

Arts Development Advisory Committee

2025 Year End Report

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ARTS DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Introduction

The Arts Development Advisory Committee (ADAC) is one of ten civic committees and boards that serve St. Albert. Committee members are volunteers, residents of St. Albert with a passion for the arts, who are dedicated to stewarding our vibrant city into an inspiring and creative future. Members range from working artists and industry professionals to enthusiastic art appreciators and audience members.

Founded in January of 2021 with Bylaw 9/2020, ADAC makes recommendations and provides advice on the development of policies for the City of St. Albert which support the development of Arts and Artists. This includes making recommendations to council on the allocation funds for Public Art acquisition and maintenance projects, serving as adjudicators and approving specific arts related civic grants, and approving the pool of potential jurors for public art selection committees.

Most of all we are a voice that advocates for the arts within our City.

ADAC works closely with many staff in the Community Services Department, specifically our committee liaison Jacilyn Blackwood (Visual Arts Coordinator) and Andrea Bowes (Public Art Associate and Registrar).

Our work is guided in part by the Public Art Policy for the City, which was approved by Council in 2024. The Policy affirms the City's commitment to building and caring for a diverse Public Art collection that contributes to our communities' sense of belonging, wellbeing, and wonder. The Policy ensures a consistent approach to acquiring public artworks through purchase or commission for municipally owned buildings and properties, within the City of St. Albert.

The Public Art Policy is available publicly [online](#).

GRANTS AND AWARDS – ADVISORY AND AJUDICATION

Throughout the year, the City of St. Albert recognizes and supports artist from across our community. ADAC members are often called upon to serve as jurors for various arts related grants and awards that are facilitated by the City. The two that were held in 2025 were the annual Young Arts Legacy Awards and the bi-annual Mayors Awards for the Arts.

Please note, ADAC members do not serve as jurors on public art selection committees. Those jurors are chosen from a pool of citizens and business leaders who have strong ties to the community. <https://stalbert.ca/exp/arts-culture/public-art/selection-committee/>

The Young Artist Legacy Awards

The Lieutenant Governor Young Artist Legacy Awards Program is designed to assist in the development of young aspiring artists from the St. Albert community through small grants. This grant program provides funding to young artists to pursue education, training, or career opportunities.

Thanks to a generous increase in funding, the 2025 Young Artist Legacy Award was given out to six local youths, up from the four grants distributed in 2024. The arts opportunities that were funded allowed these St. Albert youths to attend

- AFTERMATH Summer Program in California – grant awarded \$500
- The Alberta Ballet 2025 Summer Session in Edmonton – grant awarded \$200
- MusiCamp Alberta in Red Deer – grant awarded \$500
- Woodshed Tap Experience in Colorado – grant awarded \$300
- Country Music Alberta in Calgary – grant awarded \$500
- The Francophonie Jeunesse de l'Alberta in Edmonton and Laval, Quebec – grant awarded \$500

Total funding requested and awarded was **\$2,500.00**

The Mayors Awards for the Arts

The Mayor's Celebration of the Arts Awards recognizes and honours the exceptional artistic talents within our vibrant community. From visual artists to musicians, instrument makers to dancers and poets, and for all those who have made the arts their lifelong commitment, the Awards celebrate creativity and collaboration among individuals and groups who have made outstanding contributions to the local arts scene in St. Albert.

A selection of ADAC members served as jurors for this year's Mayors Awards for the Arts. In total, 17, of artists were nominated across the five categories. Working alongside members from the community, the Mayor's Awards jurors set about the difficult work of selecting just one winner for each category.

The nominees for the 2026 Mayor's Awards are:

- **Emerging Artist** – Jenna Moan (painter), Dallas Loyd Stainthorp (writer/ poet), Saraswoti Lamichhane (writer/ poet), Daphne Charrois (actress/ dancer/ singer/ writer) and Alexa Leon (singer / writer)
- **Mid-Career Artist** – Cristian de la Luna (musician), Phillip Gagnon (painter) and Eunju Park (collage artist)
- **Youth Artist (ages 13-21)** – Aveya (singer/ songwriter), Oyemen Agbonison (poet); Keira Myer (singer/ songwriter)

- **Arts Champion** – St. Albert Signers Guild (choir), Groovy Gang Choir (choir), Emily Baker (curator)
- **Lifetime Achievement Award** – Ryan Arcand (singer/ dancer / educator), Gracie Jane Genereux (gallery owner), Bruce Allen (Painter)

The winners of the Mayor’s Awards for the Arts will be announced at a reception on March 18, 2026. Along with recognition, award winners will receive a monetary prize, an original work of art from a local artist and a video celebrating their achievement. The winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award will also be added to the Culture Wall of Fame, with their name etched onto a leaf in the public art piece *The Gathering*.

PUBLIC ART - COLLECTION MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

The care of the City of St. Albert’s Public Art Collection is an ongoing responsibility for the Community Services team. Several projects that were tackled in 2025, including intensive maintenance on a few public art pieces, renewed signage and deaccessioning of works from the collection.

In June 2025, ADAC recommended that **\$90,000** from the maintenance reserve be put towards a number of projects that would care for the collection over the course of 2025 and 2026.

2025 Maintenance projects completed

- **Hide & Seek:** New concrete pad and new attachment pins were installed, the work also cleaned and protected.
- **Snail on a Leaf Bench:** Bench removed and refurbished and reinstalled.
- **Maintenance:** External Specialists contracted to clean and maintain outdoor artworks.
- **Butterfly Sails:** Surface cleaning and upgrades to the fountain system.
- **Plaque updates and replacement:** Fabrication and installation of new plaques for all Public Art pieces in indoor and outdoor spaces. The new plaques are weather and scratch resistant, resulting in a long lasting and professional appearance, and include consistent branding across all public art signage.
- **Upgrades to framing and installations:** The 12 artworks from the banner project were framed, as well as the original artwork for the public art bus.
- **Deaccessions:** Several works were deaccessioned from the City of St. Albert’s art collection in 2025, including *Saturday at the Market* by Phelps & Holmes, *A Glimpse Through St. Albert’s History* by Side Schaeffer, *Father Lacombe Relief Sculpture* by unknown and a Profiles Gallery Poster. All three items have been taken into the

collection of the Musée Heritage Museum, so that they can remain part of St. Albert's history and culture.

Upcoming 2026 maintenance projects

- **Blooms:** The artwork will be lifted to install a new moisture barrier, and a sealant will be applied to add extra protection to the work.
- **Appraisals:** Two-dimensional artworks in the collection will be appraised for insurance purposes. A qualified art appraiser will be contracted to complete appraisals.
- **Other miscellaneous maintenance projects:** Maintenance work on artworks as they are identified. Work includes scheduled cleaning. Artworks that require frame upgrades will be identified and scheduled.

PUBLIC ART – COMPLETED PROJECTS 2025

Administration has been working collaboratively with internal stakeholders to identify opportunities for art and artists to add to the vibrancy of our community. As Public Art funding is separate from Capital Project funding, Administration needed to secure funding for these projects early to align with existing project timelines.

For larger projects tied to Capital or RMR projects, Community Services works to ensure that artists are brought in early, to give them a full understanding of the scope and intention of the project, identify opportunities within the overall detailed design and provide an opportunity for meaningful engagement with the public.

For all of the Public Art projects within this report, the budget is comprehensive, including the projected costs for the call for artists, selection committee, artists scope of work including community engagement, materials, fabrication, installation, contingency, and maintenance.

Downtown Banners Project

A project that began in early 2024 was happily installed in the spring of 2025. The Downtown Banners Project features 80 art banners, showcasing the work of three local artists. The selected artists each created four new works specifically for the project, which were photographed and printed as colourful banners that now adorn the light poles and banner arms in downtown St. Albert.

This is a pilot project, scheduled to run for at least three years with the banners on display for 8-10 months of the year. The goal of this project is to enhance the downtown's vibrancy by incorporating artwork created by local artists that speaks to, and of, our community's commitment to diversity and inclusion. In 2018 Council

authorized the transfer of funding for a diversity and inclusion project totalling \$90,000.00 from the Public Art Lifecycle Fund.

This project utilized **\$35,000.00**. The remainder of this funding was put towards the Public Art bus project.



Selecting artists and art creation

The project was looking primarily for artists who have been historically underrepresented in the public art collection based on race/ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, and citizenship status. ADAC was enthusiastically in support of this project, inspired by its intention to create a welcoming and inclusive space at the heart of our community.

A Call for Artists – Request for Qualifications was opened on June 10, 2024, with 28 artists submitting before the closing on August 25, 2024. A selection committee of St. Albert residents met in the fall of 2024, selecting Eunju Park, Melanie Hsiao and Jasper



June for the project. The three artists met with City staff to discuss their practices and inspirations and then got to work creating new pieces specifically for this project.

Completion and celebration

In May 2025, twelve stunning artworks had been created, printed, and installed as banners downtown. Eunju Park works with Hanji (traditional Korean mulberry paper), Melanie Hsiao used a mix of painting and pressed flowers, and Jasper June’s medium was embroidery. The twelve original artworks are now part of the City’s Public Art Collection.

Children’s Festival 2025

Children’s Festival is a celebration of art, performance, community and childhood. To add an extra component of visual art and wonder to the 2025 festival, Alberta-based artist Kelsey Fraser was commissioned to create work that activates the interior and exterior of St. Albert Place.



Through portals, pathways and interactive artworks, Kelsey guided visitors through site-specific activations and installations within the building and throughout the grounds of St. Albert Place.

Inspired by the curiosity and playfulness of children, Kelsey’s work invited visitors to discover what awaits around corners and in unexpected places. Mustaches, monocles, and silly hats were added to bathroom mirrors, charming characters were placed in and around St. Albert Place and Kelsey’s art games all added to the magic of



the International Children’s Festival of the Arts!

ADAC recommended that \$12,000.00 be pulled from the Public Art Reserve Fund for this project in 2025. Upon presentation to City Council, Council recommended that an annual allotment of \$20,000.00 be set aside to allow for an artist installation / activation to be part of the festival annually.



BMX Mural

During the summer of 2024, City Administration was approached by the license holder of the St. Albert BMX track and the City’s liaison about the possibility of adding a mural to the BMX jump that faces Riel Drive. The BMX track is a world-class Supercross track featuring some of the most incredible jumps and obstacles in Canada and will be hosting both national and international competitions, drawing tourism, and international attention to our community.



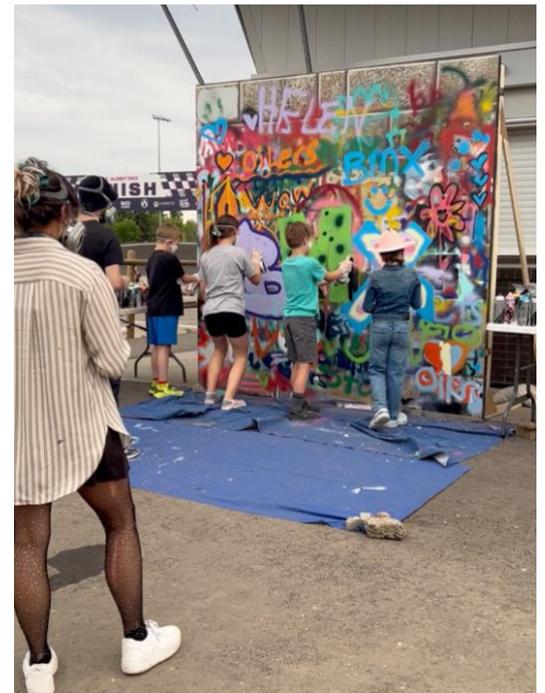
View of BMX jump before the mural

ADAC was very keen to support this project, recommending that \$30,000.00 be pulled from the Public Art Reserve Fund to support the initiative.

Selecting artists and community engagement

A Call for Artists – Request for Qualifications was opened on February 3, 2025, with 43 artists submitting before the closing on March 16, 2025. Artists were asked to submit a portfolio of works that demonstrated their technique, style, materials, and artistic voice. A selection committee met in March 2025 to selecting artist duo Kerz and Zeka for this project.

Community engagement can be a part of creating successful public art pieces. Kerz and Zeka were thrilled to be able to meet the folks who use the BMX park. On June 12, 2025 they led an evening workshop – intro to mural painting. Over 100 participants of all ages showed up, eager to meet the artists and to have the opportunity to try their hand at spray-painting. The Arden generously provided some set backing pieces, which the artist and community spray-painted together.



Throughout the evening, youth and community members shared what they loved about the track and BMX sports. The emotions, imagery and inspirations that were shared by the community, as well as the designs that the participants created that evening all informed the final mural that Kerz and Zeka created.

Take Flight

Kerz and Zeka worked incredibly quickly, finishing their impressive mural *Take Flight* by mid July. The work celebrates the athleticism and drive of BMX. Featuring a soaring peregrine falcon and lettering with the words “speed” and “BMX,” the piece captures the raw energy, focus, and adrenaline that define this space. It’s a visual tribute to riders who take flight every day.



Public Art Bus

The City of St. Albert had their first Public Art bus hit the road in September! The Public Art Bus is the companion project to the Downtown Banners. In 2018, Council authorized \$90,000 from the Public Art Reserve fund for a diversity and inclusion project, \$35,000.00 of which was allocated to the Downtown Banner Project. ADAC strongly supported the use of part of the remaining \$55,000.00 to fund the Art Bus. The Public Art Bus was approx. \$30,000.00

This project aimed to bring public art into all of St. Albert’s communities and out into Edmonton, providing a visual art experience to transit users, pedestrians, and travelers on the road. The project saw the exterior of a City Bus wrapped in an artwork, with imagery added onto the interior panels highlighting the 10 priorities identified in the Cities 2023 Community Social Needs Assessment.

Artist selection and unveiling

A call to Artists and Illustrators - Request for Qualification (RFQ), was put out on February 10, 2025, with 46 artists applied by the closing date of March 23, 2025. A selection committee met in April 2025, selecting Linda Wright for the project.

The project required the artist to create an artwork that envisions a place where all belong and thrive. In her art practice, Linda Wright sustains her connection to the land and is strongly influenced by the beauty of nature. The narrative within her work highlights traditional knowledge, the legends and stories of Indigenous people and the importance of caring for our environment, a perfect fit for this project.

Linda Wright spent time riding St. Albert transit to meet with folks who regularly use the service. She also met with members of the local Indigenous and Métis communities, and members of the City's Community Services team. That engagement helped to inspire her design, rooting the artwork in our community.



The Boy in the Moon

A widely shared story among various Indigenous peoples is the Boy in the Moon. This painting represents a Gwich'in legend that reflects a moral story of sharing what you have and the importance of the Caribou (Vadzaih). This story often highlights themes of belonging and caring for each other.

Everyone deserves to feel safe in their neighbourhood and community.

Community Safety

Element Park

With continued development taking place in Erin Ridge, the City has built a new park on Element Drive: Element Park. One of the design features was brought to ADAC's

attention in June 2024 as an opportunity to include public art. The planned climbing wall is envisioned as both an entrance way to the park and interactive play structure. It is an ideal host for a largescale mosaic, a mural created from glass tiles.

Administration released a Call to Artists early in 2025, which closed on May 8. A selection committee chose the Edmonton based Red Knot Studios for this project. Red Knot Studio is a collaborative practice between acclaimed mosaic artist Erin Pankratz and interdisciplinary project lead and artist Christian Peres Gibaut. Together, they bring a unique and dynamic fusion of fine art, craftsmanship and project management expertise to this exciting endeavour. Throughout the summer of 2025, the artists met with community members, sharing their love of mosaics, giving folks an opportunity to learn more about the practice, and create their own playful designs. Inspired by the conversations with community members and their creations, Red Knot Studios has come up with a stunning design for St. Albert's newest mosaic.

The artists will begin fabricating the mosaic this Spring with installation taking place late summer or early Fall.

ADAC recommended that \$165,000.00 be pulled from the Public Art Reserve Fund to support this project, which will be a permanent addition to our community. This is a wonderful opportunity to expand our public art collection across our City, making this park a destination for locals and visitors in the years to come.



PUBLIC ART IN CAPITAL PROJECTS – 2026 AND FORWARD

Red Willow West Meadowview Phase 3

The Grey Nuns White Spruce Park (GNWSP) is located along the east side of Ray Gibbon Drive and on the north side of the Sturgeon River, south of the Riverside neighborhood. The Red Willow Park West Meadowview project will connect residents from Ray Gibbon Drive to the downtown core and existing Red Willow Trail System.

As part of Phase 3 of this plan, funding was requested to support the inclusion of Public Art in the interpretive plan for this project. The interpretive plan for this project is designed to collect historical, cultural and environmental information about the region, and share that knowledge with the community throughout the trail system. This is a

multi-year project which extends over several kilometers and will ultimately include multiple Public Art installations throughout the park or integrated into park infrastructure.

Artist selection and next steps

The Call for Artists- Request for Applications was opened in late July 2025, with a focus on securing an environmental artist who will develop a project plan that would detail opportunities for multiple Public Art pieces within the project budget.

This opportunity called for Artists who could thoughtfully respond to the unique natural and cultural landscape of the new Red Willow Trail extension. We were seeking Indigenous or non-Indigenous Artists either with lived Indigenous backgrounds in Treaty 6 territory or demonstrated experience working respectfully with Indigenous partners in Treaty 6 territory, whose work could meaningfully engage with the predetermined themes of traditionally and culturally significant plants, the historic Riverlot system, and the notable white spruce.

[Tiffany Shaw](#) was chosen by a selection committee made up of local community members, artists, and business owners. As part of her scope, she is required to work closely and collaboratively with the Visual Arts Coordinator, Capital Projects team, and local Indigenous partners, prioritizing respectful relationship building and cultural understanding throughout the development of her project plan and the thoughtful integration of the selected artworks into the park.

Community engagement will be the next step in this project, allowing Tiffany the opportunity to meet with community members, Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers and internal colleagues. Once engagement is completed, Tiffany will develop a project proposal for the park identifying multiple opportunities for artworks, which will be reviewed internally and with community partners to determine which opportunities are best for the park space. Once those selections have taken place, Tiffany Shaw will move into detailed design, fabrication and installation. We anticipate this project being completed by Fall 2027.

In support of this project, ADAC recommended that \$300,000.00 be pulled from the Public Art Reserve Fund. The project blends many of the priorities that have been identified by the municipality and community members. The public art enables the sharing of knowledge about the land and landscape, as well as the deep, rich history and culture that has shaped our community. ADAC members were inspired by this project's intentions to encourage stewardship of our precious natural resources, and a celebration of the beauty of this area.

Secret Park - Public Art Activation Initiative

This is a project that our Arts Development Advisory Committee suggested to City staff. St. Albert has many secret parks within communities that others do not really know

about. How can Administration transform these spaces and get residents to travel to other neighbourhoods within our City to see new and exciting things? Well, with art, of course!

The Secret Park Project would be a temporary project, designed to invite exploration, spark conversation, and cultivate a sense of shared ownership over public space. Temporary art, by its nature, encourages spontaneity and wonder, reminding us to appreciate the present and engage more deeply with our surroundings. Through workshops encouraging community participation, this project aims to empower participants of all ages and backgrounds to become co-creators in shaping the cultural life of their neighborhood.

By turning a park into a canvas for collective expression, even briefly, this project will leave a lasting impact, not in physical permanence, but in the strengthened connections and renewed sense of possibility it nurtures within the community. The park Administration would program is to be determined; however, they are working with our Community Development Coordinator and Arts Development Advisory Committee to find a good match.

ADAC recommended that \$15,000 be allocated for the Secret Park Project. This project centers joy, delight and celebrating our beautiful community, all themes that ADAC was more than enthusiastic to support.

Public Ops Seacan Mural

The Recycle Yard located at 7 Chevigny St. in St. Albert recently acquired a repurposed shipping container for a new office space. This is a great opportunity for a mural to be painted on the exterior of the shipping container that celebrates community, creativity, and care for the environment. One artist will be chosen through the request for qualification process and will be asked to engage with users of the local recycle yard to understand shared values of sustainability. The artwork should highlight the importance of recycling, protecting nature, and working together for a healthier community. By transforming a used shipping container into a colourful symbol of renewal, the mural will remind our community members that positive change starts at the local level.

Call to be released in Spring 2026, with a goal to have the project completed by the end of summer or early fall 2026.

ADAC enthusiastically supported this project, requesting \$35,000 be pulled from the Public Art Reserve. This funding supports the call to artists, selection committee, artists scope of work including community engagement, materials, site prep, installation, and contingency.



Public Ops Seacan, awaiting a mural

PUBLIC ART RESERVE FUND

As of February 2026, the Public Art Reserve Fund's uncommitted funds are:

- Committed Public Art Acquisition Funds (for the upcoming projects listed in this report): \$539,215.00
- Uncommitted Public Art Acquisition Funds: \$284,874.00
- The maintenance reserve: 578,728.00

The maintenance reserve is funded through additions that are made with each new public art project. A maintenance contingency is budgeted as part of each new public art acquisition and added into the maintenance reserve. This reserve is used to finance the care and maintenance of our collection.