

Calgary



Arts and Culture

Stories of
community
impact



2024 IN
REVIEW

Table of contents

Land Acknowledgement	1	Pillar: Equity	17
Executive summary	2	Indigenous Public Art Program.....	17
Welcome from our manager	3	Indigenous Place Keeping.....	18
Did you know	4	First year of the Public Art Curatorial Panel.....	18
Our team	6	Participation in Gender & Sexual Diversity Parade Committee	18
Our story	7	Tipi Project	19
What informs our story.....	8	Chinatown Working Group.....	19
Pillar: People	9	Pillar: Awareness	20
Canada Day	9	Public Art Collection Loans Program.....	20
Restoration and relocation of <i>TransitStory</i>	10	Indigenous Public Art Program digital artwork exhibit	20
<i>Along the Bow</i> mural	10	Pillar: Data	21
Pillar: Community	12	Festivals and Events software update.....	21
Chinook Blast	12	Civic Arts Policy update	22
Culture Days.....	13	What's coming up in 2025	23
Pillar: Enable	14	To learn more	23
2024 Arts and Culture Microgrant	14		
Festivals and Events Subsidy Program	16		
Chinatown Activation Microgrant	16		

Land Acknowledgement

The Calgary area, where the Bow and Elbow rivers meet, is a place of confluence where the sharing of ideas and opportunities naturally come together.

Indigenous peoples have their own names for this area that have been in use long before Scottish settlers named this place Calgary. In the Blackfoot language, they call this place, Moh'kinstsis. The Métis call the Calgary area Otos-kwunee. The Îethka Nakoda Wicastabi refer to the Calgary area as Wicispa Oyade and the people of the Tsuut'ina nation call this area Guts'ists'i.

We appreciate and acknowledge that we live, work, and play on the ancestral and traditional territories of the Blackfoot confederacy, made up of the Siksika, Piikani, Amskaapipiikani and Kainai First Nations; the Îethka Nakoda Wicastabi First Nations, comprised of the Chiniki, Bears paw, and Goodstoney First Nations; and the Tsuut'ina First Nation.

The City of Calgary is also homeland to the historic Northwest Métis and to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, Métis Nation Battle River Territory (Nose Hill Métis District 5 and Elbow Métis District 6).

We acknowledge all Indigenous people who have made Calgary their home.



Executive summary

The City's Arts and Culture division plays a significant role in preserving and showcasing one of our most valuable resources: human creativity. While our work often takes place behind the scenes, unseen to the general public, it is essential to the creative and cultural expression that enriches Calgary.

Through festivals, events, public art and cultural experiences, we steward opportunities for social connection, foster a sense of belonging and contribute to healthier, happier communities, strengthening both individual and collective resiliency.

Strategic investments through grants and civic services ensure the continued development of Calgary's arts and culture sector, securing its long-term success and relevance. A thriving arts and culture scene fuels economic growth, inspires creativity and strengthens the city's unique identity. By attracting talent, tourism and diverse industries, Calgary continues to be an inclusive, vibrant destination where people want to live, work and visit.

Calgary is a city of 1.57 million people, experiencing the fastest growth rate ever recorded for a census metropolitan area (CMA) since 2001. In 2024, Calgary was ranked the most livable city in North America and fifth most

livable city in the world on the Economist Intelligence Unit's annual list of the world's most livable cities. This distinction is not only a reflection of our city's economic strength, quality of life and vibrant communities, but also a testament to the importance of arts and culture in shaping a city where people feel connected, engaged and inspired. Continued investment in arts and culture is essential to our economy, health and well-being.

Picture a city full of colour, passion and boundless innovation.

Picture a city where every community offers opportunities to gather, celebrate and connect.

This is Calgary—alive, thriving and evolving. Creative and cultural expression are vital to keep Calgary's heart beating and soul nourished.

This Arts and Culture: Stories of community impact highlights the innovative work of community leaders, local artists, fabricators, event organizers and non-profit groups that we are proud to support. By highlighting these contributions, we celebrate the role of arts and culture in Calgary and reaffirm our commitment to supporting the people and organizations that make this city a vibrant place to live, work and visit.



Welcome from our manager

As manager of Arts and Culture, I am reminded every day of the value that creative and cultural expression brings to community and individual well-being. Arts and culture are essential for a diverse and inclusive city. I'm extremely proud of the work our team does, which is often behind-the-scenes support to preserve our heritage and cultural assets, ensure festivals and events run smoothly and initiate partnerships through grants and relationships that increase capacity within the sector. Above all, Arts and Culture is made up of a dedicated group of people who are fierce advocates for continued investment in arts and culture.

Our hope is that this collection of community stories will increase awareness of the critical role we play in the sector and encourage more collaboration between The City, communities and local arts and cultural groups in the future.



Franca Gualtieri
Manager, Arts and Culture



Origin Stories
by Sydonne Warren, lead artist
Mide Kadiri, design consultation

Did you know?

Arts and Culture chairs the Cultural Leadership Council, a group that oversees the implementation of the Cultural Plan for Calgary (2016 – 2026).

There are over 1,300 pieces in Calgary's public art collection worth over \$35 million. Check out our [digital gallery](#) and [digital map](#).

In 2024, New Year's Eve, Canada Day and Orange Shirt Day were major events led by Arts and Culture that brought together over 94,000 people.

We fund the public art program at Calgary Arts Development for commissioning new public art projects and initiatives.

Our Event Services team supported 190 unique, local festivals and events in 2024.

In 2024, Arts and Culture provided over \$4.3 million in subsidies and funding to support 277 unique festivals, events and initiatives that brought together over 1.7 million people, created 5,734 partnerships and supported 10,929 local businesses.

In 2024, the Arts and Culture Microgrant allocated \$468,220 to downtown initiatives that brought over 38,722 people to the core of our city, contributing to The City's downtown revitalization efforts.

In 2024, the Public Art Conservation Team completed over 100 preventive conservation assessments.





Our team

The Arts and Culture Division is made up of individuals who are passionate about the arts and advocates for creative and cultural expression. Our division consists of three teams: Festivals and Events, Public Art and Cultural Development.

Our **Festivals and Events team** supports the production and delivery of festivals and events by liaising with event planners to navigate planning processes, permit applications and regulations. Subsidy and funding provided to eligible event organizers and local non-profits helps support innovative visual, cultural and performing arts programming.

Our **Public Art team** works closely with our partners at Calgary Arts Development to commission new public art in an equitable, transparent and financially responsible way. This team preserves, cares for and activates the oldest art collection in the province, while ensuring new artworks reflect the diversity of our city and the people within it.

Our **Cultural Development team** stewards the development of the arts and culture sector through strategy creation, community development, advocating for creative and cultural assets in local area planning, and connecting local organizations with resources to support programs, initiatives and infrastructure.

Community Services organization chart Where does Arts & Culture sit?



Halloween 2024

Our story

Arts and Culture leads and invests in the development of vibrant and creative communities. We are champions of a revitalized downtown, encouraging economic development and diversification. Through investment in creative industries, we position Calgary as a global city and provide equitable arts and culture access to Calgarians, visitors and artists.

This is where our passion lies and why we are proud to be active contributors to the creative economy.

The value of Arts and Culture's services:

- **Arts and culture are a significant indicator of a healthy city.** Our work supports expression, innovation and celebrations that contribute to healthy individuals and healthy communities.
- The Arts and Culture division works closely with creative professionals and community groups to **support a diverse and inclusive range of arts and culture opportunities.**
- Public art, festivals, events and cultural initiatives provide opportunities for **social connection that create a sense of belonging and inclusive communities.**
- Arts and Culture's services are part of every Calgarian's day and are **economic drivers** that help strengthen the creative economy and **attract new talent, visitors and investment.**
- **Investing in arts and culture is vital for a resilient city** where people want to live, work and visit.



What informs our story

The Arts and Culture division's strategic plan (2023 – 2030) is our guiding document that identifies:

- Our mission, priorities and actions for the current business cycle (2023 – 2026)
- Our vision, priorities and actions for the next business cycle (2027 – 2030)
- Cultural planning beyond the next business cycle (beyond 2030) that focuses on:
 - Desired **outcomes** related to Council direction and Calgary's arts and culture sector.
 - Foundational **pillars** which are high-level categories of consistent cultural strategies throughout Calgary's arts and culture sector. For example, advocating for arts and culture infrastructure and amenities in Local Area Planning.
 - **Focus areas** that guide the scope of work for our division within the pillars. For example, continued investment in subsidy and grant programs to support local artists, event organizers and non-profits.

For the purpose of this storytelling report, stories are shared within the six foundational pillars that guide our work:



Our mission for 2023 – 2026 is to be a catalyst for creativity, connection and activation for the people and organizations that contribute to the creative economy.

Our vision for 2030 is to be recognized as a cultural and economic driver for Calgary that supports a diverse and inclusive range of arts and culture opportunities.



Pillar: People

Support individuals who create or participate in arts and culture.

For example, creators, artists, citizens, audience members, arts and culture workers, educators, curators, supporters, etc.

Our team works with creative and cultural professionals, volunteers and advocates each and every day to support innovative artistic and creative expression and create experiences that inspire.



Canada Day 2024: 75,000 people attended

Led by the Festivals and Events team, this free annual event for everyone is a day of lively performances and activities that highlight our country's diversity and local talent.

Canada Day 2024 had over 75,000 people in attendance throughout the day to experience performances from over 130 local artists, an Indigenous showcase and powwow, the new Cultural Carousel, live music and fireworks.

To ensure celebrations reflected the diverse interests and backgrounds of Calgarians, The City conducted extensive public engagement in early 2024, gathering input from 1,012 participants from June 2 to July 31. This effort marked the first broad engagement on Canada Day programming in over a decade, going beyond traditional post-event exit surveys targeted at event attendees to include perspectives from the broader Calgary community. Feedback from participants identified barriers to meaningful participation, emphasized the importance of existing programs and offered fresh ideas for new activities and future locations.

A multi-year research and engagement plan is now incorporated into the Canada Day design process to ensure that the celebrations reflect perspectives collected.



Restoration and relocation of *TransitStory*, led by the Public Art team

TransitStory has playfully reflected the ebb and flow of CTrain commuters since it was installed downtown in 2012. However, it has also endured city life for more than 10 years. *TransitStory* was removed from the Centre Street CTrain platform, and after extensive conservation, was reinstalled in its new home at 45th Street Station S.W.

City conservators worked with artist Jill Anholt to reimagine the artwork in its new location and to ensure it aligned with how she originally intended for Calgarians to experience it. Conservators also engaged with Transit staff and contractors to build concrete bases and lighting to support the artwork in its new home.

Along the Bow mural in Chinatown

The *Along the Bow* mural was created by local artists Rawry & Pohly and unveiled on August 17, 2024 at the annual Chinatown Street Festival. The mural, which is an extension of their previous mural *Along the Bow* that was painted in 2022, is located on the side of Ng Towers on 2nd Avenue S.W. and Centre Street S.E. The mural extends across multiple buildings and introduces an innovative idea that a mural doesn't need to be confined to a single wall. The artists worked with the Chinatown community to reinterpret a 1,000-year-old famous Chinese scroll to create a unique piece that blended elements of Calgary's culture to show off tradition and heritage from the Chinatown community.

The Arts and Culture Microgrant provided \$17,577 in funding that covered 42 per cent of the project's expenses. This project wouldn't be possible without the Chinatown Business Improvement Area, which brought together the contributing partners: The City of Calgary, Calgary Arts Development, Canada Council for the Arts, Harmonious Building Condominium Board, Calgary Chinese Cultural Society, Impark and Chinatown Development Foundation.





The mural at 115 2nd Ave. S.E. in Calgary's Chinatown is truly breathtaking! It adds so much colour and energy to the neighborhood. Thanks for sharing the location—sounds like a perfect spot for photos and to appreciate the local art scene.
~ Calgarian

Along the Bow
by Rawry & Pohly



Pillar: Community

Support groups that create or participate in arts and culture.

For example, local festival and event organizers, supporting industries, non-profit arts and cultural groups, Community Associations and Business Improvement Areas.

Our team has built strong relationships with our partners and facilitates a one window approach to accessing City services required to deliver events and programming that cultivate culturally vital communities.



Koda
by Truth North Absurdities

The STARQUARIUM
by Big Art



Chinook Blast 2024: Welcomed 433,000 visitors and generated \$15.7 million in economic impact

Chinook Blast is Calgary's signature winter celebration which showcases the best the city has to offer during the winter season. This fourth annual community collaboration featured a mix of free and ticketed arts and culture festivals, sports activities and unique experiences presented by our partners.

Chinook Blast 2024 had a 16 per cent increase in attendance from 2023, welcoming over 433,000 visitors. There was also an increase in participation with over 1,700 creative makers, businesses and community organizations coming together to contribute to this remarkable community success.

2024 marked the first year Arts and Culture did a public call out for artists to submit their work for a chance to showcase their creations at Chinook Blast. More than 30 submissions were reviewed by a jury who selected a number of diverse and innovative installations that encouraged diversity and accessibility for both artists and attendees.

This process provided artists who might not have been discovered otherwise with an opportunity to showcase their work at the festival.

In partnership with Chinook Blast, The City of Calgary hosted the Winter City Design Competition that invited designers, artists and students to imagine the possibilities for innovative winter city design in our downtown to create great public spaces to thrive in the colder months of the year.

Over 7,450 partnerships were created and supported in 2024.

PHOTO CREDIT:
NEIL ZELLER

Calgary's Culture Days: September 1-30

Each September, Calgary Culture Days celebrates arts, culture, heritage, diversity and community spirit. The 2024 edition introduced an exciting partnership between two of Calgary's most popular cultural festivals: Taste of Italy and Fiesta Filipino. This collaboration not only explored new opportunities for cultural exchange but also raised awareness about the underutilized services of Calgary Opera within the broader community.

The Arts and Culture Division facilitated this connection, fostering a cohesive cultural experience and providing funding to support event execution.

This successful partnership drew 87,000 attendees over four days of performances, laying a strong foundation for future cultural collaborations. It showcased the power of diverse engagement in shaping a vibrant and inclusive city.



We were honoured to be introduced to representatives from Taste of Italy and Fiesta Filipino, which led to two fruitful and new collaborations for our company... sung in Tagalog. We strongly endorse the work of The City of Calgary in opening doors between organizations, which enriches the cultural community for us all.

*~ Stephania Romaniuk,
Director of Learning & Engagement
at Calgary Opera*



Pillar: Enable

Collaboration, funding and advocacy to support art and culture.

For example, government funders, civic partners and non-profit or private institutions that commission artists or advocate for the sector.

Increasing opportunities for innovation and collaboration are at the heart of what we do. We connect local organizations to funding, resources and partnerships to help build capacity within Calgary's arts and culture sector.

One of the ways that The City of Calgary's Arts and Culture division invests in communities and builds capacity within the arts and culture sector is through offering grants and subsidies.


In 2024, Arts and Culture provided over **\$4.3 million in subsidies and funding** to support **277 unique events** and initiatives led by local non-profits, charitable organizations, community associations and Business Improvement Areas. These events brought together over **1.7 million people**, created **5,734 partnerships** and supported **10,929 local businesses**.

2024 Arts and Culture Microgrant

The Arts and Culture Microgrant program helps activate culturally vibrant neighbourhoods by funding new ideas that promote cultural learning and arts appreciation.

2024 highlights

 **\$998,191** awarded

 **2,211 creative professionals** engaged

 **79,823 individuals** impacted

 **113 initiatives** supported

 **600 community groups** supported

 **885 local businesses** benefitted

 **2,424 volunteer opportunities** created

By offering targeted funding, the microgrant not only helps preserve and celebrate Indigenous culture and stories but also empowers artists to create work that reflects their communities, identities, and histories. It fosters a platform for authentic representation and ensures that Indigenous voices are heard and valued within the broader arts landscape.

~ Microgrant recipient

Supporting the arts and cultural vibrancy of the city is crucial for keeping its spirit alive. These events serve as bridges, connecting different cultures and fostering a forward-thinking society.

~ Microgrant recipient

In 2024, we received 217 applications from 170 applicants and 65 per cent were new to the Arts and Culture Microgrant. We were able to fund 113 out of 179 eligible initiatives. This shows the significant need for funding in the arts and cultural sector to help build capacity and bring new initiatives to Calgarians. Continued investment in the Arts and Culture Microgrant program is essential for a vibrant and resilient Calgary.

Sled Alley

This event hosted by Sled Island Arts Fellowship included a market, art activities and a community spray paint activity. The event connected 22 local artists and 16 local businesses with 4,000 Calgarians.

World Folklore Festival

The World Folklore Festival hosted by Arabian Culture & Arts Wheel Alberta Ltd. engaged with over 20 community groups and 200 local cultural performers to promote community pride.

Harmony Musical Production

The Calgary Chinese Elderly Citizens' Association organized a locally produced Chinese musical with English subtitles that brought together 60 artists, professionals and volunteers to share the cultural values of the Chinese community, immigration journey and challenges Chinese Canadians have faced under the *Chinese Immigration Act*.



Sled Alley helped vendors build the confidence and allowed them to test out products, see what was most popular with the public, giving them great insight to build their practice and business moving forward.
~ Organizer

For more Arts and Culture Microgrant stories, visit [Arts and Culture Microgrant](#)

All dance groups and performers were amazed by the organization of the festival and the fantastic stage and space which gave them freedom of expression and the ability to present their cultures respectfully.
~ Organizer



This production has already enhanced social awareness of the untold stories and encouraged all ethnic communities to live in harmony and build Canada together. We hope this musical will continue to inspire many more people through different ways in the future.
~ Attendee



Festivals and Events Subsidy Program

Since 2010, the Festivals and Events Subsidy Program (FESP) has helped strengthen the local economy and enhance communities by subsidizing 50 to 90 per cent of the cost of City services and 50 per cent of City-contracted services incurred by local festival and event organizers.

2024 highlights



Chinatown Activation Grant

The 2024 [Chinatown Activation Microgrant](#) provided funding of up to \$2,000 to individuals, community groups, businesses, non-profits and cultural and social organizations to activate Chinatown through cultural activities. The grant focuses on projects that invest in cultural education, engage younger populations, and promote hands-on learning.

2024 highlights





Pillar: Equity

Break down systemic barriers to access and participate in arts and culture for communities that experience significant collective barriers in participating in society.

For example, this could include attitudinal, historic, social and environmental barriers based on age, ethnicity, disability, economic status, gender, nationality, race, sexual orientation, transgender status, etc. ([Canada Council for the Arts](#))

Access to arts and culture allows individuals and communities to express themselves through artistic creation and representation. The Arts and Culture division is proud to support diverse, inclusive and accessible arts and cultural initiatives that foster a sense of belonging for all individuals in Calgary.

Indigenous Public Art Program

The [Indigenous Public Art Program](#), initiated by the public art team, was tasked with decolonizing the public art collection. In 2024, a new three-year plan was developed with goals in four pillars that connect to the [White Goose Flying Report](#):

- **Grow the collection**
- **Grow the team**
- **Share the collection**
- **Education**

Milestones include growing the collection with 40 new Indigenous artworks by the end of 2026 and hiring an Indigenous public art team. Priority acquisitions in 2024 and 2025 are artists who are from Treaty 7 Nations. 2026 acquisitions will expand to include artworks from Métis and local Indigenous artists and other recognized Indigenous artists.

Methods are grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing and prioritizing relationships with local Indigenous artists, curators, Elders and community members. This resulted in success in 2024 and a clear path forward for 2025 and 2026.

The Indigenous Public Art Program also curates City-owned spaces such as a dedicated wall at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary.

6 new artworks purchased

3 artworks commissioned and two planned for completion in 2025

2 new programs to be developed starting in 2025:

- Emerging artist acquisition program
- Elder/older artist acquisition program

Indigenous Place Keeping at the Municipal Building

The Indigenous Place Keeping initiative was a council directive with the focus on activating the Municipal Building with Indigenous presence through art. The pilot program was successful with Kalum T Dan's banners that have graced the atrium since 2021. The second iteration of Place Keeping happened during Chinook Blast 2025.



First year of the Public Art Curatorial Panel

2024 marked the inception of the Public Art Curatorial Panel, an advisory body that formed under the mandate of the Public Art Policy, with the purpose of supporting the strategic growth of the Public Art Collection through purchases and donations.

The panel consists of five to seven members of the public with diverse professional and cultural backgrounds, including Indigenous members from Treaty 7 Nations with cultural knowledge of traditional and contemporary art forms. Members advise the Public Art team on how to address gaps and inequities in the Public Art Collection, and work to ensure the collection is grown in a strategic and sustainable manner, with artworks that are reflective and inclusive of all Calgarians. Curatorial Panel members were selected through an open call, trained on the Public Art Collection and mandate, and were able to review a backlog of proposed artworks for the collection to identify opportunities for strategic acquisitions to meet our Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and equity objectives.

This is an important action taken by The City's Public Art team to ensure responsible stewardship of the collection is maintained so Calgarians can continue to enjoy their art collection for generations to come.

After almost two years of diligent, thoughtful preparation for the float and its messaging, walking in the parade was a rollercoaster of emotions... Joy, relief, pride, love, excitement and an overwhelming feeling of community. I was honoured to be a part of this committee and proud to be a City of Calgary employee.

~ Dinou Marlett-Stuart,
Event Coordinator with
Arts and Culture

Arts and Culture's participation in the Gender & Sexual Diversity Parade Committee

Arts and Culture Manager, Franca Gualtieri, chaired the inaugural Gender & Sexual Diversity Parade (GSDP) Committee for City of Calgary employees. Through relationships built across the corporation, 130 employees registered to walk alongside the Employee Pride Float that was part of the Calgary Pride Parade on September 1, 2024.



The Committee agreed to and used the following four key words to guide the design for the float: Belonging, Diversity, Empowerment and Joy. Design ideas focused on gender neutrality, Indigenous ways of knowing, connection to the earth and a whimsical burst of colour.

Four Arts and Culture staff were Committee members who played a significant role in the planning, design, fabrication consultation, communications, logistics and implementation of this important and very successful initiative.



Tipi Project

Starting in 2023, Arts and Culture's Festival and Events team and Calgary Parks collaborated with Indigenous Elders and surrounding Nations, including the Blackfoot Confederacy, the Stoney Nakoda Nations, the Tsuut'ina Nation and the Métis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 and 6), to create [The Tipi Project](#), an initiative that provides culturally relevant amenities and creates opportunities to celebrate local Indigenous cultures.

The City has a Blackfoot tipi, a Tsuut'ina tipi and a Métis trapper's tent available for use at events in City parks for commemorative activities, ceremonies, educational initiatives and cultural practices. These structures are set up annually during The City's Canada Day event at the Indigenous Showcase, providing a dedicated space for learning and sharing Indigenous cultures and histories. Additionally, they are featured at select greenspace events supported by City Parks.

This initiative aligns with The City's commitment to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, as identified in the White Goose Flying Report, which outlines 43 Calls to Action specific to The City of Calgary.



Chinatown Working Group

In 2024, Arts and Culture supported the establishment of the Chinatown Working Group, which made significant progress in fostering community collaboration and advancing key initiatives identified in the Chinatown Cultural Plan and Chinatown Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP).

The Chinatown Working Group developed the *Next Steps Plan*, which identifies 12 priority initiatives and serves as a vital roadmap for cultural preservation and sustainable growth in the years ahead.



**Special thanks to the
Chinatown Working Group
representatives:**

Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre
Action! Chinese Canadians Together (ACCT) Foundation
Chinatown Business Improvement Area (BIA)
Calgary Chinatown Community Association (CA)
United Calgary Chinese Association (UCCA)
Sien Lok Society of Calgary
Calgary Chinese Elderly Citizens' Association
Calgary Chinese Freemasons
Alberta Chinese Community Congress
Lee Association of Calgary
I Love YYC Chinatown



Pillar: Awareness

Promote and educate audiences about the value of arts and culture.

For example, general public, tourists and visitors, participants, artists, arts organizations, Council and City Administration.

Arts and Culture's services are essential for creating a vibrant city and an incredible destination to work, live and visit. Through sharing our story, we are building awareness of arts and culture sector partners, events, initiatives and programs that drive the economy, attract talent and tourism.

Dancing Bear
by Pits Qimirpik



Public Art Collection Loans Program

Artworks are available for loan to suitable public spaces and other cultural institutions for exhibition. Special educational exhibits, such as *Taamani | Here* were curated for schools and is fully booked until 2026. Loans are free and inspire people to connect with the collection.

Indigenous Public Art Program digital artwork exhibit

This program launched in 2023, with 10 artists being selected. In 2024, it expanded to include the Digital Voices Exhibit at The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland, showcasing digital artwork by eight new artists. Our partner, Calgary Arts Development, helped promote the exhibit and Calgarians could also see the artworks on billboards and transit station digital screens throughout Calgary. In 2025, the program will continue with 10 new selected artworks and an exhibition at The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland. This program pays industry standard rates to local Indigenous artists.

Transformation
by Johnny Papigatok



Tamaani | Here

Inuit Art Exhibit: Collection of 12 stone sculptures carved by artists from different regions of Nunavut. Curated by local Inuit curator Sophia Lebessis



Pillar: Data

Establish and role model best practices for continuous improvement and accountability in arts and culture.

For example, evidence-based decision-making and improvement of process and policy to guide professional artists, arts organizations and City Administration.

As stewards of the strategies and policies that guide the arts and cultural sector, our work supports the resiliency and sustainability of organizations within the creative economy. Through responsible management of resources and responding to citizen needs, we have made improvements to processes and created efficiencies for improved service.

Festivals and Events software update

In November 2024, the Festivals and Events team launched the new **Corporate Event Management (CEM) App** used on a Dynamics platform to replace the previous software solution that had been in place since 2009. The new City IT supported software has modernized the technology, created administrative efficiencies and cost savings for The City, and improved the quality of service to clients. The new software integrates other work processes, such as invoicing and budget tracking into a single system that supports cross-corporate collaboration.

Three representatives from Arts and Culture were project team members who contributed subject matter expertise to support project planning, system design, testing and implementation. Training content was created and delivered by our team to 40 internal staff and a comprehensive instructional webpage was created for the approximately 200 external groups who use the software to submit event applications and documents, check the status of their event approvals and perform post-event reviews.



Civic Arts Policy update

The Civic Arts Policy is a Council-approved policy that guides how The City of Calgary funds the arts sector. In 2024, work began to update the existing policy to:

- Clarify the desired outcomes Council wants to see as a result of their investment
- Clarify the actions that Council is committed to in order to achieve the desired outcomes
- Clarify the value that the arts deliver to Calgarians
- Provide guiding principles for the recipients of municipal funding related to best practices for supporting artists and arts organizations to work towards the future vision

Invitations to participate in phase one of engagement were sent to 303 arts organizations, 1,276 individual artists and arts collectives. Outreach also included 130 Indigenous artists and arts collectives and 81 equity-deserving artists and organizations.

What was included in phase one of engagement?

- An online survey, which received 360 views, 221 visitors and 72 contributions
- One open house for artists
- Three workshops (two in-person, one virtual).
- Following the workshops, each group receive an optional survey to provide further feedback

Phase two of engagement is scheduled for early 2025 which will include an online information session, an open house, workshops with artists, arts organizations, and equity-deserving artists, as well as an Indigenous Sharing Circle.

*Ascension [detail]
by Incipio Modo*



What's coming up in 2025 (just to name a few)

- An increase of \$1.7 million in funding for Arts and Culture's subsidy and grant programs to provide more opportunities for grassroots organizations to activate and revitalize downtown.
- The Civic Arts Policy is receiving the attention needed to refresh the existing policy for the first time since 2004 to better align best practices for supporting the arts community in Calgary.
- Work will begin to update the *Cultural Plan for Calgary* (2016—2025), a roadmap for better use and planning of cultural resources built around five strategic priorities that represent the vision for Calgary in 2026.
- The next evolution of *Cross Cultural Connections* is launching with an updated online directory of cultural organizations to foster connections, enhance visibility and support collaboration within Calgary's arts, culture, heritage and social sectors.

Detailed view of *A Seat at the Table*, a public artwork by Apiow Akwai



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