

Background and Previous Council Direction

Background

Arts Commons, Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC), and The City have collaboratively envisioned a multi-phase development program, under one cohesive delivery model, composed of:

1. Arts Commons Transformation Project: a new building known as Expansion;
2. Arts Commons Transformation Project: major renovations to the existing Arts Commons facility known as Modernization, and
3. Olympic Plaza Transformation: redevelopment of Olympic Plaza and adjacent 8 Avenue SE (between 1 ST SE and Macleod Trail SE);

The development program consists of three capital projects geographically located within two city blocks, with the intent to provide access to arts and cultural opportunities for Calgarians and visitors that support a vibrant downtown. The projects are structured under one Development Management Agreement whereas CMLC is Development Manager, Arts Commons is current and future operator, and City of Calgary is Asset Owner.

Partner Background: Arts Commons was incorporated under the Companies Act (Alberta) as a Limited Company in 1976 to engage and inspire community through the power of art.

Arts Commons' Belief: That equitable access to the arts is a human right.

Arts Commons' Responsibility: To redefine a bold and adventurous Calgary by championing and investing in creativity.

Arts Commons' Mission: To be an inspirational force where artists, community, and organizations celebrate cultural identities, experience the full breadth of human emotions, and ignite positive change.

Arts Commons' Mandate:

- To provide and care for artists and arts organizations.
- To ensure equitable access and utilization of our venues.
- To foster, promote, and celebrate a vibrant arts community.

Arts Commons Strategic Priorities:

The organization's strategic priorities include supporting the artists and arts organizations that call Arts Commons home, including the more than 200 community groups that utilize our venues, to realize their missions, and to foster opportunities for collaboration across our cultural campus.

Previous Council Direction

The following policies apply to the naming process, and the relationship between The City and Arts Commons.

DATE	REPORT NUMBER	DIRECTION/DESCRIPTION
2023 June 06	EC2023-0644	<p>Advancing the Implementation of the Downtown Strategy</p> <p>Direct Administration to amend the Arts Commons Transformation (ACT) tri-party Development Management Agreement between The City of Calgary, Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC), and Arts Commons to include Olympic Plaza and adjacent portion of 8 Avenue SE.</p>
2019 Sept 30	ACA2019-0948	<p>Arts Commons Transformation Project Update</p> <p>Approved a capital appropriation to Capital Budget Program 639-010 by releasing \$22.5 million (2020-2021) of previously allocated funding from the Council-Approved and Committed Cultural Municipal Sustainability Initiative (CPS2011-48 Arts Commons Expansion & Renovation) for detailed design of the Arts Commons Transformation project, and further works. In addition to the \$2.5 million MSI approved in 2011, the total funding from MSI for the Arts Commons Transformation project is \$25 million.</p>
2001 May 14	C2001-42	<p>Facility Naming Rights and Autonomous Bodies</p> <p>That Council approve that the Administration, through its Naming Committee, and in conjunction with autonomous bodies representatives and other appropriate City staff, revise or augment the Naming Guidelines for The City of Calgary, and report back to Council through the Nominating and Agenda Committee (NAC) in the fall of 2001.</p>
1985 August 27	FB85-24	<p>Commissioners' Report Re: Calgary Centre for Performing Arts</p> <p>City Council in approving the recommendations of the Finance & Budget Committee agreed to an alternative which would have the City purchase the Centre for a nominal sum and lease the building back for an approximate term of 50 years. During discussions with "The Centre" it was always understood that should Council adopt the "Purchase Option", the agreement would be backdated to 1984 January 1.</p>

Bylaws, Regulations, Council Policies

Calgary Municipal Land Corporation – Amended Bylaw to incur Indebtedness (9B2021 and 6B2023)

This borrowing bylaw provides approval for The City to borrow up to \$165 million on behalf of Calgary Municipal Land Corporation to finance the development of the Phase 1 (expansion) of the Arts Commons Transformation Project.

Municipal Naming, Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy (CP2016-01)

This policy provides guidance on the philanthropic naming process and sets out the requirements of both The City and Arts Commons.

Investing in Partnerships Policy (CPS2017-01)

This Policy guides The City's relationship with Arts Commons.