



Naming Committee

Honouring People and Places in Our City



7th Floor, 10250 - 101 Street
Edmonton AB T5J 3P4
Phone: 780-496-6226 Fax: 780-496-6054

Michael Albert Phair

(1950)



Michael Phair has been actively involved in countless groups and organizations throughout the City of Edmonton and throughout the province. In addition to leading a 15 year career as an elected voice for Edmontonians, he was the first openly gay politician in Alberta and one of the first in Canada.

Michael Phair was born in Loyal, Wisconsin. He holds two Master's Degrees in the educational field and once practiced in early education. He arrived in Edmonton in 1981 and by 1986, Phair had founded the AIDS Network, now referred to as HIV Edmonton, and became the first Chair of the Canadian AIDS Society. During this time, he worked as Director of Settlement Programs for Alberta Education, providing provincial support to local organizations working with immigrants in Alberta's major cities.

From 1992 until 2007, Phair served as a member of City Council and represented Edmonton's Downtown and south side. He helped found the Edmonton Arts Council, Edmonton's recycling facility, the Edmonton Pride Festival, and he fought for hot lunch programs for inner-city schools. Phair worked tirelessly on many other boards and committees throughout his 15 years on City Council, acting as a voice for all individuals, including the disenfranchised. Past involvement as a member of the Greater Edmonton Foundation, trustee with the Canadian Native Friendship Centre, Chair of the Edmonton Social Planning Council, past board member of Homeward Trust, and past-president of the Alberta Association of Young Children proves Michael Phair's dedication for strengthening public engagement within Edmonton.

Though Michael Phair chose to step down from City Council, he continues to serve Edmonton in many ways. He is a member of Edmonton's Pride Festival Society Board of Directors, Chair of Edmonton on the Edge, and Chair of the Community Sustainability Task Force. Michael Phair works as an adjunct professor with the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta where he previously served as Director of Community Relations. He is currently working on a new arts venture called illumiNITE, and he was recently appointed as the Executive Director of the North Saskatchewan River Valley Conservation Society.



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The Edmonton Journal named Michael Phair as Edmonton's Citizen of the Year in 1986, and in 2007, the University of Alberta created the Michael Phair Leadership Award. Phair served as one of Edmonton's most dedicated civic leaders, and continues to influence and shape Edmonton as a whole, especially through contributions to arts and culture. As an individual who recognized that Downtown Edmonton could be a vibrant and welcoming neighbourhood long before any exciting projects were underway, the pocket park on 104 Street will represent Michael Phair's contributions to Downtown. He helped secure this lot as park space during his time on Council, and his contributions to 104 Street through the Alley of Light and the City Market Downtown has helped create one of the most exciting streets in Edmonton.

*Written by Danielle Ferchoff
March 2015*

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NOTE:

This Map is Conceptual Only,
Not to Scale, and Subject
to Change



Michael Phair Park

Downtown Neighbourhood

March 10, 2015
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