Open Learning Lab

Partnership Opportunities

LearningCITY COLLECTIVE

Calgary's Skills Framework

The future of Calgary will be defined by the ability of the city to develop, attract, and retain talented people. However, confronting this talent challenge extends beyond the capacity of any single level of government, educational institution, sector, or employer. For this reason, the _LearningCITY Collective_ has developed a community-level solution - _Calgary's Skills Development Framework._ This framework is rooted in a vision for the city's learning system:

Calgary's open learning system develops exceptional, creative, and adaptable talent, who thrive in a fast-changing world.

Today, Calgary's learning system is composed of 3,063 organizations, delivering 30,870 certified and non-certified programs, and 3.5 million learning experiences annually. Moreover, Calgarians have access to an infinite array of learning opportunities from across the globe. Therefore, the challenge today is less about capacity and more about how to optimize these isolated learning experiences into an open system that can support the unique goals of every Calgarian.

To deliver this, the framework defined four strategic drivers, each with defined specific goals, priority actions, and key performance indicators. Below are the four drivers: **adaptable**, **accessible**, **empowered**, and **open**.

Driver 1: Adaptable
Calgarians embrace disruption and change as an opportunity.

Driver 2: Accessible
Justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion are embedded in the learning process and championed by all.

Driver 3: Empowered
Calgary's learning system empowers personalized, purpose-based learning.

Driver 4: Open
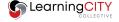Calgary's learning system is open and drives performance and innovation.

3,063
Number of skill development providers currently in Calgary.

30,870
Number of skill development programs currently offered annually in Calgary.

3.5 M
Number of skill development experiences currently offered annually in Calgary.

The Open Learning Lab

Harmonize. Collaborate. Innovate

This Calgary's skills development framework challenges us to re-envision the nature of learning by recognizing that traditional education systems, though essential, are only a small component of our city's rich learning system. In Calgary there are 3,063 organizations, delivering 30,870 programs and 3. 5 million learning experiences annually. In addition, Calgarians have access to an infinite array of learning opportunities from across the globe. Therefore, the framework recognizes that our core challenge is optimizing these isolated learning experiences into an open system that can support the unique goals of every Calgarian. This demands a new mechanism to enable systematic harmonization, collaboration, and innovation. This mechanism is the **Open Learning Lab**.

The Open Learning Lab is designed to identify and pilot approaches to talent development through increased collaboration between learners, businesses, universities and colleges, government, and non-profit organizations. The Open Learning Lab will complement and augment Calgary's learning system by focusing on three goals: harmonize, collaborate, and innovate.

Adapting these principles to be community-led, the lab will be removed and independent of the structures and cultures of the current learning system. To rapidly expand the culture of collaboration and innovation, the lab is open and accessible to a mix of innovators from across the system, including employers, skills developers, policymakers, and researchers.

Pilot Priorities

The pilot lab is focusing on four questions:

1. How can we facilitate increased collaboration across the learning system?

2. How can we integrate formal and informal learning into a seamless learning experience?

3. How do employers transition from consumers to co-creators of talent?

4. How can we increase interdisciplinary skills development to drive increased career adaptability?
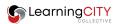
57,993

Total number of businesses in Calgary

90,000

The number of postsecondary students studying in Calgary

1/3

of postsecondary students in Canada do not complete their program.

Designing the Lab

The Open Learning Lab is **15,000 square feet** in the city's busiest building - **Bow Valley Square**. Bow Valley Square is also home to190 businesses across every sector from technology to energy to professional services. The pilot lab will be open from **August 15, 2023, to April 30, 2024**. The lab is designed as a highly flexible space, for teaching, networking, and events:

• Two classrooms with seating for up to 30 in each.

• Eleven boardrooms and meeting rooms

• Flex space to maximize collaboration

• Flexible event space, including 100 seats in theatre style configuration

• LED screens in all rooms

Starting in September, the Open Learning Lab will host Mount Royal University's **AccelerateU** program. AccelerateU is a pilot program delivering thirty classes in marketing, innovation & entrepreneurship, social innovation, and management to Calgary learners. The goal of AccelerateU is to provide up to 1000 senior students an immersive learning experience, collaborating closely with professionals during their final year of university.

Activating the Lab

Experiential learning is a circular model of education which integrates formal academic learning into a workplace or practice setting. Experiential learning has been shown to support employment readiness, improved student engagement, increased distributed and situational cognition and the rate of employment pre- and post-graduation. Today, experiential learning reflects a more traditional hierarchical model, leveraging mechanisms such as co-operative education, practicums, internships, apprenticeships, course-based projects, and field schools.

However, the rapid expansion of experiential learning through open learning requires the development of new delivery models that provide a path to scale. Building on the principles of open innovation, the Open Learning Lab is designed to explore and test new approaches to experiential learning by co-locating students, educators, and diverse community members in an open and collaborative environment.
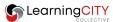
15,000

Square feet in Bow Valley Square.

13

Classrooms and meeting rooms

275

Days lab is open during the pilot

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Become a Member

Experiential learning is a collaborative process. The Open Learning Lab is pursuing organizations across the for-profit, non-profit, and public sector committed to bringing shared value to the lab. This means we want real professionals working and activating programming at the lab with educators and students. There are many ways members can collaborate to create shared value in the Open Learning Lab. Examples include:

Student Projects

The lab is hosting over 30 classes, and up to 1000 students in social innovation, marketing, and entrepreneurship from Mount Royal University's AccelerateU pilot program. As a member, there will be endless opportunities to collaborate with these students.

Collaborative Research

The lab will be facilitating collaborative research between our diverse members.

Flexible Working Space

The lab has flexible working space for learners and professionals.

Event Space

The lab can be configured to host professional development events from 10 people to 100 people.

Apply to Become a Member Today

If your organization is interested in exploring opportunities to participate in the Open Learning Lab, please complete this short membership application form by clicking **HERE**. Once you've completed the application, you will be contacted by the Open Learning Lab team to book a short discovery meeting to explore opportunities for collaboration. There is **No Cost** for the core Open Learning Lab membership, rather, we are seeking members who are committed to breaking down learning system silos by activating the space in a manner that will accelerate the development of the undergraduate students onsite.

What is *AccelerateU*?

AccelerateU is a multi-stage downtown pilot of the Bissett School of Business at Mount Royal University. The first two phases between September 2022 and April 2023 hosted nine senior classes in marketing, entrepreneurship, and social innovation at Platform Calgary. From September 2023 to April 2024, in partnership with The City of Calgary, the Calgary Downtown Association, and Oxford Properties, AccelerateU is expanding to over 30 classes and up to 1000 students **housed at the Open Learning Lab** in Bow Valley Square. AccelerateU is designed to allow senior business students to spend their final year embedded in a professional environment, with immersive experiential learning opportunities.

Partner Opportunities

The Open Learning Lab was only made possible through the generous support of our community partners: Oxford Properties, the City of Calgary, and the Calgary Downtown Association. To allow us to expand our experiential learning programming, we have additional partnership opportunities available for organizations wishing to play an active role in the Open Learning Lab, build brand awareness among students and community partners, and receive exclusive lab benefits. Each partnership opportunity can be customized to deliver on your unique needs.

Future of Calgary Mural Partner

The Future of Calgary Mural Partner includes the following benefits:

- Presenting partner of the "Future of Calgary" mural program. The final mural will be prominently placed in a high traffic location of the lab.
- Recognition on the Open Learning Lab partner wall.
- Recognition on all Open Learning Lab digital assets.
- Advance room booking privileges.
- Access to secured space (depending on needs).
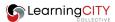- There will be a single presenting partner.

Price: $10,000

Grand Opening Reception Partner

- Presenting partner of the grand opening of the lab in September.
- Recognition on the Open Learning Lab partner wall.
- Recognition on all Open Learning Lab digital assets.
- Advance room booking privileges.
- Access to secured space (depending on needs).
- There will be a single presenting partner.

Price: $4,000

Naming Rights Partner

The naming rights partner includes the following benefits:

- Naming rights to a boardroom or meeting room, including room signage and recognition on the digital booking system.

- Recognition on the Open Learning Lab partner wall.

- Recognition on all Open Learning Lab digital assets.

- Advance room booking privileges.

- Access to secured space (depending on needs).

- Maximum of twelve naming right partners.

Price: $4,000

Workshop Series Partner

- Presenting partner of Open Learning Lab professional development workshop series.

- Recognition on the Open Learning Lab partner wall.

- Recognition on all Open Learning Lab digital assets.

- Advance room booking privileges.

- Access to secured space (depending on needs).

- There will be a single presenting partner.

Price: $4,000

For additional information contact:

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