



Allied Arts Council of Lethbridge
2025 Municipal Election
Arts Survey: Candidate Response

Please note this survey will be shared with the membership of the Allied Arts Council and on our website artslethbridge.org

Candidate:

1. What is your vision for the arts sector within the City of Lethbridge?

My vision for the arts sector in Lethbridge is one where creativity is recognized as both a cultural cornerstone and an economic driver. The arts is a sector that contributes directly to the social, economic, and civic vitality of our city.

As a past President of the Allied Arts Council, a long-time participant in the performing arts, and the former owner and editor of *Lethbridge Living Magazine*, I've seen firsthand how the arts connect people, attract investment, and enhance our collective quality of life. The arts tell our story – who we are as a community, what we value, and where we're going.

The arts also play an important role in attracting investment to our city, for example through our new Creative Industries initiative, and make our city an attractive place for people to visit and live – the arts are key to our city's economic development.

Through my work on Council, I've supported the City's investment in arts, culture, and downtown activation – from Festival Square to the Downtown Playground – because these spaces bring people together and give artists a platform to shine. Going forward, I will continue to support a city where arts and culture are integrated into how we plan, build, and grow: where public art, creative industries, and community partnerships are seen as part of our economic and social infrastructure, not afterthoughts.

2. What do you believe are the benefits of investing in the arts and how do you view the role of City of Lethbridge in arts investment?

Investing in the arts is an investment in people, place, and prosperity. The arts create jobs, attract tourism, strengthen neighbourhoods, and build pride and belonging. Arts and culture are what transform a city from a place where people live into a place they love.

The City's role in arts investment is to create stability, opportunity, and visibility for the sector – ensuring long-term support for organizations such as the Allied Arts Council,

integrating cultural development into planning and economic strategies, and maintaining a strong public art program. The City must also act as a facilitator, bringing partners together to align investment.

I've consistently supported this approach: whether through advocating for creative industries as an economic priority, championing downtown vibrancy, or encouraging arts-based placemaking projects that align with our Municipal Development Plan's goals of building inclusive, connected communities.

3. Please share your thoughts on public art and its role in our community.

Public art is the heartbeat of a city. It tells our stories in shared spaces, creates a sense of identity and belonging, and invites reflection and connection. It isn't decoration; it's dialogue.

Lethbridge's public art program is something we should be proud of. It fosters civic pride, celebrates our living heritage, and reflects our diversity. Public art contributes to tourism, enhances our quality of life, and supports artists directly. I believe in expanding how we think about public art and integrating it not just into major projects, but into neighbourhood design, park development, and even infrastructure projects, so art becomes part of daily life.

I continue to support maintaining our Public Art Walking Tour and exploring new opportunities for artists to collaborate with business and development sectors, embedding art into our growing and changing cityscape.

4. Lethbridge City Council is being asked to adopt the Civic Common Redevelopment Strategy in principle and to prioritize the development of a Performing Arts Centre within the upcoming Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Do you support this strategy, and why or why not?

In principle, I support the Civic Common Redevelopment Strategy and the current inclusion of the Performing Arts Centre in the upcoming CIP; however, I have yet to be through a CIP process, so have some learning to do here, and have yet to see the full list of projects that will be included and what the priority will be.

I understand that a purpose-built Performing Arts Centre has been advocated for, for quite some time (I was the Allied Arts Council Board Chair when that advocacy started) and as part of our economic development and attraction I understand the benefits that it would

have in our city as it would not only serve as a cultural anchor for our community but also as an economic catalyst: attracting visitors, supporting downtown revitalization, and creating opportunities for local artists and organizations.

However, I also understand the need to be pragmatic and innovative in how we finance and deliver it and see opportunities for philanthropic contributions, to integrate housing, retail, and commercial spaces. Good governance means being “opportunity ready”: when external funding or partnership opportunities arise, we should already have the groundwork in place.

Lethbridge deserves a Performing Arts Centre that reflects our community’s spirit – bold, accessible, and future-ready.