Dear Sir or Madam,

On behalf of the Board of Remai Modern, at the invitation of the Leadership Team of the Governance Subcommittee, I am requesting to speak before the Governance and Priorities Committee of Saskatoon City Council at their November 12th meeting. I would like to speak on behalf of our Board of Directors to the agenda item entitled “Governance Review of Controlled Corporations—Governance Details.” Thank you in advance for considering my request.

Attachments
ags_letter_to_governance_subcommittee_nov12_2019.pdf

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/348944
November 12, 2019

To: Leadership Team Governance Sub-Committee  
Office of the City Clerk  
City Hall  
222 - 3rd Avenue North  
Saskatoon, SK  
S7K 0J5

Re: Governance Review of Controlled Corporations – Governance Details Engagement Results

On behalf of the Remai Modern Board of Directors, we thank the Governance and Priorities Committee for giving us the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding governance improvements to the City’s Controlled Corporations. This written response speaks to the areas where we have proposed alternative recommendations.

The Board of Remai Modern supports the Committee’s efforts to build and improve upon the current governance structure of the Controlled Corporations. Our recommendations focus largely on the importance of ensuring the independence of the Corporations while at the same time ensuring the City maintains a measure of oversight that meets its legal obligations.

The Board of Remai Modern recognizes that the City has taken significant steps to demonstrate its commitment to ensuring the independence of the Controlled Corporations while achieving the degree of accountability and procedural rigour the City expects of its Controlled Corporations. But we believe there are a few more steps that can be taken within the framework of the Governance Review and within a robust procedural and accountability framework that could help to disarm the narrative that the situation is otherwise. It is largely to this end that our recommendations are focused.

Appendix 3

Speaking first to the Board appointment process. The Governance Subcommittee recommends that appointments be at the sole discretion of the City. Those who believe the City seeks to control the Remai Board see this as a process failure because it gives the City the power to entirely disregard the recommendations of the Board and replace the Directors with appointees solely of its choosing. This supports the narrative that the City wants to remain in control of the Museum and fuels the perception that the Board has no control over its own destiny.
By way of a closing remark, the Board of Remai Modern is grateful for the extensive work of the Governance Subcommittee and appreciates the efforts made to consider the recommendations and concerns of the Controlled Corporations. Further we see the negotiation and execution of Memoranda of Understanding and Operating Agreements between the City and the Controlled Corporations as an excellent vehicle to ensure goals and accountabilities are set and monitored, while ensuring the highest degree of independence for the Corporations.

Sincerely,

Beau Atkins
Board Chair

c.c. Board of Remai Modern Directors
   Lynn McMaster, Interim Executive Director & CEO