

Media Release
For Immediate Release
February 5, 2018

The Edmonton Waste Management Centre welcomes their first Artist-in-Residence, Leanne Olson

Edmonton... The City of Edmonton and Edmonton Arts Council launched the call for the first artist residency at the Edmonton Waste Management Centre in September 2017, and received over 25 applications for the opportunity. The project is guided by *The Art of Living*, the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Arts Council's joint cultural plan—one of its major recommendations was the establishment of expanded artist-in-residence projects, particularly within City departments.

Today, Edmonton artist and photographer Leanne Olson begins her six-month term as the Edmonton Waste Management Centre's artist-in-residence. "The draw of this call was an opportunity to understand waste," said Olson. "Waste is a necessary part of human existence, yet it can be somewhat of a mystery— what happens when it goes away and why is it often thrown out?" Her art practice explores what we overlook: the spaces, places, and areas we avoid. "I see my role as spending time capturing and documenting how the cycle of waste growth and disintegration adapts through natural and forced causes," said Olson on her residency. "I am eager to meet the minds and ideas that make waste processing possible... This intersection of machine, human and land all working together and adjusting to each other."

"We're excited for this opportunity to host an artist-in-residence at the Edmonton Waste Management Centre," said Michael Robertson, contract manager with the City of Edmonton's Materials Recovery Facility. "Leanne's passion for capturing change in the natural world connects to our goals of waste reduction and environmental stewardship. I think that her work here will provide a fresh perspective on waste and a new way to engage with Edmonton residents and our staff."

The artist-in-residence program is a partnership between the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Arts Council, embedding local artists into City of Edmonton departments and local service agencies to engage with citizens, employees, clients and community. Funded by the City of Edmonton, the Edmonton Arts Council is a not-for-profit organization that supports and promotes the arts community in Edmonton. Learn more about the artist-in-residence program at edmontonarts.ca/artists_in_residence/.

-30-

The Edmonton Arts Council is a non-profit society and charitable 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.

Annette Aslund, Communications Officer
Edmonton Arts Council
780.424.2787 ext 239
aaslund@edmontonarts.ca

Sarah Snider, Communications Coordinator
City of Edmonton
780.496.5755
sarah.snider@edmonton.ca

