

LETHBRIDGE

# PUBLIC ART

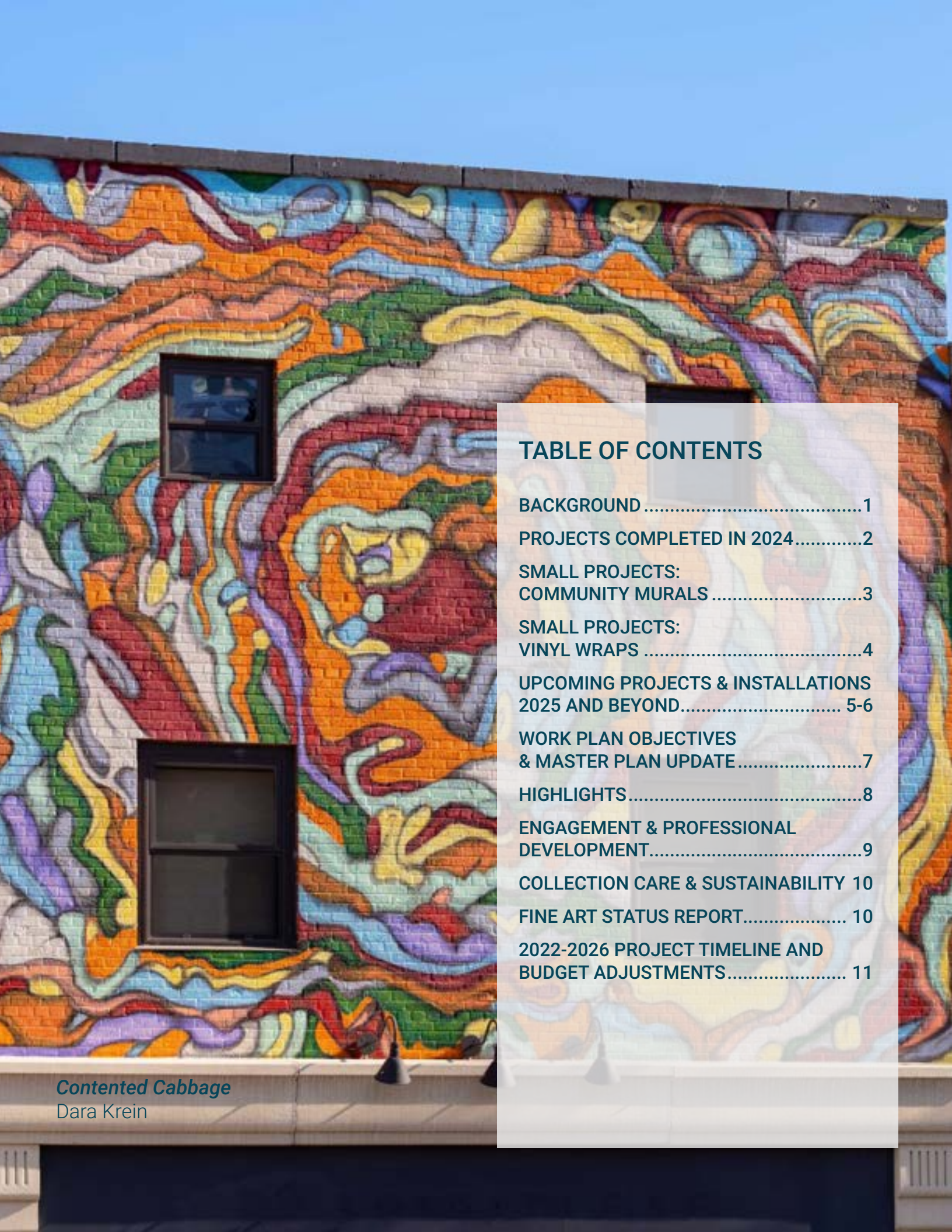
**2024 Annual Report**  
Public Art Committee



*Interwoven Legacies*  
Karla Mather-Cocks

 CITY OF  
**Lethbridge**





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND .....1

PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2024.....2

SMALL PROJECTS:  
COMMUNITY MURALS .....3

SMALL PROJECTS:  
VINYL WRAPS .....4

UPCOMING PROJECTS & INSTALLATIONS  
2025 AND BEYOND..... 5-6

WORK PLAN OBJECTIVES  
& MASTER PLAN UPDATE .....7

HIGHLIGHTS.....8

ENGAGEMENT & PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT.....9

COLLECTION CARE & SUSTAINABILITY 10

FINE ART STATUS REPORT..... 10

2022-2026 PROJECT TIMELINE AND  
BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS..... 11

*Contented Cabbage*  
Dara Krein



# 2024 Annual Report

## Public Art Committee, City of Lethbridge

### March 2025

This report offers a summary of work completed in 2024 by the City's Public Art Committee which operates as an administrative committee of the Recreation and Culture Department in accordance with the City's Public Art Policy (CC30).

## BACKGROUND

The 2022-2025 Public Art Work Plan was approved by City Council on February 1, 2022. The Plan enables the pursuit of a variety of public art projects and programs critical to the growth and maintenance of a culturally rich built environment that highlights the City's diversity of perspectives, its heritage, and its unique context. On August 24, 2021, City Council approved the streamlining of the City's operating and capital budgets to achieve an aligned four-year Capital Improvement Program and Operating Budget cycle. To achieve this alignment, 2026 capital projects identified within the 2022-2031 Capital Improvement Program (initially approved on June 1, 2021) were approved by Council on July 5, 2022. This included the approval of a 2026 allocation to Public Art via CIP project D-8 (Art Acquisition Program) in the amount of \$5,000. As this allocation is quite minor, the 2022-2025 Work Plan was extended to 2026.

The additional funding allocation was added to the Public Art Small Projects budget to support projects identified in the Work Plan. (Moving forward, the current Work Plan will be referred to as the 2022-2026 Work Plan.)

Most of the projects, programs, and initiatives included in this Annual Report appear in the 2022-2026 Public Art Work Plan. Some of the projects completed in 2024 were done as partnerships with City Departments and/or community organizations/businesses and were not entirely funded by the Public Art Program, if at all.



*Niitoyis itsinika'si / Lodge Stories and History*

Api'soomaahka / Running Coyote - William Singer III

# Projects Completed in 2024

2024 saw the completion of 18 Public Art Projects.

\* denotes local artist



## ***Niitoyis itsinika'si / Lodge Stories and History***

Api'soomaahka / Running Coyote - William Singer III\*

Downtown Public Library

Mural on the exterior of the downtown Public Library realized in partnership with Heart of Our City and the Library.

Budget: \$45,000



## ***Embodied***

Kelaine Devine\*

Multicultural Centre Exterior

South door entryway overhang vinyl wrap. Exterior installation to celebrate the Southern Alberta Ethnic Association's mandate and to make the building more vibrant and welcoming.

Budget: \$5,000



## ***Interwoven Legacies***

Karla Mather-Cocks\*

Logan Boulet Arena

Commemorative public art piece. Artists asked to propose projects that explore the "ripple effect": how an individual action can ripple out and have a bigger impact. Dedicated to the memory of Logan Boulet.

Budget: \$25,000, \$12,500 expended to date for first installation, \$12,500 available for one or more future installation.



## ***Sending Blessings***

Nathan Meguinis

Casa

Mural offering a meditation on the role of art in the reconciliation process installed on the south side of Casa.

Budget: \$50,000

# SMALL PROJECTS

## Community Murals

Targeted small project calls provide opportunities for local artists to undertake mural projects in the community.

### Community Murals

Total Budget: \$130,000 + Private contributions of \$13,000 to the murals



#### ***Contented Cabbage***

Dara Krein\*

Nectar Fine Tattooing



#### ***Confluence***

Darcy Logan\* &  
Aaron Hagan\*

Bonnydale Shopping  
Centre



#### ***Hare and Now***

Sarah Slaughter

Purple Carrot



#### ***Tranquil Tracks***

Jen Roberts\*

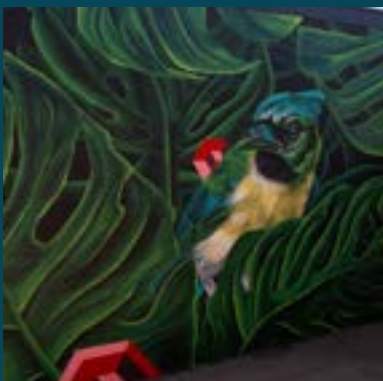
Nicholas Sheran Picnic  
Shelter



#### ***Young at Heart***

Alex Kwong

Healthy Active Living  
Corporation



#### ***Green Jay***

Jerry Rugg

Sill and Soil / Blanco  
Cantina



#### ***Native Flora***

Laurel Scott\*

Helen Schuler Nature  
Centre



# SMALL PROJECTS

## Vinyl Wraps

Targeted small project calls provide opportunities for local artists to undertake vinyl projects in the community.

Vinyl Wraps – continuation of 13<sup>th</sup> Street traffic control signal box wrap project undertaken in partnership with the Transportation Department. Ten total: three installed in 2023 and seven installed in 2024.

Total Budget: \$15,000



***Murisanga***

Grace Wirzba\*



***Who Said That? Who Said That? Who Said That?***

Karla Mather-Cocks\*



***Knitted Patchwork Cozy***

Arianna Richardson\*



***Gaillardia***

Beany Dootjes\*



***Striped Skunk***

Leila Armstrong\*



***Vernacular Ecologies***

Troy Nickle\*



***Bees and Sunflowers***

Sue Wilkie\*

# Upcoming Projects and Installations 2025 AND BEYOND

Project Title & Site	Budget	Project Description	Timeline
<b>Youth Engagement Pilot Project:</b> University Drive Pedestrian Underpass	\$75,000	Artist-led youth engagement project to create and install a mural in the University Drive pedestrian underpass linking the Heritage Heights community with Father Leonard Van Tighem School.	Mural Installation June 2025.
<b>Indigenous Commemoration:</b> Engagement and Project Identification, Future Projects	\$150,000	Engagement will explore how commemoration projects should manifest individually and how they speak to one another geographically, narratively, and artistically. Following the completion of engagement, projects will be initiated using the identified budget.	Scope and goals currently under reviewed as part of Indigenous Relations Department 2025 Strategic Planning.
<b>SAAG Renovation (CIP D-28)</b>	\$110,000	The Southern Alberta Art Gallery (SAAG) will soon be undertaking a renovation that will modernize and enhance the facility. A public art project will be included as part of the facility's revitalization.	RFP in development.
<b>Henderson Asphalt Art</b> *see update below under Project Timeline and Budget Adjustments	\$175,000	This multi-phase project will create welcoming and vibrant asphalt art in the Henderson Park area with an eye to connecting the Park with the Lethbridge and District Exhibition (LDE). Interventions will be enjoyed by pedestrians and motorists alike.	RFP in development.



Youth Engagement Pilot Project installation site

Project Title & Site	Budget	Project Description	Timeline
<b>Airport (D-6)</b> *see update below under Project Timeline and Budget Adjustments	\$90,000	Project rescoping in progress. A multi-phase public art activation to occur at the Airport supporting work to upgrade and make the facility more attractive and welcoming for residents and visitors alike.	New RFP in development.
<b>Small Projects:</b> Vinyl and Ephemeral Projects	\$100,000	Future small project calls to continue through the remainder of the cycle including a call for community-led ephemeral/temporary public art projects and vinyl wrapping.	Calls to continue in 2025 and 2026.
<b>13th Street Planters</b>	\$65,000	An opportunity to address community concerns about the planters along 13th Street N just north of the Highway 3 underpass, between 1 Ave N and 2 Ave N. Project added to the current cycle following presentation of the 2023 Public Art Annual Report to Council. Partnership between Public Art, Parks and Cemeteries Department and Downtown Revitalization.	RFP to be released in 2025.
<b>Murals</b> *see update below under Project Timeline and Budget Adjustments	\$40,000	Continuation of community mural program.	One project to be installed by the end of 2025.



*Gaillardia*  
Beany Dootjes\*



# Highlights

15 OF THE 18

COMPLETED PUBLIC ART PROJECTS  
INVOLVED LOCAL ARTISTS

2024

In 2024, the Public Art Program supported auxiliary and ancillary gallery exhibitions which saw the work of local and regional artists displayed for the community.

Between the spaces at:

30

EXHIBITIONS  
WERE FUNDED IN

2024

Casa

Yates Memorial Centre

Helen Schuler Nature Centre

The Public Art Policy states that public art should provide opportunities for businesses to participate in the Program.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE  
PARTNERSHIPS

\$13,000

IN CONTRIBUTIONS WERE  
RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL  
PARTNERS TOWARDS

5

COMMUNITY  
MURALS

Local businesses from across Lethbridge applied to a call for mural walls and were selected based on their alignment with Public Art Program objectives.

# Work Plan Objectives and Master Plan Update

The 2022-2026 Public Art Work Plan identified six objectives aligned with public art directives in the MDP that seek to enrich artistic resources, heritage, and cultural opportunities within the community, and to integrate art and culture into the community in collaborative and inclusive ways. These objectives include **Diversity, Indigenous Representation and Inclusion, Placemaking, Supporting Local Artists, Public-Private Partnerships, and Collection Care and Sustainability**. To help further the Program's objectives, the Recreation and Culture Department in partnership with the Public Art Program began work in 2024 to update the Public Art Master Plan (2012.)

An updated Public Art Master Plan will be closely aligned with the Civic Culture Plan and will seek to revise and update the current Public Art Master Plan in the context of placemaking. Consultants Evoke Culture 2.0 were engaged in late 2024 to help guide the Master Plan review process. The MDP recommends that the Public Art Master Plan be regularly updated to ensure that City support for Public Art is sufficient, and that it addresses potential barriers and community needs.

## The updated Master Plan will:

- Provide benchmarking and comparative research.
- Be informed by public engagement to confirm the vision and mandate for the Program and to identify future public art opportunities.
- Synthesize research, analysis, and engagement.
- Identify gaps, opportunities, and areas for improvement with a focus on engaging and building relationship with local Indigenous communities and other equity-seeking groups.
- Review and assess the Public Art Policy and funding mechanism.
- Review and update the Public Art Program structure including governance and committee structure, site selection procedures, art selection procedures.
- Review resourcing, administrative support, distribution of responsibilities, roles and responsibilities of all parties involved in Public Art including the Fine Art Collection.
- Refine and clarify processes, responsibilities, decision-making practices where needed and provide a framework for the development of an Administrative Procedures Manual.
- Through engagement with both City and community stakeholders, develop a coordinated approach to public art planning, implementation, and asset management.
- Review and update current maintenance, conservation, and collection management strategies.
- Include an accessibility review of selection committee process to identify barriers to participation and identify steps/changes (processes, structures) to address and mitigate the identified barriers.
- Consider the relationship of Public Art to City placemaking strategies, both present and future, and beautification efforts.
- Provide an implementation strategy with recommendations that include clear and actionable steps.

The updated Public Art Master Plan is being funded by both administrative and programming funding and through the maintenance reserve as outlined in the 2022-2026 Public Art Work Plan.



# Engagement and Professional Development

In 2024, the Allied Arts Council (AAC) continued to provide administrative support to the City's Public Art Program. This support included leading professional development and engagement activities for the Public Art Program.

Some highlights of this work in 2024 include:

- The AAC helped the Public Art Program take a more active role in supporting emerging academics and artists by welcoming Mac Bronk as a public art intern from the Museum Studies program at the University of Lethbridge as well as supporting City Scholar Louisa Seitz in an applied study. Both emerging academics learned from hands-on exposure to the Public Art program and projects, completing project proposals for the Small Projects Plan as well as undertaking research on the new industry of asphalt art mural projects, determining best practices and protocols based on other examples across the Americas. Their work will be used in the coming years to inform future calls and opportunities for local artists.
- In April 2024, the Public Art Program and AAC had a table at the Community Conversations event at the former ENMAX Centre, now VisitLethbridge.com Arena. This opportunity provided the AAC with a venue to speak about upcoming projects, as well as recently completed installations throughout Lethbridge, while debuting a new Public Art Map. Public art buttons were created by members of the public as part of engagement and served as a wonderful tool for talking to the community about the art across the city.
- AAC Public Art Coordinator Katie Bruce led participants through twelve sites at the annual Jane's Walk Festival in May 2024, an event organized in partnership with community members and organizations looking to highlight under-celebrated stories and secret histories. Public Art used this opportunity to highlight the recent installation of small projects along 13th Street while also speaking about the then forthcoming Community Mural projects.
- The AAC's ongoing series of professional development workshops, "ART/Work" featured April Matisz and AJA Loudin in May 2024, who provided the community with practical knowledge and approaches to painting murals. Both artists were part of the mural pilot project in 2021 and spoke to a crowd of approximately 15 members; the presentation and resulting conversation was preserved on the AAC's YouTube page for future viewing.
- Artist talks throughout 2024 welcomed members of the public to engage with artists William Singer III, Faye Heavy Shield, Karla Mather-Cocks, and Jill Anholt. Artist talks can be viewed on the AAC's YouTube channel.

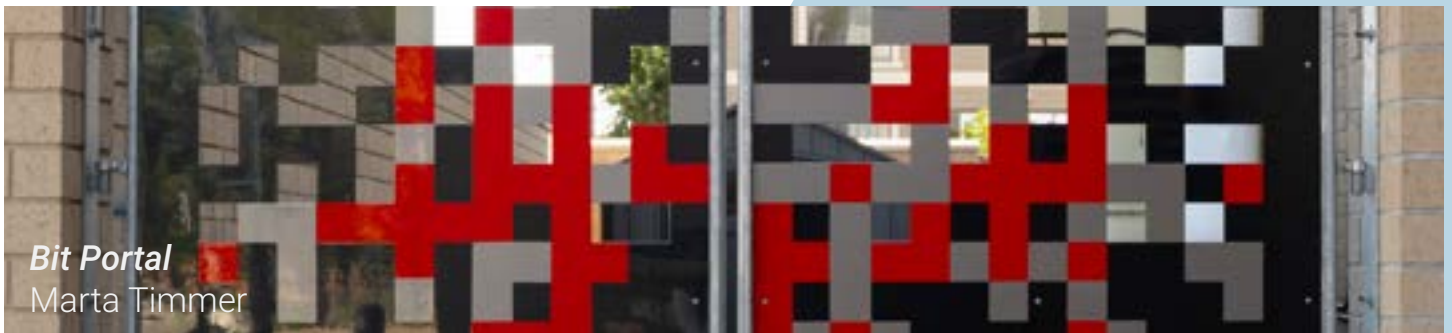


# Collection Care and Sustainability

The Public Art Committee continues to do work necessary to care for the City's Public Art Collection in a sustainable, professional, and fiscally responsible way. This work includes maintaining and repairing pieces in the City's collection. In 2024, collection care work included the relocation of Franziska Legg's vinyl wrap *Untitled* from Galt Gardens to the Helen Schuler Nature Centre to provide it with a new location for the public to enjoy. The original location was blocked by a newly installed fence, preventing all sides of the vinyl artwork from being visible. The new site, near the Helen Schuler Nature Centre, situates the visuals of abandoned buildings nicely amongst the rolling coulees.

*Bit Portal* by artist Marta Timmer was vandalized and repaired in 2024. The piece is a work based on the imperfect nature of digital media and its susceptibility to pixelation. It is located downtown on the north side of Casa. *Bit Portal* was damaged when someone tried to bend one of the wall panels to presumably gain access to the space behind. The damaged gate was removed for repairs and a temporary gate was put in place. The damaged section was bent flat, and the surface was buffed to remove scratches. A layer of clear coat over the face of the piece was added as protection. After a short absence from its home location at Casa, the gate was reinstalled, and the screws on all sections of the work were replaced with locking bolts which offer protection against both tampering and mechanical degradation, extending the life of the work while reducing the anticipated need for future maintenance.

Public Art Program maintenance work is funded by the maintenance reserve identified in Public Art Policy (CC30.)



## FINE ART STATUS REPORT

City Council's Public Art Policy (CC30) identifies the City's Public Art Committee as responsible for advising the City on maintenance and management of the Public Art Collection, which includes the Buchanan Bequest and the Fine Art Collection. The Public Art Committee has done significant work over the past several years, in partnership with the Galt Museum and Archives and the University of Lethbridge, to continue to explore options to optimize care and access to the Collection. A more detailed report specific to the City's Fine Art Collection will be provided to City Council under separate cover in 2025.



# 2022-2026 Project Timeline and Budget Adjustments

A few project changes have occurred following the presentation of the current Public Art Work Plan to Council in early 2022. These changes were reviewed and approved by the Public Art Committee at their March 18, 2025 meeting. Any changes to budgets do not require additional funding from City Council; they have been realized by reallocating funds within the Public Art Budget either from completed projects that came in under budget, by allocating funds from a small contingency line in the Public Art budget, or as noted below:

- The 13th Street Planter project was introduced to Council in the 2023 Public Art Annual Report. The Committee has established a budget of \$65,000 for this project. Most of this funding (\$40,000) is coming from contingency. The remaining funding is from the mural budget (\$15,000), vinyl budget (\$7,500) and funding leftover from the Multicultural Exterior Vinyl project (\$2,500.)
- The project included in the 2022-2026 Public Art Work Plan entitled “Lethbridge and District Exhibition EXolution” will be rebranded as the “Henderson Asphalt Art” as the focus of this project has shifted from its initial scope due to changes in leadership at the LDE, and a new opportunity to create synergies between the LDE and those who recreate in and around Henderson Lake. The Public Art Committee has voted to increase this budget by \$100,000 to \$175,000 to support a multi-phase asphalt art activation in the emerging “Henderson District.”
- The budget for a public art project at the Airport has been reduced by \$150,000.
  - An RFP for public art at the airport was released in 2024 but the call was cancelled prior to final selection. The Public Art Committee will be rescoping this project in 2025 with a reduced budget. The rescoping will focus on space activation through public art and will also support new cycles of existing public art installations at the Airport.
  - \$100,000 of the reduced Airport budget will go to the Henderson Asphalt Art project.
  - \$50,000 of the reduced Airport budget will be allocated to administrative expenses for 2026 to cover the funds needed to continue the administrative support contract for the additional year of the current CIP cycle. A fifth year of funding for administrative support was not initially budgeted as the current Public Art Work Plan was developed prior to Council’s decision to extend the cycle from four to five years.

Other adjustments and updates include:

- Vinyl wrapping funding remaining in the Public Art Program budget will be used to wrap two Transit buses with art. This work will be completed by the end of the current funding cycle.
- One mural remains to be realized, funded by the existing mural project budget. A mural by artist Jill Stanton will be installed at the Transit Park ‘n Ride by the end of 2025. The delayed installation was caused by challenges with a previous installation site that resulted in a new mural wall needing to be found. The new mural opportunity will include a mentorship opportunity for a local, emerging artist.





*Sending Blessings*  
Nathan Meguinis