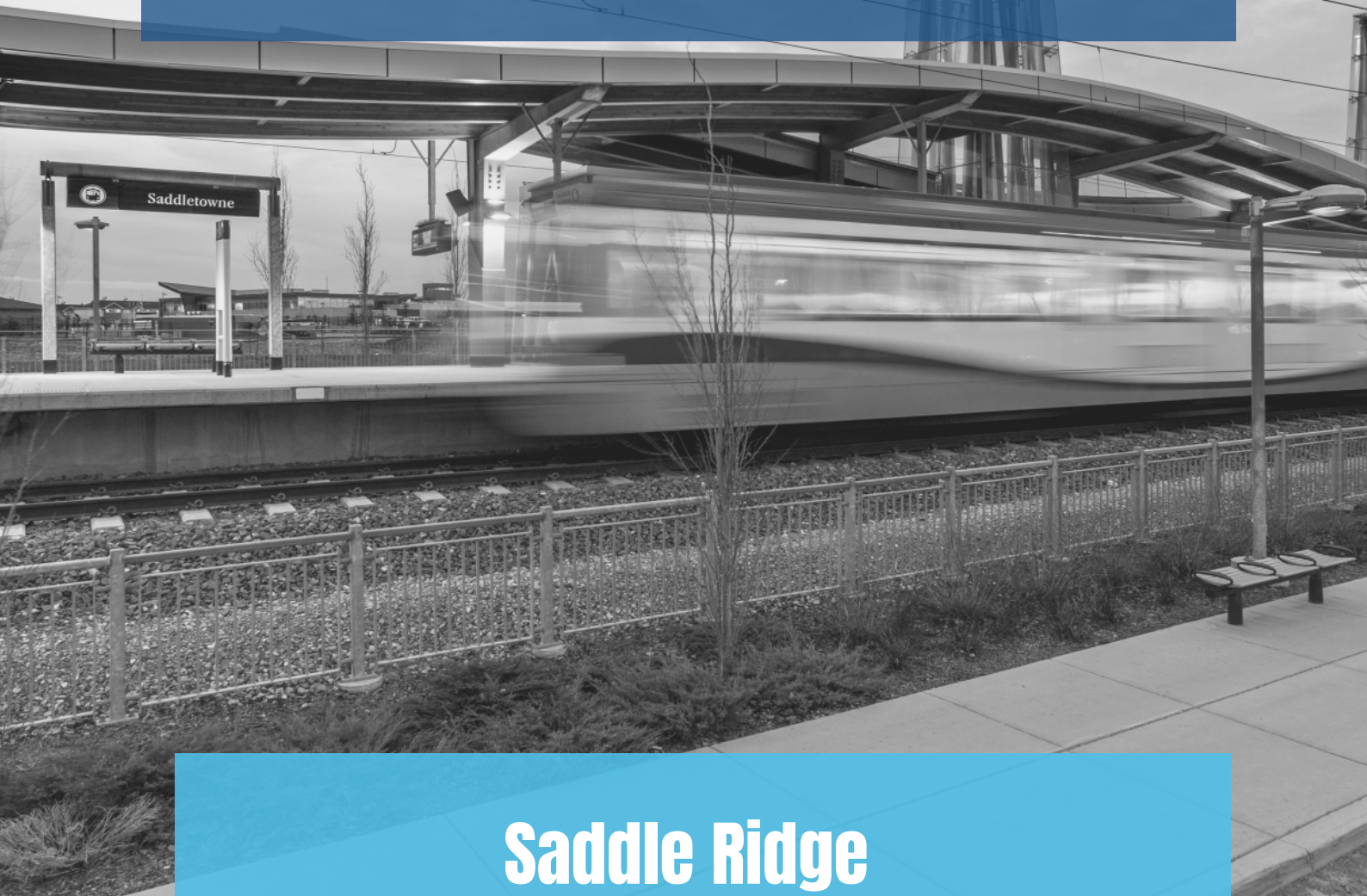


Tactical Urbanism Guide



Saddle Ridge

[comm(unity) + (p)ride + (co)hesion]



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Acknowledgement

In the spirit of respect, reciprocity and truth, we honour and acknowledge Moh'kinsstis, and the traditional Treaty 7 territory and oral practices of the Blackfoot confederacy: Siksika, Kainai, Piikani, as well as the Îyâxe Nakoda and Tsuut'ina nations. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3 within the historical Northwest Métis homeland. Finally, we acknowledge all Nations – Indigenous and non – who live, work and play on this land, and who honour and celebrate this territory.

This sacred gathering place provides us with an opportunity to engage in and demonstrate leadership on reconciliation. Thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment to join our team on the lands of Treaty 7 territory (Calgary Foundation, 2022).

As students of urban studies we acknowledge our privilege to do our work on these traditional lands.

Thank you to the Saddle Ridge Community Association, The Federation of Calgary Communities, Dr. Victoria Fast, and the University of Calgary for providing us with the opportunity to do this project!



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Meet the Team

Groups for this Capstone project were chosen by our professor and provided a well-rounded set of skills to deliver on our project.

We bonded through a mix of online and in-person classes, presentations and community engagement sessions to realize this report and we couldn't be more proud of this winning tactical urbanism initiative.

Chad Berling



Chad is an Urban Studies student at the University of Calgary, looking onward to a Master of Architecture at Carleton University. Through his experience in the Urban Studies degree, he has concentrated on how the built environment can impact how people live in an urban setting. He is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies in April 2022. He has experience working in property management, and through his passion for art and design has the ambition for a career as an architect upon completion of his education

Ty Christieson

Ty is a student at the University of Calgary in his final semester of an Urban Studies Bachelor of Arts degree. Starting with an Applied Math degree and moving into an Urban Studies degree his interest in the workings of the urban environment has moved from a curiosity to a passion. Ty has a passion for working with kids as well as volunteering. The concept of uneven development within cities has been a focus of Ty's throughout his studies and he looks forward to the ways in which he can use the knowledge and experiences learned through his degree.



Jessica Kovacs

Jessica is graduating from the University of Calgary with a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and a minor in Political Science in August 2022. She got her start in community engagement and event planning with the Martindale Community Association. Since then she has advocated for pedestrian safety, place-making opportunities, and marginalized people. She joined the Urban Calgary Students Association in 2019 as VP of Events before taking on the Vice President and Operations role in 2021. Jessica was recognized twice by City Councillors for community involvement, in Martindale 2011 and Panorama Hills 2021. She has a love of the outdoors, plants, and spontaneous adventures. Jessica aspires to build inclusive communities where diversity is valued and celebrated.



Jacob Reid

Jacob Reid is a graduating Urban Studies student at the University of Calgary. Throughout his Journey in the Urban Studies field, Jacob has found his passion within design. This inspired him to complete his Graphic Design certificate alongside his Urban Studies degree. Through Urban Studies he found a need for design within proposals, marketing campaigns and advertisements. He hopes to design reports, mark-ups, and advertisements for Urban Planning firms. He believes his understanding of the Urban Planning language and his design skills make him a good candidate for a role like this. Alongside of schooling, Jacob has been a varsity athlete, competing on the Men's Volleyball team at the UofC for the past 4 years. This experience has taken him across Canada, and really taught him how to work in a team environment. In his past time Jacob enjoys collecting and listening to vinyl records and taking photos on his film camera



Taylor Zwarych

Taylor will be graduating from the University of Calgary with a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies with a minor in Global Development Studies in April 2022. Her passion for urban studies includes looking at how the built environment influences the way people interact within that space and how to improve connections. She also has a passion for improving transportation and advocates for more walkable cities with a passion for sustainability. She is currently the VP of Marketing for the Urban Calgary Students Association where she has had the opportunity to work with the City of Calgary on tactical urbanism projects. In her free time, she is a competitive swim coach and loves exploring the outdoors with her dog Ellie. Taylor hopes to contribute to the future of our cities by promoting inclusivity and collaboration.



Goals of the Project

Walking, Playing, and Being Neighbourly

The exploring communities project is in collaboration with the Federation of Calgary Communities and the Urban Studies Capstone class at the University of Calgary.

The aim of the project is to connect the community associations board of directors with the students to build capacity, and identify challenges and opportunities in the community. Through tactical urbanism, activation, and placemaking the students then work to bring the project to life.

Tactical Urbanism

Tactical urbanism is a temporary, often in-expensive design or intervention within a space that is meant to improve the experience of the area. Some examples of how tactical urbanism has been utilized are through the addition of colour, design, or even traffic calming measures. The aim of tactical urbanism is to reactivate and reclaim space from vehicles who often dominate the public realm in cities and suburbs. The goal is to reimagine the space for everyone to enjoy.

Our Partnership With The Community Association

The Saddle Ridge Community Association is responsible for the execution of the selected Tactical Urbanism proposal using this final report provided by the student partners from the University of Calgary. The Saddle Ridge Community Association will be reimbursed for \$1000 of the project costs by the Federation of Calgary Communities. This was the 1st place prize awarded during the Pitch Night on April 7, 2022. The success of the project relies upon the skills and generosity of all individuals involved.

What We Heard

Our team worked closely with the Saddle Ridge Community Association board of directors to make sure we developed tactical urbanism projects that reflected the communities needs, goals, and dreams.

The first engagement session with the board allowed for team introductions and allowed us to gain another level of understanding about the community. We were given information on the communities challenges, strengths, and assets from the residents who know and understand them best. We employed a participatory mapping exercise to gather feedback from the community and facilitated thoughtful discussion from the members.

At the second board meeting we presented the Community Association with our three tactical urbanism projects that addressed what we heard from the community at the previous meeting. Our three ideas were put to a vote in which only one would be chosen to move forward to Pitch Night to compete for funding.

01 Saddletowne Circle

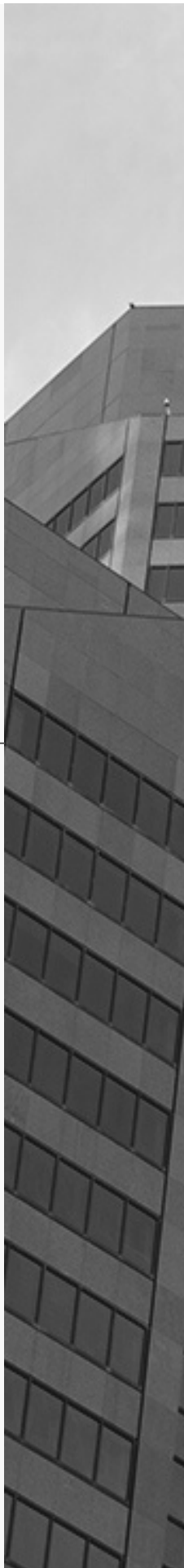
This location was highlighted by the community as a bland and unsafe space. The circle is high traffic and known to be dangerous for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicular transportation.

02 Colour & Beautification

Many members described the community as bland, lacking colour and life. This needed to be addressed to provide a sense of pride to residents, something for them to be proud of. In turn more colour could be connected to traffic calming measures.

03 Cleanliness

The community association expressed their struggle with littering in their community. Education around city bylaws needs to be expanded to residents



Proposals

During the final meeting with the community association 3 tactical urbanism proposals were presented. Through a facilitated discussion community members were able to share their thoughts and concerns for each proposal. After the merit of each proposal was debated, the board was able to come to a consensus.

Bright Benches



This proposal is an event focused around the community adding colour, identity and seating into the physical space of the neighbourhood. It could easily be expanded to bring bright benches to additional locations throughout the community. The benches tackle many challenges; they can be used as rest-stops near pathways for mobility challenged and older residents, and they create hubs for connection.

Painting benches would bring everyone together, add vibrancy, and unique character to the community - resulting in a sense of pride for Saddle Ridge.

Community Cleanup and Art Event



The event is a combination of sidewalk chalk art and community cleanup. The idea is to add colour to the many community pathways through chalk art by individuals while simultaneously cleaning the litter around the space. The joint art and cleaning of the neighbourhood tackles both the issues of littering and lack of colour in one event. The art portion of the event can extend to mural creation and beautifying the community through art in a multitude of forms. It is also possible to expand on the communities already existing clean-up event.

Slow the Road Initiative



Ultimately the Community Association prioritized pedestrian safety and traffic calming in Saddletowne Circle, a hub for shopping, transportation and recreation. This highly visible location is frequented by residents and in need of safety interventions to slow traffic. Our proposal brings vibrant colour to the space which causes drivers to slow down and pay extra attention to their surroundings. It will also signal a sense of arrival to the community of Saddle Ridge.



Through our Slow The Road Initiative, Saddletowne Circle will hopefully become a safer place for residents during their daily commutes and be a catalyst for community pride.

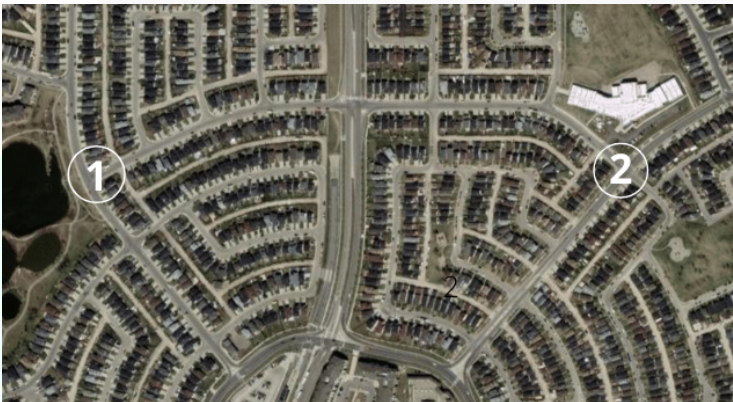
This large road is shared with two neighbouring communities and the new artwork will distinguish Saddle Ridge and bring a sense of pride that will create a ripple effect to other community care initiatives.

Saddletowne Circle has the greatest potential for improvement, a spot to create obvious change that signals a new era of safety and solidarity amongst community members.

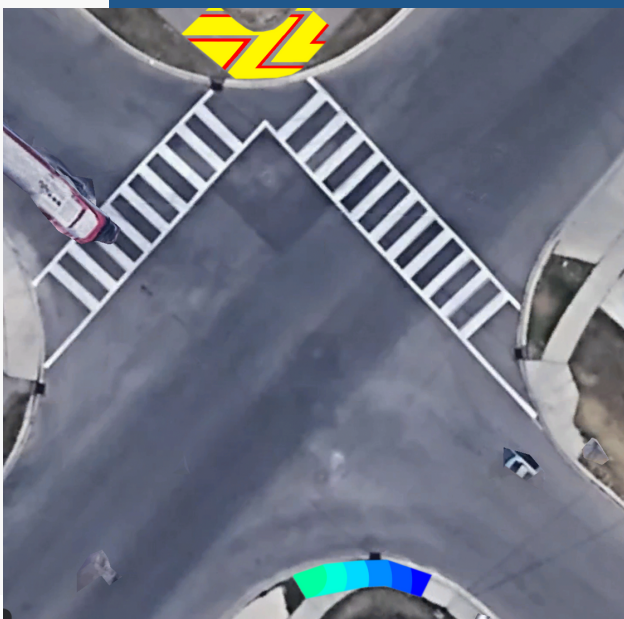
Creative Crosswalk

The creative crosswalk is our \$500 budget proposal. It proposes artistic painting of the sidewalk at crosswalk entrances on either end of Saddlehorn Drive. One location is the intersections of Saddlecreek Pond, and the other is south of Light of Christ School. These are both areas where children, and people of all ages, walk and enjoy the outdoors.

The abstract designs painted on the sidewalk will act as traffic calming measures. The pop of colour catches drivers attention and subconsciously causes them to slow down. It creatively connects the ends of the road through design, as well as connecting either side of the street in the chosen locations.



Location



Budget Breakdown \$500

- \$26 Street Permit
- \$72 Paint brushes/rollers, tape, rubber gloves
- \$309 Exterior Latex Paint
- \$61 Contingency Fee

Donated - cardboard for stencils, broom for pre-paint sidewalk clean, signage and pilons to create pedestrian detours

PERMITS NEEDED

Street Use Permit \$25.60 per day from the City of Calgary

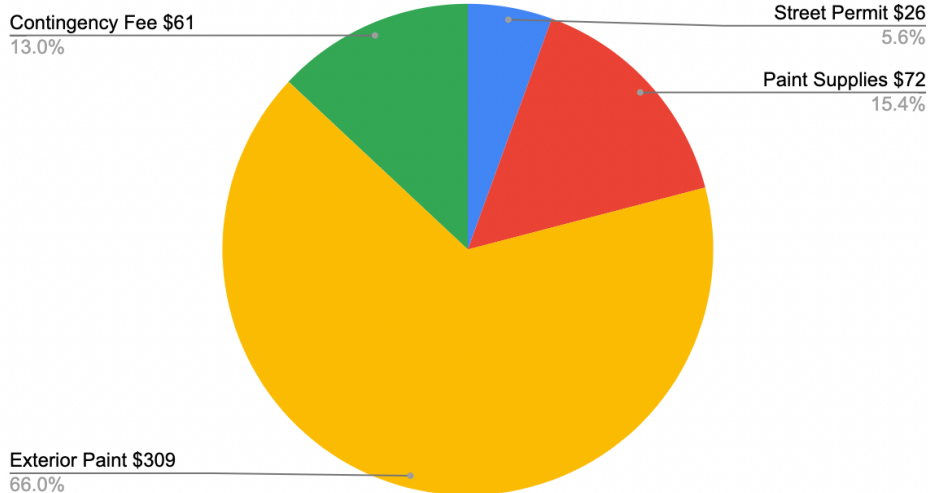
LOGISTICAL DETAILS

Waivers from nearby residents
Design of artwork - volunteers/artists for implementation

PAINT COVERAGE CALCULATIONS

- 145m² area
- 6.5m² per litre
- 3.71 litres per can
- 6 cans
- \$51.49 per can

\$500 Budget



Islands of Connection

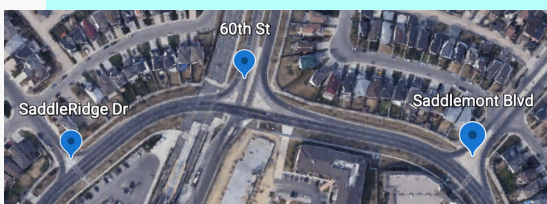
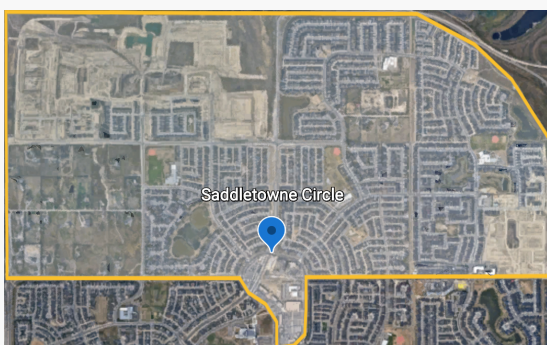
Islands of Connection is a plan to increase the impact and importance of this artistic crosswalk art as a traffic calming initiative. A budget of \$1,000 allows us to move to a higher traffic area along Saddletowne Circle NE.

This is a prime location for the project as it is a notoriously dangerous roadway. There are added expenses for increasing the area to be painted, and requirements to have City of Calgary set up of road and lane closures to ensure the safety of participants while they complete painting of the artwork.

This project will transform the four pedestrian islands on the north side of Saddletowne Circle into decorative painted islands. These are all main access points to the community and are located at Saddleridge Drive, Saddlemont Boulevard and two islands at 60 Street. The locations are very visible to the community and will be seen by people walking or driving to local businesses and the Saddletowne C-Train Station.

This artwork activates the centre of the community, and can be designed and painted through a collaboration with local artists. As a result of "turning space into place" people will feel more inclined to walk in the area and the Islands of Connection can be utilized as a feature of walking tours in Saddle Ridge.

What was once an unpleasant and unsafe place to traverse for residents will become a focal point for community pride, and it will slow traffic and increase safety for all road users.



Budget Breakdown \$1000

- \$26 Street Permit
- \$72 Painting supplies
- \$400 City Set up - lane closures
- \$464 Exterior Latex Paint
- \$38 Contingency Fee

Donated - cardboard for stencils, broom for pre-clean

PERMITS NEEDED

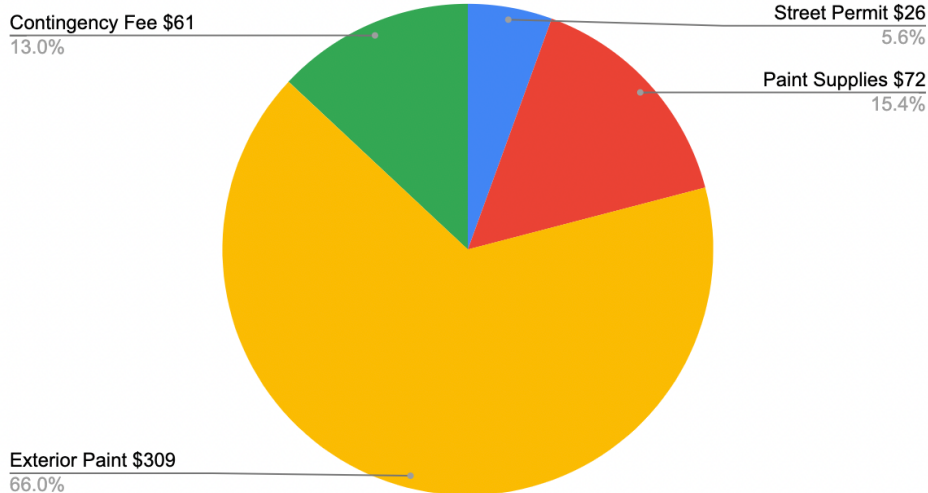
Street Use Permit & Roads Lane Closure

LOGISTICAL DETAILS

Volunteers/Artists for Painting

For the scaled-up project of Islands of Connection the budget for supplies stays similar to the Creative Crosswalks. \$400 in road closure costs is only the minimum listed on the Street Use Permit guidelines but could reach upwards to \$900 and jeopardize the project. To avoid the possibility of the project failing due to budget restrictions we reached out to Ward 5 Councillor Raj Dhaliwal who had stated that creating a more vibrant NE is a priority for him. He agreed that his office would cover cost overruns above the \$400 that we have budgeted (to a maximum of \$1,000 from his office). He also offered to work with the Roads Department to have the road closure costs reduced or waived. This demonstrates the desire for this project and the importance of relationships to achieving shared goals. Big thanks to Councillor Raj, and his colleagues Rajwinder and Halie for their roles in the success of this proposal.

\$500 Budget



Collaborating With The Councillor



Calgary

Raj Dhaliwal, Ward 5 Councillor

April 7, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

The Ward 5 office is pleased to support the University of Calgary's Urban Calgary Students Association 'Paint the Pavement' initiative in Saddleridge. This is a very interesting project that I feel strongly could improve both pedestrian safety and neighborhood pride. I've met with Ms. Kovacs to discuss this project, and strongly support the 'Paint the Pavement' project for Saddletown Circle.

As this project requires a road closure, the City of Calgary applies a road closure fee of \$1,000. My office is committed to assist in finding a source of funding for this fee. We will provide a report of available funding opportunities in the next coming days; however, we are very hopeful that we will be able to identify a source of funding.

I hope that this project can move forward, and we can bring added pedestrian safety to the community as it is much needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raj".

Raj Dhaliwal
Councillor Ward 5, City of Calgary

Installation

Islands of Connection

The total area of the four islands is around 450m² and this is too much for the \$1000 budget. By backing the painting off the curb by 1.5m as seen in the mock art on slide 12 we can reduce the total area of the painting to the desired 215m². The artwork is still able to have the same effect but won't require the excessive amount of paint required to cover the whole island.

Day of Procedure: Step by Step

- 1 Before starting any work, ensure that all participants and volunteers have signed the waivers that are required by The City of Calgary. Anyone who joins through out the day will also need to sign a waiver before helping.
- 2 After the City of Calgary has completed the Road Closure set up, divide supplies for the four locations and distribute them to the boulevard near each island.
- 3 Starting with elements in the center of the design, tape down stencils and start painting. Continue outwards in the design until all colours have been added.
- 4 Check on volunteers often to ensure they are hydrated, rested and re-applying sunscreen as needed.
- 5 Remove all supplies and garbage when finished. Paint brushes and rollers MUST NOT be washed on site.
- 6 If applicable, notify Roads Department to advise when barriers can be removed.

Timeline

The project may need to occur over the course of a weekend with the painting split into two days to lessen road and sidewalk disruptions. The date should be in the summer and an alternate date will need to be considered in case of rain.

Work closely with the City of Calgary, they must approve*:

- the location
- the date
- the artwork, including colours, designs and paint used
- road closure plans

*Each time the City reviews a permit request or change, it can be a two week wait for response or approval

90 DAYS PRIOR

- Chose date and apply for street use permit
- Chose design/artwork and artists or volunteer painters
- Assign a volunteer to collect waivers from affected residents (if required by City of Calgary)
- Consider Marketing strategy to involve or inform community members and recruit volunteers
- Look for additional funding to add extra elements (ie. walking tour markers)

MONTH OUT

- Ensure permits have been approved
- Advertise the project to create awareness and recruit volunteers
- Create stencils for art
- Watch for sales on supplies, purchase when ready

DAY OF

- Transport supplies to site
- Monitor weather forecast
- Ensure safety of volunteers
- Clean up all supplies and the surrounding area
- SMILE - you are an important part of a great community!

WEEK OUT

- Create contact list for onsite, include volunteers, and emergency services numbers
- Assemble supplies including garbage bags, water and snacks for volunteers
- Signage for detours or thanks to Lowe's & Councillor Dhiliwal
- Monitor weather forecast
- Call volunteers to remind them



Other Funding Opportunities



The Federation of Calgary Communities & Activate YYC: Bump Outs and Pathways (\$3,000)

The \$3000 project will take place on residential streets (non-bus routes) or on pathways within neighbourhoods. These projects will encourage traffic calming, accessibility, safety, walkability and so on. They will all require City of Calgary permits to proceed.

How To Apply:

- 1) Talk to us to discuss your idea at activateyyc@calgarycommunities.com
- 2) Build some community support
- 3) Complete the on-line application for either the \$1000 or \$3000 stream (only one per organization)
- 4) You will hear back with a few weeks of applying as to the decision to fund or not.

Link to apply and further information: https://activateyyc.calgarycommunities.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/02/ActivateYYC2022_overview_Final.pdf

Charity Village: Calgary's Embrace the Outdoors Grant (\$4,500)

This grant is meant to support local non-profit organizations in efforts to help families and neighbours appreciate the outdoors in a unique and safe way. The grant requires that applicants be non-profit organizations within the City of Calgary that have a free to use project committed to accessibility for all ages and abilities.

This grant fits our project as our goals of outdoor safety, unique experience, and accessibility are highlights of the grant's focus. The grant aims to create experiences that can be happen all the time, not for a community event or gathering. The grant is open for projects happening from October 1, 2021, to April 30, 2022, and applications are being accepted until July 31. Funding is based on first come first serve of projects that meet the requirements and are approved by the grant committee.

<https://charityvillage.com/applications-are-open-for-calgarys-embrace-the-outdoors-grant/>

Bibliography

Cover image: <https://mppeng.ca/saddletowne-lrt/>

Bench proposal image 1:

<https://now.uiowa.edu/2012/07/art-takes-seat-downtown>

Bench proposal image 2:

<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/vancouver-park-board-to-remove-painted-memorial-bench-at-kits-beach-1.4486363>

Activate YYC logo image:

<https://calgaryartsdevelopment.com/classifieds/activate-yyc/>

Sidewalk chalk image:

<https://www.gettyimages.ca/photos/sidewalk-chalk>

Saddle Ridge

Thank you

Thank you all for reading through our vision for a more vibrant and walkable community of Saddle Ridge. It has been a pleasure to participate in the Exploring Communities project and work with the Saddle Ridge Community Association in addressing their concerns and improving the neighbourhood.

Special thanks to Dr. Victoria Fast for guiding us through the process of community engagement and implementation of this tactical urbanism project through our Urban Studies Capstone course. We will take so much of the skills learned and the ones we improved upon with us, through our professional careers.