



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

**Candidate: Ryan Lepko**

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

Please see question #4

*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.*

Please see question #4

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

Please see question #4

*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?*



I believe the most powerful forms of art conveys a strong and impactful message about the world, relationships, politics, social issues, etc. What we see above is a picture of the opening ceremonies of the 2016 Summer Olympics. Every now and again I am reminded of this picture, and believe I kept this in the memory banks for a time such as this.

Please, before you think I am being harsh and judgmental with the above picture, I surely am not. Art makes us talk. Art should bring us together. Art can unite us around the banner of creativity, inspiration, divine God given gifts bestowed upon us to marvel and be in awe of the endless talents in each and every single one of us.

The art above is how I see this present situation here in Lethbridge and the proposed performing arts centre. Wonderful and beautiful, especially being on the inside. On the outside, the outsiders can only glimpse a tiny morsel of the beauty that is being created from within. With surely and purely good intentions, the arts community is asking for funds to bring creativity to life. While the poor, homeless and most vulnerable can rarely see that sliver of hope and light.

I frequently ride my bike later in the evening between 3 Avenue and Galt Gardens. When I do, I am grieved of the divide separating the homeless and addicted in Galt Gardens, and the patio sitting diners enjoying an evening away from the kids.

I believe that chasm divided by invisible boundaries can be torn down in a way such as this. I will offer my full and complete support, if the proposed performing arts centre be willing to partner with the homeless, addicted, and vulnerable to restore their dignity, self worth, sense of purpose while bringing healing back into their lives. Eliminating that chasm between the haves and have nots. This is just an idea to serve two purposes. I would surely raise my hand and say Yes to something like this.