



2018 AMNA Nomination

Prepared By: Owner

Patron of the Arts Award

Nominee [Derrick & Ayesha Clough](#)
Artist Type Sponsor
Organization/Business Independent



Photo

Nomination

Derrick and Ayesha take an active interest in the community that they call home. They support not only local and national artists but businesses and initiatives that make up the rich fabric of our day to day lives. Derrick comes from an extensive background in the Arts. His father owned an Art Gallery on the west coast and was exposed to many great Canadian artists from a young age. Ayesha is a world traveller having worked as a journalist for BBC & CBC, and has a diverse palet for all things arts & culture. They are the dynamic duo that believe in the transformative power of art and the importance that it plays in enriching our world. They support many local groups and organizations, sourcing everything from food and flowers from local vendors, to attending countless charities and fundraisers. Derrick recently met with the renowned aboriginal artist Robert Davison - please see link. They've been supportive of local talent like iconoclast Art Bergmann and are huge supporters of literary arts. They've been one of the primary sponsors for countless library intiatives. In addition to donating, money, time and influence, they always make an effort and show up, even doing the little extra things like buying prints or merchandise. They are actual Patrons, in the most traditional sense as they personally fund artists to complete their works on an ongoing basis. They are the definition of integrity, in that they give regardless if they are seen doing it. It is my absolute pleasure to recommend them for this award. They are amazing people and they are a gift to arts & culture!

Questions

Start

How long have you or your organization been financially supportive of arts & culture in your community and why do you feel it's important to do so? Ex) Placemaking, economic diversity, cultural identity, etc.

We've been supportive of the arts in Airdrie for as long as we've lived here. We moved here in 2013 and jumped in with both feet, whether it be supporting the arts and artists personally or through the company I work for, TD Bank. As for motive, I've always believed that while the local economy is the heart of any community, the arts represents its soul, and both need to be vibrant and healthy to make a community whole.



2018 AMNA Nomination

Prepared By: Owner

Patron of the Arts Award

Favourite Cause

Please list your or your organization's favourite event, cause, group, etc... Why are you dedicated to supporting that particular cause. Online links can be added in the next section.

We've supported a number of causes, groups, events, etc., like AMNA, but I'd say there are probably two key ones we'd list: our local library, as well as individual artists on kind of a one-off basis, if you will. Airdrie Public Library does so much for our community when it comes to literacy, obviously, but also the arts. As for our local artists, we've provided individual support with a view to helping folks get established or at least simply be a little more able to focus on their art and not have to worry so much about finances. Our support only goes so far but we do our best.

Impact

Can you tell us about a positive impact your support has made?

The biggest impact we've probably had is in getting behind AMNA from the start, I'd say. Though my company, TD Bank, we've been headline sponsor for 4 years now and have hopefully given some of our great local talent a little more exposure.

Wish List

If you could wave a magic wand, what would you like to see established in Airdrie that would significantly enhance Arts & Culture in our city? Ex) New Facility, new program, new governing body, etc.

I'd list two things. First, we need a new library – the great staff at APL do the best they can with the space they have, but it's not enough. Building a new library has been talked about and debated a lot, so it's on the community's radar, but we just need to get on with it. Second, my hope is that over time we'll see more local artists be able to make an actual living, or at least have a shot at it, than we see currently – the more this happens the more vibrant our local arts scene will be, pure and simple.

Additional Links

<http://www.airdriepubliclibrary.ca/>