

Survey answers from Matthew Kleywegt, Ward 7 city council candidate:

1. Do you feel the city does enough to encourage and support an active arts sector?

Yes I do. I think Edmonton has a wonderful Arts scene. This is a wonderful City for getting an artistic endeavour off the ground.

2. What would you change in the city's current approach?

I would make even more space available for public art. I would also like to see incentives for landlords to at least temporarily rent out vacant space for Arts based events.

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.

Absolutely! I think public art is absolutely essential to the moral and livability of the City. I will always support this.

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?

In my experience Arts districts don't like to be told where they are going to be. I think we know where the theater districts, and the gallery districts and the live music districts are. I think we should recognise them and promote them where they are.

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?

Very, there will always be some who will point at the Arts as a decadence in troubled times.

This is shame because it is when times are tough that we need the encouragement of the Arts the most.

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?

I love Art but I don't art with any particular skill. I'll do my job and I'll support Artists as they do theirs. If there is something the city could do to be less cumbersome and a better partner I am open to hearing about it.

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?

This is a little beyond the scope of what I can directly advocate for as a City Councillor. I would always advocate for funding in the arts with my school board colleagues and with the Provincial Government.

I hope these answers are satisfactory,

Matthew Kleywegt