

### NORTHEAST PUBLIC ART

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT (PHASE ONE) An overview of the project, engagement activities, range of input received and the themes that were raised in phase one.

### **Northeast Public Art**

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard (phase one)
May 31, 2021

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### **Project overview**

In November 2020, <u>Notice of Motion PFC2020-1168</u> was put forward by Council. This asked Administration to explore public art opportunities in Ward 5 and surrounding northeast Calgary communities with an emphasis on replacing the gap left by the Wishing Well at the Genesis Centre and further compensating for a historically inequitable distribution of public art funds in these communities.

**Public art is art that exists in public spaces**. The work can be temporary or permanent and can take on many forms, including but not limited to, bike racks, benches, sculptures, murals, mosaics, artist residencies, performance art, and social practice (community participation in creating artwork).

Public art plays a crucial role in the development of modern, vibrant cities. It can be used to capture significant historical events, reflect community spirit and create public awareness of current and past issues. Public art enhances our city's cultural capital and shapes our cultural identity. It helps build community, and creates opportunities to engage with our public spaces.

### **Engagement overview**

### **Engagement objectives**

In this phase of engagement, we wanted to understand:

- What you value about public art in northeast Calgary; and,
- What criteria you believe is important for public art in northeast communities.

### Who participated in engagement

We invited those of you that live, work and play in northeast Calgary to be part of this engagement process.

#### Communications strategy

This chart outlines all the different ways we communicated out about the project.

	Phase 1		
Date	March 23 – April 19, 2021		
Audience	<ul> <li>Residents, business owners, community groups and cultural organizations in northeast Calgary</li> </ul>		
Objective	<ul> <li>Encourage participation in engagement for this project which will bring several public art pieces to Calgary's northeast communities and provide opportunities for artists that live and work in the northeast.</li> </ul>		
Activities	<ul> <li>Social media posts on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram</li> <li>Media interviews with mainstream and ethnic media outlets</li> <li>Roadside signs in 10 prominent northeast locations</li> <li>Promotion in The City's public art newsletter</li> </ul>		

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	<ul> <li>Online advertisements in 7 languages</li> <li>Email to 350+ agencies, organizations and social service programs</li> <li>Promotion through other channels, including, community social workers, neighbourhood partnership coordinators, Council offices in wards 10, 5, 4 and 3, northeast community associations, libraries and over 20 community and cultural organizations to help us spread the word</li> </ul>
How we were inclusive	<ul> <li>Marketing materials were provided in English, Punjabi, Urdu, Arabic, Vietnamese, Simplified Chinese and Traditional Chinese.</li> </ul>

### **Engagement strategy**

This chart explains the approach we took to gather your input into this project. To see the engagement principles used in shaping this engagement, please see <u>Appendix B</u>.

	Phase 1		
Date	March 23 – April 19, 2021		
Objective	<ul> <li>What you value about public art in northeast Calgary; and,</li> <li>What criteria you believe is important for public art in northeast communities.</li> </ul>		
Activities	<ul> <li>Seven (7) webpages were available (English, Punjabi, Arabic, Urdu, Vietnamese, Simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese)</li> <li>Online workshops         <ul> <li>1 City Hall School - Using a graphic recorder, City Hall School students were invited to share what stories they would like told through public art in their communities, including what they feel is the best way to tell the story and whether there is a special place in the community where it is best to display the story.</li> <li>5 Public (Punjabi, Arabic, Urdu, Vietnamese, Simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese interpretation services available) - Using a graphic recorder, Calgarians living in northeast communities were invited to share what stories they would like told through public art, including what they feel is the best way to tell the story and whether there is a special place in the community where it is best to display the story.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Community Brokers – partnership with ActionDignity to liaise with local community members in an effort to reduce barriers to participation in public engagement</li> </ul>		
Participation	<ul> <li>5864 visitors across all webpages</li> <li>494 contributors across all webpages</li> <li>54 attended workshops</li> <li>120 interactions with Community Brokers</li> </ul>		
How we used input	<ul> <li>to help develop the Northeast Public Art workplan for implementation</li> <li>to help develop criteria for public art in northeast Calgary</li> <li>to help create a selection panel</li> <li>to help create a list of potential artists</li> </ul>		

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### What we asked

We asked you for your input into:

- Your reflections on public art and how it could benefit your community
- Criteria for public art, including
  - what you value about it,
  - o what expectations you have of The City when hiring artists,
  - o which public art opportunities you are most interested in seeing in your community, and
  - o your preference between large and small artworks.
- Your ideas of stories public art could tell
- What type of public art you would like to see and your suggestions for potential locations of where the art could be placed

#### What we heard

This section provides a quick overview of what we heard from you from those of you that participated online.

- 1. Main benefits that we heard from you are that public art can be meaningful and functional.
- 2. Top ideas for what you value about public art in northeast Calgary are:
  - a. Should be easily accessible to all members of the public
  - b. Should cultivate community pride
  - c. Should inspire community conversations
- 3. Additional themes regarding what you value are that art can reflect diversity, create a sense of belonging and can act as a storyteller.
- 4. Murals were the most preferred type of art by those of you that shared your input with us.
- 5. We heard that it is important that potential artists be local and work with the community to develop the public art.
- Majority of you indicated that you would prefer multiple small artworks because they can spread art over a larger area, they can reflect more diversity and stories, and they create more opportunities for more artists.
- 7. Your ideas for possible stories that could be told through public art included:
  - a. Recognize ethnic diversity
  - b. Celebrate connection to space
  - c. Share history
  - d. Promote values
  - e. Reflect on memories
  - f. Educate and raise awareness
  - g. Help people feel seen
  - h. Celebrate community contribution
  - i. Recognize natural assets
  - j. Celebrate culture, including youth, seniors, LGBTQIA2S+, and BIPOC



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8. There were a wide range of suggestions of types of art and locations where you thought these could be placed. Please see the <u>type of art and preferred locations</u> section of the <u>summary of input</u> for all the ideas that were shared.

Graphic recording is the real-time documentation of conversations into text and pictures. Please see <a href="Appendix D">Appendix D</a> for the graphic recordings that were created from the online workshops.

For a detailed summary of the input that was provided, please see the summary of input section.

### **Next steps**

Your input has been shared with the project team to be used to develop their workplan for implementation. This will include using your feedback to help develop criteria for public art in northeast Calgary; creating a selection panel that includes Calgarians from northeast Calgary; and, creating a list of potential artists. Once artists are selected, we will come back to you for a second round of engagement. Details on this and future engagement can be found at <a href="https://www.engage.calgary.ca/NEpublicart">www.engage.calgary.ca/NEpublicart</a>.

## Calgary 🐞

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### **Summary of input**

The following summary of input will provide a detailed summary of what we heard from you in this phase of engagement. It is organized in the following order:

- Community
- Benefits
- Values
- Types of public art
- Criteria for artist selection

- <u>Large versus small artworks</u>
- Stories
- Type of art and preferred locations
  - Type of art
  - o Locations

### Community

Chart 1 outlines the number of you that participated in this engagement and the neighbourhood where you lived or worked.

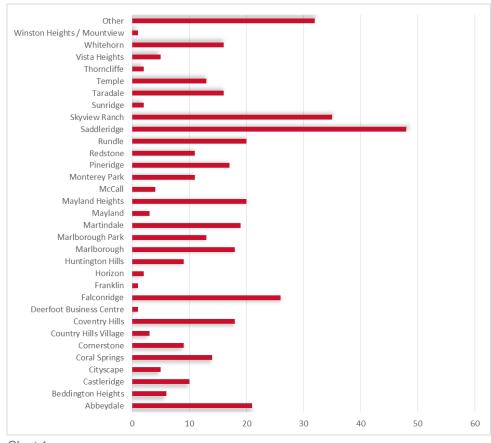


Chart 1

Other: Chestermere, Red Carpet, Raddison Heights, Penbrooke, Bridgeland/Riverside, Southwest Calgary, Chateau Estates, Harvest Hills, Renfrew, Cornerbrook, Highland Park, Tuxedo Park, Savanna



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### Benefits

We asked you to help us understand your feelings about public art by explaining how public art could benefit your community. Main benefits that we heard from you are that public art can be meaningful and functional.

Table 1

Theme A benefit of public art is that it can be meaningful.	Detailed explanation  This theme suggests that a significant benefit of public art is that it can add meaning and purpose. It highlights how public art can beautify an area and further suggests that public art can be beneficial by lifting spirits and increasing morale. It notes that public art can benefit an area by helping to tell a story, including culture, diversity or an area's history.	
A benefit of public art is that it can be functional.		

### Values

We wanted to understand what you value about public art in northeast Calgary. Chart 2 shows what you valued most, followed by Table 2 which explains why you selected the values you chose.

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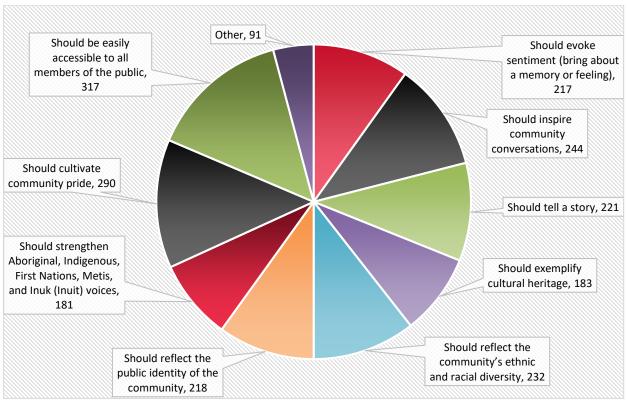


Chart 2

For those of you that selected 'other', primary themes were 1) ideas for art, including that it should inspire creativity and be interesting, interactive, inspirational, focused on nature and beautify the area; and, 2) do not want public art or public art is not a significant priority right now.

Table 2 expands further on the primary themes regarding what you value about public art in northeast Calgary.

Table 2

Theme Reflect diversity	Detailed explanation  This theme focuses on ethnic diversity within Calgary, especially northeast Calgary. It raises awareness that seeing one's ethnicity reflected publicly helps people feel seen and accepted.
Create a sense of belonging	This theme focuses on public art as a way to bring people together rather than tear them apart. It suggests that public art can play a role in reclaiming spaces and recreating a sense of community, often referred to as 'placemaking'. It highlights that public art can be inclusive and build shared community pride.
Public art as a storyteller	This theme focuses on the importance of history. It also recognizes the contribution that public art can make towards telling the stories of people and place.

Secondary themes regarding what people value about public art in northeast Calgary, in no particular order, are: addresses social issues; promotes use of space; gives sense of ownerships/personal investment in the community;



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amplifies local voices and local artists; challenges negative impressions of northeast Calgary; should represent the area and not exclude people by singling out ethnicities; should be of general interest and avoid political or social messages; brings people together to socialize; and, improves safety.

### Types of public art

We asked you to tell us which opportunities you are most interested in seeing in your community. The following are your preferences in order of most to least preferred.

# Most preferred

#### Murals

Incorporating onto existing infrastructure (for example, a mosaic mural or a digital artwork display on an underpass or building)

Street art (for example, organized urban artwork)

Benches

Painted utility boxes

Small sculptures

Social practice (community participation in creating artwork)

Bike racks

Banners

Artists in residence (artists have space within the community to work on their personal practice, potentially inspired by the community itself)

Performance (for example, music, dance or performance art)

Large sculptures

#### Criteria for artist selection

Least preferred

We asked for your input on what expectations you have of The City of Calgary when hiring artists for public art projects in northeast Calgary. Chart 3 outlines your preferences and shows your preference that artists be local to Calgary and will work with the community to develop the public art.



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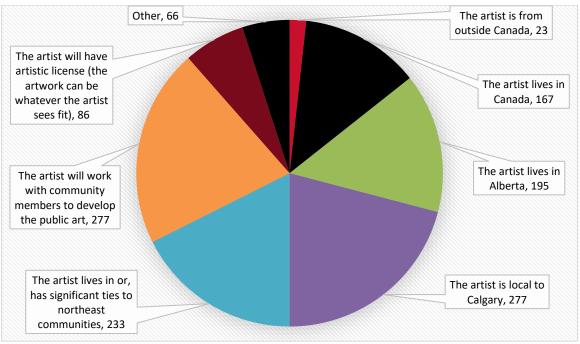


Chart 3

For those of you that selected 'other', primary themes were 1) art that represents an ethnicity or cultural community should be done by an artist of that ethnicity or cultural community or is closely linked to it; and, 2) ensure the process is transparent.

#### Large versus small artworks

Large and small artworks differ in cost and complexity. We wanted to understand your preferences for how we allocate human and financial resources towards public art in northeast Calgary. Chart 4 shows your overall preference, followed up by Table 3 which explains your rationale for your choice in more detail.

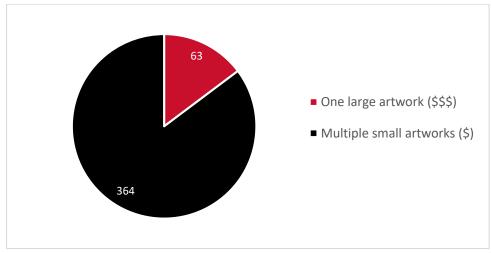


Chart 4

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Table 3 outlines your main rationale(s) for each of the options.

Table 3

Table 3	<del>-</del>	
	Theme	Detailed explanation
One large artwork	Creates more visibility and impact	This theme focuses on how one large artwork can create more visibility and impact in the neighbourhood. It suggests that large artwork is more noticeable than smaller pieces of art and can be a landmark and point of interest in the community. It further notes that it can attract more attention and bring community members together.
Multiple small artworks	Spreads art over larger area	This theme suggests that multiple small artworks that spread out over a larger area in the neighbourhood can add vibrancy to more communities in northeast Calgary and make it more accessible for people from various communities to enjoy the art displays. It suggests that this can help create more community gathering places. This theme notes that multiple artworks can create many points of interest and landmarks in the neighbourhood and generate a wider impact in the community.
	Can reflect more diversity and stories	This theme focuses on the impact that multiple small artworks can have better representation of the diversity in northeast Calgary and help to bring the neighbourhood together. It suggests that more public artworks allows for more stories to be told through a variety of art pieces to showcase and celebrate different cultures. It also highlights that more messages can be shared through different artworks that acknowledge the different views and interests of people in the area.
	More opportunity for more artists	This theme suggests that multiple artworks provides more employment opportunities for artists and gives greater exposure for local artists to showcase their skills and talents. It suggests that more artworks and artists creates more depth of art in the community.

### **Stories**

Public art can be used to capture significant historical events, reflect community spirit and create public awareness of current and past issues. It can tell a story of people and place.

We asked you to think of a particular story that you think could be told through public art. Below are the themes of what we heard in your stories. See verbatim comments for stories that were shared online and in the online workshops.

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Themes of stories that you shared in this engagement are:

- Acknowledging the ethnic diversity of the area is important. There is an opportunity to address racism and celebrate all the people that make up northeast Calgary.
- Connection to space is something that can be captured in public art, including shared neighbourhood experiences.
- Stories of specific ethnic communities that make up northeast Calgary help us better understand each other.
- Public art can tell the story of Canadian and Calgarian history, including the land and the people.
- Public art can convey important values including sharing, caring, kindness, hope, happiness, cooperation, resilience, survival and peace. It can include everyone and remain neutral.
- Memories help us reflect on our past and provide meaning for our future. Public art can play a role in bringing memories to life and merge our past, present and future.
- Public art can be a tool to provide education and bring awareness to important issues. Some ideas
  include giving attention to mental illness and addiction; acknowledge the harm of residential schools,
  as well as use public art to teach safety and how we should treat each other.
- Being able to see a reflection of oneself in public art helps people feel seen, acknowledged and remembered.
- While a few specific stories were shared, the overall concept of community contribution including
  first responders, volunteerism, and elders was identified as important. This was especially true of the
  appreciation towards people living in northeast Calgary whose jobs result in them being in higher
  risk situations during the pandemic.
- Recognition of natural assets and preservation of natural areas is another area that could be reflected through public art, including northern lights, mountains, weather, pollinator corridors, stormwater ponds, plants and animals.
- In addition to ethnicity, public art can acknowledge and celebrate culture. It can celebrate youth, seniors, and the LGBTQIA2S+ community. It can help BIPOC communities feel more welcomed. It can also celebrate female empowerment.

### Type of art and preferred locations

In this section, we asked you to tell us what type of public art you would like and where you would like it to be located. This section will display your preferences by type of public art as well as by location. Suggestions that were outside the project map, and therefore outside the scope of this project, are not shown in this report, however, these have been shared with the project team for consideration in future public art opportunities. Since addresses provided could be personal, specific addresses that were identified are not listed here. All addresses, including longitude and latitude markers have been shared with the project team.

Icons for each of the types of public art are displayed here and can also be found throughout this section. These are also included in <u>Appendix C</u>.



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Benches



Bike racks



Small sculptures



Large sculptures



Enhancement



Murals



Banner



Painted utility box



Performance



Artists in residence



Street art



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Image 1 shows the wide range of possibilities for types of public art you are interested in seeing across northeast Calgary. The red outline on the image shows the geographic area that is in scope for this project.

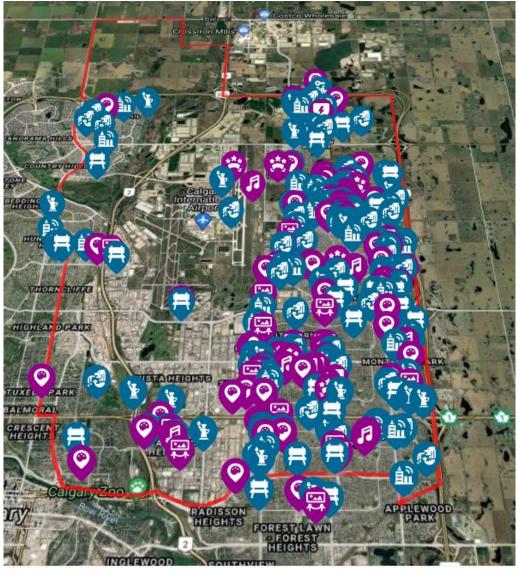


Image 1

### Type of public art

Images in this section will display the types of public art you would like to see throughout northeast Calgary. They are divided by specific public art types.



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Benches

Image 2 shows where you indicated benches could be placed in the overall project area.



Image 2



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Bike racks

Image 3 shows where you indicated bike racks could be placed in the overall project area.

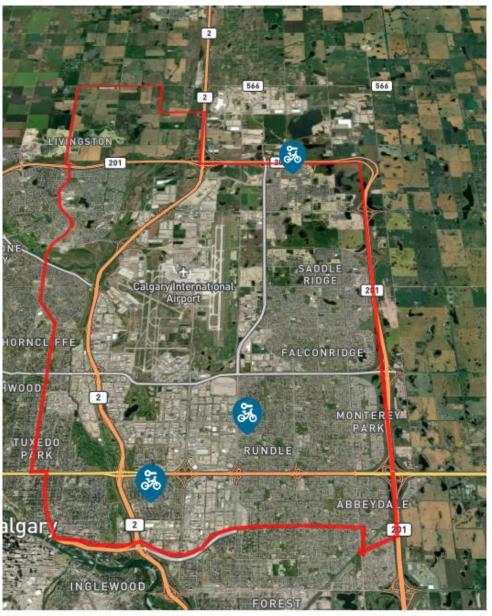


Image 3



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Image 4 shows where you indicated small sculptures could be placed in the overall project area.

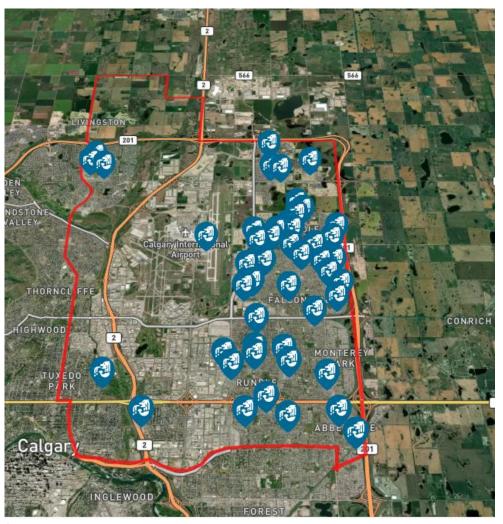


Image 4



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Large sculptures

Image 5 shows where you indicated large sculptures could be placed in the overall project area.

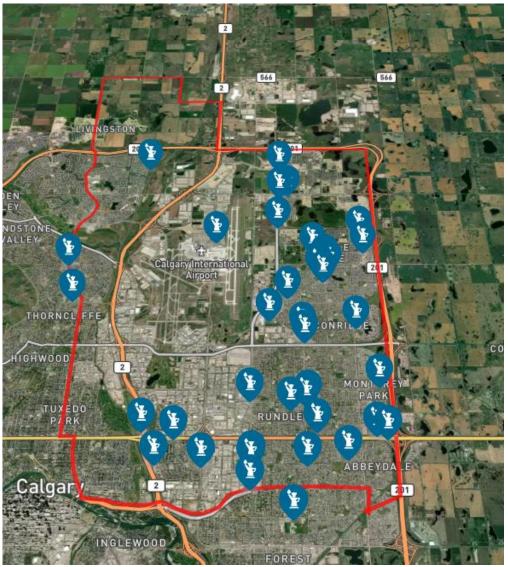


Image 5



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### Enhancement

Image 6 shows where you indicated enhancements could be made to existing infrastructure within the overall project area.

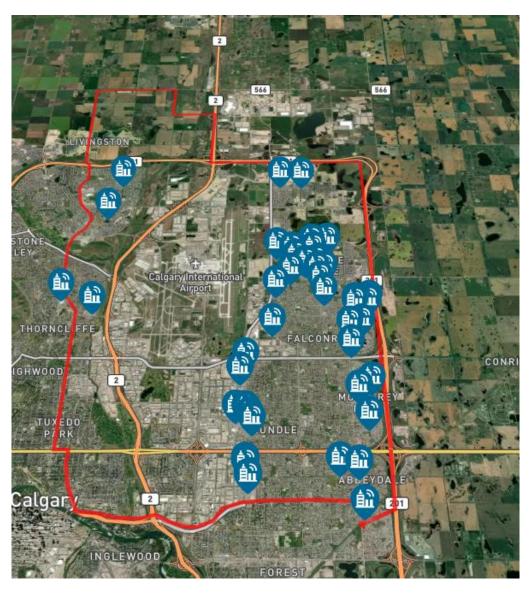


Image 6



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Image 7 shows where you indicated murals could be placed in the overall project area.



Image 7



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Banner

Image 8 shows where you indicated banners could be placed in the overall project area.



Image 8



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Painted utility box

Image 9 shows where you indicated utility boxes could be painted in the overall project area.

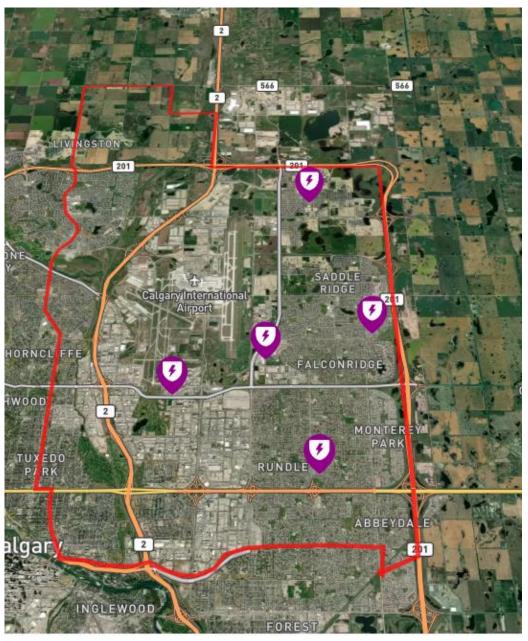


Image 9



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Image 10 shows where you indicated performances could be held in the overall project area.

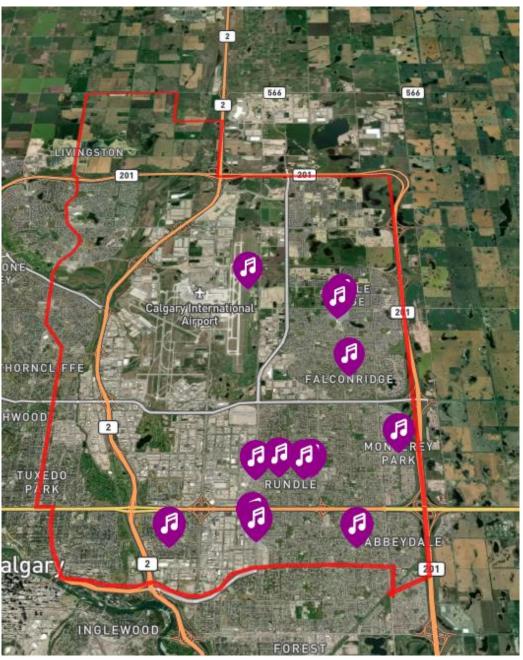


Image 10



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Artists in residence

Image 11 shows where you indicated an artist in residence could work in the overall project area.

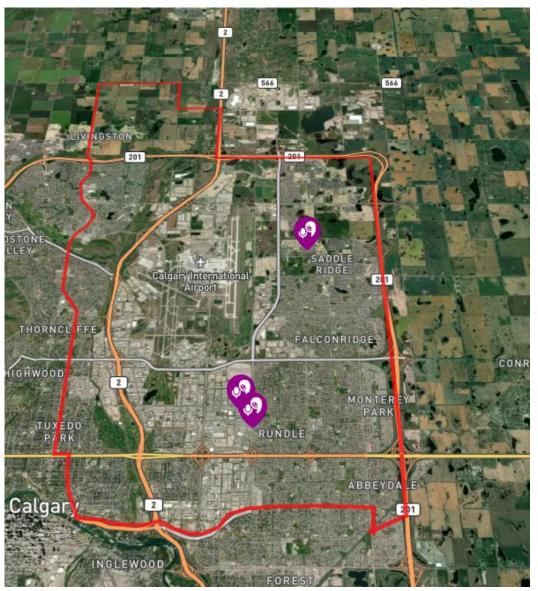


Image 11



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Street art

Image 12 shows where you indicated street art could be placed in the overall project area.



Image 12

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### Potential locations for public art

This section is broken down generally by communities. Not every community that you indicated in the first question about where you live or work is reflected here. Only communities where public art options were identified within the geographic boundaries of this project are listed here. Each image indicates the road borders. These borders are not necessarily the community borders, rather, the borders for the areas captured in the images as some sections overlap. The quadrant is not indicated in any of the images as all are northeast. Suggestions outside northeast Calgary are not reflected here and have been shared with the project team.

When selecting a potential location for a type of public art, most of you considered:

- 1. Art criteria, including size, functionality and effort to maintain it
- 2. The space to accommodate public art, including its ability to beautify an area
- 3. How the space is used, including busy roadways or walkways, points of entry, linking residential areas to business / industrial areas, to commemorate something, and its contribution to safety

Image 13 is Skyview Ranch and Redstone and is bordered by Stoney Tr., Metis Tr. and Country Hills Blvd. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.

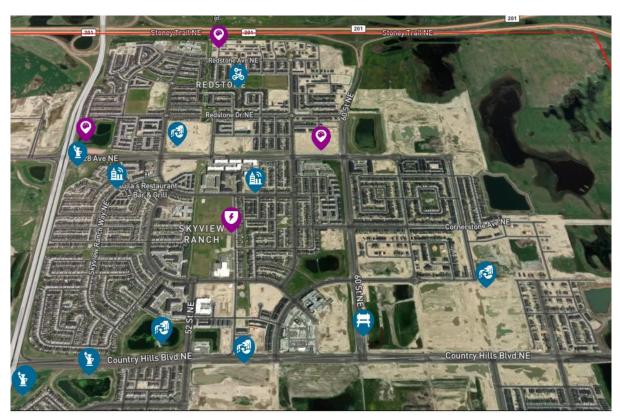


Image 13



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Image 14 is Cityscape and is bordered by Country Hills Blvd., 36 St., 96 Ave. and 68 St. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.



Image 14



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Image 15 is Northern Hills and is bordered by Stoney Tr., Harvest Hills Blvd., Deerfoot Tr, and 96 Ave. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.

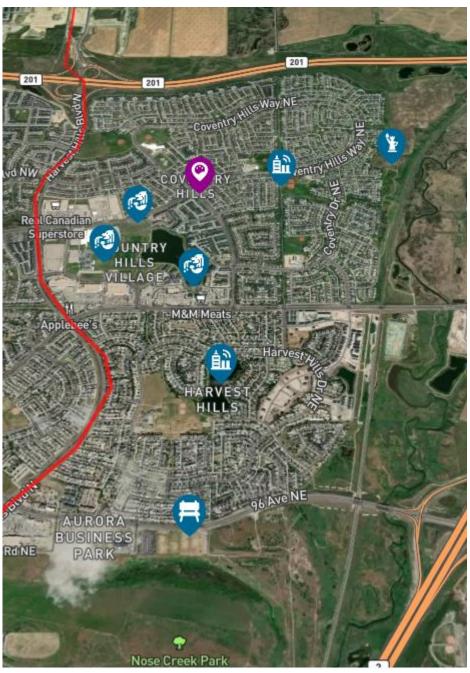


Image 15



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Image 16 is Beddington Heights / Huntington Hills / Greenview / Deerfoot Business Centre and is bordered by Beddington Blvd., Centre St., 11 St. and Beddington Tr. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.

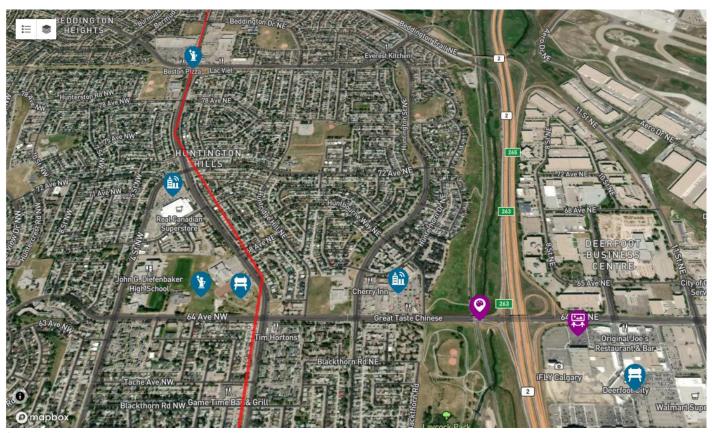


Image 16



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Image 17 is Savanna, Saddle Ridge and is bordered by 36 St., 80 Ave., 96 Ave., 60 St. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.

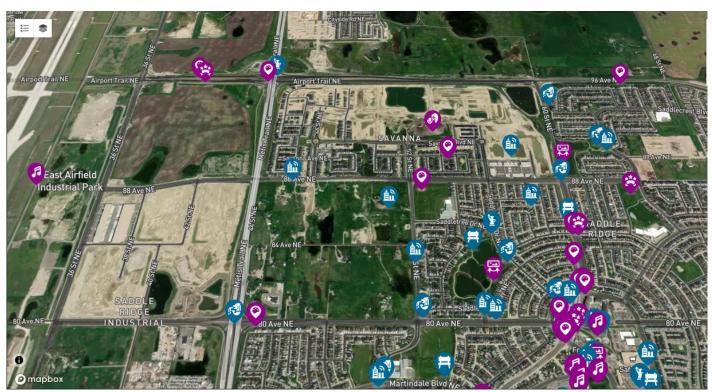


Image 17



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Image 18 is Saddle Ridge, continued and is bordered by 60 St., 96 Ave., 80 Ave. and Stoney Tr. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.



Image 18



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Image 19 is Taradale and is bordered by 80 Ave., Stoney Tr., Falconridge Blvd. and 64 Ave. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.

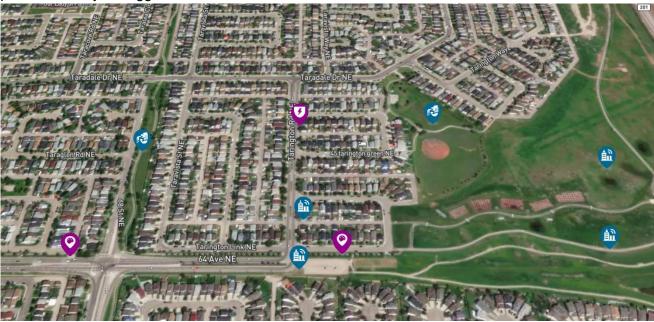


Image 19



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Image 20 is Taradale, continued and is bordered by Saddlemont Blvd., Saddlefield Dr. Taravista Dr. and Stoney Tr. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.

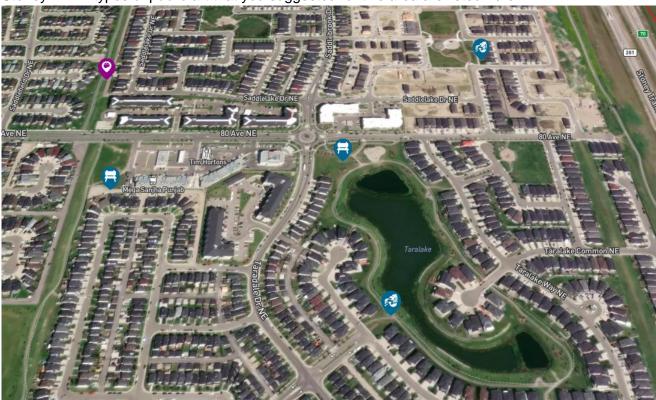


Image 20



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Image 21 is Martindale and is bordered by 80 Ave., Falconridge Blvd., 64<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Metis Tr. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.



Image 21



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Image 22 is Castleridge and is bordered by Metis Tr., 64 Ave., Falconridge Blvd. and McKnight Blvd. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.



Image 22



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Image 23 is Falconridge and Coral Springs and is bordered by Stoney Tr., 64 Ave., Falconridge Blvd. and McKnight Blvd. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.



Image 23



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Image 24 is Renfrew, Tuxedo Park, Bridgeland-Riverside, Meridian and Mayland Heights and is bordered by Centre St., Memorial Dr., Barlow Tr. and 32 Ave. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.

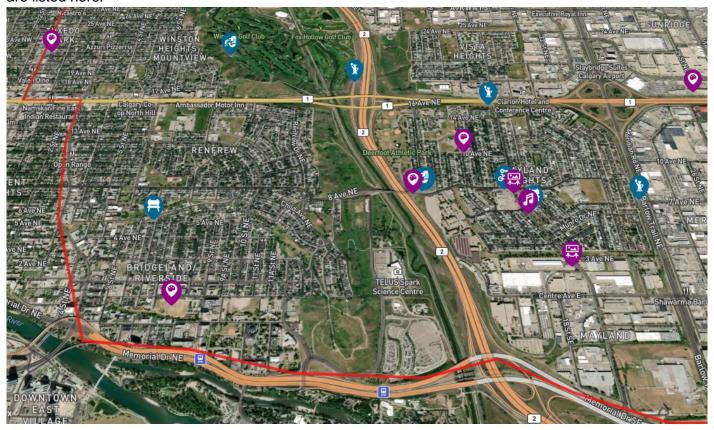


Image 24



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Image 25 is Horizon and Whitehorn and is bordered by Barlow Tr., McKnight Blvd., 52 St. and 32 Ave. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.



Image 25



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Image 26 is Temple and is bordered by 52 St., McKnight Blvd., Stoney Tr. and 32 Ave. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.



Image 26



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Image 27 is Pineridge and Monterey Park and is bordered by 32 Ave., Stoney Tr., 16 Ave. and 52 St. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.



Image 27



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Image 28 is Rundle and Sunridge and is bordered by 52 St., 16 Ave., Barlow Tr. and 32 Ave. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.



Image 28



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Image 29 is Franklin and Marlborough and is bordered by 16 Ave., 52 St., Memorial Dr. and Barlow Tr. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.

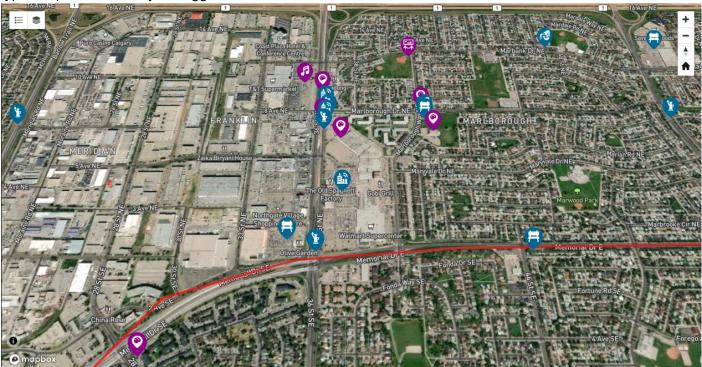


Image 29



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Image 30 is Marlborough Park and Abbeydale and is bordered by 16 Ave., Stoney Tr., Memorial Dr. and 52 St. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.



Image 30



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Image 31 is of the area surrounding the Calgary International Airport. All types of public art that you suggested for this area are listed here.

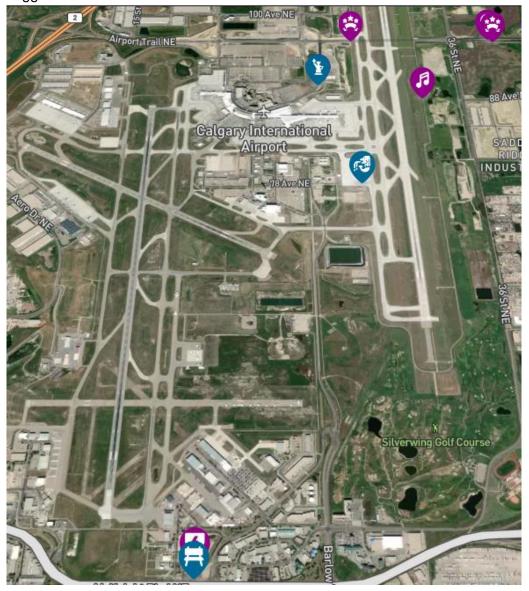


Image 31

#### **Verbatim Comments**

Verbatim comments include all feedback, suggestions, comments and messages that were collected online through the engagement described in this report. All input has been reviewed and provided to the project team to be considered in decision making for the project. The verbatim report will be posted to <a href="https://www.engage.calgary.ca/NEpublicart">www.engage.calgary.ca/NEpublicart</a> in June 2021.



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#### Appendix A - Notice of Motion PFC2020-1168

Item # 8.2.1



Report Number: PFC2020-1168

Meeting: Priorities and Finance Committee

Meeting Date: 2020 October 13

#### NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Public Art in Northeast Calgary

Sponsoring Councillor(s): George Chahal

WHEREAS on June 13 2020, northeast Calgary was devastated with a catastrophic hail and rain storm that caused substantial damage to public and private infrastructure including businesses, homes, and automobiles with an estimated total insurable loss close to \$1.5 billion;

AND WHEREAS Northeast Calgary, including Ward 5, has been historically underserved by The City with respect to service level delivery and capital infrastructure investment resulting in a demand for fairness, transparency, and accountability from area residents;

AND WHEREAS The City's public art program provides Ward 5 and Northeast Calgary with less public art funding compared to other areas in Calgary;

AND WHEREAS in 2018, Calgary City Council passed a Notice of Motion approving funds for an Artificial Turf Field at the Genesis Centre, motivated by the fact that Northeast Calgary has 1% of the overall allocation of citywide Athletic Park, Class A, B, and C fields;

AND WHEREAS when the Genesis Centre was being developed, The City allocated a budget of \$700 thousand for the Wishing Well art piece, which was eventually removed due to design safety issues, and no replacement was provided:

AND WHEREAS Northeast Calgary has a diverse community of local artists who, with support from the City, will uplift and brighten their communities through their artistic abilities;

AND WHEREAS public art plays a crucial role in the development of modern and vibrant cities by enhancing our city's cultural capital and shaping our cultural identity;

AND WHEREAS supporting local artists provides economic and social benefit for Northeast communities;

AND WHEREAS the Public Art Capital Fund provides financial support for public art in Calgary.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to:

Explore public art opportunities in Ward 5 and surrounding Northeast Calgary communities, with an
emphasis on replacing the gap left by the Wishing Well at the Genesis Centre and further
compensating for a historically inequitable distribution of public art funds in these communities, where
opportunities may include, but not limited to, community programming, local artist residencies, public art



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NOTICE OF MOTION Public Art in Northeast Calgary

installations, community story-telling demonstrating resilience and strength, as shown in the response to the June 2020 hail storm, and considering the investment as mechanism for economic resiliency;

- a. Immediately start public engagement with a diverse group of stakeholders including community members until the end of 2020, and;
- Report back to Council by Q1 2021, with recommendations on potential projects, funding sources, scope of work, and implementation plan.



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#### Appendix B – Engagement principles

At the City of Calgary engagement means, purposeful dialogue between The City and stakeholders to gather information to influence decision making. Engagement is:

- Citizen-centric focusing on hearing the needs and voices of both directly impacted and indirectly impacted citizens;
- Accountable upholding the commitments that The City makes to its citizens and stakeholders by
  demonstrating that the results and outcomes of the engagement processes are consistent with the
  approved plans for engagement;
- **Inclusive** making best efforts to reach, involve and hear from those who are impacted directly or indirectly;
- **Committed** allocating sufficient time and resources for effective engagement of citizens and stakeholders;
- Responsive acknowledging citizen and stakeholder concerns;
- **Transparent** providing clear and complete information around decision processes, procedures and constraints.

The City's commitment to transparent and inclusive engagement processes is outlined in the *engage!* Policy (CS009).



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# Appendix C - Public art icons



Benches



Bike racks



Small sculptures



Large sculptures



**Enhancement** 



Murals



Banner



Painted utility box



Performance



Artists in residence



Street art

### Appendix D - Graphic recordings













