



Press Release

SUBJECT: YESS says, "Yes!" to the arts with generous funding from PACE's Mayor's Celebration of the Arts

DATE: Tuesday, July 27, 2010

RELEASE: For immediate release



Edmonton's Armoury Youth Centre was alive with art today as the Youth Emergency Shelter Society (YESS) accepted a donation for \$17,166 from Mayor Stephen Mandel and President Daniel Cournoyer of the Professional Arts Coalition of Edmonton (PACE).

Mayor Mandel commented, "I am pleased that through the Mayor's Evening for the Arts event put on by PACE, we have been able to extend a helping hand to the Youth Emergency Shelter Society, an organization that provides critical support to kids in need." He added, "The REACH Report, a strategy for creating a safer and stronger community in one generation, highlights the importance of helping young people early in their lives. YESS does just that by providing a safe haven and opening up a future of possibilities for these kids."

The Mayor's Celebration of the Arts honours outstanding Edmonton supporters of the arts and professional artists that excel in their fields and, in the process, has contributed well over \$100,000 since 2005 to worthy organizations such as The Mennonite Centre for Newcomers and the Art Gallery of Alberta.

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“Thanks to the support of Edmonton’s Mayor and business community, our annual event has become a huge success over the years, enabling PACE to extend this generosity to Edmonton’s wider community. It is a perfect example of what can be achieved when business and government work hand-in-hand with the arts sector,” remarked PACE President Daniel Cournoyer.

YESS is using its contribution to support arts programming for the youth that access its facilities on Whyte Avenue and at the Armoury Youth Centre.

"Involvement in the arts is a great avenue of expression for kids who've had some very difficult experiences, and who struggle with feelings that can be difficult to communicate in words," said Sue Keating, Acting Executive Director at YESS, "We're so grateful that these funds are available for the kids to explore their creative talents. The generosity of PACE and the Mayor's Office sends a clear message to the kids that both the arts community and the City of Edmonton genuinely care about their challenges and successes."

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For more information, contact:

Mary Elizabeth Archer, PACE Coordinator

E-mail: admin@pacedmonton.com

Cell: (780) 710-5470

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Background

PACE, or the Professional Arts Coalition of Edmonton, is a not-for-profit arts advocacy organization, run by a volunteer executive board and one part-time staff member. Its membership consists of professional arts organizations and independent professional artists from Edmonton and the surrounding region. PACE has served the professional arts community since 1986, originally as the Edmonton Professional Arts Council (EPAC). Over the years, PACE has initiated many positive changes for the arts in the city of Edmonton.

PACE produces the annual Mayors Evening for the Arts, coordinates the ArtsVote campaign at election times and conducts advocacy campaigns throughout the year. As our community continues to grow and flourish PACE strives to:

- Coalesce the professional arts community of Edmonton towards positive lobbying and advocacy initiatives.
- Provide information and support to professional artists and arts and cultural groups in the greater Edmonton region.
- Increase the profile of the arts in the city of Edmonton and in the province.

The following organizations have benefited from PACE's annual Mayor's Celebration of the Arts

<u>Year</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Donation Amount</u>
2005	Art Gallery of Alberta	\$28,652
2006	Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts	\$17,321
2007	Mennonite Centre for Newcomers	\$11,924
2008	Arts on the Avenue	\$20,534
2009	Centre for the Advancement of African Canadians	\$11,234
	Mennonite Centre for Newcomers	\$11,234
2010	Youth Emergency Shelter Society	\$17,166