Welcome to the third issue of City and Culture, the City of Regina’s arts and culture community program update. This newsletter provides information on recent programs and events hosted by the City of Regina and its partners, and highlights local initiatives that contribute to achieving the goals of Regina’s Cultural Plan:

• Embrace cultural diversity
• Strengthen the artistic and cultural community
• Commemorate and celebrate the city’s cultural heritage.

Since March 2020, COVID-19 has presented major challenges to the cultural sector and the City would like to thank the countless organizations, individuals and partners for their ongoing commitment to arts and culture through this difficult period.

Alison Norlen’s Luna Installation

For the second year in a row, SK Arts and the City of Regina partnered to showcase Saskatchewan’s top artistic talent in the front lobby of City Hall. From February to October 2020, Norlen’s Luna, on loan from the SK Arts collection, greatly enhanced the visitor experience in the front entrance of City Hall. Luna is a fun, whimsical wireframe rollercoaster, and is the perfect introduction to Norlen’s other works, which include large-scale multi-sensory drawings, and sculptures made from wire, graphite and charcoal. Norlen’s work has been exhibited across Canada and North America in both private and public collections and this exciting installation was a part of the City’s ongoing commitment to supporting artists and the arts.
Accessioning of Victor Cicansky’s *Gazebo*

The City is proud to announce the accessioning of Victor Cicansky’s *Gazebo* into the City’s Civic Art Collection. Cicansky’s often wry and witty portrayal of fruits, vegetables and preserves have brought him wide acclaim. He is most well-known for his bronze and ceramic sculptures that take inspiration from nature and his passion for gardening. Reflecting the City’s commitment to public art that animates public spaces, Cicansky and Grow Regina have graciously donated *Gazebo* to the city, and this beautifully crafted piece of functional art will be the centerpiece of Grow Regina’s community gardens. The donation was conceived as a site for community reflection and creation, for both member gardeners and the broader community, and the city looks forward to future placemaking City events and engagements at this space.

Sector Reference Group

City Administration has been busy developing a community Sector Reference Group (SRG) to support management of the Civic Art and Cultural Collection by identifying gaps in the City’s collection and setting priorities for financial investment and collection renewal. The community-led SRG will provide expert advice to Administration on issues related to collections management, specifically the identification and prioritization of public art projects, public art maintenance and the accessioning and deaccessioning of art. The SRG, which serves in an advisory capacity only and does not have decision-making authority, provides feedback on the City’s many cultural plan initiatives.

Heritage Update

Highlights of the City’s Heritage branch include the recent designation and rehabilitation of the Municipal Justice Building. Regina’s first purpose-built police headquarters, the MJB was constructed in 1930. After renovations the building will house a neighbourhood community centre including multi-purpose room, offices for the Community Association, and a training and fitness facility for use by the Regina Police Service. Construction began on the project in March and is anticipated to conclude in 2022. Progress is also ongoing on several major projects to advance the City’s Heritage Conservation Programs, including a new, Council-directed project in the Lakeview and Cathedral neighbourhoods. This project will identify valuable community character and heritage elements of the neighbourhoods and propose approaches to conservation. The project relies on significant engagement with the residents in both neighbourhoods, which is anticipated to begin in the second half of 2021.
Regina Performing Arts Space Study:

On Cue Performance Hub, in partnership with the City of Regina, is seeking feedback from arts organizations and individual performers for a study of performing arts spaces in Regina. This critical and timely study will provide vital, comprehensive data to inform future municipal planning and improved coordination of services in the performing arts sector of Regina. The study involves consultation with owners and managers of performing arts spaces and facilities, performing arts organizations, and independent performing artists. Your input is key to the success of the study. The resulting data will help determine the extent to which the needs of performing artists and arts organizations are being met by existing facilities and will help identify gaps in Regina’s art space ecology. If you or your organization fall into any of these categories, you are being invited to complete the surveys linked below. All questions and inquiries can be directed to rasmussp@uregina.ca.

The City of Regina Venue Survey: For Owners and managers of performing arts facilities (Estimated time for completion is 25 minutes. Deadline is June 23rd.)

The City of Regina Organization Survey: For Performing arts organizations (Estimated time for completion is 20 minutes. Deadline is June 23rd.)

Independent performing artists needs assessment survey: please contact rasmussp@uregina.ca to complete.

Canadian Artists and Content Creators Economic Survey:

The Department of Canadian Heritage has launched their Canadian Artists and Content Creators Economic Survey. The objective of this survey is to help create an updated portrait of artist and creative communities in Canada. The data gathered through this survey will serve the important function of informing future and existing Canadian Heritage policies and programs, ensuring the Department continues to be responsive to the creative sector’s reality. Widespread participation is encouraged as it will impact plans towards recovery. The Department of Canadian Heritage looks forward to hearing from the artists and content creators in our communities! To participate, please go to the links below.


City of Regina
Writing Awards Winner

The City of Regina is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2021 City of Regina Writing Award is Joel Zimmerly for his submission The Party. Our heartiest congratulations to all that submitted. Judges Chelene Knight and Sean Michaels selected Zimmerly’s winning submission from among many accomplished entries, including this year’s runners-up Neil Aitken and Martha Ottenbreit. Joel Zimmerly is a fiction writer, poet, and aspiring marathoner. He is currently working on his first novel, as well as a collection of poetry titled Excuse Me Mr. Sir. In 2013 he received a bachelor’s degree in English Literature from Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. Currently, he lives in his hometown of Regina with his partner and his cat, Cecil. This year’s awards were held virtually on Wednesday, May 26, at 7:00 pm via Zoom. The City of Regina Writing Award is sponsored by the City of Regina and administered by the Saskatchewan Writers’ Guild. Congrats Joel!

We’d love to hear from you!

For submission requests or to subscribe/unsubscribe, email us at CityandCultureNewsletter@regina.ca. Feel free to forward City and Culture to anyone that may be interested in its content.