



## The City of Calgary - Civic Art Collection

The City of Calgary's Civic Art Collection, held in trust for the citizens of Calgary, represents an important piece of Calgary's cultural legacy. It reflects Calgary's unique history, and celebrates our global connectedness and regional artistic brilliance.

Some of the oldest pieces in the Collection date back to the mid-1800s, and were donated by The Devonian Foundation, a prominent philanthropic organization known for its significant contributions to The City of Calgary. The first donations to the Collection were made around 1911, and the earliest commissioned work, The Boer War Memorial in Central Memorial Park, was erected by The City in 1914.

In 1946, the Calgary Allied Arts Foundation (CAAF), formally the Calgary Allied Arts Council, was appointed trustee and steward of the Civic Art Collection. With funds from the bequests of Henry Bruce Hill, Wesley Fraser Irwin, Marion and Jim Nicoll, and Doug Motter, CAAF has augmented the Collection through purchases, donations and commissions.

In 1982, an operating agreement was formalized between CAAF and The City of Calgary which saw The City assume custodial responsibility for the Collection. CAAF became an advisory committee to Council, for the purpose of assisting in the acquisition, housing, maintenance and promotion of the Collection.

In 2004, upon expiration of the 1982 operating agreement, full responsibility for the administration and management of the Civic Art Collection was assumed by The City of Calgary Public Art Program within the Arts & Culture division of Recreation.

The Collection now consists of over 1000 works of art in a diversity of medium including drawings, paintings, prints, photographs, sculpture, glass, ceramic, textiles, mixed media, site specific works and outdoor sculpture. More than half of the Collection is currently on view at over 60 sites throughout the city, including in municipal buildings, public areas (such as libraries, parks, recreational facilities, downtown Calgary), and Plus-15s. Most of the artists represented in the Collection have lived and worked in the Calgary area, but in keeping with Calgary's growth as a city with national and international links, there are also artists from across Canada, North America and Europe.

With the Collection being appraised at close to \$5M, The City is responsible for ensuring that proper care and preservation is carefully balanced with providing citizens and visitors the opportunity to access and enjoy the Collection.

For more information on Calgary's Civic Art Collection or Public Art Program, visit [www.calgary.ca/publicart](http://www.calgary.ca/publicart) or call **3-1-1**.