



Public Art Program

Building a Sustainable
and Inclusive Public
Art Program

City of Abbotsford June 2025



We honour the responsibility of engaging in this place with respect, reciprocity, and accountability. As we advance the City's Public Art Program, we commit to working in partnership with the many diverse communities and cultures of Abbotsford, including the local Indigenous Nations, to ensure public art reflects the multiple histories, stories and cultures of the community.

Acknowledgements

We extend our sincere gratitude to the individuals and organizations who contributed to the development of the Abbotsford Public Art Program Plan. Your insights, lived experiences, and creative visions have shaped a strategy that reflects the diversity, identity, and cultural aspirations of our city.

Special thanks to the community organizations, artists, educators, developers, cultural workers, youth, and Knowledge Holders who led conversations and helped root the plan in local perspectives. Your leadership was essential in ensuring inclusive engagement across sectors and communities.

This plan was strengthened through collaborative review, open dialogue, and meaningful reflection from City staff, public stakeholders, and Indigenous partners. We acknowledge the guidance and continued commitment of City Council in advancing the role of public art in shaping a more connected, inclusive, and vibrant Abbotsford.





Public Art Plan

2 INTRODUCTION

12 PROGRAM FRAMEWORK: GOVERNANCE, SCOPE AND DELIVERY

27 INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC ART

34 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK: 2026–2035

40 STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

47 APPENDICES

INTRODUCTION

The Public Art Program Plan (2026–2035) provides a coordinated, forward-looking framework for delivering public art that reflects Abbotsford's values, aspirations, and evolving identity. Rooted in the City's updated Public Art Policy, this Plan sets out the priorities, tools, and strategies needed to deliver public art that is purposeful, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of a growing and increasingly diverse community.

Across Canada, public art is increasingly recognized as an essential part of civic infrastructure — supporting vibrant public spaces, inclusive storytelling and community connection. Public art enhances the experience of shared spaces, reflects diverse identities, and invites dialogue through creative expression. From permanent installations to digital media, murals, performances, and Indigenous-led works grounded in cultural protocols, contemporary public art responds to the complexity and character of today's cities.

In Abbotsford, the Public Art Program is well-positioned to advance major municipal goals and align with the City's strategic direction to embrace cultural diversity and cultivate a welcoming environment where people of all backgrounds are represented and engaged.

The Public Art Program helps realize this vision through inclusive processes and the elevation of diverse cultural narratives in the public realm. The Plan is also grounded in current national and international best practices in public art. It aligns with principles of equity, transparency, interdisciplinary collaboration and cultural self-representation.

With a 10-year horizon, the Public Art Program Plan equips Council, staff, and partners with the strategic tools to deliver high-quality public art that enriches Abbotsford's built environment, civic identity, and cultural landscape. It ensures that public art is integrated into the City's long-term planning and remains a meaningful and accessible part of community life.

DEFINING PUBLIC ART

Public art is creative work intentionally situated in public spaces to reflect the identities, values, and stories of the communities who inhabit them. It is accessible to all and exists outside of traditional art venues — enriching streetscapes, parks, civic buildings, and gathering spaces with meaning, dialogue, and beauty.

Public art can be permanent or temporary, visual or experiential, tangible or interactive. It encompasses a wide range of forms, including murals, sculptures, digital and light-based installations, soundscapes, performances, environmental interventions, and artist-designed infrastructure such as benches, pathways, or shade structures. Works may be created by professional artists, collectives, or through community collaborations, including intercultural, or youth-engaged processes.

At its core, public art is a form of civic expression. It invites reflection, fosters dialogue, celebrates cultural diversity, and shapes how we experience public space — supporting cultural continuity, social inclusion, and a deeper sense of place.

DEFINING PLACEMAKING IN THE CONTEXT OF PUBLIC ART

Placemaking is the collaborative process of shaping public spaces to reflect the identity, values, and needs of the people who use them. It emphasizes the creation of inclusive, welcoming, and meaningful places that foster community connection, cultural expression, and civic pride.

In Abbotsford's Public Art Program, placemaking is approached through an artistic lens — using creative expression to animate public spaces, tell local stories, and enhance the distinct character of neighbourhoods. Public art ensures that civic spaces are not only functional but also vibrant, culturally resonant, and reflective of Abbotsford's diverse communities.

Public art contributes to placemaking by:

- Celebrating cultural heritage and lived experience
- Fostering social connection and inclusive dialogue
- Enhancing the beauty and uniqueness of shared environments
- Encouraging reflection, curiosity, and civic engagement

Through thoughtful, community-informed practices, placemaking through public art helps build stronger connections between people and place — enriching civic life and belonging across Abbotsford.

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC ART

Public art enhances the civic experience by embedding culture, creativity, and meaning into the shared spaces of everyday life. It is a powerful tool for storytelling, identity-building, and community connection — making visible the histories, voices, and aspirations of the people of Abbotsford.

Grounded in principles of equity and accessibility, public art fosters belonging, supports, and reflects the city's evolving cultural identity. It transforms everyday places into sites of inspiration, remembrance, and dialogue, enriching how we move through and experience the city.

Whether permanent or temporary, individual or collaborative, public art animates civic buildings, parks, plazas, and streetscapes — inviting residents and visitors to connect more deeply with place and with each other.

PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The City of Abbotsford's Public Art Program provides a framework to guide the creation, integration, and stewardship of public art as a core element of civic planning and cultural development. It recognizes public art as civic infrastructure — essential to inclusive design, community well-being, and cultural vitality.

Through coordinated policies, funding mechanisms, and cross-sector partnerships, the Program supports artists, Indigenous Nations, residents, and developers in co-creating meaningful works that contribute to Abbotsford's identity and long-term civic goals.

The Public Art Program enables public art to grow as a dynamic and enduring feature of the city—supporting reconciliation, belonging, creativity, and pride of place.

Purpose and Use of the Public Art Program Plan

This Plan bridges high-level policy direction with practical implementation. It serves as a shared reference for City Council, staff, artists, and community partners to:

- Translate the Public Art Policy into actionable strategies and phased timelines
- Align public art delivery with broader City planning frameworks and initiatives
- Ensure that investments in public art are inclusive, equitable, and impactful
- Support continuous improvement through evaluation, reflection, and learning

COMMITMENTS OF THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM PLAN

The Public Art Program Plan is grounded in the following commitments:

RECOGNIZING PUBLIC ART AS CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Public art contributes to city-building, civic identity, and livability.

STEWARDING THE CIVIC PUBLIC ART COLLECTION

The City ensures long-term care, documentation, and conservation of artworks.

ADVANCING CULTURAL INCLUSION AND STORYTELLING

Equity, diversity, and local narratives are embedded in all aspects of delivery.

HONOURING CULTURAL SELF-REPRESENTATION

The City applies best practices to ensure projects support cultural self-representation.

DELIVERING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Practices are responsive, multilingual, and accessible — prioritizing early and meaningful involvement.

INVESTING STRATEGICALLY AND EQUITABLY

Site selection and investment decisions are informed by tools like the Public Art Site Criteria and Site Equity Index.

EMBEDDING A MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING (MEL) FRAMEWORK

A structured MEL system ensures public accountability, reflection, and adaptive growth.

Alignment with City Strategies and Plans

The Public Art Program Plan aligns with key municipal strategies and reinforces the City's broader objectives for community well-being, design excellence, and cultural vibrancy:

CITY PLAN OR STRATEGY	PUBLIC ART PROGRAM PLAN ALIGNMENT
Official Community Plan (OCP)	Advances goals of placemaking, neighbourhood identity, and design excellence
Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan	Activates public spaces and amenities through arts and cultural storytelling
Culture Connect Strategy	Reflects cultural diversity and promotes a welcoming, inclusive environment
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategy (2024–2026)	Embeds equity into artist selection, engagement, and program delivery
Economic Development and Tourism Strategy	Positions public art as an asset for civic identity and the creative economy

British Columbia's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act

This Plan reflects the collaborative intent of British Columbia's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and identifies the City's commitment to working in partnership with local First Nations governments on public art process and resulting projects that reflect Indigenous representation. As each public art project is unique, application may include, but, is not limited to:

- Early and direct engagement with Indigenous Nations and Knowledge Holders
- Transparent communication of project scope and purpose
- Shared decision-making on representation and design
- Consent-based development timelines and protocols
- Ongoing stewardship guided by Indigenous cultural custodianship

Public Art Best Practice Alignment

The Plan reflects national and international standards that treat public art as essential civic infrastructure. It supports practices that uphold cultural safety, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the meaningful inclusion of diverse and voices.

Vision

The Vision Statement grounds the Public Art Program in a shared aspiration for Abbotsford's future. It reflects feedback from residents, artists, and community leaders on the importance of public art in creating a connected, vibrant City.

VISION STATEMENT

Public art in Abbotsford fosters belonging, celebrates our diverse stories, and transforms shared spaces into places of connection, expression, and community pride.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Guiding Principles are the ethical, cultural, and operational foundation of the City's Public Art Program. They reflect the values that inform how public art is planned, created, maintained, and experienced in Abbotsford. These principles serve as both a compass for decision-making and a commitment to the public about how the City approaches public art development.

As Abbotsford continues to grow and diversify, these principles ensure that the Public Art Program remains responsive to changing community needs, supports artistic innovation, and centers equity and cultural integrity. They emphasize transparency, collaboration, environmental responsibility, and long-term stewardship — positioning public art not only as a physical presence, but as a process grounded in care, respect, and co-creation.

By applying these principles consistently across project planning, artist selection, engagement, and conservation, the City reinforces its role as a cultural leader and trusted partner in shaping public space.

The following principles guide how public art is developed, delivered, and experienced in Abbotsford:

- 1 Community Integrity:** Public art reflects and respects the identity, voices, and values of the local community. Art is rooted in place and built with care for community stories and lived experiences.
- 2 Collaborative Synergy:** Artists, communities, partners, and the City work together in meaningful, creative partnerships.
- 3 Equity:** The public art process is designed to recognize, engage, and advance historically underrepresented artists, communities, and cultural perspectives. Equity ensures that public spaces reflect the full diversity of the city and provide meaningful opportunities for participation and representation.
- 4 Creative Push:** Public art supports innovation, experimentation, and diverse creative expression that contributes to a vibrant and evolving city.
- 5 Eco-Conscious and Ethical Practice:** Art practices and materials consider the health of the environment and ethical standards. Create with care — for the land, future generations, and all living beings.
- 6 Transparency in Governance and Decision-Making:** Decisions about public art are open, clear, and accountable to the public. The “how” and “why” behind decisions are shared and accessible.
- 7 Cultural Stewardship:** Public art is maintained and honored over time, with attention to cultural knowledge, conservation, and intergenerational care.

Program Outcomes by 2036

The following outcomes express the long-term vision of Abbotsford's Public Art Program. They reflect what success will look like across five core impact areas and will be tracked through the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework.

CULTURAL INCLUSION AND REPRESENTATION

Public art visibly reflects the cultural diversity of Abbotsford. Indigenous, newcomer, and equity-deserving communities see themselves represented through artworks, artist residencies, and community-led creative expression in neighbourhoods across the city.

VIBRANT AND INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPACES

Artworks are embedded in parks, transit corridors, community centres, and civic buildings — animating everyday spaces and contributing to design excellence, accessibility, and a sense of belonging.

ONGOING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Residents are meaningfully involved throughout the public art process — from planning and visioning to co-creation and feedback. Community-led initiatives and engagement tools ensure all voices can help shape the public realm.

SOCIAL CONNECTION AND CIVIC DIALOGUE

Public art fosters dialogue, bridges cultures and generations, and provides shared experiences that strengthen civic pride and cohesion across Abbotsford's diverse communities.

ARTISTIC INNOVATION AND SECTOR GROWTH

The City supports the development of local artists through mentorship, residencies, and experimental platforms — building Abbotsford's profile as a city where creativity thrives in public life.

PROGRAM FRAMEWORK: GOVERNANCE, SCOPE AND DELIVERY

Introduction

To deliver an effective and accountable Public Art Program, the City of Abbotsford has established a comprehensive program framework. This framework defines who is responsible (governance), what public art includes (scope), and how it is delivered (streams and implementation tools). Together, these elements provide the foundation for a responsive, sustainable, and culturally grounded public art system that reflects the values, aspirations, and diversity of Abbotsford's residents.

The framework is organized into three interconnected components:

GOVERNANCE AND AUTHORITY

Describes the roles and responsibilities of City Council, staff, advisory bodies, and external collaborators in delivering and overseeing the program.

PROGRAM SCOPE

Outlines the full range of public art practices supported by the City, including permanent, temporary, digital, and community-based works.

PROGRAM DELIVERY

Details the four program areas through which public art is commissioned, activated, and stewarded, supported by policies, funding structures, and administrative procedures.

Governance and Authority

Effective governance is foundational to the integrity, transparency, and long-term success of Abbotsford's Public Art Program. The City of Abbotsford has established a shared governance model that balances formal authority, departmental leadership, and cross-sector collaboration. This model ensures that public art is delivered with professional oversight, cultural sensitivity, and community accountability.

By clearly articulating the roles of Council, staff, advisory groups, and community partners, the governance framework enables informed decision-making, fosters interdepartmental alignment, and upholds ethical and inclusive practices across all aspects of program delivery. It reflects the City's commitment to co-creation, partnerships, and public trust in how civic art is developed, managed, and sustained.

City Council retains the authority to approve this program plan and all future amendments, including the Five-Year Public Art Implementation Plan, the Annual Public Art Workplan, major capital project allocations and site approvals, and deaccessioning decisions.

The Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department is responsible for interdepartmental coordination and reporting on the Public Art Program's status and outcomes. Culture Services, a division within this department, leads program delivery — administering artist selection processes, project management, community engagement, contract oversight, and conservation planning.

The Interdepartmental Public Art Working Group (IPAWG) serves as a cross-departmental advisory body, offering technical expertise, fostering alignment between City divisions, and supporting project planning and implementation. The city may also engage external consultants, cultural partners, curators, and cultural advisors to inform projects of significance.

The Public Art Stewardship Network is a collaborative platform that strengthens alignment, coordination, and shared learning across Abbotsford's public art initiatives. Through self-organized, project-specific working groups, the Network supports consistent practices, cross-sector engagement, and responsive input to guide the work of City staff and the Interdepartmental Public Art Working Group (IPAWG).

This governance structure allows the Public Art Program to adapt to emerging priorities, maintain professional integrity, and foster partnerships with developers, artists, cultural organizations, and community groups. It positions public art as a collective civic responsibility that contributes meaningfully to Abbotsford's public realm and cultural life.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

CITY COUNCIL
Approval of the 5-year Public Art Implementation Plan, updated when appropriate



CITY MANAGER

Interdepartmental Public Art Working Group (IPAWG)
City staff team tasked with both actioning Council-approved public art plans and projects, and developing updates to the Public Art implementation Plan for Council's consideration. Based on required subject matter expertise, the IPAWG may involve the City's Cultural Service partners as invited guests with associated expertise required to deliver on Council's directions.

Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture

Public Art Acquisitions
Acquisition opportunities for the City would be vetted by Parks, Recreation and Culture in collaboration with Finance and Procurement Services, using external expertise when required, and other relevant Departments with recommendations to Council via the City Manager.

Public Art Stewardship Network

Public Art Project Consultant (PAPC)
Independent service provider retained in order to undertake public art development projects under City direction. General scope of work, with City oversights and approval, would include:

- Refining public art project scope
- Assisting with the development and evaluation of competitive processes
- Selecting an evaluation panel to determine the successful proponent and related art works
- Project implementation



Program Scope

Abbotsford's Public Art Program embraces a wide and evolving definition of public art that reflects the diversity, creativity, and values of the community. The program supports artistic expression in all forms — from permanent civic installations to temporary digital interventions, community-led projects, and cultural practices. Public art is recognized as a dynamic tool for storytelling, placemaking, reconciliation, and public dialogue.

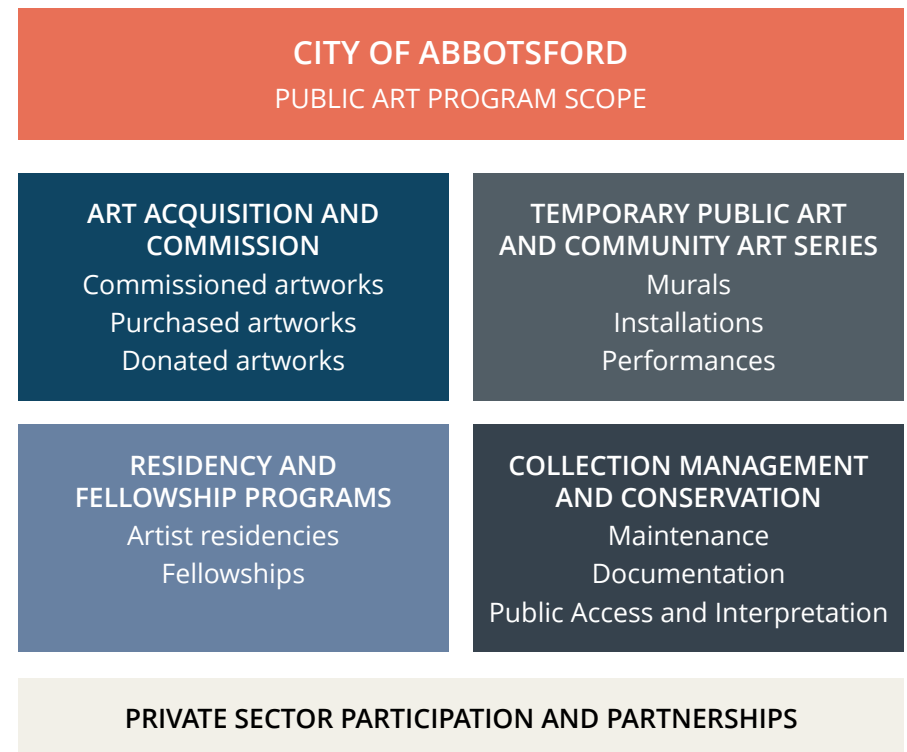
The scope of the program ensures flexibility in format and approach, allowing the City to respond to emerging cultural trends, artist-led innovation, and evolving community needs. It also recognizes the importance of including both City-led and community-initiated projects within the broader vision of public art — fostering shared ownership and inclusive participation in shaping the public realm.

Program Delivery

To operationalize the goals of the Public Art Program, the City has identified four core program areas that support diverse forms of creative expression, long-term stewardship, and community engagement. These streams ensure that public art in Abbotsford is accessible, impactful, and sustained over time:

- Art Acquisition and Commission focuses on the development of long-term artworks for public spaces through commissions, purchases, or donations that become part of the Civic Public Art Collection.
- Temporary Public Art and Community Art Series supports short-term, community-responsive projects that animate public spaces, foster civic dialogue, and reflect local identity.
- Residency and Fellowship Programs integrate artists into municipal and community settings to co-create work, support public engagement, and generate meaningful cultural contributions through relational and research-based practices.
- Collection Management and Conservation ensures the ongoing care, documentation, and interpretation of the Civic Public Art Collection, supporting its long-term integrity, accessibility, and cultural relevance.

Each program area plays a critical role in delivering a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable public art ecosystem for Abbotsford.



ART ACQUISITION

Definition and Scope

This stream refers to the commissioning, donation, or purchase of works of art by the City of Abbotsford for long-term (10+ years) to display in municipally owned or managed public spaces. These works are fabricated with durable materials, undergo formal review and approval processes, and are subject to maintenance and conservation protocols as part of the City's Civic Public Art Collection.

Works of art deemed long-term often align with city infrastructure, capital planning, or legacy initiatives and require full consideration of site conditions, public safety, and long-term stewardship.

Eligible Acquisition Types

1. COMMISSION

A new, original artwork created by a selected artist or creative practitioner in response to a specific site, community context, or civic opportunity. Commissioned works are developed through a structured process that includes artist selection,

concept development, community engagement (where applicable), and approval by City Council.

- Artworks developed through an open call, invitational, or direct commission process.
- May be integrated into civic capital projects, created as standalone features, or co-designed with the community.
- Require formal artist contracts and clear site agreements.

2. PURCHASE

The direct acquisition of an existing artwork through a financial transaction with the artist or owner. Purchased artworks must meet the same evaluation standards as commissions or donations and are integrated into the collection through a formal approval and conservation review process.

- Existing artworks (not created under commission) that meet the City's acquisition criteria may be purchased.
- Works must demonstrate artistic merit, relevance to place, cultural resonance, and material durability.



3. DONATION

An artwork offered as a gift to the City by an artist, individual, organization, or private developer. Donations are reviewed through the Public Art Program's acquisition process to ensure cultural, technical, and spatial suitability, and require appropriate documentation of ownership, condition, and consent.

- Offers of artwork donations from individuals, organizations, or estates will be reviewed under the City's Public Art Donations Policy.
- Donations must meet eligibility criteria (e.g., condition, relevance, artist credentials, maintenance needs, site fit) and must not impose undue cost or liability.
- A donation proposal review process includes submission form, visual documentation, condition report, installation requirements, and third-party appraisals (where applicable).
- Final recommendations on donations are made by the Interdepartmental Public Art Working Group (IPAWG) with the final decision by Council.

Program Implementation Requirements and Procedures

The following requirements and procedures support the consistent delivery of the Public Art Policy. They provide administrative clarity and operational guidance for staff, artists, and partners involved in public art projects. These processes ensure alignment with policy principles and uphold standards of transparency, accountability, and cultural stewardship.

ACQUISITION APPROVAL

All commissions, purchases, and donations must be reviewed and supported by the Interdepartmental Public Art Working Group (IPAWG). High-value or culturally significant works may also require Council approval in accordance with City procedures.

ARTIST CONTRACTS AND COPYRIGHT

All commissioned and acquired artworks must be governed by contracts that clearly outline intellectual property rights, artist moral rights, and permissions for public use and reproduction. Donors of artworks must agree to terms that enable the City to promote, interpret, and maintain the work.

CONSERVATION AND MAINTENANCE

All proposed acquisitions must undergo assessment for materials, conservation needs, and lifecycle costs. Donations may be declined if they present unsustainable maintenance obligations or lack alignment with the City's cultural priorities.

DEACCESSIONING CONSIDERATIONS

Once acquired, artworks become part of the Civic Public Art Collection and are subject to the City's collection management policies. Removal (deaccessioning) may occur only under approved conditions, following formal review and notification of the artist or donor where appropriate.

Supporting Program Implementation Tools

The successful delivery of Abbotsford's Public Art Program is supported by a suite of operational tools, guidelines, and templates. These documents ensure consistency, transparency, and accountability across all aspects of public art planning, commissioning, stewardship, and evaluation. While not included in the body of this Program Plan, these tools are available as accompanying resources and are intended for use by City staff, advisory groups, artists, developers, and partners.

These tools include:

- **Civic Public Art Collection Management Guidelines**
Defines standards for documentation, accessioning, conservation, and deaccessioning of artworks in the civic collection.
- **Donations of Public Art Policy and Review Checklist**
Provides step-by-step guidance for evaluating unsolicited artwork offers, including submission requirements, cultural and technical considerations, and approval processes.
- **Annual Public Art Maintenance Log Template**
A standardized tool used to track inspection dates, maintenance actions, and condition updates for each artwork in the Civic Public Art Collection.
- **Public Art Acquisition Evaluation Tool**
Supports the assessment of proposed acquisitions using consistent criteria for artistic integrity, site suitability, and alignment with program goals.
- **Public Art Risk Assessment Tool**
A decision-support resource used to identify and evaluate potential risks associated with public art projects.
- **Maintenance and Conservation Planning Tool**
Ensures lifecycle and material durability considerations are integrated into public art planning and budgeting from the outset.
- **Deaccessioning Protocol Checklist**
This checklist guides the City of Abbotsford through a transparent and ethical process for removing public artworks from the municipal collection. Each step ensures that legal, cultural, and community considerations are addressed before any deaccessioning decision is finalized.
- **British Columbia's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Protocols and Cultural Review Process**
Offers a framework for engaging cultural partners through the Act and other protocols in the development and care of public artworks.

Alignment with Strategic Outcomes

The Art Acquisition and Commission stream plays a foundational role in achieving the following long-term outcomes:

TRANSFORMATIVE PUBLIC REALM

Permanent works enhance civic identity and define shared spaces.

CULTURAL INCLUSION AND CELEBRATION

Acquisitions reflect Abbotsford's diverse communities and histories.

CREATIVE INSPIRATION

Commissions elevate artistic practice and invite innovation in public space.

2. TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART AND COMMUNITY ART SERIES

This stream supports temporary and community-led public art initiatives designed to animate public spaces, celebrate local identity, and engage residents in creative civic life. Temporary public art refers to works or activations that are intentionally time-limited, often site-responsive, and created to catalyze dialogue, reflection, or community gathering. Projects in this stream are designed to exist for shorter periods of time from days, weeks or months up to two years.

Eligible Formats

Projects may include (but are not limited to):

- Temporary murals and wall-based art
- Installations (e.g. seasonal displays, winter lights, ephemeral sculpture)
- Community story-sharing or memory-mapping initiatives
- Performance-based works (e.g. dance, theatre, music in public space)
- Artist-led interventions and community co-created artworks
- Pop-up activations, interactive and digital work
- Mobile exhibits or artist-designed community programming

Strategic Intent

This program stream enables flexible, accessible, and inclusive participation in public art, especially for equity-deserving and underrepresented groups. It supports placemaking, neighborhood revitalization, and civic storytelling through low-barrier, short-term creative processes. Temporary art often serves as a testing ground for innovation and can evolve into more permanent programs or influence long-term civic planning.

Key Features

- **Community Engagement:** Projects must demonstrate meaningful local involvement in either the creation, content, or delivery of the work.
- **Artist-Community Collaboration:** Supports models where professional artists collaborate with residents, youth, or local organizations.
- **Accessibility & Inclusion:** Encourages multilingual, intercultural, and intergenerational participation and audiences.
- **Ease of Delivery:** Designed to be implemented on shorter timelines with flexible permitting and streamlined project support.

Evaluation & Impact

Each project is tracked through MEL indicators focusing on reach, representation, creative process, and place-based impact. Outcomes are reported annually and used to inform planning for future programming and site use.



3. RESIDENCY AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Definition & Scope

This program stream builds on the success of the artist-in-residence program currently underway and supports artist residencies and fellowships that embed artists into municipal, community, or interdisciplinary contexts to explore relevant themes and contribute to civic life. Residencies are process-based opportunities that emphasize relationship-building, experimentation, and co-learning. Fellowships offer more sustained, independent creative inquiry with structured civic or social impact goals.

Eligible Formats

Projects may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Artist-in-Residence placements within City departments (e.g., Community Planning, Parks, Operations, Recreation)
- Community-based residencies in partnership with schools, libraries, arts council, cultural organizations, or social service agencies
- Youth fellowships or emerging artist mentorships linked to public realm projects
- Thematic or seasonal fellowships (e.g. Reconciliation, Climate, Accessibility, Belonging)
- Research-based public art residencies leading to community activation or public presentation

Strategic Intent

This stream builds upon the City of Abbotsford's existing Artist in Residence Program, bringing it into alignment with the updated Public Art Program Plan. It positions artists as civic collaborators and catalysts for community dialogue, policy reflection, and cultural transformation. Residencies prioritize engagement over product, supporting artists to co-develop ideas with City staff, residents, or interest holders. Fellowships emphasize artistic leadership, knowledge creation, and storytelling rooted in lived experience and place.

Key Features

- **Civic Integration:** Artists work closely with municipal staff or community partners, contributing to real-time planning and engagement processes.
- **Relational Practice:** Projects emphasize listening, empathy, and cultural humility. Outcomes may include co-designed events, installations, or internal recommendations.
- **Compensated Time:** Residencies include clear timelines, remuneration, and project resources that reflect the artist's contribution.
- **Capacity Building:** Fellowships may include professional development, documentation, and opportunities for peer exchange.

Selection and Support

Artists are selected through open calls, nominations, or curated partnerships. Each residency or fellowship includes an orientation, mentorship (where applicable), and dedicated staff liaison support. A terms of reference is co-developed with the artist and host team.

Evaluation and Learning

Residencies and fellowships are evaluated based on depth of engagement, knowledge generated, and contributions to civic dialogue or policy. Artists may be invited to contribute to MEL symposia or publish reflective documentation of their process.

4. COLLECTION MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

Definition & Scope

This stream ensures the long-term stewardship, maintenance, and interpretive care of the City of Abbotsford's Civic Public Art Collection. It includes documentation, condition monitoring, conservation planning, and public access strategies. The goal is to protect the artistic, cultural, and material integrity of the City's artworks for current and future generations.

Core Responsibilities

- **Accessioning:** Artworks become part of the Civic Collection through formal acquisition processes (commission, purchase, or donation), with unique identifiers, full documentation, and legal agreements in place.
- **Condition Monitoring:** Regular site inspections, annual reporting, and artist-informed maintenance reviews ensure that conservation needs are proactively addressed.
- **Maintenance:** Preventive and corrective maintenance activities are planned and budgeted annually. Cleaning, stabilization, and material-specific interventions are tracked using a standardized log.

- **Conservation and Restoration:** Professional conservators may be contracted for specialized treatment, with priority given to high-value or at-risk works. Artists are consulted prior to significant conservation decisions.
- **Deaccessioning and Relocation:** When warranted, artworks may be deaccessioned or relocated through transparent and documented procedures. Reasons may include irreparable damage, site changes, or artist-initiated concerns.

Policy Alignment and Protocols

This stream is governed by the Civic Public Art Collection Management Guidelines and supported by related policy tools, including:

- Public Access and Interpretation
- The collection is made publicly accessible through digital maps, interpretive signage, and online archives.
- Artists' narratives, historical context, and cultural significance are integrated into engagement and education strategies.
- Opportunities for community tours, exhibitions, or school programming may be developed to build public connection with the collection.

Strategic Contributions

This stream directly supports the goals of Transformative Public Realm, Cultural Inclusion and Celebration, and Creative Inspiration, by ensuring that Abbotsford's public art is well cared for, respectfully presented, and publicly valued.



INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC ART

To deliver a responsive, inclusive, and sustainable Public Art Program, the City will invest across four key program streams. Each stream supports a unique aspect of public art delivery, from grassroots engagement to civic legacy-building.

1. TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART AND COMMUNITY ART SERIES

This stream will receive the majority of the Program's core funding. This stream supports a wide variety of short-term, site-responsive, and community-led projects — such as murals, interactive installations, light-based works, seasonal pop-ups, and story-sharing initiatives. Prioritizing this stream ensures that public art is active, visible, and connected to the daily experiences of residents city-wide.

2. ART ACQUISITION AND COMMISSION (PUBLIC ART RESERVE)

A portion of annual funding will be allocated to a Public Art Reserve Fund to support the commissioning or purchase of long-term public artworks. These works are intended to become part of the Civic Public Art Collection and will be guided by acquisition criteria and curatorial planning. The fund will also support curatorial consultants, feasibility studies, and integrated artworks in capital projects.

3. RESIDENCY AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

The Program will continue to support Artist-in-Residence opportunities that embed artists within City departments or civic initiatives. These programs are currently supported through existing budgets and play a vital role in artist development and civic engagement.

4. COLLECTION MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION RESERVE

To ensure responsible stewardship of the City's Civic Public Art Collection, a dedicated portion of funding will be held in reserve for future conservation needs. Funds not used within a given year will accrue to support specialized maintenance over time.

Public Art Reserve Fund

The Public Art Reserve Fund is a dedicated municipal account established to support the City's long-term public art goals, including the creation, stewardship, and sustainability of the civic collection. It enables proactive planning, resource stability, and strategic investments in both new commissions and the long-term care of existing artworks.

Sources of contributions may include:

- Voluntary or policy-based developer investments
- Allocations from capital project budgets
- Annual municipal budget contributions

The Fund may be used to:

- Commission or purchase new public artworks
- Fund public art consultants, feasibility assessments, and design integration
- Support civic legacy works and site-specific installations
- Implement major conservation and restoration efforts for existing artworks

The Reserve is held and administered by the City and used in alignment with Council-approved workplans. It ensures the City can grow a high-quality, well-maintained collection that reflects Abbotsford's evolving identity and values.

Funds are held and managed by the City and used in alignment with Council-approved workplans. The reserve enables the City to plan proactively and build a high-quality collection that reflects Abbotsford's evolving identity and aspirations.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

The success and sustainability of public art in Abbotsford relies not only on municipal leadership but also on meaningful collaboration with the private sector. Developers, business associations, property owners, and other private partners play a vital role in expanding the reach, diversity, and visibility of public art across the city.

This section outlines the various pathways through which the private sector can contribute to Abbotsford's Public Art Program — whether through commissioning artworks as part of new developments, hosting artist residencies that support civic engagement, or enabling community-led murals and installations on private property. These contributions complement municipal efforts and help embed public art more deeply into the built environment, commercial corridors, and neighbourhood identities.

To support and encourage participation, the City provides guidance, clear processes, and, where appropriate, incentives to ensure quality, public benefit, and alignment with civic priorities. This partnership approach reinforces public art as a shared civic responsibility and fosters a culture of collaboration, creativity, and community pride.

ART ACQUISITION: COMMISSION | PURCHASE

ON-SITE PUBLIC ART

Private developers are encouraged to commission or purchase public art as part of their project design, enhancing the public realm and contributing to civic identity. Developer-funded or incentivized commissions (e.g. via public art contributions, negotiated developments).

Developers are encouraged to engage with Culture Services and Planning staff early in the development process. A Public Art Plan and Community Benefit Statement should be submitted alongside applicable development applications. City staff will provide guidance to ensure alignment with public art priorities, site context, and quality standards. All proposed artworks must meet criteria for public accessibility, cultural sensitivity, safety, and durability.

Incentives for Participation

- Recognition through City communications, events, and public relations
- Consideration for density bonusing or other planning-related incentives, where applicable.

Pathways of participation include:

1. **Acquisition:** Developers may choose to acquire a work of public art through commission or purchase.
2. **Public Art Reserve Contribution:** As an alternative, developers may contribute to the City's Public Art Reserve Fund to support strategic public art projects city-wide.
3. **Residencies/Fellowships:** Business Improvement Associations or developers hosting artist residencies tied to placemaking.

TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART

Private partnerships or sponsorship for activations on quasi-public or privately accessible sites.

- **Community-Led Public Art on Private Property:** Community-driven public art projects on private property — such as murals — are a key avenue for civic expression, creative placemaking, and neighborhood vitality. These projects empower residents, artists, and community organizations to collaboratively enhance public-facing spaces while respecting private ownership.

Recognizing the value of these grassroots initiatives, the city is committed to enabling, supporting, and lightly regulating community-led projects to maximize accessibility, safety, and public benefit.

To support this:

- A light-touch permitting process will be maintained to reduce barriers for community groups and artists.
- Projects must include consent from property owners and demonstrate public benefit, artistic quality, and safety.
- The City may provide technical guidance, visibility, or promotion of these initiatives.

The Roles and Responsibilities will be as follows:

- **City of Abbotsford (Development Planning, Culture Services and IPA WG):** Review proposals for alignment with public art and zoning guidelines, facilitate approval, and offer promotional support
- **Community Groups:** Develop proposals, coordinate with artists, secure owner consent, and maintain completed works.
- **Property Owners:** Provide access and support basic maintenance.

ABBOTSFORD
FIRE HALL No 5

3
0
3
7
3



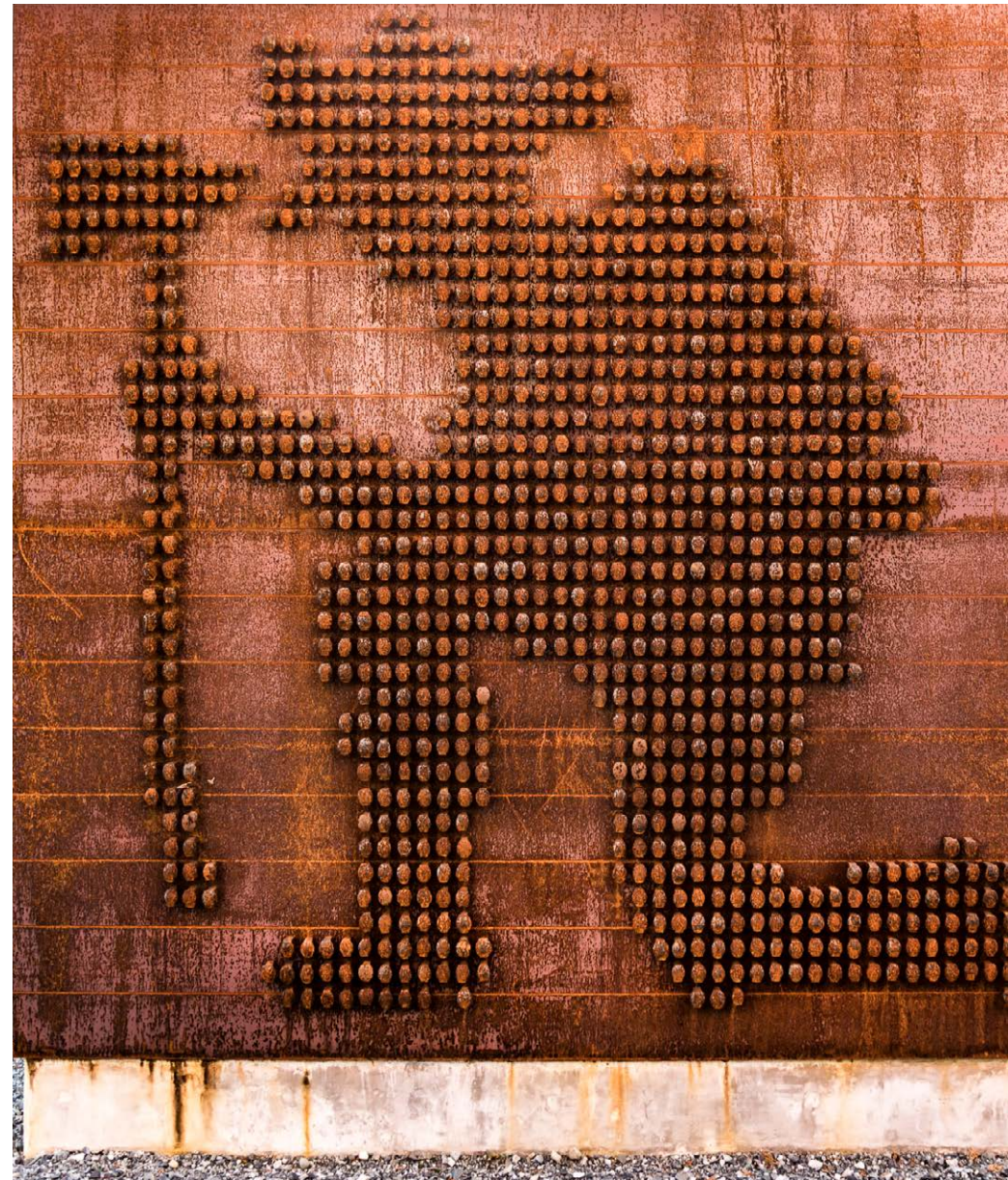
IMPLEMENTATION
FRAMEWORK:
2026–2035

The City of Abbotsford's Public Art Program Plan unfolds across three interconnected phases over ten years (2026–2035). This phased approach ensures public art is intentionally and sustainably embedded into civic systems, policies, and communities. It allows the City to learn from each phase, adjust strategies based on ongoing evaluation, and align public art with Abbotsford's evolving identity, planning priorities, and civic infrastructure.

A key enabler of this long-term vision is the Public Art Reserve Fund — a dedicated municipal account that supports the creation, stewardship, and sustainability of public art across the city. The Reserve ensures the City can proactively plan and invest in both new commissions and the care of existing artworks, including major conservation initiatives. Funding sources include voluntary or policy-based developer contributions, capital project allocations, and annual municipal investments. The Fund is administered by the City and used in alignment with Council-approved workplans.

The implementation strategy is structured around key policy areas and long-term program outcomes that guide all actions over the next decade:

- Cultural Inclusion and Celebration
- Transformative Public Realm
- Active Community Engagement
- Social Connectivity
- Creative Inspiration



Phase 1 (2026–2029): Foundation and Building

OBJECTIVE

Establish the core structures, partnerships, and practices needed to launch a city-wide Public Art Program.

This foundational phase focuses on building capacity across City departments and establishing the policy, governance, and funding tools required to support long-term program success. The City will initiate high-impact, community-driven projects — particularly in underserved areas — and begin aligning public art delivery with broader municipal strategies. This phase also supports equity-based practices, temporary installations, and the integration of public art into civic planning and infrastructure processes.

KEY STRATEGIES

STRATEGY 1: STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE AND COLLABORATION

- **Action 1.1:** Establish and formalize the Interdepartmental Public Art Working Group (IPAWG) to oversee cross-departmental coordination and implementation.
- **Action 1.2:** Convene Public Art Stewardship Network to provide cultural partner, community, artist, and sector input into program workplan development.
- **Action 1.3:** Engage advisors and from the Public Art Stewardship Network to guide cultural protocols on projects as applicable.

STRATEGY 2: ADVANCE EQUITY THROUGH TARGETED ACTIVATION

- **Action 2.1:** Pilot temporary art projects in underserved neighbourhoods, prioritizing community input and local partnerships.
- **Action 2.2:** Launch a micro-commissioning stream to support emerging artists and low-barrier creative interventions in public spaces.

STRATEGY 3: BUILD CAPACITY ACROSS ARTISTS, DEVELOPERS, AND STAFF

- **Action 3.1:** Develop and distribute artist and developer toolkits, including onboarding guides, technical checklists, and mentorship resources.
- **Action 3.2:** Provide orientation and training for internal City staff and external partners involved in public art delivery.

STRATEGY 4: INTEGRATE PUBLIC ART INTO CITY PLANNING AND DESIGN

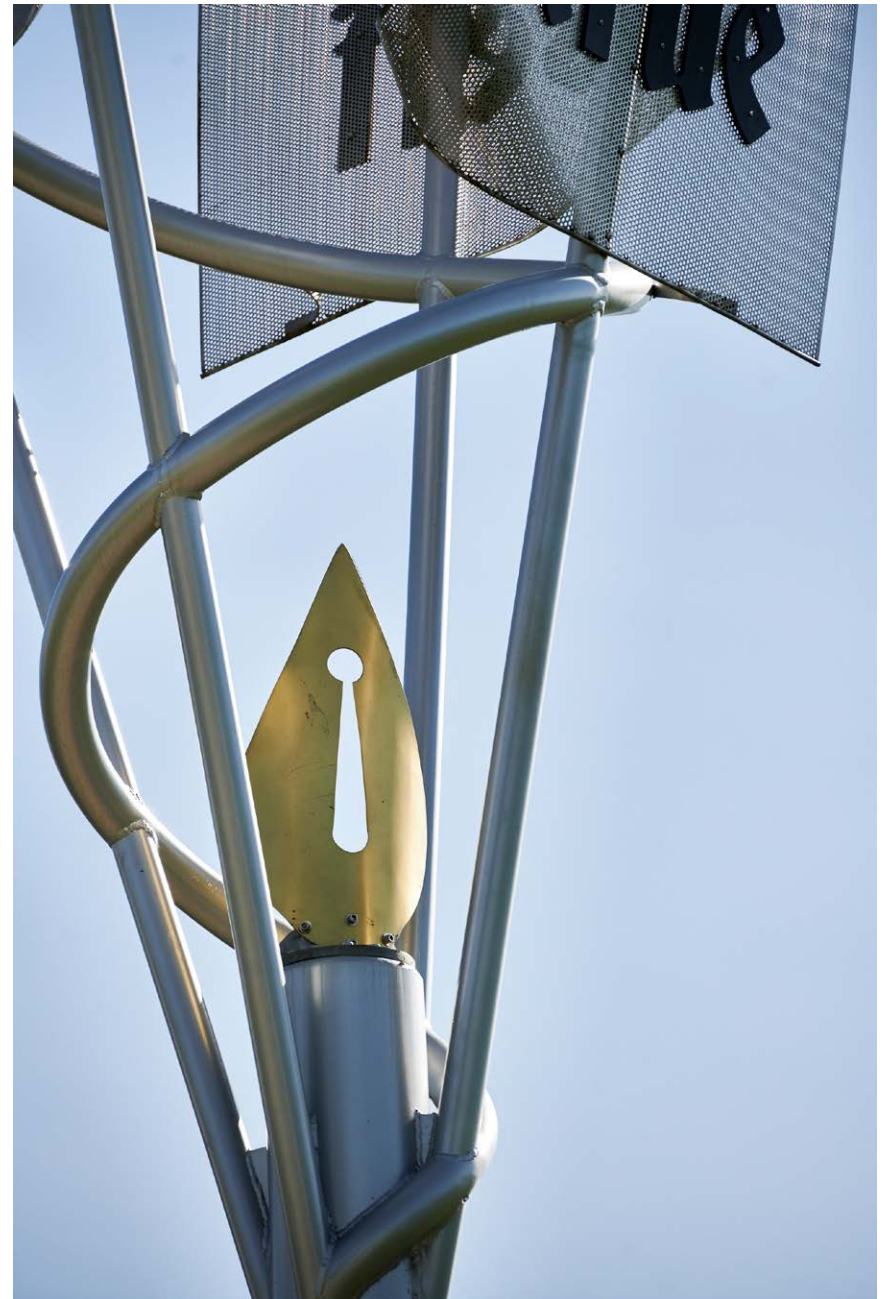
- **Action 4.1:** Embed public art considerations into key City planning documents as applicable (e.g., Official Community Plan, Parks and Culture Master Plans, urban design and zoning guidelines).
- **Action 4.2:** Collaborate with Community Planning, Project Management Office, and Parks Planning to identify early-stage capital projects suitable for integrated public art.

STRATEGY 5: DEEPEN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CULTURAL STORYTELLING

- **Action 5.1:** Design and deploy multilingual, culturally responsive engagement tools to reach a wide range of community members.
- **Action 5.2:** Launch city-wide storytelling and vision campaigns that elevate diverse voices and articulate a collective vision for public art in Abbotsford.

STRATEGY 6: IMPLEMENT A SUSTAINABLE AND STRATEGIC FUNDING MODEL

- **Action 6.1:** Allocate a majority of early-phase funding (e.g., 60%) to support temporary and community-led projects that ensure public visibility and impact.
- **Action 6.2:** Establish a Public Art Reserve Fund for long-term commissions, capital project integrations, and strategic acquisitions, with incremental bi-annual increases to grow capacity.
- **Action 6.3:** Ensure that 10% of annual funding is directed toward collection management and conservation, with unspent funds accruing toward future specialized needs.
- **Action 6.4:** Regularly review and adjust funding allocations in alignment with program goals and the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework.



Phase 2 (2030–2033): Expansion and Integration

OBJECTIVE

Scale the reach and impact of the Public Art Program by embedding it into civic systems and fostering innovation across sectors.

During this phase, the City will expand core initiatives such as artist residencies, community co-creation, and private sector collaboration. Public art will be increasingly integrated into infrastructure, cultural planning, and digital platforms. This period emphasizes experimentation, cultural mapping, and the use of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) tools to assess progress, guide investment, and support adaptive growth.

STRATEGY 1: DEEPEN ARTIST AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- **Action 1.1:** Expand the Artist-in-Residence program to include other civic departments, themes, and longer-term placements.
- **Action 1.2:** Launch community co-creation grant programs to support collaborative public art initiatives led by residents, artists, and grassroots organizations.

STRATEGY 2: STRENGTHEN PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

- **Action 2.1:** Track developer contributions to public art projects through a centralized reporting mechanism.
- **Action 2.2:** Expand developer recognition through promotional platforms, signage, and civic award programs.

STRATEGY 3: INTEGRATE ART INTO CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Action 3.1:** Coordinate opportunities for artist-designed infrastructure in public works and planning projects (e.g., benches, streetscapes, wayfinding).
- **Action 3.2:** Develop public art overlays or zones as part of neighbourhood planning efforts.

STRATEGY 4: ADVANCE EVALUATION AND IMPACT MEASUREMENT

- **Action 4.1:** Implement outcome-based evaluation methods tied to the five Public Art Program Priority Outcomes.
- **Action 4.2:** Create and maintain a digital dashboard to report on program performance, reach, and equity.

STRATEGY 5: AMPLIFY PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND CULTURAL LEGACY

- **Action 5.1:** Increase the frequency and diversity of public events, artist talks, and cultural activations.
- **Action 5.2:** Launch storytelling forums and collect legacy documentation to build a long-term archive of public art projects and community impact.

Phase 3 (2034–2035): Sustainability and Evaluation

OBJECTIVE

Sustain a well-established, culturally grounded Public Art Program and strengthen Abbotsford's position as a leader in the public art sector.

In this phase, Abbotsford transitions from program implementation to long-term stewardship and sector leadership. Public art becomes embedded across city infrastructure, planning, and branding. This period focuses on renewing governance frameworks, strengthening cultural protocols, and celebrating legacy achievements. Evaluation and knowledge-sharing practices are formalized to ensure lasting cultural impact and operational excellence.

STRATEGY 1: DEEPEN CULTURAL COLLABORATION AND CUSTODIANSHIP

- **Action 1.1:** Formalize Cultural Custodianship protocols and agreements for existing and future public artworks as applicable.

STRATEGY 2: ALIGN PUBLIC ART WITH LONG-TERM CAPITAL PLANNING

- **Action 2.1:** Integrate public art priorities into the City's capital planning and infrastructure investment processes.
- **Action 2.2:** Develop cross-departmental planning guidelines to support long-term art integration into major capital projects.

STRATEGY 3: FOSTER SECTOR LEADERSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

- **Action 3.1:** Host a biennial Public Art Futures Forum¹ to share best practices, celebrate achievements, and support peer learning.
- **Action 3.2:** Document and archive completed projects and evaluations to support continuous improvement and sector development.

¹ Public Art Futures Forum A biennial event that brings together artists, City staff, Indigenous partners, developers, and community members to celebrate achievements, share lessons learned, and explore future directions in public art. The Forum supports ongoing collaboration, innovation, and transparency — aligning with the City's evaluation and learning commitments.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Each program plan area includes a context summary, long-term strategy, and detailed actions organized by implementation phase (2026–2029, 2030–2033, 2034–2036). This phased approach aligns with the Public Art Program’s Implementation Plan and supports coordinated delivery, evaluation, and adaptation.

STRATEGY AREA 1: Vision and Purpose

CONTEXT & CURRENT STATE

Community feedback highlights a need for clearer, more inclusive public art language that resonates with diverse audiences. The current vision lacks specificity around reconciliation, equity, and local cultural identity.

STRATEGY

Build clarity, alignment, and community resonance around the purpose and vision of public art in Abbotsford.

2026–2029	2030–2033	2034–2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate public art language into key City planning documents Launch plain language communications Commission cultural storytelling projects in underserved areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure new commissions are place-based and reflect local narratives Expand storytelling installations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a vision refresh using community-driven processes; use artist residencies to gather input

STRATEGY AREA 2: Authority and Governance

CONTEXT & CURRENT STATE

Governance structures exist but require clearer roles, expanded participation, and public transparency.

STRATEGY

Establish a collaborative, transparent governance model that supports equity and interdepartmental alignment.

2026–2029	2030–2033	2034–2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalize IPAWG and Public Art Stewardship Network Develop governance diagram and onboarding tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate governance efficacy Pilot inclusive advisory participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct governance audit Co-create refreshed governance model

STRATEGY AREA 3: Priority Outcomes

CONTEXT & CURRENT STATE

Outcome goals are established but not yet operationalized.

STRATEGY

Guide investments and impact measurement through five Priority Outcomes: inclusion, engagement, public realm transformation, creative inspiration, and social connection.

2026-2029	2030-2033	2034-2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply outcome criteria in commissioning and evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch outcome-based evaluations and tracking dashboards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish Public Art Impact Report with findings and stories

STRATEGY AREA 4: Scope of Public Art

CONTEXT & CURRENT STATE

Current collection emphasizes permanent artworks; stakeholders call for broader formats and geographic distribution.

STRATEGY

Expand formats and mediums while balancing short-term visibility with long-term legacy.

2026-2029	2030-2033	2034-2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot temporary and digital projects Prioritize underserved areas Support emerging artists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use cultural mapping to guide investments Launch artist-designed infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutionalize new media and immersive formats Conduct annual cultural mapping

STRATEGY AREA 5: Artist and Artwork Selection

CONTEXT & CURRENT STATE

Processes are not well-communicated; selection lacks transparency and inclusion.

STRATEGY

Ensure inclusive, merit-based artist selection processes that reflect Abbotsford’s diversity.

2026–2029	2030–2033	2034–2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversify selection panels and increase representation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver panel training on equity and cultural safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate and update selection frameworks

STRATEGY AREA 6: Community Engagement

CONTEXT & CURRENT STATE

Residents seek more meaningful and accessible engagement tools.

STRATEGY

Embed inclusive, transparent engagement across all phases of public art planning.

2026–2029	2030–2033	2034–2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deploy multilingual digital tools • Host storytelling and visioning campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate co-design workshops across neighbourhoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish feedback loops • Publish “You Said, We Did” summaries

STRATEGY AREA 7: Community-Led Public Art

CONTEXT & CURRENT STATE

Community members seek more opportunities to lead public art projects. There is no formal structure to support resident-led projects on private property.

STRATEGY

Support grassroots expression and long-term cultural engagement.

2026-2029	2030-2033	2034-2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Community-Led Public Art Framework • Conduct a Community Readiness and Needs Assessment • Establish a Pilot Micro-Grant Program • Recruit a Mentorship Pool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch an annual community co-creation grant stream • Provide mentorship and capacity-building • Pilot temporary installations in high-traffic civic areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an annual “Abbotsford Creates” showcase

STRATEGY AREA 8: Private Sector Participation

CONTEXT & CURRENT STATE

There is no consistent or formalized developer engagement framework.

STRATEGY

Build a cohesive approach to voluntary and policy-based developer contributions.

2026-2029	2030-2033	2034-2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and distribute a Developer Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track all developer artworks and voluntary contributions • Introduce recognition events and platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalize voluntary developer contribution policy • Integrate contributions into planning review processes

STRATEGY AREA 9: Cultural Self-Representation, Relationship-Building, and Ethical Practice

CONTEXT & CURRENT STATE

Current public art practices do not reflect the diverse worldviews and cultural protocols of the community.

STRATEGY

Center cultural self-representation in all applicable public art processes through sustained relationships, cultural protocols, and co-created governance.

2026–2029	2030–2033	2034–2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-develop culturally-informed policies with local community • Ensure cultural representation in governance and project design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch cultural commissioning streams • Create dedicated cultural project pathways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalize Cultural Custodianship roles for legacy artworks

STRATEGY AREA 10: Stewardship, Transparency, and Cultural Continuity

CONTEXT & CURRENT STATE

Documentation and conservation are inconsistently applied; cultural protocols require formal integration.

STRATEGY

Build a digital, accessible, and protocol-driven system for documentation and conservation that respects artist intent and cultural protocols.

2026–2029	2030–2033	2034–2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a centralized digital inventory • Draft a Public Art Conservation Manual • Establish inspection and maintenance routines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch a public-facing art portal with map integration • Train City staff on cultural care protocols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish lifecycle tracking systems • Introduce AI, (artificial intelligence,-) and AR, (artificial reality,-)integrated documentation tools • Create protocols for legacy management

STRATEGY AREA 11: Funding and Sustainability

CONTEXT & CURRENT STATE

Initial funding is in place, but long-term strategies are not yet established.

STRATEGY

Ensure long-term, transparent investment in public art.

2026-2029	2030-2033	2034-2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track allocations by stream and publish reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce diversified revenue strategies (grants, partnerships) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build on the Public Art Reserve Fund

STRATEGY AREA 12: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)

CONTEXT & CURRENT STATE

Abbotsford lacks a structured public art evaluation system.

STRATEGY

Build an evidence-based, reflective public art program that evolves with the city.

2026-2029	2030-2033	2034-2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop baseline indicators and MEL methodology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct biennial MEL reviews and adjust strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host a Public Art Futures Forum to showcase MEL results and sector innovations

APPENDICES

Appendix I

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Defines key terms used throughout the City of Abbotsford's Public Art Program Plan. The definitions encompass policy terms, cultural concepts, and evolving roles in public art, ensuring clarity for staff, artists, developers, and community partners alike.

ACCESSIBILITY

Designing public art and engagement processes to be inclusive of people of all abilities, languages, ages, and experiences — physically, culturally, and economically.

ACQUISITION

The formal process through which an artwork becomes part of the City's Civic Public Art Collection. Acquisition may occur through commission, purchase, or donation, and is subject to review based on artistic quality, relevance, condition, and alignment with policy criteria.

ARTIST | CREATIVE PRACTITIONER

A professional who creates original works in visual, digital, performing, or interdisciplinary forms. "Creative Practitioner" is an inclusive term acknowledging cultural workers, Indigenous Culture Bearers, designers, and storytellers.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

A time-bound opportunity where an artist is embedded in a civic department, community, or process to explore ideas, co-create work, or contribute to planning through a creative lens.

CO-CREATION

A collaborative process between artists, residents, and/or organizations where participants actively shape the concept, design, or implementation of a public art project.

COMMUNITY-LED PUBLIC ART

Public art that originates from residents, local organizations, or cultural groups, often co-designed and reflecting lived experience or place-based storytelling.

CREATIVE PRACTITIONER

This term recognizes that individuals working in public art may not all identify solely as "artists" in the traditional or Western fine arts sense. *Artist and Creative Practitioner can be used interchangeably in the Public Art Policy and Program Plan

It embraces a broader spectrum of roles including:

- Visual artists
- Designers
- Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and Culture Bearers
- Makers and craftspeople
- Media and digital artists
- Performers and storytellers

CULTURAL MAPPING

A method for identifying and documenting cultural assets, community stories, histories, and creative potential across neighborhoods or regions.

CULTURAL PROTOCOLS

Guidelines developed by Indigenous or cultural communities that outline respectful ways to engage with their knowledge, stories, images, and traditions.

DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTION

A voluntary or policy-based financial or in-kind contribution from private developers to support public art on-site or through a Public Art Reserve Fund.

DIGITAL PUBLIC ART

Artworks that use technology such as projection, augmented reality, sound, or interactive platforms, and are accessible through screens or devices in public space.

DONATION

An artwork offered as a gift to the City by an artist, individual, organization, or private developer. Donations are reviewed through the Public Art Program's acquisition process to ensure cultural, technical, and spatial suitability, and require appropriate documentation of ownership, condition, and consent.

ENGAGEMENT (PUBLIC OR COMMUNITY)

The process of involving residents and stakeholders in shaping public art planning or individual projects. This may include consultation, co-design, storytelling, and feedback.

EQUITY-DESERVING GROUPS

Communities that have historically been underserved or excluded from public processes due to systemic barriers. This includes (but is not limited to) Indigenous peoples, racialized communities, LGBTQ2S+ individuals, people with disabilities, newcomers, and youth.

INDIGENOUS CULTURE BEARERS

Respected individuals who hold and transmit cultural knowledge, oral history, language, protocols, and artistic practices within their Nations or communities. Culture bearers may be Elders, Knowledge Keepers, artists, or ceremonial practitioners, and are essential collaborators in processes involving Indigenous representation, storytelling, or symbolism.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL PUBLIC ART WORKING GROUP (IPAWG)

A City-led coordination table composed of staff from multiple departments who review and align public art opportunities with broader municipal processes and goals.

LEGACY PROJECTS

Public artworks that hold lasting cultural or civic significance due to their impact, placement, or symbolism, and are maintained as part of the City's cultural heritage.

LONG-TERM OR PERMANENT PUBLIC ART

Public artworks intended to remain in place and in the civic collection for an extended duration — typically 10 years or more. These works are fabricated with durable materials, undergo formal review and approval processes, and are subject to maintenance and conservation protocols as part of the City's Civic Public Art Collection. Permanent artworks often align with city infrastructure, capital planning, or legacy initiatives and require full consideration of site conditions, public safety, and long-term stewardship.

MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING (MEL)

A structured process for tracking the outcomes, lessons, and impact of public art projects over time. MEL frameworks support adaptation, transparency, and continuous improvement.

NEW MEDIA ART

Art that uses contemporary technologies such as digital interfaces, virtual or augmented reality, sound, or environmental sensors in its creation or presentation.

PUBLIC ART

Original creative work situated in public space that is freely accessible and reflects the culture, history, or identity of a place and its people. May be temporary or permanent.

PUBLIC ART RESERVE FUND

A dedicated municipal fund that pools resources for commissioning, purchasing, conserving, and maintaining public art, supported by civic investment and voluntary private developer contributions.

PURCHASE

The direct acquisition of an existing artwork through a financial transaction with the artist or owner. Purchased artworks must meet the same evaluation standards as commissions or donations and are integrated into the collection through a formal approval and conservation process.

RECONCILIATION

A commitment to truth-telling, relationship-building, and systemic change that addresses the impacts of colonialism and supports Indigenous rights, resurgence, and cultural leadership.

SITE EQUITY INDEX

Developed for the City of Abbotsford's Public Art Program. The Index evaluates neighbourhoods using equity-based criteria — such as public art coverage, cultural diversity, income

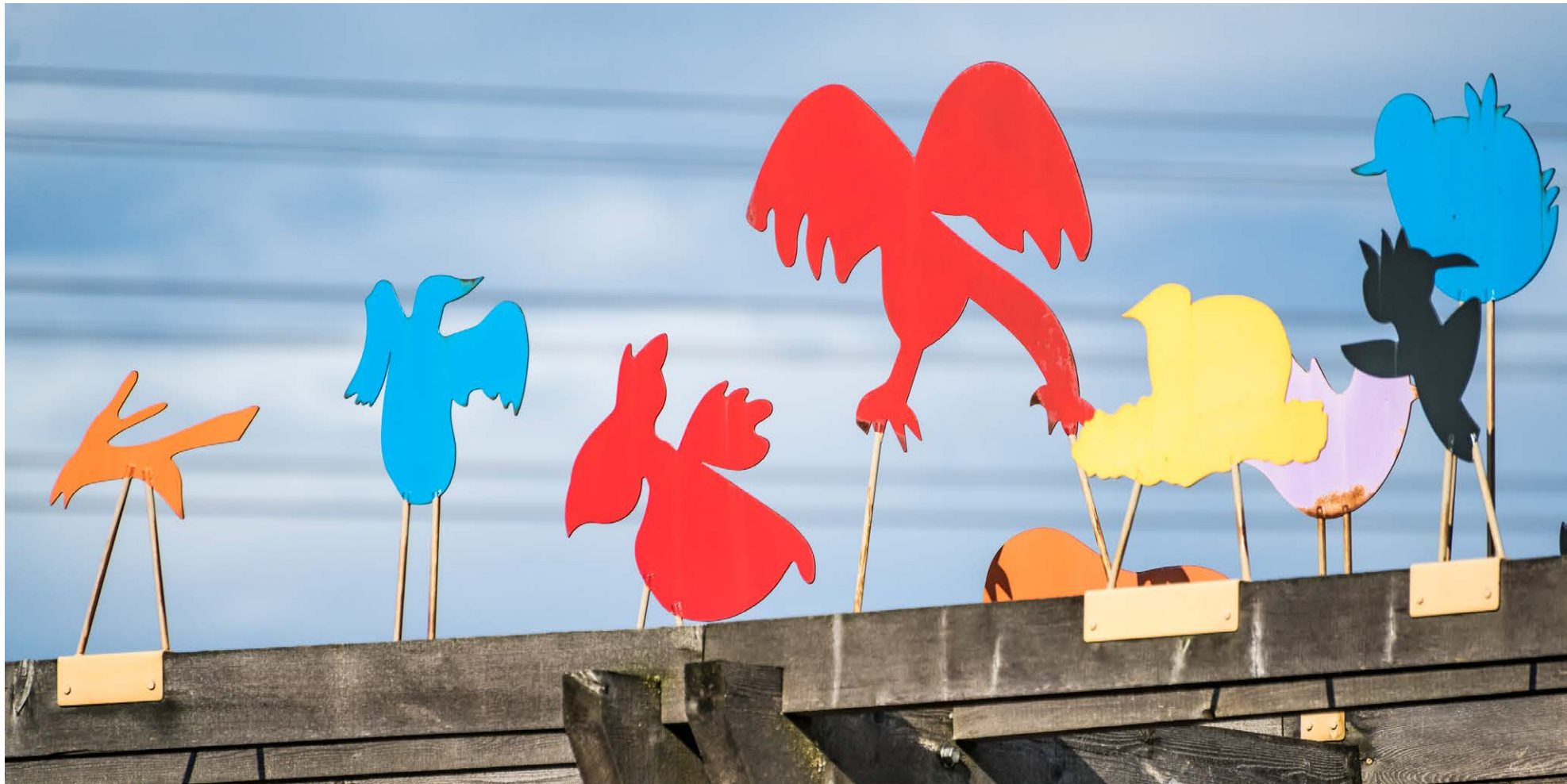
level, youth population, Indigenous presence, and community engagement — to identify geographic gaps and prioritize future public art investments. The accompanying action plan outlines phased strategies to improve access, representation, and cultural visibility in underserved areas across the city.

SITE-SPECIFIC

Public art that is designed in response to the physical, cultural, social, or environmental characteristics of a particular location.

TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART

Public artworks designed to exist for a finite period — ranging from hours to two years. Temporary works are often experimental, seasonal, or event-based.



Appendix 2

ARTWORK ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Life Cycle of a Salmon – Raphael Silver, 2011

The Hop Across – Brent Bukowski, 2018

The Golden Tree - Dean Lauze and Christina Lauze, 2015

Tree of Life and Phoenix Rising – Krista Kilvert and David Kilvert, 2012

Mt. Lehman Firehall Project °– Tara-Lynn Kozma-Perrin and Aaron Young, 2017 Matsqui Firehall Public Art Project – Studio Hub Architects, 2017



Evoke – Culture 2.0 is a forward-looking consulting collective that is committed to designing a valuable and future-oriented role for culture in civic life.