

Community is one of five topics we would like to hear from you about.

When we think about community, we mean building an inclusive, safe, accessible, inspiring, healthy and prosperous community for all citizens.



**Calgary 2026’s Draft Hosting Plan Concept
What’s proposed for Calgary and surrounding areas**

Affordable housing

Calgary 2026’s Draft Hosting Plan Concept proposes a housing plan that invests in affordable housing for low and moderate-income households, including:

- Affordable housing developments in Calgary and Canmore
- Subsidized seniors’ housing development
- Potential for Indigenous peoples’ housing
- Potential expansion to student housing

Accessibility

The draft hosting plan includes venue designs to make it easier for people of all abilities to enter, leave and move around. Existing venues would be upgraded to make them more accessible. Finally, the Paralympic Winter Games would promote an inclusive community by creating awareness of the importance of accessibility for all Calgarians.

Arts and culture

The draft hosting plan includes many cultural activities. All Olympic and Paralympic Games must feature a Cultural Olympiad, which would begin a few years before the Games and may include cultural events throughout the city, province and country.

Cultural events as part of the Games include:

- The Games’ opening and closing ceremonies
- Medal ceremonies
- Torch relays
- Live entertainment
- Community and sporting events

Planned live sites could have cultural elements and could be free or affordable. These events could include large screens for people to watch live coverage of the Games, entertainment stages with artists, as well as recreational, cultural and community activities. Local and national talent would be featured.



Volunteerism

The draft hosting plan describes ways to increase volunteerism and community spirit by bringing people together around a common goal. The Games will require thousands of volunteers, including potential volunteers from underrepresented groups like new Canadians, youth, cultural communities and Indigenous communities.

The Games have the potential to inspire a new generation of volunteers across Calgary. In the past, our community spirit has been highlighted through a number of events including the 1988 Games, Grey Cup Finals, and recovering from the 2013 flood.

Potential benefits and risks of hosting the Games

Benefits

- Fits with results from the 2018 Citizen Satisfaction Spring Pulse survey, where Calgarians said affordable housing is one of their top priorities for investment
- Provides additional funding to help achieve long-term, affordable housing goals and plans
- Draft hosting plan includes accessibility and community objectives, which match with citizen priorities and Council Directives.
- Provides opportunities to fast-track implementation of Council policies and plans including: Cultural Plan for Calgary, the Corporate Affordable Housing Strategy, the Corporate Accessibility Policy, the Indigenous Policy framework, and the Sport for Life Policy
- Creates opportunities for Calgary’s arts and culture community
- Could provide a legacy fund to support youth and Indigenous programming into the future

Risks

- Focusing and investing in the Games may reduce investment in other Council priorities or City lines of services
- Potential impacts on community not-for-profits: focusing on the Games may distract businesses from other community priorities, resulting in lower investment and sponsorship
- The Games may draw volunteers away from existing community volunteer opportunities
- The Games may impact The City’s future operating and capital budgets
- City costs related to hosting live sites and entertainment programming are not yet determined

Aligning with City priorities

The City is reviewing the draft hosting plan to see how well it fits with Citizen Priorities, Council Directives, City policies, strategies and long-term capital and financial plans.

We want to see if the Games match with our views of a community and whether they will help us achieve our vision for Calgary as a great place to make a living, and a great place to make a life. Our common purpose is: making life better every day. Imagine Calgary is our long-range plan on how we’re growing Calgary.

The Council Directives linked to this topic are: *A city of inspiring neighbourhoods, A healthy and green city, and A prosperous city.*

