



Artwork: Barbara Klunder

## PACE 2010 CIVIC ELECTION SURVEY LONG-FORM RESPONSES



Please keep in mind that candidates are deluged with surveys during any election. Many of the surveys completed here were likely done in a hurry to keep on top of the demand from various interest groups. We herein present candidates' verbatim responses to PACE's survey on the arts in Edmonton.

To find specific candidates, please use the search button at the top of the page and enter either the candidate's name or the jurisdiction in which you are interested.

Thank you.

### **Councillor (Ward 1) Candidate Responses:**

#### **Andrew Knack**

##### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

I believe a city must ensure that we provide the essentials (road maintenance, police/fire service, snow removal, etc.) That being said, we also have a responsibility to provide non-essentials that will not necessarily be used by everyone, they will increase the overall quality of life. Just as an individual must live within their means, so must government. We should be more responsible with regards to long-term planning so that we can prepare for costs associated with improving our arts. I believe that I will be able to provide the necessary balance of funding the arts and our essentials.

##### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

It should be our goal to provide a stable base of long-term funding. It is irresponsible to promise the funding without reviewing future budgets in detail but it is a very reasonable request that will likely be met.

##### **3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

I am aware of "The Art of Living" and have read through it.

##### **4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

As with any policy document approved by the city (Municipal Development Plan, etc.), Council must follow through with the commitments in the document and I will continue to accomplish the recommendations put forward.

##### **5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

No.

## **Andrew Knack, cont'd.**

### **6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

Heritage Festival. Most of my free time is spent working on the Community League.

### **7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

In Arts Recommendation #16, it states "Establish neighbourhood artist awareness programs and sites city-wide." I am willing to follow through with Council's commitment in 2008 to provide more space for artists to present their work.

### **8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

Assuming we lead by example as a City by purchasing local art and providing the necessary space, the private sector will understand the benefit of supporting the local arts. I do not believe we will need to do any formal lobbying of the private sector as long as Edmonton is doing our part.

### **9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

I believe if the city follows the recommendations in "The Art of Living" the city will encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art of Edmonton.

### **10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

If the schools are not providing options for the students to take, then we are going to proceed in a downward spiral. As a city, we should ensure students have the proper and up-to-date tools necessary to participate in the arts. I also believe the Community Leagues should work to encourage the youth to be engaged in the arts by providing programs for the young families.



## **Jamie Post**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

My platform is focused primarily on social, environmental, and planning issues relating to our communities. I've stated throughout the campaign, my support for incorporating art into our public spaces and facilities and support for a private sector "percent for art" policy.

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

The city budget is a constantly evolving target, with varying revenues from Epcor and provincial grants. With a mass of neighborhood renewal projects on the horizon, and plans for mass LRT expansion I believe we will have to budget carefully over the upcoming term with a strong focus on infrastructure work, transit expansion, and neighborhood revitalization. Without knowing the budget requests of the various city departments at this time, I'm unable to commit to external budget items. I believe showcasing our arts and culture is extremely important, however with the mass of infill and rapid transit work on the horizon, I see the city's resources being stretched thinner than usual over the next term.

**Jamie Post, cont'd.**

**3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

Yes, I have read it.

**4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

My platform states my priorities, and for individuals whose vote I have earned, they know what they can expect from the individual they have chosen to represent them. I've made a strong commitment to community, and helping to increase the involvement of the individual in their surrounding neighborhood. Civic pride is obviously a part of this, and many of the goals in the The Art of Living would be a positive contribution, and my support would be in the form of supporting art in public spaces, supporting local and large scale events, and helping to attract festivities to Edmonton.

**5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

No

**6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

No response.

**7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

I'm a strong supporter of the ability to live locally. Part of this, is supporting our local business owners, shopping districts, BRZ's and local business associations. The spin off is greater support for smaller scale, local retail and commercial space. That local interaction in turn creates a greater opportunity for local themes, such as the arts on 118th.

**8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

Unfortunately the current Council turned down a similar program, however I believe the next Council should reconsider a "percent for art" program for large scale private developments.

**9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

For me, it involves bringing art to our public spaces. Both in terms of publicly funded facilities, and through support for a "percent for art" program for large private developments.

**10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

I've made cooperation and collaboration with EPSB and ECSD Trustees a significant platform point, which could well include using arts related programs to help utilize community schools as neighborhood hubs.



## **Linda Sloan**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

My platform is based on the "Art of Living" Plan. This plan is the cumulative work of so many individuals and I was honored to be on Council when it was unanimously endorsed.

I have read the Plan from cover to cover. It is without question one of the best plans created in our city (the only other one in its league is the Next Gen Plan).

Having held the Seniors Portfolio on Council for the past 6 years my love and belief in the benefits of the arts has extended into my work with seniors. One of the creative initiatives I have been honored to chair is the Creative Age Festival. Now in its fourth year, this festival is dedicated to celebrating the importance of artistic and creative expression to senior's health and wellbeing. This event brings seniors together to experience and enjoy creativity in many forms.

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

I have voted in support of both stable funding and increases in EAC's funding during my 6 years on Council. I commit to continue this support should I be reelected.

### **3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

From cover to cover.

### **4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

It should be implemented and funded in its entirety.

### **5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

I have had a membership in PACE and the Alberta Art Gallery. (This is reminding me to check that they haven't expired!) I was also honored to be a founding member of Edmonton's Heritage Council.

### **6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

Opening of the Alberta Art Gallery, Creative Age Festival

In fact, in the spirit of Creative Aging I attended the University Students Dance Club classes last winter learning to waltz, foxtrot, tango and cha-cha!!

### **7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

I have supported Arts Habitat strategy and fully support the establishment of Art of Living/Pal's Seniors Artists Lodge.

### **8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

In representing an area with a large business and industrial segment I will Endeavour if reelected to encourage and educate businesses in this regard.

**Linda Sloan, cont'd.**

**9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

I fully support the initiation of such projects. The Edmonton Land Trust (also a group I played a small part in creating) will this week unveil the Edmonton Giants mural on Stony Plain Road, in Ward 1. This type of project is one that any group public or private can emulate. I hope to encourage and work with other partners, communities to facilitate more of such public art works within Edmonton.

**10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

I believe such initiatives need to be driven by youth. I really admire St. Albert's approach that has a children's festival and also an art instruction within their city hall is one to examine and potentially support. Council did support in the last term the establishment of a city school, perhaps an art program would be an feasible next step?



**Councillor (Ward 2) Candidate Responses:**

**Thomas Hinderks**

No response.



**Don Koziak**

No response.



**Kim Krushell**

**1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

I have been a supporter of the Arts as a City Councillor. I supported the building of the Art Gallery, the increased grant funding and more recently worked with Councillor Ben Henderson on the creation of a winter festival, "Winter Lights" where we employed a lot of artists and festival workers and developed a pretty good start on a winter festival in Edmonton. I also worked with our City of Edmonton Youth Council on the Heart 2 Art contest where we initiated an art contest on homelessness that not only generated amazing art that was displayed at Capital Ex and City Hall but that also raised \$110,000 dollars for Boyle Street Community Services an inner city agency that helps homeless.

**2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

I have supported funding the Arts Council and will continue to do so.

**3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

I am aware of the Art of Living and have been supportive of moving forward with this plan.

**Kim Krushell, cont'd.**

**4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

I have supported the funding for the Art of Living.

**5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

I was actually more active in terms of buying tickets to the Citadel before I was a City Councillor because I had more free time. That said, we still buy tickets and contribute to various events whether it's to see a Fringe play or attend the Street Performers Festival or check out the ballet or the Citadel. I have recently been on the Winter Festival Committee for Winter Light, and was the lead on the City of Edmonton Youth Council Heart 2 Art contest. I come from a family of artists so I have always been supportive of the arts.

**6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

In the past year, I attended the classic A Christmas Carole at the Citadel with my family it's turned into a tradition. We also attended the Christmas concert at the Victoria School for the Visual and Performing Arts. I have attended an event at the new Art Gallery and of course was there for the big opening. I was able to catch some of the Street Performers Festival which was excellent as always. We were away a big chunk of the summer festival season because we were in Europe celebrating 20 years of marriage and took in some amazing art such as the Louvre in Paris, the Riech Museum in Amsterdam and the list goes on.

**7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

There are a number of different approaches being taken to looking at the creation of artist space whether it's through the Expo 2017 bid or the Art of Living.

**8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

No response.

**9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

City Council has already significantly increased the push for public art in our city by encouraging developers to contribute to public art as well as within our own city projects.

**10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

My child attends an art focused school so I have not experienced a reduction in art as a focus. I certainly encouraged our City of Edmonton Youth Council with the Heart 2 Art Contest that encouraged all youth in all schools, public, catholic and francophone to generate art on the issue of homelessness.



**Roxie Malone-Richards**

No response.



## **Shelly Tupper**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

I support and encourage the arts. I support showcasing art in public spaces and buildings and the arts being incorporated into every day life like through the festivals and events that take place year round in Edmonton.

I am also supportive of the EXPO 2017 bid as I realize the opportunity for the performing arts and also that permanent public art would be commissioned for EXPO 2017.

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

I support the EAC receiving a stable base of long term funding to support the Edmonton arts community.

### **3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

Yes I am aware of The Art of Living.

### **4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

I will make it a priority to live up to the commitments.

### **5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

My involvement as donor, member and board member has been through my involvement with my Community League, Area Council, the Federation of Community Leagues, Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB from 2001 to 2007), Neighbourhood Watch and Community Patrols that is a significant time commitment.

### **6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

The events that I recall:

a stage production of Hamlet

three separate performances at the Mayfield Dinner Theatre

three separate performance at the Jubilations Dinner Theatre

a preview of a Fringe Play

the Olympic Torch Run Ceremony at Churchill Square

Salute to Excellence Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Musical performers at Outdoor Markets

Heritage Festival

I am a frequent visitor to the Royal Alberta Museum for the Edmonton Film Society's presentations.

### **7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

I think the underutilized space in existing community schools provides an opportunity for artists to have space and resources.

**Shelly Tupper, cont'd.**

**8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

I commit to working towards this goal as the arts add to our overall quality of life and contribute to the economic success of our city.

**9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

As stated above I support the EXPO 2017 bid for precisely this reason.

**10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

See my comments to question 7.



**Michael Waddy**

No response.



**Councillor (Ward 3) Candidate Responses:**

**Kim Cassady**

No response.



**Terry Demers**

No response.



**Shawn Fairbridge**

No response.



**Dave Loken**

No response



**Hatem Nabousli**

No response.



## **John Oplanich**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

The arts plays a critical role in any city. It enables us to to see the world through a particular work They force us to see the world differently either through art or the lens. Imagination is boundless. It opens our eyes to possibilities and speculation. Picasso once said "Painting is just another way of keeping a diary."

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

Absolutely, arts is the key to any great city

### **3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

I have not read it in its entirety but I know it is a plan for securing the future of arts and heritage in the city of edmonton. Fantastic.

### **4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

Absolutely. I hope to play as big a role as you will allow me to.

### **5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

To the arts - NO. To humanity YES. So I guess you might say that they are the same when you look at art.

### **6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

I have attended the art gallery. I spend time in Phoenix and have spent lots of time at the Frank Lloyd Gallery.

### **7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

They need space and the city has lots of places around teh city where artists could set-up shop. With technology today the world is endless.

### **8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

I am not sure what 1% is in terms of dollars. However, I have purchased alot of private art over the years from Edm and around the world. I choose art by what I see not who painting.

### **9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

Restaurants love to hang art. Lots of restaurants have art with prices that patrons can purchase. What a great opportunity for artists. There are probably a 100 different ways if you are creative.

### **10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

I didn't realize that. My kids have been encouraged from a very young age doing crafts, painting, colouring , drawing etc. OUr schools at the jr and high level have art as an option so I don't know what is happening in other schools.



## **Greg Siver**

**General response:** I am sorry that I took so long in answering your questions. I am a big fan of the arts. I feel that the arts is a corner stone to any community. I definitely agree there should be stable funding. I would stand by the 2008 "The art of living" adopted by council. I would agree to more public art in the City. I have been to the art gallery dozen times over the last 15 years. I am a regular with the Edmonton symphony, I went to see Othello done by Edmonton Opera. I hope this helps you.



## **Louis Sobolewski**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

I don't have an arts platform.

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

No.

### **3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

No.

### **4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

No.

### **5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

No.

### **6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

None.

### **7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

I am not able to make any commitment to arts infrastructure until after I have examined the state of Edmonton's financial position.

### **8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

I think that would be a good idea.

### **9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

I don't know.

**Louis Sobolewski, cont'd.**

**10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

No.



**Michael Suess**

No response.



**Councillor (Ward 4) Candidate Responses:**

**Ken Atkinson**

**1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

all forms of art are an integral part of any community.

**2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

I can't promise but I will fight for it.

**3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

no and no

**4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

I'm not but my wife is a member of the art gallery

**5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

my wife is a member of the Art Gallery of Alberta

**6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

my wife and daughter have been to the art gallery a few times and also season ticket holders to the Pop Series at the Wainspear Center.

**7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

I think we can take a page out of some European cities and have them displayed in various public buildings.

## **Ken Atkinson, cont'd.**

### **8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

I would think this would be an easy thing as most private sector business's are also art enthusiasts.

### **9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

I would try and get consensus from council to encourage this.

### **10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

I think art in schools is an important endeavour but we can only try and convince the Provincial Government as they are responsible for school funding.



## **Dan Backs**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

My extended family has a long history in the Arts. My sister has a BFA from the U of A and also studied in New York and London. She is presently raising her family in Drumheller and remains active in Theatre and the Performing Arts, often at Rosebud Theatre. My brother is a long time vocalist and has sung with The Richard Eton Singers and The Edmonton Opera. My mother was a painter and my father won awards for his house designs, even having the first ever Canadian feature spread of 12 pages in Better Homes and Gardens in 1960. I have created number of pieces of design furniture and have experimented quite a bit with special finishes and have submitted short stories (none published) on occasion. I have a sensitivity to the arts.

I support ArtsHab and the creation of a City Historian and the continued support of our heritage and cultural institutions. I believe that we must begin to recreate a historical feel in certain areas of our city, not only in terms of preservation, but in recreating the charm and ambience of our heritage. Edmonton has for too long embraced the Bauhaus glass and steel functionality that has turned much of our central city into a cold and sterile place. We must create a café atmosphere and develop in areas like that overlooking the river valley east of the convention center.

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

The EAC must look to include the whole City in it's Arts Community support. The NorthEast has far too many junkyards and not much art. I support long term funding if it is fairly distributed in it's allocation.

### **3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's Cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

Yes, I have read it.

### **4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

I believe it is an important work. When I was an MLA, I spoke in the Legislature on a number of occasions on the importance of the arts not only as a cultural asset, but also as an economic one and as a way to attract talented people in other areas of the economy who also have an appreciation of art, culture and heritage.

## **Dan Backs, cont'd.**

### **5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of/to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

I am a past board member of Theatre Network and have attended many arts fundraisers.

### **6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

I have attended at a number of events quite regularly over the years, ranging from Theatre to Opera to Art Exhibitions and others. I was away all last winter and early spring so I have missed a number of recent productions.

### **7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

ArtsHab is important. Council must work together with the schools, universities and community leagues to foster artistic opportunity.

### **8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

I would urge the province to give a tax credit for such endeavours by investors.

### **9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

Public art is important.

### **10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

I would encourage the province to enhance art and culture in its education curriculum and the school boards in its delivery and encourage public displays of young artistic endeavour.



## **Ed Gibbons**

No response.



## **Hafsa Goma**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

Art is the greatest entertainment for the heart and mind. Art creates symbols that lasts for generation. Any investment in Art is an investment in character building of a society and a city.

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

I can safely promise core-funding in Art. I believe that we need to make it possible for Artists to decorate our city and create art that will bring in tourists from all over the world. It will be a great success if we were to define our city through Art.

**Hafsa Goma, cont'd.**

**3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

Sorry., I haven't had the chance to read the report but I was once involved in planning and reviewing the art for the down town area which now hangs beautifully along Jasper and other streets around the area.

**4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

I will sure make it a priority given that I have a great appreciation of Art and Artist and believe that it should be given the attention and priority it deserves.

**5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

I was briefly involved in creating the Art now beautifully and majestically hanging along Jasper Avenue and other streets around the down town area.

**6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

Honestly, i do not remember the last time I attended an Art event given the time I dedicate to volunteering in the community.

**7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

I had always though about using some space in the downtown area for creating arts that would provide a sort of attraction to those who work and live in the downtown area. I imagined glass blowing, potrait sketching and other forms of art available during prime time for the enjoyment and appreciation of the public. I love and enjoy art and anything that brings such pleasure is magnified when shared.

**8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

I am in total agreement with this proposal. The private sector can do their part by purchasing art and displaying those for their clients. Restuarants and those with internation businesss connections and clients could lead the way in promoting local art.

**9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

by having a collective Arts Day somewhere in the down town area with display at the Airport, the legislature and City hall. Most of all, I would suggest that one of the schools closed due to lack of students be converted into an art centre.

**10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

My proposal with regard to youth is to engage them in pro-social activities. That may include keeping the schools open for an extra two hours to allow time for extra-curricular activities, which will include arts.



**Scott Robb**

No response



# **Councillor (Ward 5) Candidate Responses:**


## **Steve Bergeron**

No response.




## **Mark Grandish**

**General response:** Hello and thank you for the email, and pardon my tardeness for the response. I'am in favor of supporting Edmonton's local artists and the art community. I do believe that the city Edmonton should support local artists in anyway they can. Myself I have an extensive art collection and attend many live music events in which I have a passion for. I must say I have never read The Art of Living, but look forward to doing to so thank-you for information. As a candidate and future councillor of Edmonton I would gladly support the arts in Edmonton. I do believe in showcasing more local talent and making Edmontonians aware of this. Thank-you Mark Grandish



## **Brian Kendrick**

**General response:** I support all the arts it's who we are and where we come from. It's how culture is developed so you can count on me for all my support. I spoke about the arts at my ctv interview this morning. Click on ctv then election candidates and view. I would like your votes. Brian Kendrick



## **Karen Leibovici**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

I believe that the City should support the arts, heritage and other culturally-related areas that impact the quality of life of its citizens. The City's role is in partnership with not-for-profit organizations, artists, private sector and other orders of government. In particular, I support the mandate and work of the Edmonton Arts Council, Edmonton Heritage Council; the City Percent for Art program and the Masterplan for Public Art; as well as the substance of the 29 recommendations in the Art of Living.

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

Yes, this is one of the Art of Living recommendations.

### **3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

Yes.

### **4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

The past City Council, of which I was a member, unanimously adopted the Art of Living plan and the subsequent implementation plan developed by City administration and the EAC. The Art of Living is related to the City's vision as well as other City plans including the Way We Live and the Way We Grow. It is linked to the values, goals and objectives of these plans should be one of the priorities of City Council.

## **Karen Leibovici, cont'd.**

### **5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

I have supported the Arts community through private donations as well as attending many events.

### **6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

I spoke at the EAC AGM, attended the Arts Council Christmas open house as well as attend numerous events, plays, concerts and shows.

### **7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

The first recommendation of the Art of Living is to provide on-going operating funding to Arts Habitat Association of Edmonton so they can work effectively on this very issue. Arts Habitat is now up and running and are working on several active projects as well as developing a number of others. I continue to support Arts Habitat and any other responsible partnership that finds, develops, shares and manages affordable space for arts and artists in Edmonton.

### **8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

At this point, we can only encourage but I am interested in successful models in other Canadian cities (Toronto, Vancouver, for example) which include private sector participation in public art. I speak often with the EAC about this and am interested in a practical approach that has support from the private sector.

### **9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

With the revisions of the Percent for Art Policy and the adoption of three new policies on accession, administration and de-accession, plus, of course, the adoption of the public art master-plan, Edmonton is entering a new and exciting era for public art. The EAC currently has over 20 City generated public art projects underway and the Place program continues to add public art to our civic art collection. I have also advocated for more display for emerging artists work in City Hall itself. I anticipate excellent results from these initiatives.

### **10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

This is also a major area of the Art of Living and that plan outlines a number of things that can be done by the City. One way that might be helpful is the display of art by students at City Hall. Though we can encourage our provincial colleagues to provide more art programming, ultimately, schools are the responsibility of the province.



## **Councillor (Ward 6) Candidate Responses:**

### **Cris Basualdo**

#### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

Public art is important to quality of life... the fact that we should have to choose between infrastructure and public art is the result of sprawl, that we feel we have to sacrifice one for the other. Done successfully, both also play a role in leveraging private investment. These are inseparable aspects of great urban environments. I believe our City is much more than sidewalks and roads... stopping sprawl and doing what we can at the municipal level to make communities safe and family friendly should be the priority, and will enable the City to better support public art without raising taxes.

**Cris Basualdo, cont'd.**

**2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

Budgeting is a balancing exercise - needs and wants against must-have services that civic municipalities are responsible for. I will be honest with you, that until each year's wants and needs are identified, as well as responsibilities accounted for, I cannot make a commitment.

**3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

Yes.

**4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

There are good ideas in the document. Again, year over year, it must be balanced against the available resources.

**5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

No. But in my capacity on the Board of the Alberta Avenue Community League, we provided free space for events as well as approval for Nina Haggerty to develop on the Avenue. We set the stage for the artists to be on the "Avenue" and advocated for this with all civic departments we were in contact with.

**6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

Kaliedo Festival, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (season ticket holders), Nina Haggerty Opening, Arts Sales at the Carrit, Artwalk, Fringe, the Works, Winter Festival. Because I live and work in the central Edmonton communities, I also recreate here. I also take art classes.

**7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

Please see number #5 that is community based sponsorship. As I do not work in an arts-based organization, I do not know of all the challenges facing Edmonton artists regarding infrastructure. However, I would be happy to meet with you to learn more about the needs of local artists once I am elected.

**8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

If I am elected, as a civic leader I would be happy to encourage local businesses to purchase and display local artists' work.

**9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

See my answer to #8.


**10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

Dickinsfield Amity House has an Arts for Tots program that I have supported funding for as a Board member. I would encourage arts programming to be included in all communities, especially in the downtown core, as it would be a family friendly and positive activity that could encourage movement into central neighbourhoods again.



**Jane Batty**


**General response:** Thank you for sending me the survey. Rather than answer each individual question I would like you to know I am a strong supporter of both PACE and the Edmonton Arts Council. I am very aware of the 2008 Art of Living and the recommendations that come from the document. As a member of City Council I have supported most of the recommendations that have come before Council at budget time. Unfortunately all the recommendations can't be financed over the short term but over the next number of years we as a council need to ensure the recommendations are funded. As a member of the 2017 bid committee I am supporting the use of the two buildings on the Epcor Rossdale site as future facilities for the Arts Community. In your survey you asked what events you have attended in the last year and there have been many, the most recent being earlier this week at the Art Gallery of Alberta where I attended the performance by Bill Eddins performing Enrique's Grandos' "Goyescas."



**Carla Frost**

**General response:** Thank you for your support. I am candidate Ms. Carla Frost running for councillor for ward 6. I have been into arts all my life. I am a painter and I use nature for various forms of enhancing my creative development. I look at art as a way of life that needs to be maintained and continually used to express the inner self in all forms. I am not just a supporter but a artist in my own right. I support the art world 100% as without it life is without color and creativity.

Sincerely; Ms. Carla Frost



**James Johnson**

No response.



**Bryan Kapitza**

**1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

arts improve our quality of life and have a significant economic benefit to our communities

**2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

Yes.

**3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

yes

**4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

Promote it, fund it.

**Bryan Kapitza, cont'd.**

**5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

no .

**6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

most of our summer festivals, regular visitor to galleries on 124 st, citidel theatre shows, might have to miss the flamenco performance at the symphony because of the campaign

**7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

an artists ghetto would be beneficial, such a concentration of artists would be a great benefit to the host community, i'd like to see it in the downtown

**8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

lead by example, encourage partnerships with the city, increase city's commitment to 2%

**9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

Promote/fund the murals program, easy for the public at large to understand and leads the way into more daring projects

**10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

do what the kids want. a creative graffiti program, leading into murals



**Lee Permann**

No response.



**Adil Pirbhai**

**General response:** (From voice mail) I just want to say I have always supported the arts community and the folk festivals and all the festivals in the community. But, what I understand looking at the city (inaudible), the city has always supported the arts community and like nothing will ever change.



**Thomas Roberts**

No response.



# **Councillor (Ward 7) Candidate Responses:**

## **Tony Caterina**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

There is value in all types of art. As a councillor, I have supported funding for various festivals or organizations in the city; Particularly Arts on the Ave.

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

I cannot make a promise for long term funding as circumstances change. But i will continue to advocate for arts funding particularly the arts programming in and around Alberta Avenue.

### **3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

Yes

### **4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

There are many priorities and i would have to weigh each one before making a solid commitment.

### **5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

Yes. I am a member of Arts on the Ave

### **6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

Kaleido family fest. Deep Freeze. Eastwood Fest. And almost all others related to Ward 7

### **7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

As a councillor I have supported the purchase of the Alberta Cycle building on Alberta ave to house out arts community.

### **8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

I will not support mandatory funding from the private sector (i.e developers) but i will encourage them to consider.

### **9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

I would continue on the track that the city is on. The city looks at various public art projects and makes a decision accordingly

## **Tony Caterina, cont'd.**

### **10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

Being that education is a provincial matter, i feel it would be best that they look at arts and culture in our schools. However, i am willing to, as a city council, urge the province into doing this



## **Scott McKeen**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

As a columnist for The Edmonton Journal I wrote numerous pieces about the arts in Edmonton, admittedly from a laymen's perspective. I wrote columns on fringe plays; the old and new art gallery; on exhibits at the art gallery. I wrote about individual artists, poets and musicians. I wrote about architecture and defended Gene Dub's controversial ice-crystal entrance markers, which city council rejected.

John Mahon also set me up to sit on stage with the symphony during a rehearsal. What a rush.

My platform? I have not written specific policies. But I can talk about my personal philosophy. I believe supporting and funding the arts is critical to Edmonton's success, both economically and socially. Simply, I want to live in a city that inspires its citizens. The arts are integral to quality of life. I'm so proud to live in a city with such a vibrant art, theatre and music scene.

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

I can only answer this with an enthusiastic yes. It is theoretically possible, I suppose, that a long-term recession could result in cuts to all civic budgets. But I don't believe arts funding is a frill.

### **3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

I am aware of it. I must admit I haven't read it in detail.

### **4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

I'm sorry I can't answer this in detail, except to repeat my sincere commitment to the arts in Edmonton.

### **5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

I am a member of the art gallery and donate to the symphony. As a journalist, I was unable to sit on any boards.

### **6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

The Fringe. Took in a number of local musical acts. Regularly watch stand-up comedy. (And yes, I think stand-up is an art form). I've also visited the new art gallery a number of times. I bought my daughter a membership, too.

## **Scott McKeen, cont'd.**

### **7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

I regret that I can't answer this question with any authority. I'm not sure of what infrastructure is required. I've heard it said that Edmonton artists do not get the corporate support typical in other cities. I can only say that as a supporter and advocate for the arts, I'd be open-minded about civic support for needed infrastructure. If we can look at investing money in a new arena, we certainly can look at facilities for artists.

### **8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

An absolute commitment. The corporate sector must be engaged to contribute to the splendour of our city. The arts is crucial to making it so.

### **9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

I'd use my position on council to offer my voice as a booster of public art. I wrote a recent column defending the Edmonton Arts Council grant for a public art memorial to the homeless.

### **10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

I fear I'm not offering detailed answers to your questions. My apologies. Though I've covered council for years I'm learning in this campaign there are many issues I need to learn much more about. Arts policy is one of those areas, obviously. I can only say I'm sincerely an advocate, though not a sophisticated one. I have a musician, my son, in the family. My daughter is working up her courage to pursue a career in film, either in front or behind the camera. I've written countless pieces about the arts — not as a consumer, but more as a wide-eyed fan. I come at it from that angle, I'm afraid. I hope you'll consider me as an open-minded and enthusiastic supporter of the arts in Edmonton. Thanks, Scott McKeen



## **Grant Pullishy**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

THE ARTS as a defining to myself is galleries, private studios, visual, performing, and theater, artistic expressions of numerous disciplines and media. I personally enjoy films (space sciences centre), and mayfield theatre, for example.

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

If elected I will make a commitment to maintain a lasting review of needs and goals of the arts in greater EDMONTON on a regular basis, expression and colour are an identity of any city.

### **3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

Yes, I am aware of the 10 yr. plan

## **Grant Pullishy, cont'd.**

### **4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

Definitely, arts is a vital expression of any city, will do my best to encourage greater Edmonton's participation in the arts.

### **5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

Quite frankly no but that will change if I am elected, my interests will be intensified by more of a closeness of EDMONTON, and its cultural mixture and vibrance, or shall I SAY uniqueness.

### **6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

Butterdome crafts and arts, the fringe , windspear centre, mayfield theatre

### **7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

I would necessitate committee meetings to get a perception of the city of EDMONTON'S space availability, costs, and the publics input from the various neighbourhoods, I will not just be envisioning the downtown core but greater Edmonton

### **8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

The question is 1 percent of what, it very well could even be 1.5 percent, it would depend on the entire body of city hall, and the various committees, not an easy question to answer.

### **9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

There are many creative ideas that could be implemented towards the expansion of the arts in Edmonton. More utilization of libraries, public art in Northlands EXPO CENTRE for instance, West Edmonton MALL displays, Heritage Days ( more ukrainian dancing, I'm ukrainian canadian , forgive my favoritism), Arts Exchanges ; for example with Spain, or Cuba ( I love the passion of the artist SIMPLY RED'S video Something got me started filmed there).

### **10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

I would need to ascertain why there has been a stagnation or downward trend with the pertinent school board committees. The youth of Edmonton are our future, to engage our youth we must have strong vision and leadership, along with community involvement, it seems with all the advancements in communications we sometimes don't see the forest because of the trees. One of my favourite places in Edmonton is the muttard conservatory, a sense of tranquility and strength and peace, for our youth we must also instill that desire for expression from the television set, and nintendo set to engage our youth for their own talents and giftings to make their lives reach more fulfillment. Thanks for your survey. Grant Pullishy Ward 7



## **Terry Rolls**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

I don't have one right now. I'm focusing on the meat and potatoes of the election.

I like art. I have many prints in my house. Around me are a few Monets, some Chinese herons, and reproductions of old car posters.

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

City Council is a collaboration of 13. I can't promise anything but trying.

### **3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

No I am not. Where can I see it?

### **4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

NA

### **5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

No.

### **6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

None.

### **7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

I have done painting, and other creative things. It seemed to me that a small group got all the money. I would be sure it was spread around more. You can't be on welfare forever. Perhaps you should step aside and let the new people have a try.

### **8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

I don't want to preach to business and don't want them to preach to government.

### **9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

Libraries may a good place for more shows and displays. Perhaps using empty mall spaces for shows.

### **10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

It's a changing time and the Arts are shifting. Tough to foresee what the future will hold. TerryR



## **Brendan Van Alstine**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

While I do not have a platform point specifically dedicated to art, I believe that arts, artists, festivals and other events play a key role in revitalizing communities & helping to make them more vibrant. I live in Alberta Avenue and have seen first-hand the impact that the arts can have on an area

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

While I would have to examine the city's budget items in more detail before committing to a specific amount/type of support - having worked a number of years in the not-for-profit sector, I appreciate how difficult it can sometimes be to find stable, long-term funding for an organization and I would like to see the city do more to support the EAC/the arts community.

### **3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

While I admittedly have not yet had time to read the Art of Living in its entirety, I have run through its summary as well as its various recommendations.

### **4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

Having only read the document in brevity, I will not make specific commitments at this point, however based on what I have read, the majority of the 17 arts recommendations and 11 heritage recommendations seem like achievable ideas which overall I support.

### **5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

I volunteer at the Carrot Community Arts Coffeehouse on Alberta Ave & have volunteered for the Kaleido arts festival since 2008. I do not currently sit on any boards relating to the arts community at present, nor have I made any significant financial contributions.

### **6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

Kaleido, Deep Freeze, Folk Fest, AGA, Queer Images (& various other Pride Week events), I'm probably forgetting a bunch

### **7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

While this question is relatively broad, a few examples of what the city could do to support resources for artists/arts infrastructure include things such as grants, bursaries and other funding for locals arts and festivals, keeping arts accessible through arts education programs in schools and communities or artist-in-residence programs, continued support for local galleries, museums, theatres, etc and support for arts advocacy organizations.

### **8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

Admittedly this is an issue I have not examined in great depth. Developer concessions such as Vancouver's approach (requiring a certain financial contribution to public art relative to the amount of buildable square footage proposed) is one option the city could examine.

**Brendan Van Alstine, cont'd.**

**9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

Continuing or expanding on the city's percent for the arts policy as well as encouraging private sector contributions to arts are two approaches helpful in facilitating public art projects. Allowing for environmentally integrated art is another approach to expanding on public art. Examples of which could include things such as art on benches, art on utility boxes, murals, art in architecture and landscape/environmental art, which is integrated into its surroundings.

**10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

I would like to see us trying to keep art accessible to youth. Some examples of how this might be achieved are through support for various programs in schools and community settings, artist-in-residence programs, arts festivals and other public art-related events.



**Councillor (Ward 8) Candidate Responses:**

**Duane Good Striker**

No response



**Ben Henderson**

**1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

As an artist I feel that the arts are a key to what makes a city great. They are at the core of our quality of life in this City. I have made a life long commitment to the arts in this City and that has continued and will continue in my time on Council. In particular I feel we need to enact the commitments made in the Art of Living. I am also very committed to supporting the arts as an integral part of our new winter festival.

**2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

Yes, I was on the steering committee that set up the Arts Council, was its first vice president. It is very hard to imagine now what this City would have been like without the Arts Council. Its continued health is vital to our City.

**3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

Yes I was on the steering committee that developed the plan.

**4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

I will continue to push for us to fulfil all of its commitments. Unless it is enacted our support of it will have no meaning.

**Ben Henderson, cont'd.**

**5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

I was artistic director of Nexus Theatre, Theatre Network, and co-foundr of Running With Scissors Theatre. I served on the board of the Street Performers Festival, was President of PACE and Vice President of the Edmonton Arts Council

**6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

Numerous theatre events across the City, shows at the AGA and Latitude Gallery. The Edmonton Opera and Alberta Ballet among other events. Also almost all of the festivals and many music events.

**7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

Council has created and funded Arts Hab as an organization with a mandate to facilitate development of new arts spaces of all descriptions. Already a number of projects from live work space to performance space have been created. Our main focus must be on continuing to resource arts hab as well as other non profits that come forward with Capital projects looking for support.

**8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

I tried and failed to direct our administration to continue work with the development community on the development of a policy for public art in private sector development. Unfortunately my motion did not pass. I will continue to ask for a public art commitment in direct control zoning applications when they come before us especially where there is a significant upzoning in the property.

**9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

We need to continue to get behind the new public art master plan and continue with our current 1% for art policy for our own projects. Although we did not get a policy for private sector buildings we must continue to encourage voluntary commitments from the private sector.

**10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

This is definitely part of the Art of Living recommendations. As a Councillor we have no specific input into school board policy but we can continue to advocate with them for their commitment to our Art of Living.



**Lori Jeffrey-Heaney**

No response.



## **Sheila McKay**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

In my past six years on City Council, I strongly supported the Citadel, Winspear, Arts, Arts Council, Theatres, and the 1% for Public Art Policy. All were established during my six years on Council. As well, I supported the birth of The Fringe, the renovation of our beloved Princess Theatre and the restoration of Old Strathcona. I am very concerned about the extensive delay of restoration of the Alberta Hotel. Not only because it played such a significant part in the Klondike Gold Rush in Edmonton, but also the entire fur industry with the Hudson's Bay Company. I am very proud to have our City named "Festival City". Every production is done with such verve and joy, it is a delight to attend. I was Tommy Bank's first fan and President of the Literary Society in high school while attending Westglen. I am writing my memoirs and am a published poet. Still an ardent supporter and promoter for all things that bring joy to people.

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

Within the City budget, my promise is to do my best so that we can all share in a fair and equitable way.

### **3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

Not at this point. I recently located this publication on-line and am keen to review it.

### **4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

I cannot commit to anything until I am fully versed and aware of the contents of such a publication.

### **5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

In the past, I have tried to attend as many events from the Fringe, to the Winspear, to the Jubilee Auditorium, all within my budget. I am a movie buff.

I have attended the Edmonton Jazz Society events since Grade 10. I am also an avid reader.

### **6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

From the Fall of 2009 to the present time, I have attended the Fringe, the Art Gallery, the Library, concerts by the Cosmopolitan Orchestra at the Jubilee Auditorium, concerts in the Park, and the Alberta Museum.

### **7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

To the best of the City Budget, I am willing to keep art alive on our streets, in schools, in the City and in events at City Hall. I think the people of Edmonton are so strong and active, we need to work more closely with the Folk Arts. One thing I want to see enhanced is Edmonton's history brought to life. Edmonton's history is full of excitement, adventure and a true picture of people fighting extreme weather and poverty. We fought, and today Edmonton stands. I fought very hard to promote and assist the birth of the Aviation Heritage Museum. The stories of our bush pilots and the stories of the busiest airport in North America throughout WWII should be brought to life again. My family was closely involved as my Dad was a Canadian employee in Traffic and Safety for the United States Army Air Force. The film industry would certainly be finding a rich treasure trove in the history of the City of Edmonton.

## **Sheila McKay, cont'd.**

### **8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

I believe that the business community is developing and paying the budget for all building at this time. Therefore, it is already contributing to the one percent for Art. I am very impressed with some of the requests that are coming in and I would love to see more art such as giant murals showing the history of Edmonton. For example, the Edmonton Grads, the Women's Basketball Team that were the best in the world. I believe Wayne Gretzky not only left his heritage in Edmonton, but also in the generations that followed. His statue at Rexall is magnificent, but I think we need some action murals in any sports facility or on the outside wall. The same with the City sport facilities with big walls such as the Soccer Center - I think that should depict children learning to play soccer. One of the best murals in the City is at St. Mary's Catholic school in Terwillegar, taken from the title of a book, and painted by one of the teachers with the students help.

### **9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

I think we should have more ideas from the public. I demand quality, imagination and meaning to public art. Every time I pass the public art on 109th Street and Jasper Avenue, I see a derelict set of wind pipes. They are graceful, I have never heard them make a sound. What saddens me most of all, is that they are set in a pile of garbage in a decrepit parking lot. If the City is going to have public Art, they need to keep it clean and tidy to maintain its' integrity. The statement of the Art and Artist would help people learn more about Art. The Aboriginal history around Southgate has many stories of the early settlers or we could have something connected with Art ie a picture of the first crossing of the CPR Rail which was near-by and was one of the most exciting new entries into the wilderness. I think that our historic sites are an exciting enjoyable story that people should be able to read. We need more stories, pictures and artifacts at Fort Edmonton and the 100's of historic sites around the city.

### **10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

I believe it lies with the priorities of the schools, Again at St. Mary's in Terwillegar the children produce with the help of their teachers advanced plays for their years ie Anne of Green Gables, a wonderful choral society and a music society. The children read poetry and have vivid imaginations. My Grandchildren were fortunate to have Mrs. Marie Whelan as one of their teachers and principal while attending St. Mary's.

Every school should be encouraged to bring children forward to express themselves and awaken their creativity with writing, the arts, music and drama.

Television as an art form needs great improvement especially during children's viewing hours.



## **Hana Razga**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

#### **Arts and Culture**

- Enhance the Public Art program to include all new major developments, public or private, downtown or suburban - see below
- Support the provision of affordable live-work space for artists - see below
- Protect key heritage structures, streetscapes and landscapes, particularly those that are municipally owned.

Historical buildings create physical links to Edmonton's past and are key to many neighbourhood's character. Developmental pressures threaten many of these special places. It is difficult to stop privately owned properties from being lost to new construction. Smart Growth should include provisions for identifying and preserving these community treasures and incorporating them into new development without destroying them.

**Hana Razga, cont'd.**

**2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

Yes, as much as possible

**3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

Yes I am aware of "The Art of Living" and read parts of it.

**4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

Absolutely. If elected, I will make it a priority for City Council to live up to the commitments in "The Art of Living" document.

**5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

No.

**6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

Not that many, as I have been actively campaigning since last October - Folk Festival, Street Performer's Festival.....

**7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

Currently there are no specific plans by the city to create or sustain affordable spaces for artists to live and work. A handful of spaces do exist but are suffering the same pressures as the rest of the housing market. The City can make provisions for more live-work spaces to meet demand, guarantee that the rents will be affordable and ensure that spaces will continue to be available to future artists.

**8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

I will advocate for the full adoption of an enhanced Public Art program, with increased funding and new requirements for private developments to incorporate locally produced art in their public spaces.

**9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

I want to see the official Public Art Program (policy #C458A) that the city has adopted expanded to include all new projects, whether they are private or public developments and include more projects in suburban areas and increasing the caps limiting spending. I think local performing artists, for instance, are overlooked too often and are great additions to city events. Projects like the murals in Strathcona painted on utility boxes are a great example of how the city could utilize its artistic wealth to enhance itself aesthetically.

**10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

It would be great to see more initiatives with youth - especially marginalized youth – to gain them access to arts programs so they can stimulate and express themselves creatively. Encouraging young people starting in elementary schools to participate in arts programs, as well as getting more representatives from the arts community to work with school boards to bring their vision of arts in Edmonton to the classroom.



# **Councillor (Ward 9) Candidate Responses:**

## **Bryan Anderson**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

I have supported all EAC funding requests in the last 12 budgets.

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

i have supported all EAC funding requests in the last 12 budgets.

### **3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

YES

### **4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

I will support advancing the recommendations in the "Art of Living"

### **5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

NO

### **6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

The opening of the AGA, and number of Citadel performances, the works.

### **7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

See #4

### **8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

That is a work in progress that I support.

### **9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

The 1% for public art policy.

### **10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

Strong supporter of iHuman, assisted in finding their current permanent home.



## **Rami Bader**

No response.



## **Calvin Lim**

No response.



## **Jennifer Watts**

No response.



## **Councillor (Ward 10) Candidate Responses:**

### **Don Iveson**

#### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

From the Key Issues section of my website: "Festivals and the arts add so much to our city. I have supported the gradual implementation of the recommendations in the city's new Culture Plan, approved by council in 2008, from increased grants for our festivals to ensuring our arts groups can keep pace with the rising cost of running their venues." (<http://www.doniveson.ca/arts/>)

#### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

I have supported it at budget in the past and see no reason whatsoever to reduce the city's ongoing commitment to EAC.

#### **3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

It was a pleasure to support it. I have referenced it specifically in my platform statement on the arts.

#### **4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

I have supported funding for the recommendations and will continue to do so as resources are available.

#### **5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

We are members at the AGA, and I maintain a membership at the Alberta Craft Council.

#### **6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

Numerous ballet, opera and symphony performances; openings at the AGA; Fringe, Folk Fest, and the Works.

## **Don Iveson, cont'd.**

### **7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

I support the ongoing work with ArtsHab to ensure more affordable space is available for artists; I've also supported the increases to the facilities operating grants reflective of higher operating costs.

### **8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

To be honest I'm not sure that 1% is appropriate for private projects given that their cost structures are different. The city's cost might not include land or financing costs, so 1% of public construction cost is not the same as 1% of project costs for a private developer. In any case, a public art contribution needs to be a more formal part of our density bonusing system and I think we need to find a way to better recognize those contributions, perhaps through awards which raise awareness of and enthusiasm for public art investment.

### **9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

I was also happy to support the Edmonton Public Art MAP Plan. I was happy to support the curatorial and maintenance resources for the existing public art inventory. The mural projects have been spectacular and are generating a lot of positive buzz. I really like the ArtPark idea and the Night Shift short term exhibit, though I would look to the EAC for recommendations on highest priority next steps toward implementing the MAP.

### **10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

I would want to understand better why this may be changing in schools and what can be done first within the schools themselves to reverse that trend. Thankfully, art education programs are already an important mandate for many of our cultural institutions. One option to consider might be to build in an expectation for the arts facilities grants contingent on offering some type of off-peak low-cost or free access and basic program for students. The other part of a complete approach is to continue supporting groups like iHuman who are engaging marginalized youth using art and creative expression.



## **Al Slemko**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

Infrastructure is one of my main issues. There are plenty of studies and literature that have concluded that Canada has reached the breaking point. Most of our infrastructure was built between the 1950s and 1970s. Now it is due for replacement. You can see the potholes and crumbling bridges, water-treatment and transit systems that cannot keep up with demand, traffic gridlock, poor air quality and a lack of affordable housing. We need to have a plan to address this pressing need.

Last year's civic budget noted that \$.04 of every tax dollar goes to municipalities; the balance is for provincial and federal budgets. Our priorities are often decided based on the election promises of other levels of government. We need secure funding dollars for maintaining the existing as well as new infrastructure for the long term rather than from election to election.

**Al Slemko, cont'd.**

**2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

Tax or user fee, we must establish with residents and property owners a base line for services and to what level they expect services to be funded by taxes. As it stands every year it is a moving target and what was once considered a service provided by taxes is now a user fee. Once we have defined the level of service we want, the mill rate can be set. I cannot make promises it is up to the citizens of Edmonton to determine the level of support. However, I see the value in have a healthy vibrant arts community.

**3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

Yes.

**4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

I believe in a balanced approach - we need art, sports, good educational facilities and a healthy business community.

**5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

No.

**6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

I have been to the Folk Festival, The Works, Citadel performances, a musical performance at the Starlight Room and a musical fundraiser at the Jubilee Auditorium during the past year.

**7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

Again, balance is what is important to me in providing funding and services to Edmontonians.

**8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

I think it is a great idea but how much urging is required?

**9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

I would like to see more art in public spaces, especially outdoors sculptures etc. Also I like the use of murals on public and private buildings.

**10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

In the past they have had great art programs for youth at the EAG and also through City of Edmonton Community Services.



# **Councillor (Ward 11) Candidate Responses:**

## **Shane Bergdahl**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

Arts are an important part (or should be) of all Edmontonian's life. Assuch, we need to encourage the growth of Arts within Edmonton.

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

Yes

### **3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

I do not believe that I have read this document, only portions.

### **4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

I will continue to support the decisions of previous Councils.

### **5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

No

### **6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

Mill Woods Canada Day. Edmonton Art Gallery.

### **7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

I will need to look further into this and see what is lacking.

### **8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

I will need to look further at this. Private Sector should be encouraged to make art part of their developments and/or businesses.

### **9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

Not enough information at this time to answer this question.

### **10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

I currently do not have a vision regarding this. I would look towards the Arts Community and the School Boards to come up with a plan or concept and present it to Council.



## **Kerry Diotte**

**General response:** To Whom It May Concern:

As you know, conducting a professional civic election campaign is extremely time-consuming. I am inundated with dozens of surveys by many, many important groups.

I cannot possibly have the time right now to answer essay-type question on the arts.

But I would be delighted to sit down with your group sometime after the Oct. 18 election to hear your concerns.

I'm a big believer in really understanding concerns of constituents and representing the will of the majority of them. I have honed those talents by being a journalist for 30 years and doing work for media outlets ranging from Maclean's magazine to CBC.

I will tell you I'm a big fan of the arts and regularly attend many festivals and events. I'm an avid photographer and appreciate the beauty of art and photography.

The arts scene in Edmonton is truly world-class and is of great value to the city.

That's why, back in 2003 I wrote a column in the Edmonton Sun that sparked the city's successful bid for the 2004 Juno awards that were a resounding success and were watched live on CTV by 1.3 million Canadians.

The festival helped to prove that Edmonton knows how to put on an event and drew attention to the thriving arts community we have here.

Thank you for your time. I'd be interested to know more about your organization including how many members you have and more details on your accomplishments.

Below is my bio. *(NB: This document was not included due to space restrictions.)*

Cheers, -Kerry Diotte/Ward 11 candidate



## **Vishal Luthra**

No response.



## **Roberto Maglalang**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

My arts platform includes television, books, architecture and portraits. I would like to see TV series like CSI, best selling novels, Marble Arch and painting like Mona Lisa in the city of Edmonton.

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

I will definitely commit a funding for art and heritage programs, even if a portion would come from my pocket.

**Roberto Maglalang, cont'd.**

**3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

I have browsed the Art of Living as envisioned by Edmonton Arts Council. I appreciate the history of arts in Edmonton, the support of Mayor Mandel and the vision of the society in promoting the growth of arts and heritage in Edmonton.

**4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

Will go forward in supporting the programs of the Art of Living.

**5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

I recently donated a sum of money in the production of a Filipino Performing Arts program.

**6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

It was about 3 years ago when the last time I attended a cultural program at University of Alberta. My work and schedule did not allow me to attend the recent program where I acted as one of the donors even though I was mentioned in the program as a donor.

**7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

Space and resources are not a very big deal. Will ensure that support is given even if a portion of the expenses would have to come again from my wallet.

**8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

Private sector contribution is never a problem when it come to arts and heritage. Will work on it.

**9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

Would involve the media in introducing public arts.

**10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

The youth should be the mainstream of arts and heritage as they are more open to abstracts, difficult themes and new ideas. Art education should be part of school curriculum.



## **Chinwe Okelu**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

I am a strong supporter of the arts. The arts enrich our lives, provide beauty, and they act as a beacon illuminating our lives and our culture. Sometimes, the insights provided by visual artists and writers show us uncomfortable truths, but these insights are essential if we are to have a culture and way of life that brings out the best in us and gives us an opportunity to create a better future. I particularly enjoyed the essays written by Jeanne Loughheed and Ken Chapman in "The Art of Living" plan for the Arts. On September 2, 2010, I had a very positive and enlightening meeting with John Mahon of the EAC.

I support the recommendations made in "The Art of Living" with regard to arts and heritage. I support direct investment in the arts, artists, and festivals through grants. Artists and the arts community need strong, predictable, and sustained funding. If elected I am committed to advocating and supporting these objectives. I also support the "Percent for Art" program.

One of the main planks in my platform is a stand-alone public library in Mill Woods. This should include art by local artists and a space for education and workshops that could be used for providing classes and seminars in a variety of fields, including the arts.

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

The EAC does excellent work. My understanding and appreciation of the EAC increased after my discussions with Mr. Mahon. I promise to advocate for and support increased funding and for long-term stable funding of the EAC.

### **3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

Yes. See my response to question 1.

### **4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

Yes to both questions. City Council voted unanimously to support the plan and its implementation. If elected, I will continue that policy.

### **5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

I was Chairperson of the Mill Woods Multicultural Board from 1992-1995. I served on the Alberta Lottery Board from 1995 to 1996. I was a strong supporter of Arts and Heritage Organizations in my deliberations on the Lottery Board. In May 2010, I participated in a fundraising event that raised funds for improvements to the Varscona Building and for the Shadow Theatre and Teatro la Quindicina.

### **6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

I attended the Fringe.

### **7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

"The Art of Living" clearly identified this issue and recommended funding for the Arts Habitat Association of Edmonton. This recommendation makes a lot of sense to me and I would support continued funding for ArtsHab to allow them to do their work.

## **Chinwe Okelu, cont'd.**

### **8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

The city has been urging the private sector since this policy was passed in the early 1990's. This is a complex issue. It can be included in discussions and negotiations regarding zoning and incentives in zoning and planning. We must, however, acknowledge that architects and developers are often required to include other social amenities and features of aesthetic value in their plans and developments.

### **9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

A great deal of progress has been made in the last few years including the Master Plan for Public Art and the work of the Edmonton Arts Council. Art in Public Places certainly does add to the aesthetics and quality of life in Edmonton. We should maintain the percent for art program.

### **10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

It is a well-known fact that listening to music from an early age and instruction in music increases the intelligence of children. Of course, there are many benefits of children being involved in the arts and other creative endeavors that cannot be quantified. The City of Edmonton and the EAC should continue to work with both school boards and with Edmonton's post-secondary institutions to include and increase, not diminish, the role of the fine arts in the education of our young people. Victoria School for the Performing Arts and Virginia Park and Afton Schools are good examples of what can be done in our schools. Of course, there really would have to be ongoing discussions with the province regarding increased funding, time allocations, and curricula. I do applaud the EAC and the city for supporting organizations that work with youth in the arts. Programs such as Nextfest, the Kokopelli Choir, iHuman, and the Little Birds Jazz program are wonderful programs that should continue to receive financial and other support.

On a personal note, thank you for taking the initiative to become engaged in the policy level of the municipal election. Your interest and efforts are a valuable contribution to the debate and to future policy directions. Chinwe Okelu



## **Brent Schaffrick**

### **1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.**

I am completely in favor of supporting long term art institutions (museums, archives, and heritage sites), as well as supporting Edmonton's various festivals, which tend to draw people to Edmonton and give our City an positive economic boost as well as being culturally uplifting.

### **2. The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is one of the most progressive and effective arts councils in the country. Can you promise EAC a stable base of long-term funding with which they can support the Edmonton arts community?**

No. Having read "The Art of Living," there is a fundamental error right at the beginning. The boom and bust cycle is still active in Alberta, it has just been hidden for the past few years by a wave of easy credit. The easy credit is disappearing fast, leaving only debt behind. "The Art of Living" was written as if the easy credit cycle we have been experiencing was a permanent feature of the world economy.

That said, Alberta is going to be an interesting place to live for the next generation. We have the possibility of both a housing price crash (and economic bust) and a huge oil price increase from war in the middle east (economic boom). City Council needs to have the flexibility to deal with current economic conditions, whatever they may be. I believe in keeping my word, so I will not promise funding if I cannot fully deliver. If we have a boom cycle, I will do what I can to support the arts community. That said, if times are not as good, Edmonton taxpayers are going to expect the arts community to help decrease the economic pressure.

**Brent Schaffrick, cont'd.**

**3. Are you aware of and have you read "The Art of Living", the City's cultural plan, produced by the Edmonton Arts Council in 2008 and which was shortly thereafter adopted by City Council?**

I am aware of it and have read it

**4. What is your commitment to "The Art of Living"? Will you make it a priority to live up to the commitments in it?**

See my answer to number 2. I really like the tone and spirit of "The Art of Living," but how much of it we can do will depend on our economy.

**5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor to an arts organization in Edmonton? Please provide details.**

Not yet

**6. What arts events have you attended in the past year?**

The Fringe and a Taste of Edmonton

**7. Edmonton is severely lacking in arts infrastructure. What are you willing to do to ensure that artists in future generations have adequate space and resources to make and present their work?**

This problem will be rectifying itself over the next few years. For most of Canada's history, house prices have been 2.8 x average income, and there have only been a few small bubbles in large cities. This latest bubble, caused by easy credit, has driven house prices (and all other land values) up to close to six times average income, a long term unsustainable level. The bubble appears to have peaked in May of 2010, and I expect prices to start moving downward in the next few years, back toward the 2.8 multiplier they used to be. While this will be bad for people that are over leveraged, it will be good for young artists and those looking for cheaper spaces to work.

**8. What is your commitment to urging the private sector to emulate the city's commitment to purchasing art as the city (one per cent of budget)?**

No response.

**9. What would you do to encourage and facilitate the introduction of public art in Edmonton?**

The best examples of public art are buildings that have art in their architecture. I believe the design of our City Hall is a great example of this. For the private sector creating new buildings, I would like to encourage them to build more expressive architectural designs, as opposed to building sculptures in front of new office buildings. For older buildings that have drab gray walls, murals can do wonders, as long as they are maintained. I am less enthusiastic about the "large item" style of public art.

**10. It seems as though there's a drop in art programming in the schools. Do you have a vision for engaging Edmonton's youth in the arts?**

The earliest memory of the arts in Edmonton I have was going to The Citadel theater with my school to watch "The Hobbit" in the early 80s. I still remember the spiders capturing the dwarfs and the dragonflight scenes today. It is this sort of memory that stays with children, and encourages them to become involved in the arts themselves. I would like to encourage all of the schools to make use of the art facilities we have in Edmonton (and encourage the art facilities to make sure some of their plays are child and family friendly).

Brent Schaffrick



## **Councillor (Ward 12) Candidate Responses:**

### **Vikram Bagga**

No response.



### **Gerry Horn**

No response.



### **Chuck McKenna**

No response.



### **Amarjeet Sohi**

No response.

