

News Release

For Immediate Release

Kent Hehr, Member of Parliament for Calgary Centre announces Federal Government support for the Arts Commons Transformation Project

August 30, 2019 Calgary, Alberta

On Friday, August 30, 2019, at Arts Commons' Jack Singer Concert Hall, the Honourable Kent Hehr announced the Government of Canada's support of the Arts Commons Transformation (ACT) project.

The City of Calgary's Arts Commons Transformation (ACT) project will ensure that one of Canada's busiest arts facilities can better serve the community. Arts Commons is home to six resident companies and welcomes over 600,000 patrons annually. The population of Calgary has doubled in size since Arts Commons first opened its doors in 1985 and the aging facility no longer meets the needs of the community.

ACT is a two-phase project:

- **Phase One – Arts Commons North.** A new 173,000 sq. ft flexible performance centre which will include 1,550 new seats in three theatres in the northwest corner of Olympic Plaza.
- **Phase Two - Arts Common South.** Revitalization of the existing facility in order to address critical life-cycle needs, energy efficiency and operational requirements.

Based on a Deloitte Economic Impact Analysis, ACT is estimated to create approximately 2,500 person years of employment during design and construction, and once complete, Arts Commons and the resident companies will generate almost 1,000 permanent jobs, and collectively will have an annual economic impact of over \$95M.

At the direction of The City of Calgary, the Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC) recently completed a review of the functional program and determined the total project cost of Phase One of ACT to be \$240 million. The City of Calgary is seeking support from both the provincial and federal orders of government.

Through a bilateral agreement signed more than 14 months ago, the federal government has made available over \$140.5 million dollars in federal funding to support improved community infrastructure across Alberta, under the Community, Culture and Recreation program.

Federal dollars are available today and the federal government is ready to approve \$80 million in funding for this project from the Community, Culture and Recreation program, subject to The City of Calgary and the Government of Alberta agreeing to contribute the remaining \$135 million through the already announced extension of the Community Revitalization Levy and submitting the formal business case for the project. The City of Calgary has already committed \$25 million through the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI).

The Government of Canada looks forward to working with the Province of Alberta, The City of Calgary, Arts Commons and the Calgary Municipal Land Corporation on this important project for Calgary.

Quotes

"The Government of Canada is pleased to support the Arts Commons Transformation project. ACT will create 2,500 person years of employment during design and construction, and once complete, Arts Commons and the resident companies will support 1,000 permanent jobs in our city, and collectively will have an annual economic impact of \$95 million".

– Kent Hehr, Member of Parliament for Calgary Centre

"Arts Commons applauds the Government of Canada's recognition of how essential modern and effective local infrastructure is to keeping our communities strong and vibrant. The Government's show of support confirms that ACT is exactly the type of project needed to secure a bright future for the city and province".

– Greg Epton, Chief Development Officer and Interim Co-CEO of Arts Commons

Quick facts

- Through the *Investing in Canada* infrastructure plan, the Government of Canada is investing more than \$180 billion over 12 years in public transit projects, green infrastructure, social infrastructure, trade and transportation routes, and Canada's rural and northern communities.
- \$25.3 billion of this funding is supporting social infrastructure in Canadian communities.

About Arts Commons

Arts Commons is Canada's 3rd largest arts facility that has been a key contributor to the social, economic, cultural, and intellectual life and well-being of Calgarians and visitors for 34 years. The organization supports the sustainability of more than 200 organizations annually, including six resident companies (Alberta Theatre Projects, Arts Commons Presents, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Downstage Performance Society, One Yellow Rabbit, and Theatre Calgary), by maintaining the 560,665 sq. ft. facility that is comprised of six performance venues, several rehearsal halls, scenery, properties and wardrobe shops, a variety of educational and public engagement spaces, a café, and administrative offices.

Related links

Arts Commons Transformation (ACT)

<https://artscommons.ca/actnow>

Click on the "ACT Design" tab for concept images of the project for editorial use.

Arts Commons

www.artscommons.ca

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