

Public Art Plan Refresh

GC | April 23, 2025

Rachel Pennington, Public Art Curator

Parks & Culture Planning, PF&E



Artwork by Jessica Bosnjak



92+ artworks

115+ artists

17+ neighbourhoods



Marc Fornes THEVERYMANY, *Pine Sanctuary*, 2017

One of Canada's only
dedicated streams for
digital public art

Canada's first public
art equity audit

Nathan Whitford, *Lightfall*, 2023



One of Canada's few
works of public land art in
a permanent collection

Diane Borsato, *ORCHARD*, 2019



Our first monument was community-led and crowd-funded (over \$350,000 raised by residents)

The Public Art Plan (2025) was developed by the City's public art program

Local feedback solicited through a public survey and integration with Future Directions

Program evaluation and equity audit

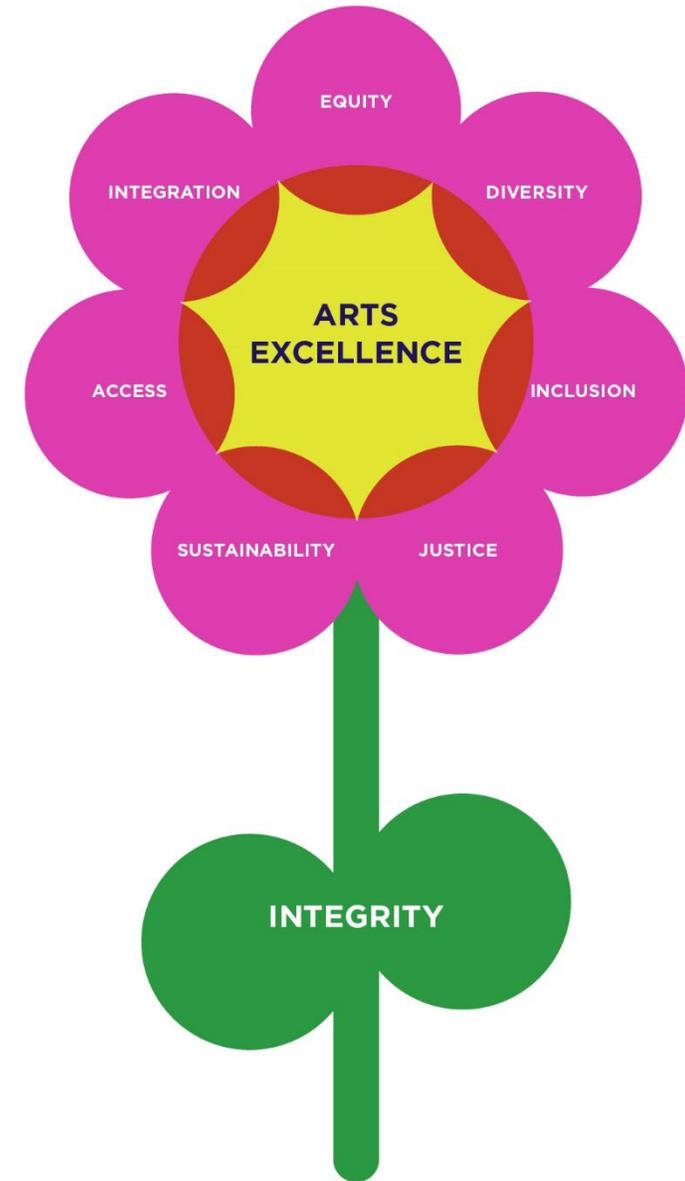
Country-wide benchmarking and consultations

Internal review for impact and feasibility



1. Guiding Principles

- We believe that artistic excellence is achieved when the needs and values of the public are centered
- Our guiding principles are: Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Justice, Sustainability, Access, Integration and Integrity
- Each guiding principle presents ongoing practices that staff can utilize (e.g. hosting accessible events will further Inclusion, supporting City-wide strategies will further Integration).



2. Priority Zones

- Locations for public art, with clear rationale for prioritizing budgets and allocating resources
 - Each zone recommends context-specific curatorial themes and artwork ideas, which were selected by local residents through a public survey
1. Infrastructure Projects
 2. Heritage Sites
 3. Cultural Districts and Pedestrian Spaces within Intensification Areas
 4. Waterfront
 5. Major Transit Hubs, Corridors, and Active Transportation Routes



3. Key Recommendations

- The Public Art Plan renews six recommendations from the 2016 Public Art Master Plan
- The Public Art Plan identifies eight new recommendations
- These are specific public art projects, policy proposals, funding and partnership opportunities that can be realized in the next five years
- There are no financial impacts





Public art in new and redeveloped destination parks



More opportunities for artists from equity-deserving groups

Vivian Rosas, *Blissful Release*, 2021



Fully accessible permanent public art collection

Indigenous public art, especially on and near the Waterfront



Emily Kewageshig, *Flame of Life*, 2023



Public art along active transportation routes

Bau and Cos, *Living Root Bridge*, 2024



Review acquisition processes for Memorial Art

Encourage public art contributions from private developments over 10,000 m² with certain exceptions



Harley Valentine and Gabriel Fain, *Gala Gateway*, 2017, co-commissioned with Amacon



Explore program options to beautify construction sites



**Develop a Percent for
Public Art funding strategy
for eligible municipal
capital projects**

RAW Design, *Fossil Record*, 2017

Fairly compensate arts professionals and Indigenous communities



Linh Thai painting *Finding Home*, 2019

