



Summary

The Questions We Asked:

- 1. Economic Development:** In your view, how does investment in arts, culture, and heritage drive economic development?
What do you see as the return on this type of investment in Spruce Grove?
- 2. Good to Great:** One of our favourite quotes is “Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities.” (R. David Lankes, Director of South Carolina’s School of Library and Information Science) We would suggest this applies to other cultural centres as well.
How will you help us take our library and cultural centres from good to great?
- 3. Community Spaces:** What are your priorities to ensure our community has free and safe “common places” to interact and connect?
How will you ensure the Archives, Library, and Art Gallery, and have sufficient spaces to preserve our past, inspire innovation, and foster creativity?

The Comments We Received:

From the Candidates

Mayor

Dan Doornekamp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional partnerships are crucial to get best out of our tax dollars
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We shouldn't lose our past to satisfy our own future
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Libraries, meeting places and centres are essential to our social fabric
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We cannot neglect one service to prioritize another indefinitely
Stuart Houston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural events add to economic prosperity by attracting people to our community
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are falling behind in cultural facilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multipurpose spaces to support the arts and culture
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is interest in an amphitheatre 😊
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested in hearing what the [library] needs assessment comes up with
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the possibilities for expansion and creating the conversation to review the new requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue of facility satellite libraries is staffing costs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a central location for our archives within the current or a new proposed location
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can city handle more events with current staffing levels

From the Candidates

Alderman

Chantel McKenzie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster social connections to enrich and reinvest in our community
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We shouldn't lose our past to satisfy our own future
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning a community league program to share space and get community groups working together
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travelling libraries to support smaller communities
Ed MacLean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Development can spur investment in arts, culture, and heritage and vice versa
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture, Arts, and Heritage should look at a joint use facility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The art gallery should not move to the 3rd floor of BPAC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waiting on the study of the library to be done—I would support change
Erin Stevenson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> True multi-purpose facility—all aspects for community
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEED community engagement on all our new builds and facilities

Wayne Rothe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space is a great need for a new, larger library • Want to have cultural centre that is multi-use • Ag. Society fear of, in their location, that heritage becoming less important • Grove Cruise is under funded
Bill Steinburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are other things a library can do: innovation, partnerships, meeting place, sharing knowledge and ideas • More emphasis on local history • City needs to be the instigator • More programs needed for seniors • Employees develop character interaction between various businesses
Searle Turton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libraries are the swiss army knife of a community—they do everything! • Libraries are the living room of the community • Let's focus on preserving records at the Ag. Society immediately! • Winners performed resume reviews and job interviews at the library • Millwoods Library has integrated seniors' programs associated with it • As a part of downtown revitalization plan, key component is a cultural anchor to the core allowing pedestrian connectivity and community economic development; key reason for people to come downtown can be that • Need for pedestrian connectivity to Ag. Society • Tie in various groups into one large centralized location • Allied Arts Council needs own space—room to go • Collaborate closer with Multicultural Center in Stony Plain • Employees develop character interaction between various businesses
Michelle Thiebaud-Gruhlke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ROI is intangible but includes ESL; literacy rates, etc. for a good and smarter community • Mutually beneficial partners in same library building • Be open to conversations • How can we attract more users for library service • I can contribute time towards arts and culture promotion • Invest in time, promote events even if I can't attend • Library visibility is a challenge • Regional services need to be a part of the discussion • Be a champion for arts and culture • Don't want all our eggs in one SEC basket • How can we engage people in the SEC discussion
Reid MacDonald	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural hub and central location; centralized location for library is key • Architecture is a broad view of location and community needs

Reid MacDonald cont'd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do I want SG to be for myself and my son in the future? This will help guide my role on council.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library needs to grow with Spruce Grove
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library is a key cultural hub in Spruce Grove
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports Ag. Society being more visible in community
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts and sports do not have to be mutually exclusive
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional cooperation with surrounding areas is key for future economic growth of Spruce Grove—don't isolate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I use the library all the time with my family"
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the notion of increasing Art Council Grant money
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City spends \$15, 000 on Art Gallery
Dave Oldham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with our community benefits all stakeholders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaningful community engagement like this should be done regular
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGPL needs equitable funding from all municipalities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we create accessibility for populations with diverse learning and physical needs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure Centre, school, library, ARTS, THEATRE, ONE facility—integrate services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAC needs autonomy on hours and entry
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs Assessments are the next steps in the process
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An educated population creates a sustainable and growing economic community
Jan Gillett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catch the spark!
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library has Chess Games Club and Book club meetings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer opportunities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another branch in another part of the City
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitized material for Genealogy and Genealogy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black history events and other cultural events
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibliotherapy Kits being used by non-profits
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sliding panels for space
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-cultural space for performing arts, arts, pottery, library centre
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pods for interest groups to meet
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art as art therapy
Owen Garratt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It all comes down to money; it all comes down to creativity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The more people you put into the library space the more priority it is
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would expect the economics to get own art space but to combine for larger space
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I see arts culture and sports as opposite sides of the same coin
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative play spaces (Lego, etc.) are encouraged
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creativity is solving problems; arts and creativity are my whole life
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art should represent local artists--a large art sculpture should be locally created

Owen Garratt cont'd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right facility needs to take into account community priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allied arts council is relatively unknown and hard to find even online
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I watch, learn, and listen: entertainment space needs to serve needs; pools have more on the swinging rope than on the slides; libraries have similarities--full programs needs expansion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can get a lot done with various personalities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to this date is my fault
Stephanie Chard* *Unable to attend, Stephanie Chard responded with messages posted at and emailed after the forum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the numbers, it is clear that our public library is utilized by a vast amount of our residents and is strong pillar to our community. The library encourages creativity and innovation within all residents. They even assist with helping residents bring their creativity and innovation to life by being paramount in helping local business come to life, YouTube channels started, and free access to computers and internet for research and job searching. The possibilities are endless! Our public library is also doing a phenomenal job at keeping up with the quickly changing world by implementing programs and strategies that are more in-line with our advancing technology.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If elected, I would ensure this reputation continues by keeping our library a priority as our population continues to grow. As our population grows, it is only logical that our library must grow with it so they may always continue to be able to keep an open door to everyone
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time spent accessing the library, or it's online services, grows every year. These services are imperative to supporting the future of our community as our library often fosters the imagination of our residents. With programming like this, the possibilities for growth in the community are endless. One of our biggest assets as a city is our residents, and we should be supporting services and programs that are innovative and that place Spruce Grove on the map.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public library is a cornerstone to our community and should be supported as such. Ensuring the library is properly supported both financially and in staff will be something I will strive to maintain during my 4 years if elected on council.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in the library is more than just investing in a building, it's investing in our future business owners, our future entrepreneurs, our future generations. It is investing into our community as a whole to grow towards the future. The City of Spruce Grove prides itself on being the 'community of choice', however, I believe there is still work to be done in order to become a community of choice for everyone. Our public library is already ahead of the game when it comes to inclusivity and openness to all, and I believe our city council could learn a thing or two about being a community where everyone feels like they belong. For example, our public library has acknowledged and supported Pride for several years now, but the City of Spruce Grove has never once acknowledged Pride or expressed support towards the LGBTQ community within our city.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our public library has something to offer for everyone within our community. The library is free of charge for a membership and it has something to offer for everyone of any age. The variety of services offered by the library is paramount to our community. The space is a barrier free, non-judgemental and an unbiased place for residents to enjoy. This is incredibly important to me as I believe it is critical to offer a space where everyone feels welcome and where no one is discriminated against.

From the Public

- If I had the SEC money, I would start with newer library and new Horizon
- economic development
- what are some of the benefits of living here
- Ag. Society build Agrena, is that what culture organisations do for community?
- History preservation is a priority
- Build it and they will come is b@#\$!%..event centre
- Archives are hidden in ATCO trailer behind AG. Society
- busing and availability of SGPL location is big
- Do you think donation of city land for culture use? I.e. heritage library
- Archives, etc.
- more space for art gallery
- Stage Seniors Centre
- As a long-time member of AAC, I'd like to see more space for the gallery
- How does the heritage of the ag society fit in with arts and culture?
- joint community spaces
- art gallery, library, performing arts space in downtown--use as a catalyst for downtown revitalization
- Library definitely needs bigger space
- we need space for art programs, competing for time and space now
- a space within a space--we want our own space but affordable
- we need municipal cultural facility for joint organizations
- more space for gallery
- funding for non-profits
- safety for art (crime)
- partnerships with other organizations = unique services
- we need meeting rooms
- where is the Cultural Master Plan?
- grass roots ideas will help the city create common spaces
- library getting involved in Mental Health addictions
- library brokering to business
- indigenous safe places
- assist small business in innovation
- questions too involved
- space commitment
- more space for gallery
- multi-use cultural centre
- Thank you, engaged ideas: move pods around, library essential
- How will you support community theatre?
- Possible to integrate arts and culture into SEC--build this space
- we need stand alone art gallery
- more space new building for art gallery
- more space for art gallery
- look very hard for new library

- stand alone gallery
- Community groups need to cooperate to accomplish facility needs
- Public Messages
- partnerships needed to build or enhance cultural facilities
- stable economic future due to broader thinking
- acting as a centre of communication and thought
- economic support and focus
- we need a library this one is too small
- arts and culture are the foundation of community economic development it grows local economies
- Public Messages
- multi-use facilities need to include recreation AND culture
- need to recognize 65+ population and their wants and needs
- need a stand-alone art gallery not enough room now
- need a true level of community engagement
- library location at a SEC that has a central location
- accessible location for library
- more space for gallery
- fundraising needs
- one location
- library feasibility study
- dedication to library is smaller
- library two floors
- 2 satellite locations
- honour indigenous heritage
- more space for gallery
- public art sculpture
- lack of true community engagement in SG
- We need a library very badly, let's get a great grant
- Can we make a heritage-culture building a reality?
- how would this be made a priority
- what about adding a second floor to this building
- enhancing of community organizations is important
- People have other talents than sports--where do they go?
- more money for the arts
- how does library build into heritage?
- how can a library be involved in keeping people in a community?
- what about expansion of tiny libraries
- preservation of Ag. Heritage
- multi-use culture centre
- draw people to community foster community
- combine arts, library and community leagues
- we need more financial support for gallery from city
- more space for art gallery
- parking concerns
- arts are falling behind the sports community in SG--need a great facility

- family histories
- connect with community agencies
- art cannot be locked up here--not safe for artists
- another branch?
- Art gallery from common residents to interact and make art
- place for lonely people to connect
- order books thru Trac Pac
- more small community space needed not grandiose convention centres
- social networking disconnects from community
- black history month event
- juggling space
- genealogy
- place for art show
- more space for gallery please; more accessible space
- council needs to be accountable to community
- one large multi cultural centre
- parking lot was in sufficient as soon as space was opened
- shared program room very insufficient for library and AAC
- library is a source of fun on rainy days
- space within a space for arts council
- community
- central location is positive
- Ag. society across the tracks - how do you see as involved
- source of community
- recreate space with sliding panels
- like to see a second branch in a community centre
- place to volunteer
- source of education
- little pods throughout for groups to meet
- children come to library as a safe space
- partnerships and community organizations
- community needs to be behind library and growth
- concerned that sports have taken over
- art gallery paints the elevator site
- make space great program for children
- archives in community
- space for safety in community
- neighbourhood branches to offer classes
- create culture to support the arts
- Ag. society needs to be more visible
- create an identity of culture in Spruce Grove
- make sure there is not one cultural segment tucked into a back corner
- how much will you increase art gallery grant money?
- space to create and perform
- there is a need for stand alone gallery (out of room)
- centralized location is key for new library

- where would a new library be located
- library an important cultural hub
- use library frequently with children and alone
- in the City Economic Development Plan is culture/heritage considered to be an economic catalyst?
- more money for art gallery from City: \$7000...come on people.
- need to consider arts centre for SG: art gallery, library, theatre, meeting rooms, etc.
- reference the importance of the Cultural Master Plan
- SEC is going to cost me money
- Central spot for library is tough downtown
- Isn't enough space considering City growth
- Grow community with a wider point of view
- Need art champion
- Existing location terrible access
- Quieter voices should be heard too
- Used to have a larger library ... what happened?
- Library is not accessible on the best of days
- Modernization to make library great
- Need a new performing arts stage
- Focus on local grass roots
- Focus on local grass roots
- Are bus routes convenient for library?
- Consider a library as part of SEC
- SEC will take away from Horizon Stage
- Should Horizon Stage stand alone? No joint-use agreement
- School libraries inadequate
- Need Centre that includes a new Horizon Stage and library
- We need an arts centre
- Can't overdo fostering literacy
- You don't drive down King Street and know there is a library
- Encourage artistic participation
- Libraries are family engagement
- Need a touch of arts and culture in SEC
- Spruce Grove fails because we need "community" development not eco development