

PACE Arts Vote 2017 Questionnaire

As in previous municipal elections in Edmonton, the Professional Arts Coalition of Edmonton (PACE) is conducting the ArtsVote 2017 campaign. This means we are doing our best to ensure that support for Arts and Culture in Edmonton is a feature of public discussion during this campaign.

To that end, we are asking all candidates in the municipal election to respond to this short questionnaire and to send your responses to admin@pacedmonton.com. We will post your responses on the PACE website as they are received.

1. Do you feel the city does enough to encourage and support an active arts sector?
Given that we have limited resources, I think Edmonton generally does a good job, yes, but there is still room for improvement.
2. What would you change in the city's current approach?
I believe in order to truly represent Edmontonians, we need more engagement to see what we want. There should be transparency in the process, and the public deserves a say. Without that, we will continually see outrage over choices made.
3. Do you support the city's purchase and display of public art through the Percent for Art program (this provides 1% of the construction budget of publicly accessible buildings in Edmonton to buying public art)? If not, please explain why not.
Yes, I do. I would largely rely on public input, but based on the survey I currently have on hopeforabetteredmonton.com, most people would like to keep it, but maybe tweak it, and have more say.
4. Appropriate facilities to support Edmonton's arts and culture industries are critical to our city's growth and development in this area. The creation of specific districts to support certain kinds of Arts, such as music districts, has been adopted in some cities to foster growth of cultural industries. How would you propose supporting the creation of dedicated arts districts?
I don't think I am the best choice to propose this. I would rather listen to different points of view, and gather ideas, and take them to consultation.
5. In the province's current economic situation, the city's resources are stretched. In this climate, how important is it for the city to financially support new arts facilities and activities?
It is a tough thing, because we need to strike the right balance of support for the arts so we don't lose it, especially considering it is part of the economy, and having a livable city.
6. Beyond the scope of the questions above, do you have other thoughts as to how you would continue to enhance arts and culture in our city?
Continue with festivals; incorporating the general public and communicating will also spur greater buy in and support.
7. What would you advocate to ensure that training in Fine Arts – music, dance, theatre, visual arts – is an integral part of the education of young Edmontonians?
I would likely just keep things as they are now.