



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.

Public School Board Trustee (Ward A) Candidate Responses:

Cheryl Johner

No response.



Rory Koopmans

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

I love artisans & art. There can never be enough of it. I think we should propose making alternate arts courses that are tied in with linguistics, say Arts 13, 23, & 33. This extra batch of credits will do less science focused kids a world o good as they'll be able to complete HIgh School faster. We need to encourage artisans & their instructors to give lessons and create works themselves all throughout the city.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

I propose running interactive arts lessons in the closed schools & turning them into sattelite **Royal Alberta Museums** where folks could pay an admission to see the childrens art. Then the revenue i plugged back into health needs for poorer kids of that inner city area. Plus it would allow the Premier to empty out storage facility's that are unneeded & housing works that should be displayed.

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 not but would be happy to peruse it, where may I obtain a copy?

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 Question #3 response.

Rory Koopmans, cont'd.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?

Well my father & I used to donate furniture pieces to the *Edmonton Symphony Orchestra Society* when he had a store. I worked in and ran bingos for the *Pro-Coro Canada Choir*.

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

I went to the Alberta Baroque Ensemble & an Edmonton Symphony Pops Concert.

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

I'd give the kids bucketloads of prizes for free *Canadian Tire* Money. Which they can then use to buy supplies. Art should be on display throughout community league halls & then rotated throughout the City.



Kevan Warner

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

As a Trustee Candidate I do not believe that I have an arts platform in the way that Council Candidates might. I do believe in a well rounded education which must of needs include the arts.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

The commitment of the district to the Arts has to be maintained. There is still work to be done to complete the visions for the Victoria School, just for example.

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 seen it. Read but not in depth.

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 a worker in the heritage industry I am more than aware of the need to support and strengthen our public schools and indeed more general public commitment to the Arts.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?

Heritage rather than arts per se.

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

Too many to list or mention here.

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

See above, as an example, in developing the arts mission for the Victoria school I could also foresee the use for some of the closed schools being related



Public School Board Trustee (Ward B) Candidate Responses:

Amanda Biesiegel

No response.



Perry Chahal

General Response: Is this question directed to City Council Candidates as my name is Perry Chahal and I am running for Public School Board Trustee for Ward B,


YET !!!! within my literature (and online at <http://www.chahal4trustee.com>) you will find that I am the only candidate that is advocating for the arts.

I have in the past volunteered for the Alberta Art Gallery for the Little kids art fun gallery - promoting and doing art with the little school age children to encourage them.

I have attended only a few events this year with my family (my wife Jennifer and two little boys Xavier and Isaiah) yet throughout my life I have attended tons throughout the World.

I am a strong voice for Arts, this can back further to the days when I was an assistant to Michael Phair in City Hall.

thank-you, Perry Chahal



Darryl Lagerquist

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

I believe it is incumbent on the school board to support students with creativity and imagination that capture the hearts and minds of all people. All too often, support for the Arts goes overlooked. Its important for me to support students in all aspects of the Arts.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

I will work with organizations like PACE to ensure strong advocacy for the Arts. By partnering with community organizations like PACE we can share resources to ensure strong support for the Arts in Edmonton Schools.

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 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?

My commitment to "The Art of Living" would be to work with the City of Edmonton and Arts groups to educate children on this plan for Edmonton. Edmonton has a very active Arts community. I think its important to preserve our Arts heritage and promote Arts in our city for future generations.

Darryl Lagerquist, cont'd.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?


I have not.

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

Folk Festival, The Fringe and recently visited the new Art Gallery of Alberta.

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

Work with groups like PACE to develop a long-term plan to promote public arts in our school system.



George Nicholson

No response.



Ken Shipka

No response.



Public School Board Trustee (Ward C) Candidate Responses:

Mary Gradisar

No response.



Tony Henshall

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

I am a firm believer that the arts are an important part of our society and culture. They play a very important role not only for the entertainment/ enjoyment they provide by even more importantly by imparting creativity to others and encouraging them to think for themselves. The various forms of art can be used to to bring awareness and support to delicate political, social, cultural and environmental issues. We need to continue to foster this very important heritage in our city.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

I believe we need more funding from the province and the minister of education to carry on the work of arts in our schools. I am committed to working along side the arts community to promote an sponsor various events and concerns.

Tony Henshall, 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 not yet read "The Art of Living", but will make it a priority to do so in the very near future.

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 not yet read "The Art of Living", but will make it a priority to do so in the very near future.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?

I volunteered and lead a youth drama group called Re-Act for over two years on the west end of Edmonton. I am also serving on the Board of Directors for "Kids of Promise Association Creative Arts Academy of Edmonton".

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

The Provincial Museum, Heritage Days Festival and the Passion Play in Drumheller, AB.

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

Continue working with the Kids of Promise Arts Academy and continuing to support local artists and events in various capacities.



Christopher Spencer

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

My platform consists of seven key points, including this statement:

- Recognize that physical education and the fine arts are as important to the development of a successful student as math and other core subjects. The EPSB should nurture learning in these areas.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

The provincial government controls curriculum in Alberta schools. However, trustees can be influential in this area. The Inspiring Education initiative has provided an opportunity to discuss the importance of developing thinking skills that are both critical and creative. Daniel Pink, author of *A Whole New Mind*, addressed the visioning conference I attended last fall at the Agricom, and he spoke about how progressive medical schools are now taking students to art galleries. There is an emerging consensus that future doctors who appreciate imaginative work will become better diagnosticians. Pink also predicts MFA will soon replace MBA as the most desirable university degree.

One practice I'll work to change at the district level is the sector review calculation which identifies classrooms adapted to serve as fine arts spaces as vacant. For example, E4C leased part of Parkdale School for ArtStart programming, but that space was not counted as used during the review process which culminated in the closure of the building. The Parkdale neighbourhood includes the area of 118th Avenue which is undergoing an arts-driven revitalization. The EPSB's silo-based approach to decision-making meant an opportunity to support both the fine arts and urban renewal was lost.

Christopher Spencer, 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'm more aware of the heritage component of the plan, as a writer who focuses on local history and has grieved the loss of some remarkable architecture for the sake of short-term progress. My brother, folk-artist Ben Spencer, left Edmonton for Montreal in part because he perceived lack of support for independent musicians. He was host of the Open Stage at the Sidetrack Cafe until that venue closed after an unsuccessful attempt to relocate downtown. I have read passages from The Art of Living but not the entire document.

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

Recommendation #3 calls for the creation of a city-organized taskforce, with Edmonton Public Schools as a partner, to launch a discussion on the future of the fine arts. I'd support this initiative. I also think that space in open schools not currently needed for instructional purposes could be used in creative ways which would benefit both artists and students.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?

As chair of the Sustain Grovenor committee, I helped establish the EPSB's first Musical Kindergarten – indeed my son is currently registered in it. My daughter was part of the first class in 2007-08. Taught by a qualified music teacher, Musical Kindergarten establishes an environment where children can play, dance and sing their way to literacy and numeracy. My wife and I have donated money to large organizations, such as the ESO, and small theatre companies whose time to shine comes at the Fringe Festival. We have a family membership to the Art Gallery of Alberta.

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

- ESO (including Symphony under the Sky)
- Edmonton Opera
- Citadel
- Studio Theatre
- Fringe Festival
- Provincial Archives Film Night
- Street Performers Festival
- Concerts including the release of the album by the (other) Provincial Archive
- Free Will Players (Shakespeare in the Park)
- Art Gallery of Alberta (regular visitors; our children especially liked the Bugs Bunny exhibit)

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

With the current cycle of new school construction coming to an end, Edmonton Public Schools should focus on how to use existing facilities to support connections to the arts community. As part of the Joint Use Agreement with the municipal government, music rooms and stages should be available for use after instructional hours.

Public School Board Trustee (Ward D) Candidate Responses:

Dave Colburn

Acclaimed.

Public School Board Trustee (Ward E) Candidate Responses:

Neil MacDonald

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

Very strong believer in the arts cause I have a daughter in dance and that costs me a few dollars per year.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

One of the problems is the funding issue. The big thing is not to change it. Maintain it, at least never give it up. Art is too valuable.

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. Not aware of it at all.

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 no. 3. To the extent that funding is available. But if it isn't there, don't know what we have to do.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?

No.

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

Went to Stage West with wife for 16th anniversary.

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

Whenever someone comes with an idea, I want to look at it. I'm more interested in live theatre. I've been involved backstage in amateur theatre.



Heather MacKenzie

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

I believe that it is extremely important that we offer high quality arts programming to *all* of the children in our district.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

I believe that we have strong arts programming at Victoria School of Performing and Visual Art, Virginia Park Elementary School, and Afton School of the Arts. However, many of our other schools lack the excellence in arts programming that would enable children across our district to fully explore and build their artistic abilities. I propose that the Board work to enhance arts programming across our district so that it is more accessible to all. In part, this will mean working to ensure that other schools have greater access to teachers and resources that can build the arts programming.

Heather MacKenzie, 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 and have read parts of this document.

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 a Public School Board Candidate, my ability to 'live up to the commitments' in this document will be somewhat limited, as many of the suggestions are aimed at the City Council level of governance and not at the School Board level. I will, however, be happy to work with the city on many of the initiatives outlined in the document and believe that the School Board can and should take a particularly active role in promoting arts mentorship throughout the district.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?

I am the Coordinator of an event called Just Christmas, at which over 30 globally focused not-for-profit organizations artwork and food in an ethical manner. We hold this event on 118th avenue annually to contribute to the revitalization in the area.

Since graduating from highschool in 2000, my volunteer and donation focus has been on international and local poverty. I have, however, supported my brothers in their artistic endeavors as theater writers, directors and actors. I have also supported my mother and close friends in their production of a wide variety of documentary films.

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

I attended and supported the production of a children's show - Tick - in the Edmonton International Fringe Festival. My brother, Matthew MacKenzie wrote this show, and my brother Aaron MacKenzie directed it.

- I also attended a friend's Fringe production.

- I enjoyed a number of local documentary and other films throughout the year.

- My brother, Matthew MacKenzie was selected as the Alberta Play Write of the Year for 2010 and I attended and promoted the reading of his play - Sia.

- I attended a stand up comedy evening in support of a friend who is a comedian.

- I attended and purchased art work at The Edmonton Show which was put on by an organization called ECGAS (Edmonton Common Grounds Arts Society) that a friend of my family is spearheading.

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

One great idea that I have heard would be to have an EPSB "Artist in Residence" who could go around to schools, promote public art and provide guidance and mentorship to students.

think that many public art ideas would have to be organized in conjunction with the City of Edmonton and I would be happy to work on a variety of public art initiatives with them - ie. students going on field trip tours of public art in Edmonton as is done with tourists in Berlin and elsewhere.



Ken Soroka

General Response: Thank you for contacting me.

Without getting into specifics, I believe in representing the interests of the external community! I will listen to and respect their views in all of my decisions.

Ken Soroka, cont'd.

General Response: I wish to share with your Coalition the following personal information:

- 1) I have supported the local arts community by proudly purchasing their art over the years.
- 2) This past summer, I became a children's book publisher and published my mother's first book "Who Is Penelope Park?" (ISBN 978-0-9866963-0-5).
- 3) The Parents' Auxiliary of Talmud Torah School (an Edmonton Public School located at 6320 - 172 Street) has sponsored, in past years, the "Artist-in-Residence" and "Writer-in-Residence" programs at the school to enrich the school experience of the students.
- 4) Last school year, the Talmud Torah Society (this is my 8th year as a Board member) introduced and provided financial support for the "Theatre Arts" program for the students of Talmud Torah School from Grades 4 to 7. The instructor was Jackie Bland-Lawrence. The year-end production was held last May at the Stanley A. Milner Library Theatre. The program was such a great success that the Board was unanimous in its' decision to continue it for this school year.

Kind regards, Ken Soroka



Public School Board Trustee (Ward F) Candidate Responses:

Michael Janz

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

I am a recent graduate of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta and currently serve as the Faculty Alumni Council Representative. I have, and continue, to be a big supporter of the arts in our community, both in my personal life and through work with the Edmonton Arts Council in my capacity as Marketing Director for the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues. I believe that it is crucial that we introduce our students to the Arts in a variety of ways through their learning and I hope we can integrate these experiences more into the curriculum with the upcoming *Inspiring Education* review.

We must support programs in our school such as music, fine arts, and theatre, especially when economic times are tough. I would like to see these programs accessible to more students throughout the district.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

I will be a strong advocate at and away from the board table to government about the importance of funding these initiatives. I will also seek linkages with the arts community in Edmonton and explore creative ways our schools can help promote the broader arts community and enrich our students experience. The broader and introduction we can give our students to the arts community when they are young, the more likely they will become lifelong supporters and creators!

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?

Yes, with regard to the areas where the school trustee has the ability to influence.

Michael Janz, cont'd.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?

I am a member and regular visitor of the Art Gallery of Alberta, a board member of the Edmonton Public Library, and a former supporter of the University creative filmmaking society.

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

Almost all of our Edmonton Festivals from Art in the Park to the fringe. My fiancée and I are regulars at Studio Theatre at the Timms. I've been to numerous concerts at the Winspear, and to both Shakespeare in the Park performances. I should have saved all of my ticket stubs!

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

Advocate to the city and the province and look for opportunities to engage our schools and school sites in these discussions.



Joanna Rozmus

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

Fine arts are important part of public education.

Early exposure to music, visual arts, and artistic fiction and poetry teaches young students to appreciate art and use it as a medium through which to understand the world around them. In the process of educating fine art patrons (both present and future), schools discover the true talents of their students and help them start on a path to creative living incorporating aspects of music, theatre, painting, writing, etc.

The natural ability of students to create and express themselves through the medium of arts has been an indispensable component of education for years. Combining art and teaching when educating special needs students is particularly important and close to my heart. For example, this is often the only way to discover and interact with children with autism. Again, and again, we continue to see the “liberating” aspects of art give purportedly troubled youth a medium through which to express and communicate their problems. Arts, in many ways form a universal language when looked at from this perspective.

My election platform is built on 25 years of experience in a classroom. Central to these experiences are lessons learned from students. Their understanding and sensitivity, ability to absorb art through social media and technology are parallel to the stories of modern art. And, similarly to contemporary art students should not be dismissed, patronized, made to conform and we always must listen to them on the chance that they may be just one step ahead of us in seeing the world and arts.

Public education should be integrated with youth theatre, youth orchestras, and community art centers which exist throughout the city. School trips to performances of Shakespeare plays at the Citadel, music concerts at the Winspear Center, and exhibitions at the stunning new Art Gallery of Alberta are equally important as playing of music and theatre performances at schools.

A great city is measured by its cultural institutions: symphony orchestra, theatres, galleries and art festivals. They can only exist with the patronage of the public, one ultimately educated to appreciate and cherish the arts. Public schools should contribute to this education and legacy.

Joanna Rozmus, cont'd.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

Active involvement of artists, performers, writers, directors in the education of students.

Art instruction at all levels of schooling should be provided by a combination of artists, university art students, and art history students. School plays could be staged and directed by actors or students in Drama Faculties of Edmonton Universities and music should be taught by musicians.

Recognition of the instructor's expertise in the subject matter of instruction is fundamental to my vision of successful public education, and not only in the fine arts.

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, and I am delighted to see the future art sustainability it will bring to the city given that it's adoption was inclusive to 2018.

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 fully endorse and appreciate the thoroughness of the proposed main themes – particularly, the emphasis on Edmonton's continued momentum and energy. I truly feel that a great city is measured in terms of its architecture, artistic appreciation, and commitment to preserving the artistic legacy of its citizens.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?

No, however, I can attest to the fact that my avid theatre-going, symphony-listening, and AGA visits put in the category of art lover and steward.

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

Citadel performances in Rice and Shoctor Theatres, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra concerts, Studio Theatre performances, and Senior Youth Orchestra concerts.

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

Mixing art, be it structural or fluid, with our everyday existence in terms of our infrastructure is by far the most interactive way to appreciate and "live" the arts. I would really like to see school buildings and associated institutions strive to incorporate arts within their actual structure and practical functionality.



Bev Sawyer

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

The arts are not a separate "plank" in my platform. However, I've said in my comments on 21st Century Learning that arts/creativity is an essential component of excellent education for our children.

Bev Sawyer, cont'd.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

I will advocate when appropriate, and will attend related district/ward events. I am also on the "friend" list for Haley Simons and her development of Creative Alberta.

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?

I'll read it, then decide. However, in general I do support the city's commitment to the arts.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?

My husband and I are season ticket holders to the symphony and the opera.

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

symphony & opera

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

I support the idea that a certain portion of construction costs should be targetted toward public art.



Public School Board Trustee (Ward G) Candidate Responses:

Sarah Hoffman

No response.



George Rice

No response.



Public School Board Trustee (Ward H) Candidate Responses:

Catherine Ripley

Acclaimed.



Public School Board Trustee (Ward I) Candidate Responses:

Lesley Cleary


No response.



Tina Jardine

General response: Thank you for your email and my apologies for the delay in responding. As you can imagine this is a very busy time for all of us candidates.

I've given considerable thought to your questions and, in reply, can only say that I am not well acquainted with the Arts community. I do feel that Edmonton Public Schools is well positioned to play a strong role in the development of the fine arts, and also in the development of an appreciation of the same. I will commit to learning more after I'm elected in order to better dialogue with you in future.



Balraj Manhas

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

Personally, I am a great art lover. Being a parent I know the lack of arts programmings in Edmonton Public Schools. I need more input from different Professional arts organizations to improve the arts programs during early education in our schools andls at the higher edcation evels.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

Again I am willing to work with the different groups and also with the parents and experts to propose such a strog fine arts programming in Edmonton schools.

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 and also read the report.

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 am committed and will also make it one of my priorities.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?

I worked with several other societies but did not get a chance to work with an arts organization.

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

Arts gallery in downtown opening event was graet for me. I attended lots of other events.

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

I need more homework on that.



Catholic School Board Trustee (Ward 71) Candidate Responses:

Becky Kallal

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

I think that it is just as important that every child have some exposure to fine arts as to, for example, physical fitness: fine arts appreciation and participation contribute to mental and emotional fitness. Wherever possible, art and music classes should be taught by specialists. Social studies teachers should try to increase students' appreciation of heritage sites and buildings and their significance. Field trips to heritage sites and buildings should be preceded by or concluded with teaching on the importance of heritage in our lives.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

Edmonton Catholic Schools, we promote fine arts in all of our schools and have some schools (J. H. Picard, Louis St. Laurent, St. Nicholas, etc.) that either have fine arts academies or a fine arts focus for those students who are particularly interested in or talented in areas of fine arts. As with all of our focus programs and academies, we advertise and promote these, and we ensure that students and parents are aware of these opportunities. Many of our schools access Artists in Residence programs of all sorts, and I have strongly supported these because they viscerally prove to all students that each one of them is an artist in some way (song, dance, playing instruments, painting, drawing, ceramic work, etc., etc.).

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 this document. I have read the executive summary and some sections that I was most interested in.

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

Frankly, I will have to read it again, and in more detail. However, I will commit to doing so.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?

No, I have not.

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

The Fringe, several live theatre plays, a couple of jazz events, the Provincial museum twice, the new Art Gallery, The National Art Gallery in Ottawa, a ska festival in Victoria, an art gallery showing in Charlottetown, several art galleries on PEI

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

We display student art in our public Board room and offices, at awards ceremonies, in our schools, and any other places that we can.



Romeo Ochoa

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

If elected, I will enhance the integrity of fine arts in the ECSD. I will support the fine arts program that allots more instructional time per week. Moreover, to enhance Catholic identity, I will see that sacred music is introduced and implemented in addition to popular music.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

I will ensure that more opportunities and incentives are offered to students and teachers as to reflect full support and encouragement. I will see that ample instructional time allotment per week should be preserved and maintained at all times.

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 "The Art of Living " especially Section Two and the Arts Recommendation # 3 which is to " establish a joint task force on the Arts in schools and post secondary institutions."

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 and I will be honored to be a member of the task force that helps fine arts advocacy in schools.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?

No, but given an opportunity I will be glad to be a member.

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

I attended and supported the presentations of the following groups: Vinook Dance group, Philippine Dance Group karilagan, Edmonton Jazz Orchestra, most of Yardbird Suite's concerts and various Jazz performers and most of Edmonton Symphony Orchestra concerts.

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

I will introduce and encourage school programs and activities that enrich and enhance fine arts in the schools.



Catholic School Board Trustee (Ward 72) Candidate Responses:

Patricia Grell

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

I believe that we need to incorporate the arts into our education system to assist our children in developing creative thinking skills. These skills are very necessary in our ever changing, technological world.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

I will ensure continuing and strong fine arts programming in our schools by ensuring that our Board provides sufficient funding for these programs.

Patricia Grell,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 was not aware of "The Art of Living" but I look forward to reading it. Thank you for informing me 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?

I will need to read the book first but please know that I am a great advocate of arts programming in our schools.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?

My family participates in drama and performing arts activities sponsored by a local cultural group. I am a classically trained guitarist as well trained vocalist. I belong to a group called Rigodons which promotes traditional French Canadian music. My husband and I have our 2 children in music lessons.

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

Attended the re-opening of the Edmonton Art Gallery, various theatre productions, Edmonton Symphony for Kids, the 124 St. Gallery Walk.

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

In collaboration with the Public and Francophone school boards, introduce a contest that would challenge each school to come up with a form of public art that would beautify the community where their school is located.



Larry Kowalczyk

No response.



Carla Smiley

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

The arts are a vital form of expression in our culture-see #7

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

I would like to see sessional instructors continue. Inviting professional artists into our school inspires our children to develop their own talents, and creates possibilities that many did not know existed for themselves. I would like to encourage schools to nurture the arts in a way that is authentic, and that asks a high standard. e.g I would rather see a talent show where children are singing their own songs (not lip synching, and where choice of music is edifying) Drama, music and art programs create a richness that is a real gift to our children and society. Let's give them a strong foundation on which to build their creativity, and which encourages nobility and beauty.

Carla Smiley, 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?

NO, Thank you for telling me about it though. I look forward to reviewing it and informing myself.

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 response.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?

We support our children in the arts through music lessons-piano, flute, voice, and driving to choir and play practices and volunteering during performances.

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

We are ESO season ticket holders, our daughter is a Citadel season ticket holder through her school. She is part of the "Cappies" program at St Joe's high which trains them to review and write up theatre productions. We also attended events at Festival Place -Sherwood Park, Neil Young at the Jubilee this summer and Tom Jackson' "Singing for Supper" during the Christmas season. We also saw "A Christmas Carol at the Citadel. Our daughter is involved > in a Shakespeare Performance Group called Celcius Youth Theatre Co. They are currently practicing for "A Mid-Summer's Night Dream" We will be attending that in Nov. We attended another play last Nov.

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

I have been so impressed while travelling abroad, especially in Mexico where public art and music, and dance is everywhere. While the quality varies, it is clear that it is valued by the culture as a whole. We are a pretty self conscious people by comparison. I think we need to nurture it in our own homes first, the idea that if you have a gift you have the responsibility to develop it and then share it with others. We have alot to learn from other cultures in this regard. Traditionally the Irish expect that you will turn up a the pub with a song, story, or tin whistle. I think we need to begin to change minds about art. That is not always about performance, but sharing. But we do have the responsibility to share the best of ourselves. This raises the overall experience of life for each of us.

Catholic School Board Trustee (Ward 73) Candidate Responses:

Cynthia Bossmin-Davis

General response: Thanks for the follow up phone call. This survey had fallen through the cracks. I feel these answers deserve thoughtful replies (and I don't want to answer off the cuff), so I fear I will not be able to participate in time to meet your deadline.

Sincerely, Cynthia Bossmin-Davis

Jennifer Chahal

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

The arts are a vital component to enable our students to become worldly and well rounded - I am a strong advocate for the Arts. My Husband and I engage the Arts community with open arms.

Jennifer Chahal, cont'd.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

Creating a dialogue with the Minister of Community Spirit & Culture and the Minister of Education to assure that they have an understanding that the Arts need to be sustainable.

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?

Yes.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?

My Husband and I volunteer within the community and in the City for numerous galas etc.

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

Numerous festivals, openings (Gala)

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

I would engage the department heads and encourage them to develop a line of communication with the Arts community.

thank-you



Cindy Olsen

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

I strongly support arts especially for young artists starting out. My son has had the wonderful opportunity of sharing his music at the "Carrot" coffee house several times. The whole concept of a cooperative volunteer driven arts organization is wonderful. It provides for engagement, not only of artists but community as well and has been a big factor in revitalization of the community

I also support the arts as a means of healing. I have seen, when my son played a volunteer gig for a long term care facility in Red Deer how appreciated and how the vibrancy and "health" of the audience increased

The Arts also give people a window on the world. Through the arts we are able to visit and celebrate through different genres different regions, peoples and countries

Cindy Olsen, cont'd.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

We have a great fine arts program in ECSD and it does not stand alone. We believe that the opportunity to participate in fine arts should be offered to all students, not just those who have a special gift or aptitude so we integrate fine arts into the entire curriculum. As well some of our Social Justice projects feature the arts - an example being the city led 'Heart to Art' project on homelessness. I sat on the committee for ECSD and facilitated ECSD's involvement

As a district we strongly support and encourage participation in CAPPIES and I had the honour of presenting awards in 2007 We host our own gala celebration of the arts in the spring at Winspear featuring all mediums... music, poetry, drama, painting, drawing, photography .. everything. Again in 2007 I had the opportunity to offer opening remarks at the event We also host band share nights and encourage schools (kindergarten to grade 12) to showcase the kids in local productions

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 was not aware of it but now that I am will make a point of reading 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?

(No response)

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

I have donated to various arts organizations in Edmonton however I always choose to remain anonymous

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

The Fringe, Festival place Café series, The Citadel, various fundraising events featuring young artists, Winspear, The Art Gallery our own ECSD events, Leonard Cohen Night, Productions through Grant MacEwan and various High Schools throughout the city, Carrot Coffee House, Mandolin and various Second Cup performances, Street Festival, The Works, Shakespeare in the Park

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

I really believe it's important to bring the Arts to the people. Ticket prices are often too expensive for many Edmonton Residents. The free events at Louise McKinney Park were wonderful, The Works is another example

When I was in Ottawa in June, several of their major parks has permanent displays where Art works were rotated on a regular basis. I also enjoyed the informal venue for arts along the Harbor in Victoria

I also believe the city needs to make available more grants for young artists to get a toehold n the industry



Catholic School Board Trustee (Ward 74) Candidate Responses:

Debbie Engel

No response.



Brad Lohner

No response.



Catholic School Board Trustee (Ward 75) Candidate Responses:

John Acheson

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

The Arts in the elementary grades are included as compulsory components of the mandated Program of Studies of Alberta Learning. Without going into the merits of the arts let it be said that every child must be given the opportunity to develop their interests in the arts and to receive an education that develops the “whole brain”. My platform, and this is stated in my literature, includes a commitment to ensure that every child will have a full opportunity to complete the entire Program of Studies – this is indeed a legal requirement. As a trustee I will find it to be unacceptable for a school to cancel arts classes because it is seen as being a lower priority.

At the secondary level I feel comfortable that the students are being given excellent opportunities to choose a variety of “options” and to participate in a variety of co-curricular opportunities to enrich their education through the arts. [My three grandchildren in the secondary school are involved in instrumental music, dance, and drama.]

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

I will hold, through the Superintendent, the schools accountable for delivering the Program of Studies and for ensuring that a well rounded program of “alternative” experiences are offered to the student body. Structured “school evaluations carried out by the Superintendent will position the Board to determine whether or not the schools are, by definition, “excellent” schools – excellent schools include the offering of a well rounded arts program.

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 not aware of the publication of which you speak but can surmise that it includes a “blueprint” on how to proceed vis a vis the Arts 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?

Such a document is important in that it sets goals toward which we can work, and it provides a basis for assessing how we are progressing.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?

I have not been a Society or Board member but I have been directly involved in the arts during my professional career as an educator and indirectly involved as a parent and grandparent. In a forthcoming publication on the Edmonton Catholic School District I have been identified as one of the “leaders” in the Arts in the District. Under my administration the District organized “Fine Arts Festivals” that showcased the talents of the students from across the System. These major productions incorporated choral and instrumental music, drama, dance and visual arts. These productions were deemed to be unqualified successes. They continue now in the Edmonton Catholic School District but in a different format entitled Celebrate the Arts.

My wife paints and is a member of a photography club. All my children play instruments, as do my grandchildren.

John Acheson, cont'd.

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

I attended Drama and musical productions at the Citadel Theatre, Mayfield Dinner Theater and Festival Place as well as numerous school band concerts, drama and musical productions

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

The single greatest contribution a school trustee can make is embedded in the aforementioned reference to the Program of Studies. Schools are well positioned to give children an appreciation for the arts – this is an appreciation that will carry over into their adult lives. It will be these adults that will continue to demand that governments recognize the arts as making important contributions to our quality of life.

I trust the foregoing adequately responds to your survey. I thank you for taking an interest in the school board elections. I assume it is acceptable to submit the survey by email. John Acheson



Rudy Arcilla

No response.



Lauri Friesen

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

I do not have an arts platform. As a candidate for Catholic Schools board trustee, I have focused my campaign and attention on issues specific to Catholic education. I am not opposed to using taxpayer dollars to fund arts education, construct beautiful buildings, support art collections, or acquire art for display in government buildings.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

I am not aware that there is any reason to believe that current or future policies will affect the availability of fine arts programming. I have no interest, at this time, of proposing any changes.

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 was not aware of this cultural plan, described in "The Art of Living" until I received this e-mail. I have now read the Executive Summary of the document.

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 haven't made any commitment to "The Art of Living." I would not support or promote any level of government making policies for the direction of arts or the arts community, save as in the role of "patron" or collector.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?

No.

Lauri Friesen, cont'd.

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

Opera, symphony, the opening exhibition of the new Art Gallery of Alberta, the Works Festival.

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

I believe that public/government buildings should all have a responsibility and budget for acquiring and displaying art works.



Catholic School Board Trustee (Ward 76) Candidate Responses:

Marilyn Bergstra

No response.



Bev Heisler

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

I believe that the Arts affect everything that we do. To me art crosses the boundaries of our senses, emotions, and intellect. The Arts enhance society as a whole and I am a big supporter of the Arts.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

At the school level, I truly believe that children are never too young to learn the value of art and culture. If there have not been schools designated to focus on fine arts I would make this proposal to the Board. I would also support drama programs, music/band programs, performance arts, and art classes (drawing, painting, sculpture, etc) in all our schools.

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 now aware of "The Art of Living" and thank you for bringing this to my attention.

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

Because I love the Arts and know how much they enhance my life, and because my husband and I have always supported the arts, I will continue to make it a priority to promote and support the Arts in this city.

5. Have you been a society member, board member or a donor of or to an arts organization in Edmonton?

My husband and I are donors to the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. I have not had the opportunity to be a member of a society or to serve as a board member.

Bev Heisler, cont'd.

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

We have seasons tickets to the Edmonton Symphony, and up to this year have had seasons tickets at the Citadel Theatre. This year we have chosen to make it to some of the plays but may not be able to make it to others because our daughter is getting married in England and we will be spending some time helping her with this special event. I love the Opera and although we do not have seasons tickets we have attended most performances, and will do so again. I have attended the Fringe, and the ice sculptures. I have tried to get tickets for both the Folk Fest, and Symphony in the Park but both were sold out for the events that I was able to make. Like I stated before both my husband and I support the arts.

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

Public art and icons are very important in the Catholic faith. I would encourage all our schools to display public art in the many forms of the symbols from our faith.

Thank you for inviting the candidates to participate in this forum. It is a great opportunity for each and everyone of us. Thank you especially for double checking my email and getting this to me.

Kindest Regards, Bev Heisler



Michael Savaryn

General response: As a musician, I appreciate your survey and the work you are doing.

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

To support and enhance the arts in our schools as much as possible, hiring artists in the community to come into our schools for workshops, group projects, master classes, and even private lessons.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

Work on the establishment of the task force that was the 3rd recommendation "The Art of Living" city's cultural plan, and being on it if possible. What is a bit disconcerting is the fact no municipal funds were allocated for this. Provincial educational budgets are stretched as it is, so it would have been nice to see the municipality kick some in.

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 am a violinist (amateur). All three of my children are quite accomplished musicians, and my wife is a visual artist. We have been "living" the artistic experience our entire lives and are very happy about the plan. Artists very much need public patronage and assistance. Very few can eke a living out of their art. Most are forced to take a "practical" job, as I did.

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

Yes. Many.

Michael Savaryn, cont'd.

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

Symphony, opera, live theatre, chamber music concerts, choir and dance concerts, musical theatre, recitals, music competitions, etc..

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

Put into practice the "plan's" recommendation of "live music zones". Michael Savaryn



Katherine Schwabenbauer

No response.



Catholic School Board Trustee (Ward 77) Candidate Responses:

Danny Kinal

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

As a fairly knowledgeable teacher on the matter of multiple intelligences, I am firmly committed to the development of the fine arts: instrumental and choral music, drama, performing arts, and visual arts. This is specifically evidenced in the financial budget and personal support I provided to the Arts as a Principal of Catholic Elem and Junior High schools.

Personally, I conducted choirs that participated in the Kiwanis Festival; I supported and attended our school choirs to perform at the Legislature, Festival of Trees, ECS Celebration of the Arts, Churchill Manor Senior Facility and Good Samaritan Home. I also encouraged and ensured that we supplied visual art for Teachers' Convention [GETCA], the Art Gallery, ECS Celebration of the Arts, and Capital City Savings calendars.

As Principal of John Paul I CS in Mill Woods, I coordinated a partnership with Canada Safeway, Town Centre, 1988-1992 whereby our students decorated the store windows with seasonal theme works of Art [Fall, Thanksgiving, Halloween, Remembrance Day, Christmas, St Valentine Day, St Patrick Day, Easter and Spring]. I personally assisted with every display. What a promotion of children, schools and visual arts.

As Principal of St Clement, I once took Grade 07 Instrumental music for the entire school year and began to play the alto sax.

In the realm of Drama, I wrote skits, lyrics, and co-produced a variety show for nine years; the show played ten shows each year to sold out audiences. I have been a part of various troupes that provided entertainment for conventions and conferences in Edmonton and the Jasper Park Lodge. We once did an event at the old Edmonton Gardens for 3000 Business and Professional Women of the World.

Danny Kinal, cont'd.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

As a Trustee, I will bring my passion for the Arts to the attention of leaders in Catholic education, and our school communities. I will also make a commitment to support, encourage and enhance the Arts in our school, District and budgets.

When we opened nine new Catholic schools in 1979 and 1980, I was part of a project where we commissioned artists, primarily Albertan to produce a unique work of art for a focal point in the school. As Principal of St Teresa CS in Blue Quill I commissioned a life-sized stained glass work of St Teresa of Avila; I assisted other schools with wood carvings [Al Gerritsen] ; a beginning sculptor [Danek Mozdzenski]; a beginning mural artist [Marina Popova] and a host of others. St Theresa Church also commissioned the first two artists for a number of works in their church.

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 an initiative, but I do not specifically recall the title of this Cultural Plan. I do know it now and I will access and 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 commitment is to read it and then act accordingly.

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

I served on the Columbian Choirs Board for two years 1980-1982. We are long time supporters of the Shumka Dancers and have attended their Black Tie event at the Jubilee Auditorium for the past 6 years. I helped promote the Edmonton Philharmonic Society Orchestra by arranging evening performances in schools....a rehearsal for them and a great performance for various school communities.

As Principal, I promoted various Artists through residence programs in school. Even if we did not qualify/receive an Artist in Residence grant, we would proceed to self-fund residency programs for writers, poets, dancers, visual artists, dance troupes, and affiliated groups.

Performing Arts were very important to me and I would Chair a staff committee that would bring in at least 6 performing groups a year at no charge to the students. This included gospel musicians, visual artists, operettas, musicals, plays, dance troupes, and interactive hip-hop. We also invested in video cameras and class sets of photo cameras so that students could publish visual components to their writing.

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

Like thousands of Edmontonians... Fringe; Shumka Black Tie, ECS Celebration of the Arts, art walks; as an Executive Board Member of the Faculty Club, we sponsor 1-2 Dinner evenings per year featuring talents such as Eaton singers, Tribute to Chopin, and similar cultural experiences; I have Chaired the Mill Woods Multicultural Fdn for the past 11 years and actively promote cultural dance troupes in our schools and our own events.

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

I would need to shift some of my focus from all of the aspects of the Arts, to more specifically focus on public art. I am an activist, self-initiated, very visible in my community, the education sector and public circle. I will always do what I can to promote learning and personal development through all of our intelligences. I have a passion for the arts.



Kara Pelech

No response.



Laura Thibert

1. What is your arts platform? Please elaborate.

The position of Catholic School Trustee involves collaborating with all areas within Edmonton Catholic education including the arts community. I would be involved in the continual research and commitment to our young people which is the foundation of the mission of the district "to inspire as well prepare youth to live fully and serve God." I would like to continue programs, be involved with creating new ideas, and enable student to expand their life journey into the future. Our young people should move into the next phase of their lives complete to be creative, understand their different talents, and explore new and exciting opportunities.

2. What do you propose to do to ensure there is a continuing and strong fine arts programming in Edmonton schools?

The position of Catholic School Trustee involves continual research and commitment to the future of students, parents and the church, which is achievable through creativity, innovation and spiritual guidance. Communication amongst all parties will help to forge this spirit of Catholic education. Encouraging the teachers to showcase fine art talents whether it in the classroom and hallways or outside the school in areas such as the Edmonton Humane Society and the University of Alberta Art Gallery extension are some of the ways I would ensure fine art programming in Edmonton schools. I would also support other creative ways to encourage opportunities to allow student to show their fine art talents. I want to be a part of this process.

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 read part of this manuscript and will continue to read it as I am curious of the 10 year plan and the progress that will continue because of this document. I agree that Edmonton is a unique city that thrives on the creative process which allows our city to stand out among others. I look forward to the implementation of "The Art of Living" and the City's Cultural plan to expand fine arts in the community and I would like to implement a connection with Edmonton Catholic Schools that will establish our city as leaders in the fine arts sector.

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 position of Catholic School Trustee involves continual research and commitment to the future of students, parents and the church, which is achievable through communication amongst all parties. I will help to forge this spirit in all areas of education. I look forward to further exploration and examining all the possibilities that "The Art of Living" will bring to Catholic education.

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

I have donated many materials to Mr. Miceli's Fine Arts School, a local fine art school in the community and I have also donated my time to the schools in my area to help in art classes to complete various art projects. I also have had the opportunity to create a unique 5x5 quilt in honor of Edmonton Federations of Community Leagues in support of Community League day 2010 for The Meadows Community League.

Laura Thibert, cont'd.

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

I have had the privilege of attending the Grand opening of the Art Gallery of Alberta, Arts Alive Conference and the Getca Showcase for Edmonton Catholic Schools. I have also attended Spring into Art through the University of Alberta extension Art Gallery, Young Authors Conference, and various concerts. I am continuously looking for opportunities and programs to attend with my family and look forward to the next event that comes to Edmonton.

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

I would like to encourage partnerships with various organizations to showcase artists in the Edmonton Catholic School District of Ward 77. I am currently aware of various conferences that are on-going in the city and feel that they are an exciting opportunity for young people to get involved. I am excited to promote new ideas in the future to expand the possibility for students, parents and the church to get involved. Together we can make this happen.

Thank you for the opportunity to complete this questionnaire.

