

ARTSCOMMON 118

Edmonton Community Development Company | Arts on the Ave | August 2018

VISION

ArtsCommon 118 is a flagship project that will transform Edmonton's Alberta Avenue district - a neighbourhood that has struggled with inner-city challenges and is now in the process of renewal.

ArtsCommon 118 responds to the needs and aspirations of the community by building on the successful use of the arts as a life-affirming way to transcend disadvantage, foster economic vibrancy, and build social inclusion.



Through a partnership between the Edmonton Community Development Company (ECDC) and Arts on the Ave (AOTA) and with attention paid to community consultations about design and programming, ArtsCommon 118 is a community driven, mixed-use, social-purpose economic development initiative that integrates:

- 78 affordable live-work studios for artists;
- two floors of market space for artists and other local businesses;
- a community arts coffee shop as the district's arts and culture and community-building hive;
- performance, exhibition, and collaborative spaces for up to 200 people;
- social enterprise development and job creation;
- urban, roof-top farming in a partnership with Northlands;

- free instruction and instruments to disadvantaged youth and seniors via the Sarah McLachlan School of Music (SMSoM);
- a 2,000 square foot industrial kitchen to foster social enterprise, encourage community use, and meet the needs of the Carrot Community Coffee House;
- office and program space for non-profits;
- the marriage of economic and social inclusion goals (e.g. farmers and night markets);
- a desire to build green infrastructure (i.e. net zero); and
- operational sustainability.

Impacts include: economic benefits to low income artists living and working in one space and selling their work; affordable space for artists and performers, as well as community members, to hold exhibitions, events and shows; increased consumer spending and jobs; the development of micro and social enterprise; free programming for disadvantaged populations; and net zero design.

Project Status

- **Land is secured.** The City of Edmonton has provided six lots of land; the ECDC has purchased five additional lots.
- **Early city funding of \$4 million** is in the bank.
- **Key partnerships are established:** ECDC, AOTA, SMSoM and Northlands. Others are being sought.
- **Initial design concepts are in place**, in team with Manasc Isaac Architects.
- **Renewed community engagement is planned**, including door to door, meetings with key institutions and associations, townhalls, and at least one community event on the land.



**View from the
North West**

**Winter
Perspective**

**View from the
South East**

**Summer
Perspective**



*Sustainable development requires an integrated approach to complex community problems.
Strategic priorities include structural economic change, local ownership of resources, social development,
environmental stewardship, labour market development, and access to capital.*

~ The Canadian Community Economic Development Network



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