

Upcoming events celebrate Edmonton's seniors



Councillor Connection
Linda Sloan

June 3 marked the one-year anniversary of Edmonton's Senior Declaration.

This declaration, the first of its kind in Canada, reaffirmed council's commitment to making Edmonton a more age-friendly city where seniors remain connected to their communities, respected and valued.

This declaration is based on four

ideals ...

1. Individuals are respected regardless of age
2. People of all ages are safe in their homes and neighbourhoods
3. The city's transportation system, urban design and physical infrastructure allow all people to participate in full lives
4. Older people have ready access to programs, employment, activities and services that help them stay engaged, respected and appreciated

Edmonton's Seniors Declaration was developed by a steering committee that included the Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council (ESCC), the Edmonton

Arts Council and City of Edmonton staff.

This document helps guide the city in its planning and delivery of programs and services.

As part of my work, I serve as the council lead for seniors initiatives across the city. I liaise with seniors groups, government departments and community organizations to ensure we continue to work towards the commitments we made in the Seniors Declaration.

Age is a gift to our city and we want to ensure our seniors' skills, wisdom and contributions are honoured.

One way we're honouring the creative and artistic talents of our seniors is through the Creative Age Festival which began June 7.

This encourages seniors to get more involved in arts programs like drama, music, visual arts, literary arts and dance. Until June 13 there will be a wide variety of events and activities – everything from art exhibits to choral performances to workshops.

I'm very proud to be a founding member of the Creative Age Festival and I encourage all Edmontonians to come out and enjoy the artistic talent of our local seniors. More information is available at cafestival.ca.

As always, you can contact me at 780-496-8122 or linda.sloan@edmonton.ca.