



**Celebrating Municipal Excellence**

# 2022 Nomination Form

**Deadline:** 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 25, 2022

Nominee Contact Information	
<b>Name of municipality/ municipalities being nominated:</b> <small>(please include the names of all partner municipalities)</small>	City of Weyburn
<b>Contact Name:</b>	Andrew Crowe
<b>Contact role in project:</b>	City Representative during Construction, Director of Facility
<b>Telephone #:</b>	306-848-3217
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	157 3rd Street NE Weyburn SK. S4H 2K6
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	acrowe@weyburn.ca
<b>Name of Nominated Practice or Project:</b>	Credit Union Spark Centre
<b>Date of Project or Practice Initiation:</b>	January 2019
<b>Date of Project or Practice Completion:</b> <small>(If ongoing, please indicate)</small>	October 16th, 2021
	Ongoing: <input type="checkbox"/>

Nominator Contact Information	
<b>Name:</b>	Andrew Crowe
<b>Organization:</b>	City of Weyburn
<b>Position:</b>	Director of Leisure Services
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	157 3rd Street NE Weyburn SK. S4H 2K6
<b>Telephone #:</b>	306-848-3217
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	acrowe@weyburn.ca

***Please provide as much detail as possible. Winning practices are posted in the Best Practices Library as a reference or resource to others. Nominations that clearly outline the practice and all steps involved have a higher chance of being selected for an award.***

## **The Practice**

### **1. What issue inspired the nominated project or practice?**

The Credit Union Spark Centre is a state of the art 85000 square foot Sport, Culture and Recreation based multipurpose facility which has positively impacted the community in countless ways.

The project was first discussed and was included in long term planning documents beginning in 2011. Through a lengthy and in-depth process including needs assessments and community feedback, final designs were completed and ground was broken in January of 2019, with the new facility opening its doors to the public in October 2021.

Construction of the new 25 million dollar facility was completed due to several factors with the most notable being:

High demand from the community and its user groups for a 4 season multipurpose facility

Long term facility planning and the necessity to replace the Signal Hill Arts Centre

Improving the quality of life in the City and Region.

2. What has this project or practice done to address the issue?

The Credit Union Spark Centre was developed as a progressive step forward to offer a wide variety of barrier-free year round access to numerous Sport, Culture and Recreation opportunities to the community. The Facility was developed to provide multi-generational benefits to all demographics within the community, offering the following amenities

- 1/2 sized FIFA synthetic Field with 8 dressing rooms
- Baseball / Softball Pitching & hitting tunnels
- 3 Multipurpose breakout rooms
- Pottery Studio
- AAA rated Temperature and Humidity controlled Art Gallery
- Indoor Soft Play Playground
- Commercial Lease Space (food vendor)
- 3 Lane 220m exercise track with Olympic Quality surface
- Multi-sport simulator room (4 simulators)
- "mini" athletic gym

<https://weyburn.ca/credit-union-spark-centre/amenities/>

### The Process

***This section should be the longest and most detailed part of your nomination. Include enough information, such as steps, resources accessed, and considerations to support a municipality interested in applying the same project or practice.***

3. Indicate who had a direct role in this project or practice:

- Municipal Council
- Municipal Administration
- Other

4. What was the role of the municipal council and/or municipal staff in this project or practice?

Municipal Staff and Council invested countless hours involving the needs assessment, long term planning, budgeting and community engagement processes to develop and finalize the decision to move forward.

Once the project was approved, the "ownership team" for the City of Weyburn consisted of the Director of Leisure Services and the Facility Manager who oversaw and represented the City during the construction and decision making phases along the way.

Following construction, a ribbon cutting ceremony was conducted and the operations of the facility began under the leadership of the Leisure Services Manager who reports to the Director of Leisure Services.

5. Were other groups were involved in developing this project or practice? If so, who were they and what role did they play?

Community groups and organizations were included in needs assessment and feasibility discussions to determine the requirements of a new multipurpose facility to serve the City of Weyburn and region.

A very valuable partnership was also formed between the South East Cornerstone School Division through a joint use agreement involving the construction and operations of the new Legacy Park Elementary School and Credit Union Spark Centre which are connected through a jointly funded community commons space. The two partners also shared expenses related to the construction of the joint use parking lots and shared construction expenses.

The Credit Union Spark Centre and Legacy Park Elementary school were constructed in parallel and both partners (City & School Division) were involved in feasibility studies, pre-construction planning, consultant, architect, and general contractor selections. Parties were involved jointly in construction meetings and were involved with one another through the duration of the construction through to and project close out.

Through the newly formed joint use partnership, the 700 students attending the new elementary school are provided with free access to the Credit Union Spark Centre during their school days to participate in sport, culture and recreation based opportunities.

6. What resources were involved?

Funds were provided through:

- External loans
- Reserve Funding
- ICIP Funding 1.2M
- Facility naming rights - 1M
- Amenities Sponsorships - \$210,000
- Donations - \$300,000

Project Manager's - Midgard Project Management  
Architectural Firms - 1080 architects, & NumberTen  
General Contractor - Wright Construction

7. How was the project or practice developed?

The Credit Union Spark Centre was developed through years of strategic planning and consultation by the Leisure Services Department, members of council, Facilities Committee and Leisure Services Commission.

Once a decision of intent was made by City Council to move forward with the project, City Staff began working with the Southeast Cornerstone School Division to hire consultants and architects to finalize designs.

When designs were established, the general contractor was selected through the competitive bidding process.

Following the construction phase, the facility opened to the public with its operations falling within the Leisure Services Department.

## The Results

8. What effect did this project or practice have on the community?

The project had an immediate impact to the community providing countless opportunities throughout the year to all ages.  
From November 2021 - to October 2022 we have seen the following usage:

- 39,752 drop in participants
- 250 birthday, staff or other party rentals
- Estimated 70,000 attendants during team and group rentals (not including spectators)
- Numerous user groups from in and around Weyburn and other nearby communities including lacrosse, soccer, football, baseball, softball, sepak tekraw, volleyball, badminton, pickleball, various arts groups
- Over 100 sport, culture and recreation programs and classes offered by the City of Weyburn

9. Was a formal evaluation done after the project or practice was completed? Please explain.

Lessons learned processes were carried out through construction and during project close out process.

Commissioning Agent was hired to do a thorough commissioning, troubleshooting and evaluation of installed systems.

Arts Alliance / University of Regina are conducting an evaluation project of how the construction of the new facility impacts our community. This includes surveys pre and post construction, asking for residents feedback on the operation and impact of the new facility.

Ongoing operational evaluations on services and programs, as well as a community needs assessment conducted in 2022 to determine the needs and wants of the community as it pertains to future programming opportunities.

## 10. Describe any challenges faced.

Unfortunately the construction of the new facility took place during the COVID-19 pandemic which created challenges along the way. We were forced to move to virtual meetings and had to limit time on the construction site during a period of construction. This also brought along with it some delays on the delivery of crucial equipment for the building to operate. The contractor did a wonderful job pivoting to meet deadlines, however we are still facing issues as warranty items that have popped up through the first year of operation are difficult to remedy due to supply chain issues and lengthy shipping times.

As with any large project there were also challenges that arose from "misses" in architectural or construction drawings which required change orders and negotiations. Parties involved were able to come to compromise to keep things moving forward several times throughout the project.

## Lessons Learned

### 11. What lessons were learned and what would you recommend doing differently?

All in all, the construction of the facility went extremely well, and operations continue to fall into place with extreme benefit going back to the community. I do not have any recommendations on handling things through the process any differently, however we did notice some design "misses" including:

- Shortage of Storage Space (even though we thought there was plenty in the design)
- Sound issues with the front desk and administration area of the facility where more sound proofing was required.

The City of Weyburn and the entire region benefit greatly from the addition of the Credit Union Spark Centre. The new facility has become well known across the province for the amenities it has to offer.

**All nominations will be listed on the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards website as a resource for other municipalities. Be sure to include specific information.**

Please submit your completed nomination package to:

**E-mail:** [awards@municipalawards.ca](mailto:awards@municipalawards.ca) (preferred)

**Fax:** Attn: Saskatchewan Municipal Awards Program



**Mail:** Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, Unit 305 – 4741 Parliament Avenue, Regina, SK  
S4W 0T9

**Questions?**

**Contact Stephanie Bourassa at 306-525-4318.**

***Thank you for submitting a nomination for the  
16<sup>th</sup> annual Saskatchewan Municipal Awards.***