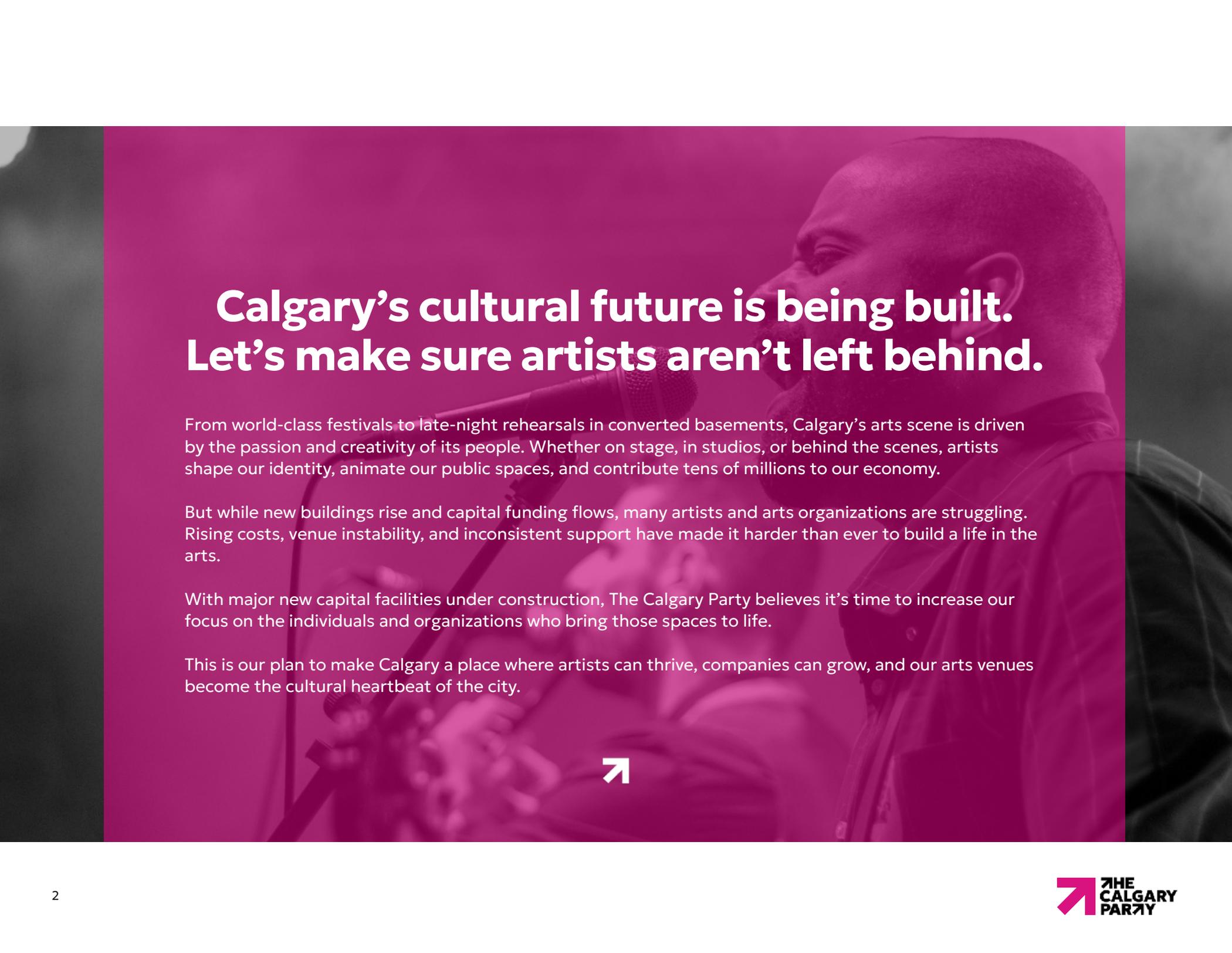


**THE
CALGARY
PARTY**



ARTS & CULTURE



Calgary's cultural future is being built. Let's make sure artists aren't left behind.

From world-class festivals to late-night rehearsals in converted basements, Calgary's arts scene is driven by the passion and creativity of its people. Whether on stage, in studios, or behind the scenes, artists shape our identity, animate our public spaces, and contribute tens of millions to our economy.

But while new buildings rise and capital funding flows, many artists and arts organizations are struggling. Rising costs, venue instability, and inconsistent support have made it harder than ever to build a life in the arts.

With major new capital facilities under construction, The Calgary Party believes it's time to increase our focus on the individuals and organizations who bring those spaces to life.

This is our plan to make Calgary a place where artists can thrive, companies can grow, and our arts venues become the cultural heartbeat of the city.





1

INVEST IN CALGARY'S ARTISTS

It's time for a shift in the Arts scene

Calgary is doing a great job on building major arts infrastructure, including the Glenbow, Arts Commons and Contemporary Calgary, but we need to do better to support the artists and arts organizations that will fill those buildings.

The Calgary Party will increase funding to Calgary Arts Development (CADA), the municipal funding body for the arts, to:

- ensure that CADA stays in the top tier of municipal funding organizations in Canada,
- maintain Calgary's world-class public art program,
- provide facility operating grants to organizations that own / operate their own facilities so they can allocate more of their operating budgets to producing the arts rather than maintaining the roof,
- provide grants to non-arts organizations to subsidize the cost of retaining artists, such as programs to encourage bars to hire more live musicians, and
- create an investment fund, similar to Calgary Economic Development's Opportunity Investment fund, designed to attract commercial businesses that employ artists in Calgary.

Grow the market for Calgary's arts organizations

Calgary has world class artists, arts organizations, and arts venues but our city isn't known as an arts city. Even Calgarians are unaware of the high quality of arts activities that are in their own city. Most arts organizations have limited funds to promote their activities.

We need to support Calgary's arts organizations in their efforts to promote their work. The Calgary Party will:

- identify City owned infrastructure that could be used by arts organizations to promote their events, such as transit stations, transit shelters and city owned buildings that could be used for digital signs, and
- provide funding to Tourism Calgary that is specifically geared to promote Calgary's arts scene to tourists to grow the revenue generated by Calgary arts organizations.

2

GROW THE ARTS MARKET



3

STABILIZE RESIDENT COMPANIES

Supporting operations through times of transition

Resident companies are the backbone of Calgary's performing arts community from dance to opera to theatre to music. But today, many of them are facing unprecedented volatility.

With major construction projects underway, shifting venues, and rising costs, these companies need stable operational support to keep their seasons alive and their staff employed.

The Calgary Party will support organizations facing temporary displacement due to construction by:

- directing CADA to maintain operational funding for those organizations who's venues are under renovation even if they have a reduced capacity to present work during renovations (Arts Commons, Glenbow, etc.),
- support flexible venues and pop-up spaces so companies can continue creating and presenting during renovations.

We want these companies to survive the disruption and thrive on the other side.

We have invested in large scale venues, now we need to invest in studio space.

Calgary is doing a great job investing in major arts venues, but we still lack affordable studio space for artists to create and present their work.

The Calgary Party will:

- work with C-space projects to continue its 'Meanwhile Lease' program which works with private landlords to create temporary arts spaces,
- work with C-Space projects to create another cultural spaces hub, similar to C-Space Marda Loop that is heavily focused on affordable studio and rehearsal space, and
- work with the City's Real Estate services to identify under used facilities that could be transformed into temporary or permanent studio and rehearsal space.

4

STUDIO SPACE



The Calgary Party vision for Arts & Culture in Calgary

Calgary doesn't need another arts strategy on a shelf. We need real commitments.

The Calgary Party believes in:

- supporting the artist, not just the institutions
- securing the companies that create our cultural identity
- creating affordable spaces for artists to create and present their work

Let's make Calgary the best city in Canada to create art, attend a show, and build a career in culture.

thecalgaryparty.ca

