

Sheep River



**ARTIST  
IN  
RESIDENCE**



# Final Report

2023





## Summary

The Okotoks Arts Council, Okotoks Public Library, and the Town of Okotoks launched the inaugural Sheep River Artist in Residence in the spring of 2023. The program invited artists of any field to apply for the chance to be the artist in residence in Okotoks, Alberta.

The program was developed to support and encourage established or emerging artists while enriching the community with art. The program occurred during the month of September, which falls during Alberta Culture Days along with Month of the Artist in Okotoks.

Applications were available to artists from April 12 to May 14, 2023. There were 11 applicants assessed by a six-person jury comprised of:

- Rachel Swendseid, Councilor, Town of Okotoks
- Russell Thomas, President, Okotoks Arts Council
- Neil Bantelman, Vice President, Okotoks Arts Council
- Sarah Gillie, Executive Director, Okotoks Public Library
- Kazem Mashkouurnia, Board Member, Okotoks Public Library
- Jeff Greene, Director, Community Growth and Investment, Town of Okotoks

Tanya Zakarow was the artist selected by the jury. She proposed to paint portraits of four important and community-building Okotoks residents.

Zakarow's month-long residency was launched during an event at the Okotoks Public Library on September 6th, at which the portraits were announced: community builders: Mayor Tanya Thorn; Lori Chibry; Ron Schreiber; and Marg Cox. Zakarow worked for two weeks out of the Okotoks Art Gallery and two weeks out of the Okotoks Public Library.

The Sheep River Artist in Residence program culminated at the Town of Okotoks' and the Okotoks Arts Council's Face-to-Face Conference on September 29th.

At the end of her residency, Zakarow donated her portraits to the Town of Okotoks public art collection.

The Okotoks Arts Council paid Zakarow \$3000.00 for the residency and paid for the rental of the Rotary Performing Arts Centre for Face to Face. The Okotoks Public Library provided working space for the artist in residence and sponsored both the launch event and the closing event. The Town of Okotoks managed the project including communications, design, and provided working space for the artist in residence.