



Allied Arts Council of Lethbridge
2021 Municipal Election
Arts Survey: Candidate Response

Candidate: Darcy Logan

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

Lethbridge has a vibrant and unique arts sector, unparalleled for a city our size. We have an active visual, performing, and literary arts community that not only engages Lethbridge, but draws individuals from other communities as a destination.

Lethbridge is recognized provincially and nationally for the strengths of its arts community. The arts need to be nurtured, and will consequently provide a fertile environment that will attract relocation, and investment. Who would want to open a corporate office, or move from a larger centre, if the city was a cultural wasteland? The arts make us interesting and desirable. We need to allow the arts to grow in tandem with the growth of Lethbridge. We need to support festivals, galleries, musicians, and performers.

When you are bingeing your next Netflix show, remember that the army of concept artists, art designers, costume designers, writers, and musicians behind the program most likely got to where they are because they grew up in an environment that valued the arts.

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.

The arts are a critical part of the cultural tapestry of our community, along with other subsidized activities like sports, parks, libraries, museums and recreation facilities. They are all inter-related and integral. There is no question that the municipality should provide financial support in the delivery of these programs, and enable the public to have affordable arts experiences. One way this is currently done effectively is under the city's fee for service agreement with community partners. The arts add to the health and well-being of any city.

The arts are an economic driver. They bring in grant dollars from other levels of government, attract tourism & outside investment, and directly impact traffic to commercial enterprises in adjacent areas. The returns on the city's investment are not just the important socially intangible ones, but are also concrete and measurable.

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

Public art is a vital part of any city, including our own. Public art is funded through a percentage of the allocated budget for capital projects, which seems an effective model that many other cities follow. Public artworks become fixtures of our urban landscape; talking points, and meeting places. Smaller public art projects beautify our city and provide opportunities to local artists.

4. Lethbridge City Council has demonstrated their commitment to building a performing arts centre in their recent Capital Improvement Program. Do you support this commitment and if so what is your proposed strategy for completing the project?

A PAC is something the performing arts community has been publicly advocating for since 2007. I support it in principle; I dislike watching people travel to Medicine Hat and Calgary for concerts, while Lethbridge businesses lose out on that revenue. Many performances skip Lethbridge due to the lack of a proper venue. Not to mention that our aging facilities like the Yates are booked to capacity and have some deficiencies.

That being said, we are transitioning out of a crippling pandemic amidst surging inflation, while facing a social crisis that needs our attention. We cannot shoulder the burden of paying for a PAC ourselves, and my support is contingent on being able to leverage funds from other levels of government, much like we did with Casa. Casa was a \$20.6 million building project; the City of Lethbridge paid a mere \$200,000, and found \$14.4m from the province and \$6m from the federal government. Those external dollars would never have materialized if the city hadn't committed to realizing the project.

We need to keep the forward momentum, and commitment, while looking for visionary ways to ensure the cost to the public is mitigated. This is definitely something that should remain in the public discourse, even if it can't happen in the immediate short-term.