

Original Submission - Alvarado

Contact Information

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Naming

Requested name: Hugo Alvarado

Requested use of name: All the below

Background Information (Reason for name request):

We, the family of Hugo Alvarado, respectfully request that Hugo's name be added to the City of Saskatoon Names Master List for future naming of civic property. Hugo was a proud resident of Saskatoon since emigrating from Chile in 1976, and known best for his contributions to the city as an artist and philanthropist. Since he was a young boy in Chile, he always had the kind of giving spirit that makes cities feel like communities and volunteered in service of Saskatoon for several decades. He also had a sense of social justice and could not live comfortably without organizing to help community organizations and any group or individual who reached out. He once said, "Sometimes I wonder why people here, when they need food, can't go to the neighbour. I guess it would give a bad impression, so they go quiet and they go hungry. "To address this need, he co-founded the Artists in Hunger Art Auction in 1991 and was a driving force of the annual event until he passed in 2020, raising valuable funds for community groups including Saskatoon Food Bank, Friendship Inn, CHEP Good Food, and Crisis Nursery (Haven Kids' House). He also helped community groups organize their own fundraising events, and donated significant time, effort, and artwork to benefit of countless groups and individuals over the years. Moreover, Hugo taught community art classes since the late 1990s and mentored numerous local artists over the years guided by the philosophy that everyone is equal, everyone's art is equal, and art should be understood by everybody. In 2017, Hugo was named the Saskatoon Citizen of the Year. We believe that Hugo's relationship with the City of Saskatoon is worthy of the formal recognition of naming civic property in his memory. Thank you, the Alvarado family.

If you have submitted a person's name, please provide a short biography (Given name, date of birth, place of birth, contributions, awards, achievements or other related information):

Hugo Alvarado was born in Santiago, Chile, on July 16, 1948. Hugo was a visual artist recognized for his paintings of little houses and colourful cityscapes. After the 1973 military coup and two years in prison, Hugo arrived in political exile to Canada. He worked as a country postman and groundskeeper at the University of Saskatchewan, meeting Saskatoon sculptor Bill Epp in 1979 and shortly after enrolling in the BFA program. Many solo and group exhibitions followed after his first show in 1981 at Mark's Gallery in Saskatoon. Hugo was a founding member of the Prairie Sculpture Association as well as the Dufferin and Humanum Art

Galleries. His career as an artist and close affection for community groups grew in tandem over the years, and he was always grateful to be able to contribute in any way possible. "Artists are not rich people; but I have my art, my painting. I can happily, freely give them for a cause". And yet, as it was often difficult to make a consistent living as a professional artist, Hugo turned to teaching in the late 1990s. Here he discovered a talent for helping others express themselves through art and made countless new friends in the process. Most recently, Hugo helped to build an art program at King George Community School, bringing professional art supplies and artists into the classroom and ensuring students had similar supplies to work from home. In 2017, Hugo was recognized with the CTV Saskatoon Citizen of the Year Award for his contributions as an artist, humanitarian, teacher, and citizen. Hugo was diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis shortly before receiving the award and passed away in May 2020, while waiting for a double lung transplant.

Attachment:

Additional comments: Please note that we attempted to upload several supporting articles, however this was not possible due to what appeared to be a technical glitch. We would be happy to forward by email if possible. Thank you.

Do you wish to address the Naming Advisory Committee? No