

2021 Public Art Work Plan

Recreation and Culture, City of Lethbridge



All recommendations presented in this Work Plan are supported by the City's Public Art Committee, which serves as an advisory committee under the Recreation and Culture Department. The Art Committee approved all projects recommended in this Work Plan at their December 8, 2020 meeting.

Introduction

On September 21, 2020, City Council approved changes to the City's Public Art Policy (CC30) which include the adoption of a new "gating" process for Council. To enable greater clarity and increase transparency, Council will now approve public art projects before they are initiated.

This Plan includes information on in-progress public art projects and outlines projects to be initiated in 2021. This one-year Public Art Work Plan will bridge the gap to the next CIP cycle (2022-2031). Beyond 2021, the Public Art Program will return to Council with four-year work plans following each CIP funding allocation. The Public Art Program will also return annually to Council with reports on work completed in the previous year.

Policy and Vision

The City's Public Art Program is guided by a Policy (CC30) and a Master Plan. The Policy provides a framework for developing public art while the Master Plan offers a forward-looking vision statement and values. Together, these two documents help guide the work undertaken by the Public Art Program.

Policy Statement:

It is the policy of the City of Lethbridge to support the acquisition of public art. Public art is a vital ingredient in the cultural fabric of Lethbridge. The City's Public Art Policy (CC30) provides a framework for developing public art that:

- Builds a visually rich environment
- Plays a role in attracting creative businesses and workers
- Provides arts opportunities that are freely accessible to all
- Encourages the growth of a culturally informed public

Vision:

The City of Lethbridge will actively use public art to enhance the public realm, promote creativity, and elevate the City's status as an important centre for arts and culture. A wide variety of public art types, opportunities, and locations will be sought out to provide a culturally rich built environment and highlight the City's diversity of perspectives, its heritage, and its unique context. Public art will be encouraged through objective and professional selection processes and will be used to reinforce city-wide urban design and community-building goals, as well as the City's commitment to support working artists.

Values:

- Inclusivity: Public art engages the community at large and, as such is inherently collaborative. The community will be provided opportunities to engage in various stages of the public art planning and implementation processes.
- Accessibility/Visibility: Given its public nature, the City will strive to ensure that public artworks are both visually and physically accessible. This will be enhanced by the strategic and equitable placement of artworks in locations that are frequented by a large number of residents and visitors alike.

- **Sustainability:** The City will ensure that projects are supported by sustainable funding and maintenance programs so that public art continues to play an important role in the vision for long-term growth and improvement of Lethbridge.
- **Diversity:** Public art initiatives strive to build a sense of community and, as such, should reflect the diverse interests of the community. Public art includes the widest range of artistic diversity and cultural expressions through both permanent and temporary projects. The City will support public art opportunities from a diversity of artists, both local and international, and at various stages of their career development.
- **Creativity:** The public art program will be open to a broad definition of creative endeavors, not limiting artists by providing direction on form or materials, and will foster innovation and design excellence.
- **Quality:** Public art is an integral element of Lethbridge's urban fabric and plays a significant role in shaping the City's identity. Public art procured by the City will be of the highest quality and will exemplify expert skill and craftsmanship. The City will maintain the integrity of artworks over time to reflect the value of public art to the community and cultural development.

2021 Work Plan Objectives

While all initiatives outlined in this Work Plan help move the Public Art Program closer to realizing the Program's vision, the 2021 Work Plan focuses in on six specific objectives identified within the aforementioned guiding documents. These objectives will be realized through the completion of initiatives summarized below, and are further detailed later in this Work Plan:

- **Diversity:** The Public Art Program will continue its work to support diverse communities of artists and to enable a variety of both permanent and temporary installations. Completion of a public art project at the Japanese Garden New Community Facility and the initiation of a project at the Multicultural Centre help achieve this objective, as will continued work on utility box wrapping and painting, and public art on construction fencing.
- **Indigenous Representation and Inclusion:** The Public Art Program endeavors to celebrate Lethbridge's unique local context. Lethbridge's public art should represent all members of our community and should celebrate a variety of cultural expressions. The Public Art Program is committed to increasing Indigenous representation and participation in the City's public art program. The Piitoyiss/Eagles' Nest public art project and artist-led engagement to inform future Indigenous commemoration advance work on this objective.
- **Placemaking:** Creative collaboration is key to maximizing public art's impact as a placemaking tool, employed to strengthen the connection between people and shared places. The Public Art Program endeavors to be part of planning and visioning conversations across different City departments and within the broader community to explore how public art can help reimagine and reinvent community-focused public spaces in different contexts.
- **Support for Local Artists:** The Public Art Program is committed to supporting local artists at all stages of development. To help meet this objective, this 2021 Work Plan includes: 1) the initiation of projects at Legacy Park with embedded professional development opportunities, 2) increased opportunities for emerging artists to exhibit in auxiliary and ancillary gallery spaces, and 3) work towards establishing an artist roster.
- **Public-private Partnerships:** The Public Art Policy states that public art should provide opportunities for businesses to participate in the Program. Continuation of the Mural Pilot Project in 2021 will see the installation of murals on privately-owned businesses. The Post project on 7th Street S will initiate a partnership between the City of Lethbridge and a private developer to beautify and enhance a downtown public space. These two initiatives mark the Public Art Program's first ventures into the work of public-private public art partnerships.
- **Collection Care and Sustainability:** With Council's support, the Art Committee has worked with the Recreation and Culture Department to champion changes to the Public Art Policy and streamline Committee processes. Moving forward, work necessary to care for the City's Public Art Collection will continue in a sustainable, professional, and fiscally-responsible way. To further this objective in 2021, a partnership with the University of Lethbridge will fund an internship to support care for and exhibition of the City's Fine Art Collection. The Committee will also undertake a review of the City's Décor Art Collection as part of this objective.

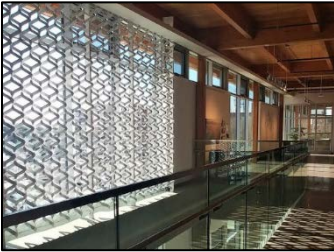
Recently Completed Public Art Projects



Together – 2019
Coryn Kempster and Julia Jamrozik
Outside Multicultural Centre
Serves as a gateway to the downtown



Garbage Party – 2019
Arianna Richardson
Engagement-centric small project examining consumption and waste



The Geometry of the Sky – 2019
Andrew Rabyniuk
Permanent window screen installed at Casa



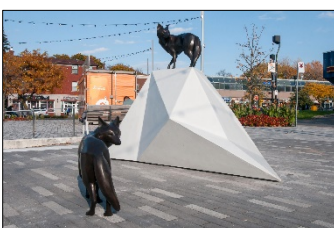
Backyard Wilderness - 2019
Leila Armstrong
Temporary public billboards displaying urban wildlife



Into the Streets – 2019
Public Art Series coordinated with SAAG
Curated by Tyler Stewart and Jane Edmundson
Pictured left: "The Deep Dark" by Caitlind r.c. Brown and Wayne Garrett



Lethbridge Sports Hall of Fame – 2020
Collin Zipp
Commissioned in conjunction with construction of ATB Centre, Phase 2
Formal opening delayed due to COVID-19



coyote2coyote – 2020
Muse Atelier
Installed in Saint-Laurent, QC
Commissioned as part of a public art exchange between Lethbridge and Saint-Laurent as a legacy to the 50-year anniversary of the twinning of the two cities

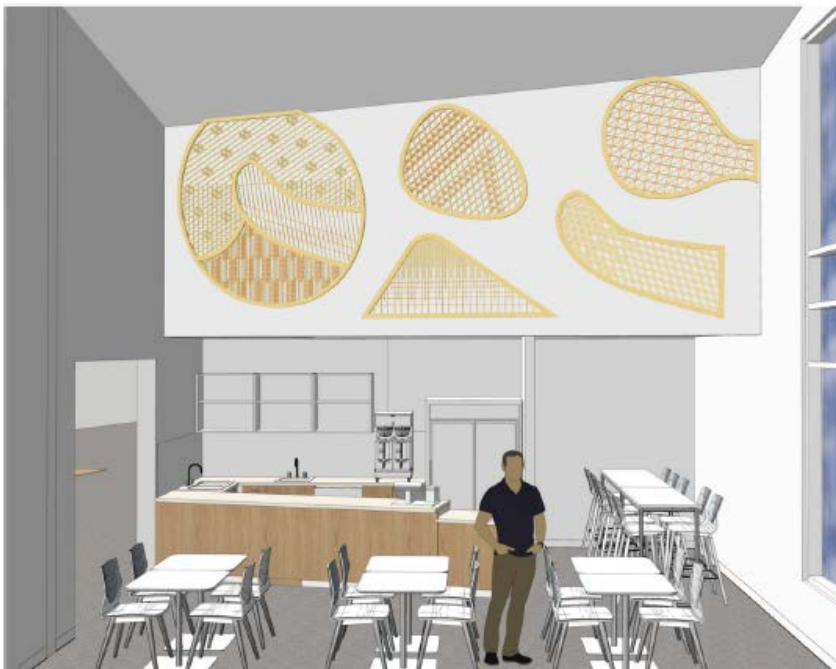
2021 Projects – Continuation of In-Progress Projects

2021 will see the continuation of several public art projects currently in progress. Large public art projects can take upwards of eighteen months to complete, from the launch of a request for proposals to completed installation.

Project Title and Site	Budget	Procurement Process	Project Description	Installation
<i>Hinode</i> by Takashi Iwasaki Kitchenette Public Art at the Japanese Garden New Community Facility	\$100,000	RFP through City Procurement The two-stage call to artists was posted in May 2020 and closed in July 2020. 32 submissions were received and reviewed by an ad hoc Public Art Project Commissioning Committee. Three artists were shortlisted and prepared final submissions. The Committee then met to review the final submissions before selecting the successful proponent.	Permanent public artwork to be situated in the overhead area of the kitchenette inside the new Japanese Garden Community Centre. Professional artists were invited to submit proposals for art that would respond to the physical characteristics of the space while also reflecting Japanese gardening aesthetics and principles.	Fall 2021



East view of Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden Community Facility. Design by Songer Architecture, Inc.

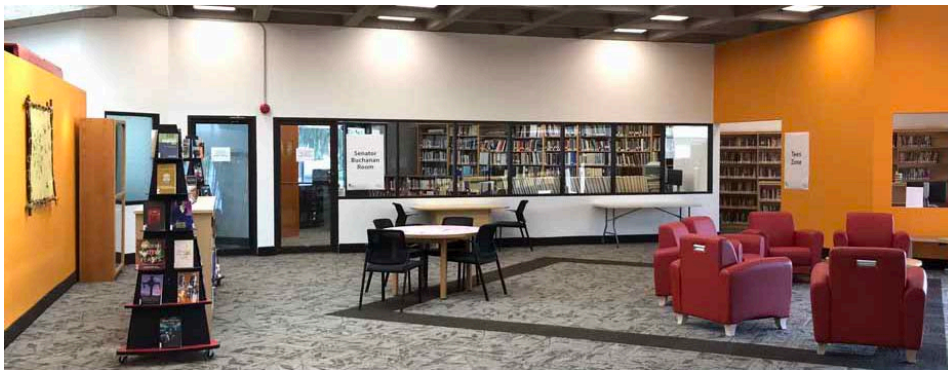


“Hinode” by Takashi Iwasaki

Approved by Council on December 14, 2020, following approval process outlined in the Public Art Policy prior to September 2020 Policy changes, as this project was initiated prior to the Policy changes.

Installation view in kitchenette area.

Project Title and Site	Budget	Procurement Process	Project Description	Installation
<p><i>Awaaniyaawa/They Are Speaking</i> by Faye Heavy Shield</p> <p>Public Art in Piitoyiss/Eagles' Nest at the Downtown Public Library</p>	\$70,000	<p>Direct award to Faye Heavy Shield, Indigenous public artist, in alignment with City Procurement processes</p> <p>Project approved by Council on August 6, 2019</p>	<p>The recommended artwork is a site-specific, accessible project intended to support and enhance the goals of Piitoyiss/Eagles' Nest: creating opportunities for dialogue and discovery among Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.</p>	<p>Delayed due to COVID-19; engagement necessary to realize the artwork is not currently possible.</p>



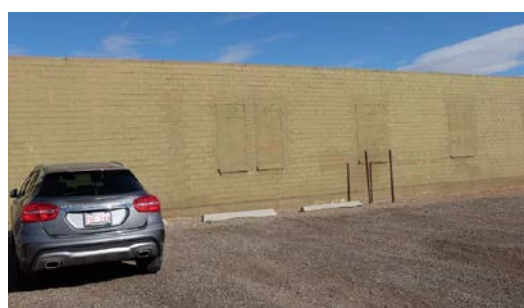
*Piitoyiss/Eagles' Nest
Downtown Public Library*

Project Title and Site	Budget	Procurement Process	Project Description	Installation
<p>Utility Box Painting and Wrapping, Casa and Galt Gardens</p>	\$15,000	<p>Community call to local artists</p>	<p>Artists sought to design artworks to be used to vinyl wrap utility boxes located in Galt Gardens (5) and at Casa (1). This project serves as a pilot to inform development of a utility box wrapping and/or painting program.</p>	<p>Ongoing throughout 2021</p>



*"Bolts of Creativity" by Aaron Hagan
Outside of Casa (north side of building)*

Project Title and Site	Budget	Procurement Process	Project Description	Installation
Mural Pilot Project	\$80,000	Community call to local business owners and local artists for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) in August 2020.	Joint Public Art and Heart of Our City initiative. EOIs were submitted by either building owners seeking a mural on an exterior building wall, or artists wishing to install murals. This project is a pilot to inform development of a mural program.	Ongoing throughout 2021



Walls available for murals are currently being identified.

Project Title and Site	Budget	Procurement Process	Project Description	Installation
Construction Fencing Art, Various Sites	\$15,000	A showcase of art from the “Arts Alive and Well in Our Homes” student exhibition on construction fencing. Artwork was created by students at home and submitted to inclusion in the exhibition.	Partnership with Holy Spirit Catholic School Board, Lethbridge School Division, École La Vérendrye, and the Southern Alberta Art Gallery.	First phase November 2020; Second phase 2021 (Downtown)



*Construction Fencing Public Art
Japanese Garden New Community Facility Construction Site
Henderson Park*

Project Title and Site	Budget	Procurement Process	Project Description	Installation
Multicultural Centre Entryway Mural	\$5,000	Community call to local artists	Creation of mural for south entryway overhang at Multicultural Centre.	2021

2021 Projects – Initiation of New Projects

2021 will see the initiation of three new large-scale public art projects. Project timelines include all procurement processes, project design, fabrication, and installation. Project budgets include artist contracts and all associated administrative costs (procurement costs, proposal preparation stipends to shortlisted artists, site preparation costs (i.e. plywood backing, lighting, etc.), project signage, and project commissioning.

Project Title and Site	Budget	Procurement Process	Project Description	Installation
<p>“Post” Public Beautification and Public Art – 7th Street S</p> <p>(“Post” is the new name for the downtown Canada Post building formerly known as the J.D. Higginbotham building.)</p>	<p>\$150,000 City, plus \$20,000 from FKA (Post) Developments Ltd. and Sumus Property Group Ltd.</p>	<p>RFP through City Procurement</p> <p>A two-stage call to artists will be posted in 2021.</p>	<p>This project is the Public Art Program’s first large-scale public-private partnership. This project will create a welcoming and engaging pedestrian experience. Multiple public art opportunities are available including the sidewalk along the Post building on 7th street, windows, and a metal screen.</p>	<p>2022-2023 (multiple projects)</p>



Post Public Beautification and Public Art 7th St. S

Project Title and Site	Budget	Procurement Process	Project Description	Installation
<p>Legacy Park Pavilion and Picnic Shelter</p>	<p>\$150,000</p>	<p>RFP through City Procurement and a community call to artists</p> <p>A two-stage call to artists will be posted in 2021. A second call to local artists will go out in 2021-2022.</p>	<p>This project will include multiple smaller projects at various sites inside and outside of the new Legacy Park Pavilion and Legacy Park Picnic Shelter. The project will engage a lead artist as a mentor to guide the work. A local artist will also be engaged as a mentee and will have an opportunity to complete one of the smaller available projects.</p>	<p>2022-2023 (multiple projects)</p>



Legacy Park Pavilion (left) and Picnic Shelter (right)

Project Title and Site	Budget	Procurement Process	Project Description	Installation
Indigenous Commemoration/ Transit Park ‘n Ride	\$200,000	RFP for artist-led engagement through City Procurement (Indigenous Commemoration.) RFP through City Procurement (Transit Park ‘n Ride project.) Other projects TBD	<p>This two-phase project will start with artist-led engagement to consider the community’s aspirations for commemoration projects identified in the City’s Reconciliation Implementation Plan and Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The engagement will explore how commemoration projects should manifest individually and how they should speak to one another geographically, narratively, and artistically.</p> <p>The second phase of the project will see the initiation of projects that emerge from the first phase of engagement. One opportunity for projects is a large multi-panel mural on the exterior of the Transit Park ‘n Ride facility.</p>	2023-2024



*Transit Park ‘n Ride
An opportunity for a large multi-panel mural*

2021 Art Committee: Other Key Initiatives

The Art Committee is committed to undertaking strategic work that will further Council’s Public Art Policy mandates and help move the Program towards realizing its vision for Lethbridge. On top of the projects described in earlier sections of this Work Plan, the Art Committee has identified several key initiatives that will be initiated in 2021.

Supporting Auxiliary Exhibitions of Local Art

The Art Committee will provide funding to activate auxiliary and ancillary exhibition spaces in the community, creating more opportunities to exhibit the work of local artists.

Project Title and Site	Budget	Procurement Process	Project Description	Installation
Auxiliary Exhibitions	\$11,247	Community call to local artists; ad hoc community-based selection committee including representatives from all exhibition sites	Activation of auxiliary and ancillary exhibition spaces in the community to exhibit works of local artists. Examples of these spaces include gallery spaces at the Yates, Helen Schuler Nature Centre, and several auxiliary exhibition spaces at Casa.	2022

Care and Exhibition of the Fine Art Collection

The City of Lethbridge Fine Art Collection is comprised of traditional and contemporary paintings, drawings, sculpture, prints, and photographs that refer to the development of art activity in Southern Alberta. A major portion of the Collection is the Buchanan Bequest: 66 works donated to the City of Lethbridge from the personal collection of Donald W. Buchanan. The Art Committee has heard from Council that public access to this Collection is important to them, and the Committee shares this opinion. The Art Committee will partner with the University of Lethbridge in 2021 to enhance care for and access to the City’s Collection through the establishment of an internship.

The City of Lethbridge and the University of Lethbridge’s Faculty of Fine Arts will partner to provide a University of Lethbridge student with a demonstrated interest in Museum and Curatorial Studies with a twelve-week paid internship to work on a variety of projects with the City’s Fine Art Collection. The intern will further their educational and professional interests by undertaking some or all of the following: create an artwork database, research the collection, develop content, exhibitions, collection policies, acquiring valuable work experience in one of Canada’s most important historical art collections.

City “Décor Art Collection” Review

The Art Committee will work in 2021 to review the contents of the City’s “Décor Art collection”, which currently falls outside the Art Committee’s purview. Pieces from this collection will be examined and considered for possible accession into the City’s Collection. Any accessioning recommendations will be brought to Council for review and approval in a future work plan.

Development of an Artist Roster

The Art Committee will work in 2021 to begin development of an artist roster: a pre-selected list of artists eligible to be contracted for a range of public art projects within a predetermined budget threshold. Artists on the roster will specialize in a variety of disciplines. This roster will emulate similar procurement processes already utilized by several City business units.

2021 Public Art Work Plan BudgetPublic Art Funding as of January 1, 2021

Available funding (projects and administration)	\$	1,251,795.00
Committed funding (projects and administration)	\$	351,727.00
<i>Total</i>	\$	1,603,522.00

2021 Project and Administration Budget

Continuation of in-progress projects	\$	306,727.00
7th Street/Post	\$	150,000.00
Legacy Park	\$	150,000.00
Indigenous Commemoration/Transit	\$	200,000.00
Auxiliary Exhibitions	\$	11,247.00
Administrative support (contract)	\$	30,000.00
Administration (general)	\$	15,000.00
<i>Total</i>	\$	862,974.00

Contracted administrative support for the Public Art Program has been provided by the Allied Arts Council for many years. The current contract runs through the end of 2021. General administrative expenses include professional memberships (Creative City Network of Canada, Alberta Public Art Network), professional development for Committee members (attending conferences), and community professional development (artist talks and workshops.)

The Public Art program maintains a maintenance reserve, as specified in the Public Art Policy. The balance in this reserve as of January 1, 2021 is \$344,291. Average annual spending from this reserve is \$5,500. Casa's "Mirrored Earth" and SAAG's "Aeolian Aviary" both require maintenance to be addressed in 2021. Lighting deficiencies at ATB Centre's "The Ball is in Your Court" and "Near and Far" will also be addressed along with the addition of lighting to "Migratory Gift" at Henderson Lake Park. Public art signage will be upgraded in 2021 and will also be funded by this reserve.

The Public Art program maintains a fine art reserve to support care for and exhibition of the City's Fine Art Collection. The balance in this reserve as of January 1, 2021 is \$152,560. This reserve will fund the Public Art Program's contribution to the 2021 Fine Art Collection Internship (\$5,000)—a partnership with the University of Lethbridge.

The 2021 Public Art Work Plan budget leaves \$740,548 (as of January 1, 2021) as carry-over. The Public Art Program is anticipating a lean 2022-2031 CIP which could see few Section D projects funded, resulting in minimal funding being allocated to Public Art. The carry-over funding will allow the Public Art Program to continue to operate if no/minimal funding is received in future years. The Public Art Committee has several future projects in the queue including murals on the 13th street underpass (approximate budget \$100,000), the Logan Boulet memorial "ripple project" (approximate budget \$150,000), and a North Scenic Drive project (approximate budget \$125,000.) The Committee would also like to continue funding public art projects with a specific focus on supporting local artists, including smaller-scale murals, utility box wrapping, and construction fencing public art. A new Public Art Master Plan will also be developed in this four-year cycle (approximate budget of \$80,000.) The budget below is a projection that demonstrates intended use of carry-over funding, assuming no allocation to public art in the upcoming CIP:

Projected 2022-2025 Public Art Budget (four-year budget)

Projects (\$440,548) and Master Plan (\$80,000)		
- Average of \$110,137/year for projects	\$	520,548.00
Administration		
- \$55,000/year (\$40,000 contract, \$15,000 general)	\$	220,000.00
<i>Total</i>	\$	740,548.00