonton City Council in 2012. It was adopted with all recommended amendments. Notably the adopted changes recognize artist studios, media studios and live/work space, and expand the number and type of zones most uses are allowed in. The report covered all aspects of the issue except eating and drinking venues, which effect the live music community. More consultation is required in these areas before recommendations are made to City Council. Implementation of the Art of Living Recommendation #2 is 80% complete.

- 3 The EAC is a partner with Creative Alberta in generating a local discussion about creativity in the school systems. An international symposium on this subject was held in Edmonton in 2012. This is only a start. Implementation is beginning.
- 4 Review of the state of post-secondary training has not begun.
- 5 ArtsHab and Artist Urban Village, with strong support from the City of Edmonton, will, in 2013, begin work on a large housing complex east of downtown where senior artists will be welcomed and integrated into a larger community of artists.

EAC involvement with this has been to support others. Many arts and community organizations including the Creative Age Festival continue to develop and support the work of senior artists. Implementation has started but is still in beginning stages.

- 6 City investment in the arts and festival organizations has doubled from 2008 to 2013. All funding targets have been met. Implementation is complete.
- 7 City grants to individual artists have tripled between 2008 and 2013. Microgrants have been introduced. Implementation is complete.
- 8 City support for community arts projects have quadrupled between 2008 and 2013. Implementation is complete.
- 9 Preliminary discussions with Edmonton Chamber of Commerce and other community partners has only just begun. More extensive discussions around live music zones started in 2009 but has not been adequately continued – we will return to that discussion and planning. Implementation is only just beginning.

- 10 The Book Prize (Robert Kroetsch Book Award) was increased from \$2,000 to \$10,000. An Edmonton Film Prize (\$10,000) was announced and first awarded in 2012. A \$10,000 prize in the visual arts (Eldon and Anne Foote Edmonton Visual Arts Prize) was created by the Edmonton Community Foundation in partnership with Visual Arts Alberta and the EAC. The EAC will develop a comparable prize for music in 2013. Implementation is on schedule and two-thirds complete.
- 11 A review of all city streets and parks named in recognition of artists was completed in 2011. The City's Naming Committee recognized Fringe Festival founder Brian Paisley by naming a new Edmonton neighbourhood in his honour in 2012. Implementation is on-going.
- 12 The EAC and several Edmonton festival producers participated in a Canadian capital city symposium held in Edmonton in 2012. Discussion did involve the cultural role of capital cities and some discussion about a partnership with the province on a biennial festival of Alberta began. No actions were discussed. Implementation has not yet begun.
- 13 The City's office that purchases gifts now consistently purchases Edmonton made cultural products. Implementation is on-going.

- 14 Edmonton has now had a successful series of four poet laureate and two historian laureate. The writer-in-exile program has had four writers but suspended its program for 2012 and 2013 in order to re-examine its criteria. No progress has been accomplished on the creation or role of a Cultural Cabinet. Implementation has not begun.
- 15 Three successful artist residencies have taken place in City support agencies like Youth Emergency Shelter and Boyle Street Community Services. The EAC has been challenged by City Council to expand these residencies in 2013 to places within the City. Implementation is in its beginning stages.
- 16 A successful grant program called Living Local has been implemented with the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues and the Edmonton Heritage Council. These grants support projects that involve an Edmonton community league, artist or group of artists or a professional heritage worker that lives in the community league area. The ambition to create local sites for arts presentation and production is not yet accomplished. Implementation is in its beginning stages.
- 17 The role of the EAC was reinforced by the renewal of its Service Agreement with the City in 2009 for a five-year term. The EAC continues to be the primary City office for the arts.

In 2008 the City of Edmonton adopted the Art of Living – a 10-year plan to secure the future for the arts and heritage in Edmonton.

Now 5 years into the plan, we return to the community with an update on the progress and growth of the Art of Living. The Art of Living is being enacted with full support from Edmonton City Council. The Edmonton Arts Council, on behalf of the City, leads the implementation of the 17 actions in the arts identified in the plan.