

March 7, 2019

Councillor Darren Hill
Chair,
Planning, Development and Community Services Committee
City of Saskatoon

Dear Committee Members:

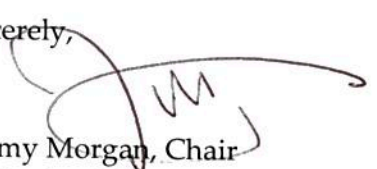
On behalf of the members of the Public Art Advisory Committee. I would like to bring your attention to a matter raised at our last meeting. Strictly speaking, the specific issue may be a little outside our mandate, but we believe it is one that affects the future of public art in Saskatoon.

In brief, as the city's newcomer population continues to grow, Saskatoon attracts increasing numbers of highly qualified professionals, including those in the field of visual art (and other arts disciplines as well). These are people who bring new creative perspectives, experiences and kinds of work to our communities, including in the realm of public art: fresh eyes and new voices in our city.

Like many newcomers in other professions, these artists must deal with barriers associated with language, credentialing, unfamiliarity with support systems and different ways of doing business, etc. that are not faced by their counterparts who have developed their skills and reputations in the mainstream: in public and commercial galleries; educational institutions; artist run centers and so forth. Hence they tend not to have equitable access to grants, exhibition opportunities, established artists' networks and media, and their contribution to our society is not always what it could be.

It has been suggested that the City carry out a needs assessment, perhaps in partnership with the settlement agencies and arts funders, touching on such issues as public exhibition space, access to public art competitions, language needs and support in filling out grant applications, amongst others. We believe that this may be already under consideration and look forward to the outcome.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Morgan, Chair
Public Art Advisory Committee

pc: Kevin Kitchen, Community Development Manager