



Press Release

SUBJECT: Mandel says donations from 2011 Mayor's Celebration of the Arts proceeds typifies the arts giving back to the community

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iHuman Youth Society and the Comedy Cares Program of the Edmonton International Street Performers Festival each received donations from the proceeds of the 24th annual Mayor's Celebration of the Arts today.

In an inventive presentation at City Hall, Mayor Stephen Mandel and the Professional Arts Coalition of Edmonton's (PACE's) Karen Brown Fournell gave a skateboard "cheque" to iHuman's Executive Director Catherine Broomfield and helped Board Chair Sue Broderick pull colourful scarves from a top hat to reach a "magical cheque" for the Street Fest's Comedy Cares.

Mayor Mandel noted, "It's always a pleasure to see our business and arts communities working hand-in-hand for the betterment of our city," said Mayor Mandel. "The Mayor's Celebration of the Arts is a truly great event, one I am pleased to be a part of each year. On one hand we are able to recognize and showcase some of Edmonton's tremendous talent, and on the other, the event is helping facilitate the great work of community organizations like the iHuman Youth Society and the Comedy Cares program."

The Mayor's Celebration of the Arts honours outstanding Edmonton supporters of the arts and professional artists that excel in their fields and, in the process, has contributed more than \$125,000 since 2005 to worthy organizations such as the Youth Emergency Shelter Society and Arts on the Avenue.

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“PACE is thrilled to share in the success of this event with such worthwhile Edmonton organizations. We all desire to promote an artistic motivation for a better way of life in our city,” remarked Karen Brown Fournell.

Comedy Cares, a program run by the Edmonton International Street Performers Festival under the mantra “laughter has the power to heal”, provides Street Fest entertainment to patients, their staff and family members in Alberta’s long-term care facilities. iHuman, established in 1997 by professional artists Wallis Kendal and Sandra Bromley in response to experiences with their famous Gun Sculpture, uses arts mentorship to reintegrate high-risk youth into the community.

“We are very grateful to the Mayor and PACE for the opportunity to bring a cast of international artists and healing laughter to patients, families and caregivers in hospitals and care facilities throughout the community,” commented Sue Broderick, Board Chair of the Edmonton International Street Performers Festival.

Added Catherine Broomfield, “Support for iHuman allows our city's vulnerable youth to express themselves through the arts. Their insight is often raw. However, giving voice to these stories empowers creative and hopeful change for the youth and our community.”

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Backgrounder

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

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

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

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

<u>Year</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Donation Amount</u>
2005	Art Gallery of Alberta	\$28,652
2006	Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts	\$17,321
2007	Mennonite Centre for Newcomers	\$11,924
2008	Arts on the Avenue	\$20,534
2009	Council for the Advancement of African Canadians	\$11,234
	Mennonite Centre for Newcomers	\$11,234
2010	Youth Emergency Shelter Society	\$17,166
2011	iHuman Youth Society	\$5,000
	Edmonton International Street Performers Festival's Comedy Cares Program	\$5,000