



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

Candidate: Jenn Schmidt-Rempel

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

My vision would be that we continue to grow, advocate for, and invest in the vibrant arts sector that we have in the city of Lethbridge. Arts are a key component of civic pride and add to our quality of life.

As a past President of the Allied Arts Council, someone who participates in performing arts, and past owner and editor of Lethbridge living magazine, I fully appreciate the vibrant arts community that we have in our city, and I understand the economic role the arts play in attracting investment to our city.

I would like to see continued investment in public art because of the vitality it adds to our community, and I would like to see us take on an innovative approach to building the performing arts centre for our community.

I'm also excited by the opportunities to engage with the arts that I see for our community. For instance, what can we as an arts community do in partnership with Exhibition Park when that facility is completed? What other ways can we bring arts out into our community as our community grows? This summer's Arts in the Parks and the Allied Arts Council's concert series was a great way to engage our community, develop our audiences, feature local performers, and highlight different performance venues throughout our city. I'd like to see us continue with these initiatives and grow them.

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.

Residents in our city enjoy a variety of performing and visual arts, events, and attractions in venues throughout the city. We are lucky to host such a vibrant arts community in our city.

As stated above, I believe the role of the City of Lethbridge is to continue to grow, advocate for, and invest in the vibrant arts sector we have in the city. Arts are a key component of civic pride and add to our quality of life.

Supporting our arts sector, as with supporting other sectors, can create jobs, boost tourism, increase investment and will benefit our local economy and community overall.

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

Public art is vital to the cultural fabric of our city. Public art plays a role in creating a visually rich and engaging environment and fosters civic pride. It reflects our diverse culture and celebrates our living heritage. It invigorates our public spaces and is a way for our city to express our values. It offers accessible opportunities to the arts to everyone in our community and increases quality of life. Public art helps to attract tourists and investment into our city.

I'm proud to say we have robust public art program in our city. I would encourage all residents to take our Public Art Walking Tour. A map is available at <https://artslethbridge.org/improving-community/public-art-program/>.

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 do support this commitment, and I also understand the value and economic return a facility like this would bring to our community. With a major project such as the Performing Arts Centre (PAC) – like any major facility – Council must undertake an out-of-the box approach.

One tool that could help our community is exploring more Public – Private Partnerships for capital projects. For a PAC, a P3 with a local developer could create a wonderful community-focused centre that perhaps also offers housing, retail and commercial space, or a hotel and conference facilities. There are partnership opportunities out there and we must be open to exploring them. Council must always explore partnerships that can benefit the community and spark local investment especially for our long-term facility needs.

It's vital to have projects such as the PAC in the Capital Budget. If a partnership can be found, if other-source funding becomes available, or if a creative opportunity arises, good planning and preparation makes us "opportunity ready." Good business practice and governance is to be prepared for these opportunities.