

PAUL KUHN GALLERY

August 12, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been asked to write a letter of support advocating my support for the arts and culture sector in Calgary emphasizing the crucial importance of the arts and culture in the creation of a vibrant, engaging and livable city. I am hard pressed to articulate why the arts and culture of a society are so vital to our society. It must be more than obvious. I suppose we live in the "New World" where arts and culture are still somewhat nascent apart from the Indigenous culture that precedes the settlement by Europeans. Calgary is a city that is only 150 years old. Compared to other cultures which span thousands of years we are at the beginning.

Having said that, Calgary is a community that is very supportive of the visual arts and a community well engaged by the presentations offered by the various venues. The visual arts are a very strong component in the discourse and the cultural variety in the city of Calgary. We are home to an art university and another university that offers programs in the visual arts. We have the Glenbow, Contemporary Calgary, the Esker Foundation and the Nickle Galleries.

We have a good number of commercial galleries reflecting a broad cross section of visual arts in Canada. We also have a number of artist run centers providing venues for new and young artists.

On behalf of Paul Kuhn Gallery, I am pleased to offer my support of Creative Calgary in their advocacy efforts and to emphasize the crucial importance of arts and culture in the creation of a vibrant and resilient city.

The visual arts community, which includes those that make art works and those who are interested in seeing what is going on, is a significant portion of our society. The visual arts help us define our community and help us understand our time. This diversity encourages tolerance and understanding. Visual arts may antagonize and provoke but they also promote new concepts and ideas that are important to our lives.

A society that ignores its culture is dead society, a community without soul. This statement must be obvious. To try and qualify how important culture is in our lives is like trying to understand why food and water are important to us; it is rather obvious, it is vital.

We look forward to working with the municipal government and community partners to strengthen and grow this important sector.

Sincerely,
Paul Kuhn