



“Creativity and innovation are showing up in communities in new and different ways.”



## Our creative city

A new Calgary is emerging. It is permeating through our neighbourhoods, public spaces and streetscapes. It is flowing through people, their ideas, expressions and veins. It is found in schools, theatres, sidewalks, sculptures, sounds, businesses, festivals, and landscapes. It is in the unconventional spaces, places and voices of our city and is deeply rooted in the human **desire** to create and connect.

Emiko Muraki is a seasoned actor, director and artist, and is also currently a director with Calgary Arts Development. For Emiko, nothing represents the change she’s seen in Calgary’s art scene over the last few years more accurately than the broadening of horizons and the diversification of the arts community. “It’s not just that there is more happening in Calgary, but that the range and types of art experiences are wildly different than they were a few years ago” she says.

The Calgary Arts Development strategy sets forth a vision: Calgary is a place that empowers every resident to live a creative life, fuelling a vital, prosperous and connected city. “That vision is becoming a reality” says Emiko. “Calgarians are getting more **engaged** in the arts. Creativity and innovation are showing up in communities in new and different ways.”

Art is not just about **creative expression** and enjoyment. “I moved back after nine years away and was amazed at the explosion of arts in this city. Art helped me fall in love with Calgary again,” says Julie Pithers, citizen and long-time resident of Calgary. “Art provides an emotional connection to the city, which is really important during the downtimes.”

From theatre troupes and music festivals to public art and new community venues, Calgary is exploding with opportunities to enjoy, share and engage with the arts and there is more on the horizon.

The National Music Centre (NMC) is putting Calgary on the national artistic map. The NMC is a world-class architectural marvel in the East Village and is curated and designed to preserve and celebrate Canada's music story while inspiring a new generation of music lovers through programming, performances, artist **incubation**, and exhibitions. The centre officially launched in July 2016 and the calendar of events and performances is already full.

The King Edward creative hub is a highly anticipated flagship project from cSPACE – a new social enterprise that supports communities of artists, non-profits and entrepreneurs working at the creative edge of change. "Transforming a beautiful historic sandstone school into a catalytic space for innovation is a long-standing ambition of our creative community," says Reid Henry, President and CEO of cSPACE. "Our building is designed to enable creative people across disciplines to collaborate" says Reid. "It's these kinds of spaces that are helping to shape us as a creative city – a city that attracts talent, diversity, and **change-makers**."

Art is playing an integral role in the transformation of Calgary, and Calgarians are putting their own spin on it. Ten years ago we envisioned a city full of opportunities for aesthetic enjoyment and creative self-expression and we are seeing that vision come to life in inspiring and enlivening ways.

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