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To Calgary's mayoral and council candidates,

Calgary's prosperity has always depended on more than pipelines, office towers, or box scores; it flourishes when imagination takes the stage. From the murals on buildings to parks with sounds to our new Arts district, the arts animate our streets, cultivate empathy, and attract the human capital every modern economy craves. As an investment advisor at RBC Dominion Securities, a firm that proudly backs programs like the National Music Centre and the RBC Emerging Playwright Award, and as Chancellor of the University of Calgary, where creativity forms the soul of our "Start Something" initiative, I witness daily how artistic expression multiplies social and economic returns.

The numbers speak for themselves: arts and culture pump hundreds of millions into Calgary's GDP and sustain thousands of local jobs, but their deeper dividend is civic resilience. When audiences gather for a an improv show in the Lunch Box Theatre or children explore colour at cSPACE, barriers erode and neighbourhood pride strengthens. A city that funds and celebrates creativity builds the kind of inclusive, opportunity-rich environment that keeps graduates, entrepreneurs, and families rooted here rather than drifting elsewhere. As I like to say, Calgary is a sticky town; the arts help keep it that way.

I therefore offer my unequivocal support for Creative Calgary and its call for a strategic, well-resourced municipal commitment to the arts. Stable, forward-looking investment, whether through dedicated operating grants, predictable capital funding, or imaginative partnerships, will ensure artists and organizations can create, innovate, and inspire without languishing in uncertainty. In turn, City Hall will gain a powerful ally in its quest for economic diversification, social cohesion, and global stature.

Together, we can secure a future where my dream of "Calgary being the best place to live, work and play, for everyone", becomes a reality.

Sincerely,

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