

I wish you were  
enough to drive  
for a chat



Send Receive All, work by Jill Anholt at the Post

**2023 Annual Report**  
Public Art Committee  
June 2024

# LETHBRIDGE PUBLIC ART

# 2023 Annual Report

## Public Art Committee, City of Lethbridge

**This report offers a summary of work completed in 2023 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.)**

### Overview

The 2022-2025 Public Art Work Plan was approved by City Council on February 1, 2022. The Plan enables a variety of public art projects and programs, pursued to create 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 but no new projects were added. 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 2023 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.

# Projects Completed in 2023

2023 saw the completion of 11 Public Art Projects



## Sikóóhkotok

Marjie Crop Eared Wolf  
Utility Box Wrap

*Local Artist*  
*Galt Gardens*



## Awaaniyaawa/They Are Speaking

Faye Heavy Shield  
Installation

*Local Artist*  
*Lethbridge Public Library - Main Branch*



## A Similar Nature

Michelle Sylvestre  
Mosaic Mural

*Local Artist*  
*Legacy Regional Park*



## Tomatoes

Beany Dootjes  
Utility Box Wrap

*Local Artist*

*Festival Square*

*Partnership with Opportunity Lethbridge*



## Garden Party

Karla Mather-Cocks  
Utility Box Wrap

*Local Artist*

*7 Street South*

*Partnership with Opportunity Lethbridge*



## Symphony of Celebration

Stuart Biesbroek  
Utility Box Wrap

*Local Artist*

*Festival Square*

*Partnership with Opportunity Lethbridge*



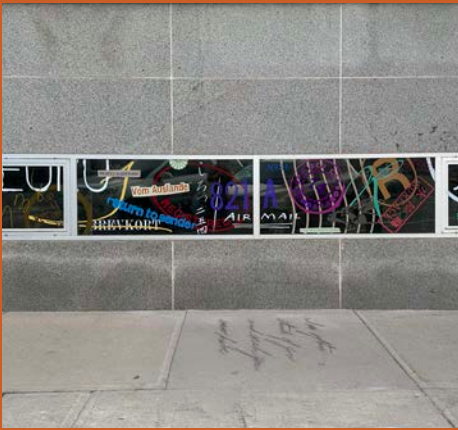
## A Walk Along the River

Sheila Shaw  
Utility Box Wrap

*Local Artist*

*Henderson Lake Park*

*Partnership with City Waste and Environment Department*



## Send Receive All

Jill Anholt  
Installation

*Post Building*

*Partnership with FKA Developments Ltd., Sumus Property Group Ltd., and Opportunity Lethbridge*



## I Spy

Aaron Hagan  
Traffic Control Box Wrap

*Local Artist*

*Partnership with City Transportation Department*



## Nostalgia Unified (YQL)

Alejandro Alvarez  
Traffic Control Box Wrap

*Local Artist*

*Partnership with City Transportation Department*



## A Vessel in between Two Places We've Never Been

Nyne "Stru" Seabound  
Traffic Control Box Wrap

*Local Artist*

*Partnership with City Transportation Department*

# 2024

## Upcoming Projects and Installations

Project Title and Site	Budget	Project Description	Installation
<p><b><i>Niitoyis itsinika'si/ Lodge Stories and Histories</i></b></p> <p>Artist Api'soomaahka/ Running Coyote - William Singer III</p> <p>Downtown Public Library</p>	\$45,000	Mural on the exterior of the downtown Public Library realized in partnership with Heart of Our City and the Library.	Spring 2024

Project Title and Site	Budget	Project Description	Installation
<p><b><i>Embodied</i></b></p> <p>Artist Kelaine Devine</p> <p>Multicultural Centre Exterior</p>	\$5,000	South door entryway overhang vinyl wrap plus west window vinyls. Exterior installation to celebrate the Southern Alberta Ethnic Association's mandate and to make the building more vibrant and welcoming	Spring 2024

Project Title and Site	Budget	Project Description	Installation
<p><b><i>Ripple Project:</i></b></p> <p>Artist Karla Mather-Cocks</p> <p>Logan Boulet Arena</p>	\$25,000	Commemorative public art piece at Logan Boulet Arena, 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.	Spring 2024

Project Title and Site	Budget	Project Description	Installation
<p><b>Indigenous Commemoration:</b> Engagement and Project Identification</p>	\$30,000	Engagement will explore how commemoration projects should manifest individually and how they should speak to one another geographically, narratively, and artistically. Following the completion of engagement, projects will be initiated using the identified budget.	Engagement 2024

Project Title and Site	Budget	Project Description	Installation
<b>Casa Sign Mural</b> Artist: Nathan Meguinis Casa	\$50,000	Mural by Indigenous artist to be installed on the exterior of Casa.	2024

Project Title and Site	Budget	Project Description	Installation
<b>Small Projects: Murals</b>	\$120,000 Public Art funding + \$28,000 Opportunity Lethbridge funding + approximately \$17,000 in private contributions	Targeted small project calls provide opportunities for local artists to undertake mural projects.	2024

Project Title and Site	Budget	Project Description	Installation
<b>Airport (D-6)</b>	\$230,000	A large-scale public art piece will be installed outside of the airport. The piece will further enhance and support recent facility renovations which seek to improve customer experience and position the airport as a major driver of the regional economy.	RFP released 2024

Project Title and Site	Budget	Project Description	Installation
<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.	RFP to be released 2024, installation 2025

### Projects Identified in the 2022-2026 Work Plan Not Yet Started

- SAAG Renovation (CIP D-28)
- Lethbridge and District Exhibition EXolution (CIP D-5)



Public art opportunity at YQL Aripport

# Updates on Work Plan Objectives

The 2022-2025 Public Art Work Plan identified six objectives aligned with public art directives in the Municipal Development Plan (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.

## Diversity

The Public Art Program continues to work to support diverse communities of artists and to enable a variety of both permanent and temporary installations. The Committee is actively working to review selection processes to increase diverse representation and has set up a subcommittee to lead this work.

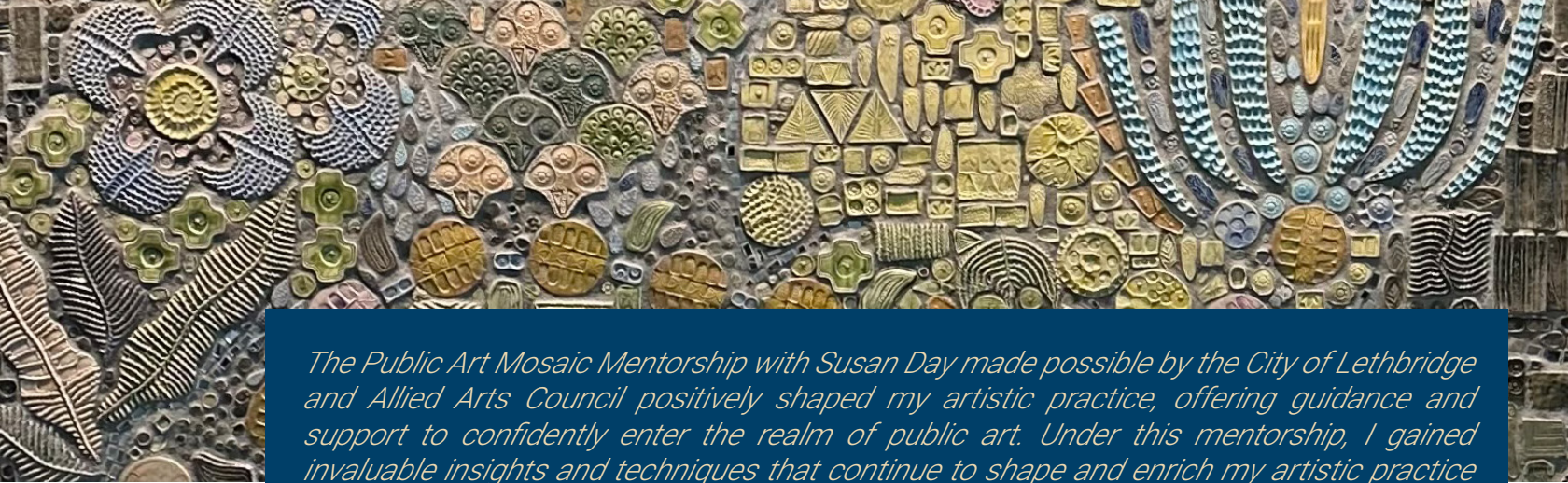
## Indigenous Representation and Inclusion

The Public Art Program endeavors to celebrate Lethbridge’s unique local context. The Public Art Program remains committed to increasing Indigenous representation and participation in the City’s Public Art Program, working in partnership with the City’s Indigenous Relations Office.

## Placemaking

Creative collaboration strengthens the connection between people and shared places. The Public Art Program is working to be part of planning and visioning conversations across different City Departments and within the broader community to continue exploring how public art can help reimagine and reinvent community-focused public spaces in a variety of contexts.





*The Public Art Mosaic Mentorship with Susan Day made possible by the City of Lethbridge and Allied Arts Council positively shaped my artistic practice, offering guidance and support to confidently enter the realm of public art. Under this mentorship, I gained invaluable insights and techniques that continue to shape and enrich my artistic practice today, laying a solid foundation for continued growth and exploration. Applying the knowledge from this experience, I have been awarded my own public art projects.*  
- Michelle Sylvestre

## Support for Local Artists

Ten of the completed Public Art Projects in 2023 involved local artists.

In 2023, 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 Casa, the Yates Memorial Centre, and Helen Schuler Nature Centre, 31 exhibitions were funded in 2023.

2023 saw the installation of “A Similar Nature” by Michelle Sylvestre. In 2022, Michelle participated in a Public Art Program-funded mentorship with artist, Susan Day, who installed “The New Nature” in 2022. This was the first time a mentorship component was added to a public art project, and it provided essential hands-on skill development for a local emerging artist. Michelle employed skills learned in her mentorship to realize a mosaic in Legacy Park, near Susan’s installation.

In addition to “A Similar Nature,” the other nine projects which highlighted local talent were vinyl projects. Public Art partnered with the City’s Transportation Department for the installation of work by Aaron Hagan, Alejandro Alvarez, Nyne “Stru” Seabound, Sue Wilkie, and Leila Armstrong. In partnership with Opportunity Lethbridge, downtown Lethbridge also saw the addition of four more vinyl wrapped utility boxes by Stuart Biesbroek, Beany Dootjes, Marjie Crop Earred Wolf, and Karla Mather-Cocks. The City’s Waste and Environment Department also partnered with Public Art on a project that saw Sheila Shaw’s work wrapped around a transformer at Henderson Lake. Supporting local artists allows the Public Art Program to work with dynamic requests from partners throughout the community.

## Public-Private Partnerships

The Public Art Policy states that public art should provide opportunities for businesses to participate in the Program. 2023 saw the realization of the Public Art Program’s largest public-private partnership to date: the Post Public Art project, a partnership between the City of Lethbridge, FKA Developments Ltd. and Sumus Property Group Ltd., to beautify and enhance a downtown public space.

## 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.



Michelline Beauchemin, *La Révolte Du Qui - detail*, City Art Collection

## 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 2022-2026 Public Art Work Plan outlines several strategic initiatives to be undertaken by the Public Art Committee, including improving efforts to care for and exhibit the Buchanan Bequest and the Fine Art Collection. This work builds upon efforts started in the 2021 Public Art Work Plan.

The City of Lethbridge owns two distinct collections of fine art:

**The Buchanan Bequest** – 66 works of art given to the City of Lethbridge following the death of art historian Donald W. Buchanan in 1966; and

**The City of Lethbridge Fine Art Collection** – 23 pieces of fine art acquired with Fine Art Acquisition funds allocated under Public Art Policy CC30 and the preceding Fine Art Acquisition Policy.



Unknown Artist, *Palm Leaf*, City Art Collection

## Background

As of August 2020, the Buchanan Bequest and the Fine Art Collection include 89 pieces with a total value of \$591,650.00. (Values are based upon a 2019 appraisal completed by art appraiser Doug Maclean. This appraisal examined 67 of the 89 pieces in the two collections. The remaining 22 pieces are considered collectables with no intrinsic monetary value (from a fine art perspective) however they have historical and contextual value as they are part of the Buchanan Bequest.) The Buchanan Bequest contains some valuable artworks, but its true value is as a historical collection.

The Public Art Committee endeavors to increase public access to and knowledge of the Buchanan Bequest and the Fine Art Collection. Following a review of the collections with the University of Lethbridge, the Committee decided in June 2022 to assign management oversight of the Buchanan Bequest and the Fine Art Collection to the Galt Museum and Archives. Council was informed of this decision via an Information Update in September 2022. Transferring oversight to the Galt is an important step towards increasing public access to, and understanding of, the historical importance of these collections.



Jacques de Tonnacour (Attr.),  
*Sculpted Head*, City Art Collection

Assigning oversight of the collections to the Galt makes good sense as the Galt's mandate is to preserve artifacts and information which are of enduring value to the interpretation of human history of Lethbridge and Southern Alberta, and make them available through display, research, and other like enterprises. The Collection includes art and other items connected to a significant figure in Lethbridge's history.

With this assignment, the collections remain property of the City of Lethbridge and stay housed in their current storage location.

## Buchanan Internship

The Public Art Committee has established an internship relationship with the University of Lethbridge to assist with identifying opportunities to increase public access to and knowledge of the collections. The internship was piloted in 2021 and 2022. A formal, four-year internship agreement between the University and City was signed in 2023.

The internship focus includes researching and establishing an artwork database, researching the collection, developing content, exhibitions, collections policies, establishing and managing a loan process, and coordinating periodic exhibits.

Starting in 2023, the internship relationship with the University of Lethbridge transferred from the Public Art Committee to the Galt as part of their fine art collection oversight responsibilities.

## Moving Forward

Public Art Master Plan updating: The City's MDP identifies the need to ensure the future advancement of public art by providing continuous support to the Public Art program. 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 current Public Art Master Plan is over ten years old. The need for an updated Public Art Master Plan is also identified in the forthcoming Civic Culture Plan.

In 2024, the Recreation and Culture Department working in partnership with the Public Art Committee will develop a new Public Art Master Plan. The Plan will include public engagement to confirm the vision and mandate and to identify future public art sites and opportunities. A condition assessment of existing public art pieces will be conducted as part of Plan development. Internal Public Art Committee structures and processes will also be reviewed. The updated Public Art Master Plan will be funded by both administrative and programming funding and through the maintenance reserve as outlined in the 2022-2026 Public Art Work Plan.



Harold Town,  
*Centaur Entering a School of  
Barbizon Forest*,  
City Art Collection



Pancho Tlaminque,  
*Untitled*,  
City Art Collection



Bart Pragnell,  
*Street Scene with Block Tower*,  
City Art Collection

# 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 have been reviewed and approved by the Public Art Committee. 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:

### **Change to Ripple Project/Logan Boulet Arena Project:**

Following an extensive engagement and site review process to determine the location for the Ripple Project public art project at/inside or outside the Logan Boulet Arena, the Committee decided to move forward with a vinyl installation on the exterior of the building and an interior wrapped Zamboni. The adjusted scope of this project resulted in a budget reduction to \$25,000 from the originally \$110,000 budget earmarked for this project. The remaining funding for this project will allow for multiple iterations of vinyl wraps as opposed to one, large permanent project. The \$85,000 was reallocated to the Rotary Square mural upgrades (to cover the City's contribution to a matching grant for the project obtained by the Allied Arts Council), to a celebration vinyl for the Southern Alberta Art Gallery (an external, short-term installation to be installed following the completion of the facility's upcoming renovation), to allow for more traffic signal box wraps along 13<sup>th</sup> Street, and to contingency.

### **13<sup>th</sup> Street Planter Project**

The Public Art Program has received a request from the City's Parks and Cemeteries Department and Opportunity Lethbridge to work collaboratively on a planter revitalization project to be realized in 2024-2025. The project has been identified as an opportunity to address community concerns about the planters along 13<sup>th</sup> Street N just north of the Highway 3 underpass, between 1 Avenue N and 2 Avenue N. Any financial contribution to this project from the Public Art Program will be taken out of contingency funds.

### **Attached Document(s)**

- 2022-2026 Public Art Work Plan
- Public Art Policy (CC30)



A Similar Nature - Michelle Sylvestre