

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Calgary Chamber and Calgary Arts Development launch new Artists in the Workplace initiative

CALGARY – The Calgary Chamber, in partnership with Calgary Arts Development, is proud to launch a new initiative called Artists in the Workplace, an innovative program kick-started by Calgary Poet Laureate, derek beaulieu, that connects businesses who have extra space with artists seeking space to work.

"In these challenging times, companies may find themselves with a surplus of office or business space on their hands," says Calgary Chamber President and CEO, Adam Legge. "Instead of letting it gather dust, we'd like to encourage the business community to turn it into an opportunity to invest in Calgary's cultural future while looking at offsetting some of their expenses at the same time."

The program allows businesses to identify themselves as having space available, and Calgary Arts Development then works with them to match an artist or organization that's a good fit to animate their space. There are lots of ways to have artists in a workplace, ranging from solely providing space to work, to supporting and engaging with an artist-in-residence.

Businesses that participate in the program could be eligible for tax benefits from supporting the arts, and collect some nominal rents. Calgary Arts Development will work closely with the business to help them understand what benefits are available to make the relationship mutually beneficial.

"Wonderful things can happen when artists and business people get a chance to connect," says Patti Pon, President and CEO of Calgary Arts Development. "By inviting artists into underused space, businesses have the opportunity to connect with, learn from and be inspired by some of Calgary's most creative minds. Thank you to Calgary Poet Laureate derek beaulieu for kick-starting the whole initiative; Calgary Arts Development is delighted to participate as a matchmaker between the business and artistic communities."

"This initiative brings artists into dialogue with a public that is hungry for new ways of approaching problems; it provides spaces and opportunities to build Calgary's thriving arts community and allows Calgary's corporate communities to build new relationships," says Calgary Poet Laureate derek beaulieu. "Providing creative space for Calgary artists transforms the creative act, allows for new experiments and enables artistic growth in an incredibly generative and exciting way. As Calgary's Poet Laureate it is a privilege to help connect our communities."



Businesses who are interested are asked to contact Joni Carroll, Arts Spaces Consultant at Calgary Arts Development, at joni.carroll@calgaryartsdevelopment.com or call 403 264 5330 ext. 108.

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For additional comments from the Chamber or to schedule an interview, contact Scott Crockatt at media@calgarychamber.com or 403 681 5529.

For additional comments from the Calgary Poet Laureate or to schedule an interview, contact derek beaulieu at poet@calgaryartsdevelopment.com.

About the Calgary Chamber

The Calgary Chamber is a non-profit, non-partisan organization. For 124 years the Chamber has worked to connect Calgary's businesses, help them grow and expand their influence in an effort to make the city an even better place to live and work for all.

About Calgary Arts Development

As the city's designated arts development authority, Calgary Arts Development supports and strengthens the arts to benefit all Calgarians. We invest and allocate municipal funding for the arts provided by The City of Calgary and leverage these funds to provide additional resources to the arts sector. Our programs support hundreds of arts organizations, individual artists, artist collectives and ad hoc groups in Calgary.

