

# LETHBRIDGE PUBLIC ART

2025 Annual Report  
Public Art Committee



*Our Colourful World*  
LALA (Lacey and Layla Art)

CITY OF  
 Lethbridge



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*A Sense of Déjà Vu*  
Sheila Shaw

# 2025 Annual Report

## Public Art Committee

### Background

This report offers a summary of work completed in 2025 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.) Projects are outlined in greater detail in the 2022-2026 Public Art Work Plan which was approved by City Council in 2022<sup>+</sup>. 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.



*Passing Spaces*  
Kennedy Chinn

<sup>+</sup>The 2022-2025 Public Art Work Plan was approved by City Council on February 1, 2022. 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. Moving forward, the current Work Plan will be referred to as the 2022-2026 Work Plan.

# Projects Completed in 2025

2025 saw the completion of 4 Public Art Projects.

\* denotes local artist



## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PILOT PROJECT

University Drive Pedestrian Underpass Mural

INSTALLED JUNE 2025

Lacey Jane and Layla Folkmann (LALA)

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 (FLVT) School. Students from FLVT participated in both design development and mural painting.

BUDGET: \$75,000



## MURAL MENTORSHIP PARTNERSHIP

INSTALLED JUNE & DECEMBER 2025

Jill Stanton and Kennedy Chinn\*

Mentorship mural partnership with Jill Stanton (mentor) installing a mural outside the Downtown Transit Hub and Kennedy Chinn\* (mentee) installing a mural inside the City Centre Terminal.

BUDGET: \$40,000

# Projects Completed in 2025

\* denotes local artist



## SMALL PROJECTS:

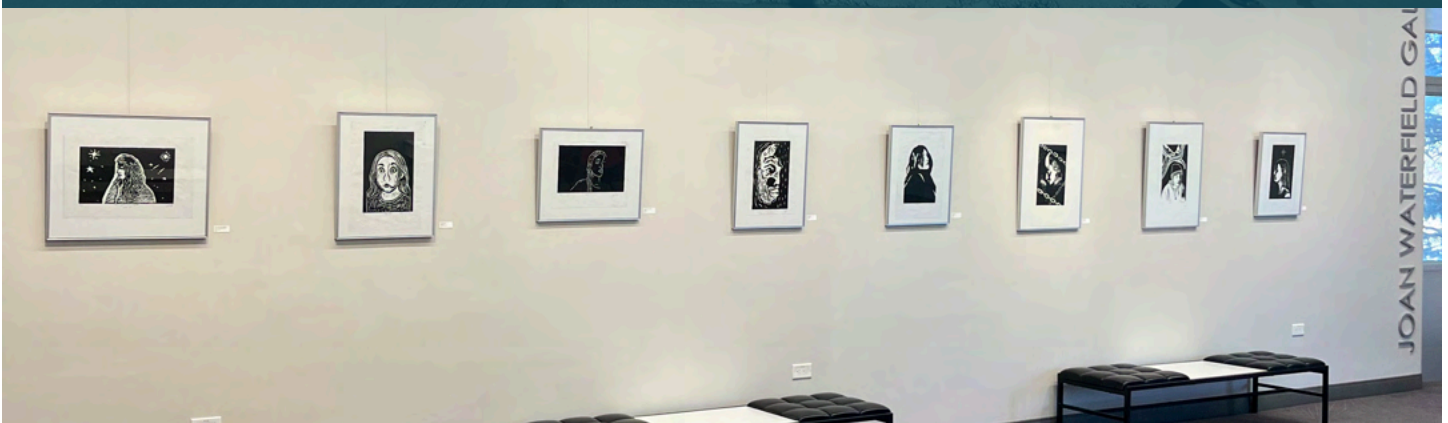
Vinyl Roll Shutter Art

Sheila Shaw\*

Vinyl roll shutter art installed in partnership with Fee Simple Law.

BUDGET: \$5,000 (\$1,500 Public Art, \$2,250 Urban Revitalization, \$1,250 Fee Simple Law)

INSTALLED SEPTEMBER 2025



## AUXILIARY AND ANCILLARY GALLERIES

THROUGHOUT 2025

In 2025, the Public Art Program supported auxiliary and ancillary gallery exhibitions, which displayed the work of local and regional artists for the community. Between the spaces at Casa and the Yates Memorial Centre, 21 exhibitions featuring the works of 132 local artists were funded. At Casa, 17 exhibitions were funded, where 80 artists participated. In the Waterfield Gallery at the Yates, we mounted 4 exhibitions, and 52 artists participated in exhibitions funded by Public Art. The Public Art Program also helped champion art exhibitions at the Helen Schuler Nature Centre.

BUDGET: \$11,250

# In-progress and Upcoming Projects and Installations

# 2026

\* denotes local artist

Project Title and Site	Budget	Project Description	Timeline
Henderson Asphalt Art Eric Dyck* (Phase 1)	Phase 1: 2025-2026 \$12,000  Phase 2: 2027-2028 \$163,000	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 enhance the experience of pedestrians and motorists alike.	Phase 1 installation to be completed by Q3 2026.  Phase 2 call to be released in 2027, targeting 2028 for installation.
Rolling Views: Art Bus Lethbridge  Kellan Spencer* and Gillian Goertz*	\$40,000	Vinyl art wraps using City Transit buses as canvases. Partnership with City Transit and Transportation Department.	April 2026 installation, May 2026 celebration.
13 <sup>th</sup> Street Planter Beautification	\$65,000 Public Art + \$50,000 Urban Revitalization	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 Urban Revitalization.	RFP posted March 2026, installation late Q3/early Q4 2027.
SAAG Renovation (CIP D-28)	\$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 to be released in 2026, installation 2027-2028.

Project Title and Site	Budget	Project Description	Timeline
Indigenous Commemoration	\$75,000	Microgrant program to support Indigenous-led project development and realization.	2026-2027
Roll Shutter Vinyl	\$10,000	Installation of art on roll shutter vinyl in the downtown core, in partnership with local businesses.	2026-2027
Ephemeral Projects	\$50,000	Funding for local artists to enable ephemeral and temporary projects to be funded as part of local community events taking place in 2027, in partnership with local event organizers.	2026-2027



# Master Plan Update

The 2022-2026 Public Art Work Plan identified six objectives aligned with public art directives in the City's 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. 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 Public Art Program began work in 2024 to update the 2012 Public Art Master Plan.

The MDP identifies the need to ensure the 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 fifteen years old, and much has changed in Lethbridge since it

was written. 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. 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.

Progress updates were provided to Council on June 19, 2025 (Safety and Social SPC) and February 26, 2026 (Safety and Social SPC.) Community and stakeholder engagement spanned April to October 2025 and included a community and stakeholder survey that garnered 632 responses, artist-led engagement activities, interviews, and workshops. The input received will inform the development of a more vibrant and culturally grounded public art ecosystem for Lethbridge which will be outlined in an updated Public Art Master Plan. The updated Plan will be brought to Council in Q2 2026.



*How Can I Miss You If You Never Go Away*  
Andy Davies

# Engagement and Professional Development

In 2025, 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 2025 include:

- Jane's Walks (Downtown Mural Walk and Jane's Ride with BikeLane)
- Community Conversation Public Art Program promotion – January and September
- Art/Work Workshops:
  - That's a (Vinyl) Wrap with Suzanne Griffin
  - What I Wish I Knew (When I Started as a Muralist) with Jill Stanton
  - Reporting for Duty (and Yourself!) with KT Wilde
  - This Must Be The Place with Jared Tailfeathers
- Information Sessions for Calls to Artists: Mural Mentorship, Henderson Connections Asphalt Art Pilot, Rolling Views Art Bus Lethbridge.
- BIG IDEAS Artist Talks: Murals and Vinyls, FLVT + Art NOW at the University of Lethbridge.

# Collection Care and Sustainability

The Public Art Committee oversees the completion of necessary work to maintain and repair the City's Public Art Collection in sustainable, professional, and fiscally responsible ways. Public Art Program maintenance work is funded by the maintenance reserve identified in Public Art Policy (CC30.)



In 2025, collection care work included:

- Replacement of exterior vinyl for *This is Home* by Hali Heavy Shield at the Lethbridge Airport. A new vinyl solution was found that should withstand wind, sun, and other weather conditions for longer than the original vinyl.
- Painting touch-ups to remove graffiti on murals including *Niitoyis itsinika'si/ Lodge Stories and History* by William Singer III at the downtown Public Library and *Tranquil Tracks* by Jennifer Roberts.
- Completion of condition assessments by a public art conservator as part of Public Art Master Plan Update project work to inform future care and conservation. Assessed artworks included *Connected Ribbon* by Paul Reimer and Nathan Siemens, *Signal* by Douglas Senft, *A Departure* by Ilan Sandler, *Threshold Gates* by Tony Bloom, and *The Ball is in Your Court* by Jennifer Marman and Daniel Borins.

# 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, donated Buchanan Bequest (66 works of art, photographs, and other items) and 23 other fine artworks acquired with Fine Art Acquisition funds allocated under CC30 and the preceding Fine Art Acquisition Policy. 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.

Over the past nearly 60 years, the City's Public Art Program, which includes the Fine Art Collection, has grown from a program centered on traditional fine art collecting to one with an increased focus on public access and engagement with many different types of art. The City's Public Art Committee has spent extensive time reviewing the entire Fine Art Collection, with a lot of attention being paid to the Buchanan Bequest. Some key observations include acknowledgement that there are not currently resources available to support the continued acquisition of fine art assets and that the City has no capacity to maintain nor exhibit the fine art it currently has, let alone manage more fine art if collecting continues. The Committee has also examined the role of the City in fine art collecting and has found redundancy with the University of Lethbridge maintaining a major fine art collection for Lethbridge and the region, and the Galt Museum and Archives role in preserving the human history of Lethbridge and southwestern Alberta.

On May 15, 2025, the Public Art Committee presented to City Council sitting as the Safety and Social Standing Policy Committee (SPC) an update on the City's Fine Art Collection with recommendations to address the lack of resources and noted redundancies.

**The Committee recommended to Council that the City of Lethbridge:**

- Provides the Galt Museum and Archives with an internal transfer notice outlining an intent to donate Fine Art Collection items noted as potentially aligned with the Galt's collecting mandate for consideration for accessioning into the Galt Museum's collection.
- Provides the University of Lethbridge with an external notice of intent to donate Fine Art Collection items not being offered for consideration for accessioning into the Galt Museum's collection for consideration for accessioning into the University of Lethbridge's collection.
- Dispose of any items not accepted by the Galt Museum and Archives nor the University of Lethbridge. Disposal will be executed in strict adherence to the City's PUR06 Policy for Asset Disposition, ensuring optimal value for money and maximizing efficiency.

Work to complete the specified transfers is underway. All transfers and disposals should be completed by the end of 2027.

*Street Scene with Block Tower*  
Bart Pragnell



# 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. Changes are reported to Council in annual reports. Any changes to work plan 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 in annual reports.

## SAAG Renovation Public Art Project

The SAAG Renovation Public Art Project could see a budget increase as the result of a successful Travel Alberta grant application. The City is currently working with the SAAG to determine the most effective approach to allocating the Travel Alberta grant to the SAAG Renovation and Public Art Project. If it is decided to allocate a portion of the Travel Alberta grant towards the SAAG Renovation Public Art Project, then an update will be provided to City Council at a future date. Any changes to the budget of this Public Art Project would be funded by the grant and would not require additional investment by City Council.

### Attached Document(s)

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



*To and From*  
Jill Stanton