



# 2018 AMNA Nomination

Prepared By: Owner

## Champion of the Arts Award

**Nominee** [Kim Cheel](#)  
**Artist Type** Performing Arts  
**Organization/Business** Kim Cheel Creations



Photo

### Nomination

*I am nominating Kim Cheel as the Champion of the Arts in Airdrie because that is precisely what she is. Kim is a multifaceted artist in her own right. A published novelist, an award-winning playwright, an actress and an accomplished acting instructor who has been teaching for nearly a decade in Airdrie. She also commits countless hours volunteering for different arts events, companies and festivals, and has donated her time to help promote the arts in Airdrie. If there is an art's comity, she's on it. If there is an arts event in the city, she is at it, if not volunteering for it. She is constantly raising awareness of the value of arts in our city and coming up with new ways to advance art in our city, like her creative upcoming Ghost Walk! She is a tireless supporter of the youth in our city, teaching in at both Bert Church Theatre and Torchlight Theatre throughout the years. She is in tune to the needs of artists in the city and has a plethora of ideas on how to work with businesses to create spaces for emerging artists. Kim is a pillar in the artistic community of Airdrie and I truly believe that she is the Champion of the Arts in Airdrie. - Chelsea*

*Kim Cheel is an incredible asset to our community. From her youth acting classes at both Bert Church Theatre and Torchlight Theatre to her original plays, novels and community events - Kim is always trying to make this place a better place. Kim is a skilled actress, director, playwright, author, improv comedian, drama teacher and hard working individual.*

*Kim spends all of her time working and volunteering within the community. She organized/ wrote/ directed and acted in Reign of Power which was a fundraiser for ADVAS. Kim's latest project : Airdrie Ghost Walks is shaping up to be a great journey that would investigate Airdrie's past. Kim was on the 2014 Alberta Summer Games Legacy project and helped to decide what art piece will be displayed at our Genesis Place. On top of all of this, Kim has helped with allowing people to find their voice through public speaking lessons, and mentoring youth actors. A steady advocate for the arts in Airdrie, Kim can always be seen out and about. - Tina*

### Questions

#### Start

How long have you been involved with arts & culture in your community and why do you feel it's important to support? Ex) Placemaking, economic diversity, cultural identity, etc.



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*I've been involved in the arts and culture here in Airdrie for 7 years, almost as soon as I began to act in Airdrie. I think culture (and arts as an offshoot of that) is paramount to growing a healthy and thriving community. Not only can it assist with economic growth (arts bringing non-residents to spend their money in Airdrie can alleviate the dollars residents put into their city), but it helps to bring the community together. Whether people sit in the audience of a play, or view paintings at a gallery, or jam with musicians (as well as other artistic forms), they are coming together as community. They are experiencing something with each other and are contributing to the collective experience of art. Not only that, but I know from personal experience, that engaging in art is what engaged me in the community. I volunteer with other groups, but it was through art, through the theatre that brought me down that path. I discovered my people, my place in the world through the theatre.*

### **Enhancement**

How do you feel (or can you give examples) of how you've personally enhanced arts & culture in your community?  
Ex) Volunteering, mentoring, advocating, etc.

*I've been instrumental in growing the footprint of theatre arts in Airdrie. I was president of Nose Creek Players for three years (2011-2014), during which time we performed at Bert Church Live Theatre, outside in parks, for corporate parties, for businesses during their own special events, etc. As a group, we volunteered for different causes, all with the underlying understanding that arts build community. I work and volunteer with Torchlight Theatre, I sit on the Airdrie Film Society Board as Secretary, and I'm constantly speaking to the need for arts support and engagement. For 4 or 5 years, I've tried (and been successful for the most part) to bring all the arts disciplines together, to break down the silos that we find ourselves in, in order to create a collective front when presenting ourselves to the community. I work with children and youth, for they are the next generation to take up the flame of advocacy and encourage them to find their voice, and to follow the passion/craft. This year, I was instrumental in arranging an arts political forum to allow for artists to speak to the municipal candidates, again to raise awareness, and to ensure candidates are aware of the issues we find in our disciplines.*

### **Sphere of Influence**

Do you currently belong to any programs, groups or organizations that encourage the growth and development of arts & culture? Ex) Through mentoring, volunteering, critiquing, etc... If so please list them and give a brief description of what they do. Online links can be added in the next section.

*I am past president of Nose Creek Players (2011-2014), I am on the board of Airdrie Film Society (2017-) as Secretary, I volunteer with Kulture Shake to review various performances to create buzz, as well as the work I do with the Bert Church Live Theatre, and Torchlight Theatre as an instructor and volunteer (Torchlight Theatre's mainstage shows). Nose Creek Players is a community theatre group that in my tenure worked to promote original work, thus giving local playwrights an opportunity to have their work produced. Also during my tenure, the Airdrie Original One Act Play Festival was formed. Playwrights produced their shows and were adjudicated. Airdrie Film Society is in its first year and as a first event, we are holding an Airdrie Film Festival, where local and national filmmakers submitted their films for screening. The majority of films are local/Albertan. The mandate of the AFS is to create opportunities for local filmmakers, and to also host workshops so those filmmakers can grow in their craft.*



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### ***Favourite Cause***

If you could pick your favourite event, cause, group, ect... What would it be and why do you love it? Online links can be added in the next section.

*My favourite event right now is ARTember, because it is an event, regardless of length that allows the city to focus predominately on the arts that this City can boast. I see it as a starting off point for the artists to reveal themselves to the residents of Airdrie, and to show those residents that they can stay right here to experience life-changing, educational, entertaining art.*

### ***Additional Links***

[www.airdriefilm.com](http://www.airdriefilm.com)

<http://artember.ca/>