

The City of Saskatoon's Civic Arts Policy was approved by City Council in 1998.

For the purposes of the Policy, the arts are defined as follows, and are categorized into literary, performing, and visual arts:

literary arts are activities that involve the enjoyment of words and self-expression through words with the use of imagination and/or creativity (e.g. reading, creative writing, book discussion clubs, story telling, writing clubs, writing classes).

performing arts are activities that involve self expression through dance and movement, drama and/or music (e.g. acting lessons, choirs, concerts, dancing, festivals and special events, musical clubs or societies, playing an instrument, watching plays, attending performing arts events as part of the audience).

visual arts are activities that involve self-expression in the creation of and appreciation of artistic objects (e.g. art lessons, beadwork, drawing, folk arts, crafts, making videos, movies, needle work, painting, photography, pottery, quilting, sculpture, visiting galleries).

The arts can be engaged in as a profession, as a hobby, as entertainment, and for educational purposes.

The vision of the Policy to ensure that the arts in Saskatoon continue to thrive and develop is that:

Arts organizations, artists, municipal government, business, and the community will actively and creatively work together to provide a stable environment for the arts to flourish and grow, in order to maximize the benefits for the whole community of Saskatoon.

The following summarizes the City of Saskatoon's role in achieving the vision as defined in the Policy:

Coordination

Although some coordination of existing services (e.g. facilities, policies, and bylaws) among City department already occurs, this needs to be increased. The City must also look at new ways that it can facilitate coordination with and among other agencies in fostering a vibrant arts environment that is of benefit to the citizens of Saskatoon.

Awareness

Artists and arts organizations have indicated that there is a general lack of awareness about the arts (e.g. people often do not know who their local visual, performing, and literary artists are). It has been suggested that the City can play a larger role in assisting arts promotion in general.

Support

Saskatoon has a variety of large and small arts organizations that work to meet the needs of citizens. In order to remain viable and continue to meet the needs, non-profit arts organizations require direct support to programs in the form of money or services (e.g. the Cultural Grant Program, Provision of Civic Services, tax exemptions).

Programming

The City presently owns a number of facilities that are operated by independent boards, and provide programming in the arts. These are: the Mendel Art Gallery, the Centennial Auditorium, the Public Library System, and Saskatchewan Place. These facilities and boards will continue to provide their programming under their existing mandates.

The City as Owner of Art Assets

The City is an owner of art in addition to that owned through the Mendel Art Gallery. Some of these works have been purchased and others donated, and may be worth a substantial amount of money. A consistent strategy needs to be developed and implemented in order to ensure that these assets are listed, valued, and conserved for the benefit of the citizens of Saskatoon.