



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

## **Candidate: Tim VanderBeek**

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

I believe that the arts in Lethbridge should be used to enrich the lives of its citizens by beautifying the environment, by providing and diversifying educational opportunities that many may not be able to experience otherwise and help in developing critical thinking and communication skills and by increasing inclusion, by exposing the individual and groups to different viewpoints and ideas they may not normally be exposed to.

### *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.*

There are many benefits to investing in the arts. By making the community more attractive it can build pride in the community and increase tourism.

The arts can also increase inclusion by exposing others to thoughts and views they may not readily be exposed to and can provide disadvantaged groups a means of communicate what they are going through.

I view the role of Lethbridge as being a patron which can provide support, both financially and in kind, for the various events and activities the arts community may pursue.

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

The most important aspect of public art is that it is easily accessible to all and can provide a first exposure to various art forms for many. Through that exposure the viewer may wish to learn more about that art form.

It can also create discussion about issues and ideas for the citizens of Lethbridge.

### *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?*

I do not support this project at this time. In Lethbridge, we have had in quick succession had Casa, the ATB Centre, the Agri-Food Hub and Trade Centre, Yates upgrades, an expansion at Nikko Yuko Japanese Gardens, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave S. improvements.

In that time, the City has been reducing staff and not keeping up the infrastructure it already possesses. Parks are in decline and facilities are aging.

I believe we need to put a stop new development until we can get to a point where we can look after the things we have already built. Only then should we consider a new major project.