

**Meeting Notes**  
**Alberta Regional Culture Meeting**  
**September 25, 2014**  
**St. Albert, AB**

**In attendance:**

**Ilona Molnar**, Town of Beaumont  
**Paul Moulton**, Edmonton Arts Council  
**Richard Gagnon**, City of Fort Saskatchewan  
**Steven Robert**, City of Grand Prairie  
**Andrea Martinuk**, City of Leduc (*Theatre Manager of the Maclab Centre*)  
**Laurie Stalker**, Town of Morinville  
**Allen Jacobson**, Town of Morinville  
**Brent Oliver**, City of Spruce Grove  
**Kelly Jerrott**, City of St. Albert  
**Adam Mitchell**, City of St. Albert  
**Ann Ramsden**, City of St. Albert  
**Chantelle Held**, Town of Stony Plain

Everyone was welcomed to St. Albert and appreciation extended to everyone for taking the time to participate. Introductions were done around the table with everyone providing a brief overview of their department and services. Everyone was pleased with the opportunity to get together to network and work collaboratively.

A presentation on the Creative City Network of Canada (CCNC) was provided, highlighting services and benefits of membership. Participants were encouraged to pass along information regarding membership to communities and organizations who are not currently members.

**Trends in the industry discussion:**

**Funding Challenges**

The trends in the industry discussion focused primarily on grant funding challenges and advocacy opportunities. Many communities are feeling the impact financially of changes in funding guidelines and formulas, both at the provincial and federal levels.

**Advocacy Opportunities**

There was a great deal of discussion regarding the advantages and opportunities a regional group provides in terms of advocacy. The importance of having research and statistical data to support the value of arts and culture was discussed. The Americans for the Arts model was referenced as an example of an organization who advocates well for the arts and arts funding and support. It was felt that we all need to ensure that we make take opportunities when they become available to share this data within our own community as well as provincially.

**Public art.**

Representatives from each community shared information regarding policies and best practices. Participants were reminded of the upcoming Alberta Public Art Network (APAN) conference scheduled in November in Canmore. CCNC's interest in building on the PANs currently operating across the country was shared.

**Cultural Master Plans**

Participants provided an update on whether their community had a master plan and shared information on the scope and consultants utilized.

**Future topics for discussion:**

Attracting and developing professional employees

Everyone was interested in meeting on a regular basis and it was proposed that we continue on a quarterly basis.

**Next Meeting:**

**January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Morinville, AB**