



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

Candidate: Ryan Wolfe

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

Lethbridge has a vibrant arts sector. We educate and showcase world class talent covering many disciplines and techniques. This is to be celebrated and promoted. My vision is that we continue to work with that arts community to encourage and welcome new, budding artists of all kinds and that we foster a community that is able to promote world class performances and festivals etc. I have spent many hours at Casa waiting for my daughter to finish her lessons and we cherish the growth and joy we were a part of.

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 provide so much to the community. We all love to hear beautiful music, watch talented actors on a stage and admire the fine brush strokes of a talented painter. The arts foster understanding, tolerance and diversity. Arts inspire and provide a unique education and outlet. The city can continue to play a role in supporting the arts. There are many ways to "invest" in something. We need to consider opportunities to provide platforms and media for artists of all disciplines to share their work. The city should continue to provide reasonable and cost-effective funding to the arts.

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

I'm not sure what this question is asking exactly. If you are asking about the city commissioning works of art for public display. It is not a priority for me at this moment to spend very limited tax dollars on more works of art for public display. This role is better filled by the private sector. The city is facing many urgent challenges and funding more public art is not a top priority for me at this time.

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 is so what is your proposed strategy for completing the project?

We have some of the highest property taxes in the province. We have a massive crime crisis and drug crisis. We have a massive homelessness crisis. There is a lack of facilities for sports. We need more support for the working poor. We need more resources for refugees. The list goes on and on. There are many facilities in the city that can facilitate the needs of the arts community while the new council deals with these emergencies that have been neglected for far too long. Once we can get our financial house in order, then opportunities to look at an arts centre should be reconsidered.