

Business and the Arts Committee

Mandate

Vibrant arts and culture are universally recognized as a defining trait of the world’s truly “great cities”. As a key to Calgary’s future as a renaissance capital of the 21st century, the city needs to build those elements of community and quality of life that support the attraction and retention of the best and most talented employees. The keys to continued prosperity, and how the arts contribute to that vision, is just part of this committee’s groundbreaking approach.

Summary of Previous Year’s Work

Last year, the Committee began to realign their policy on funding closer to the values of the Chamber itself by seeking more business and arts partnerships and focusing less on advocacy aimed at government. The Committee also developed a successful panel event entitled, “Economic Impact of the Film Industry in the Calgary Region”, which provided an opportunity for networking and industry exposure.

In June, the Committee undertook strategic planning and settled on three policy priorities that form the basis of its 2007-08 Committee Focus Areas (CFA): (1) Connecting business with the arts and arts with business; (2) Strategic alignment with local arts organizations like CADA; (3) Creation and promotion of an arts policy. The Committee also determined that the Chamber should be more active in advocating closer ties between the business and arts communities.

Throughout the year the Committee welcomed guest speakers from prominent arts organizations to form valuable links.

Committee Meeting Guest Speakers

Date	Speaker	Topic
April 2007	Suzanne Boss, Calgary Arts Development Authority (CADA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Profile of CADA
May 2007	Meg Van Rosendaal, Olympic Plaza Cultural District (OPCD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPCD Strategy