



Kritsana Naowakhun: Shades of Seven

# WOOD BUFFALO PUBLIC ART PLAN

2021–2030



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF WOOD BUFFALO

April 2021

Wood Buffalo  
Downtown  
Revitalization Advisory  
Committee

Meeting Date:  
April 7, 2021

Presenter:  
Karen Puga

Department:  
Community &  
Protective Services –  
Public Art Program





## PURPOSE & ALIGNMENT

- The Public Art Plan defines a vision for public art in Wood Buffalo and outlines a series of strategies and actions to guide decision-making for Public art in the Wood Buffalo region over the next 10 years.
- The 2018-2021 RMWB Strategic Plan identifies the support for arts and culture as Strategy & Initiatives #3f.

# VISION & MANDATE

- Public art will broaden our region's cultural identity and share truth and story
- To strengthen community identity and sense of place through the creation and development of public art in the region



## KEY NARRATIVES

- Indigenous Peoples, History, and Culture
- Natural Landscape and the Environment
- Diversity



# KEY OUTCOMES

Robust Public Art Ecosystem

Sustainable Structures and Supports

Connected Community

Visible Indigenous Presence

Vibrant Public Realm

# Key Insights and Future Directions

KEY INSIGHT	FUTURE DIRECTION
<b>Robust Public Art Ecosystem</b>	
A thriving arts community has untapped potential and lack of capacity building opportunities that could transform public art in Wood Buffalo.	Develop new and expanded approaches to meet the needs of Wood Buffalo's broader arts sector that increases their capacity to respond to public art opportunities.
<b>Sustainable Structures and Supports</b>	
The public art program infrastructure and operating model is not positioned to respond to community needs or effectively advance public art in the region.	Articulate a bold vision and design an organizational and governance structure that ensures a sustainable model that reflects contemporary public art policy and program practices.
<b>Connected Community</b>	
There are socio-economic, cultural, and geographic variances in levels of participation in public art. Accessible opportunities for inter-cultural dialogue and co-creation are limited.	Create approaches that better reflect the values of inclusion and connect the artists with the diverse community for the benefit of all citizens.
<b>Visible Indigenous Presence</b>	
Indigenous communities are not at the table in decision-making; processes reflect colonial ways of working.	Explore ways to ensure self-determination and reciprocal decision-making processes in public art planning, programming, and project development.
<b>Vibrant Public Realm</b>	
The relevance of public art is not fully integrated in broader regional planning initiatives and policies.	Consider public art in community planning, civic priorities, and community development.

# Public Art Program Areas

Expansion of the Public Art Program to include:







## Artist and Community Program

Purpose: To support research, development, and realization of projects that engage artists and community in co-creating public art on or in public spaces with shared goals, themes, or ideas including, but not limited to, identity, social history, social justice, cultural expression, or the environment.





Carol Breen

# Public Sites Program

To support the creation of permanent public art for the public realm in new and renewed facilities, parks, developments, and other infrastructure. Projects can take many forms, from a sculptural object to a functional element, from an aspect of the design of a building or public space to the design of entire elements of public infrastructure.

Site Types - Support a balance of public art opportunities in scope and scale

Site Type 1 – Parks, Trails, Greenspaces

Site Type 2 – Infrastructure Projects

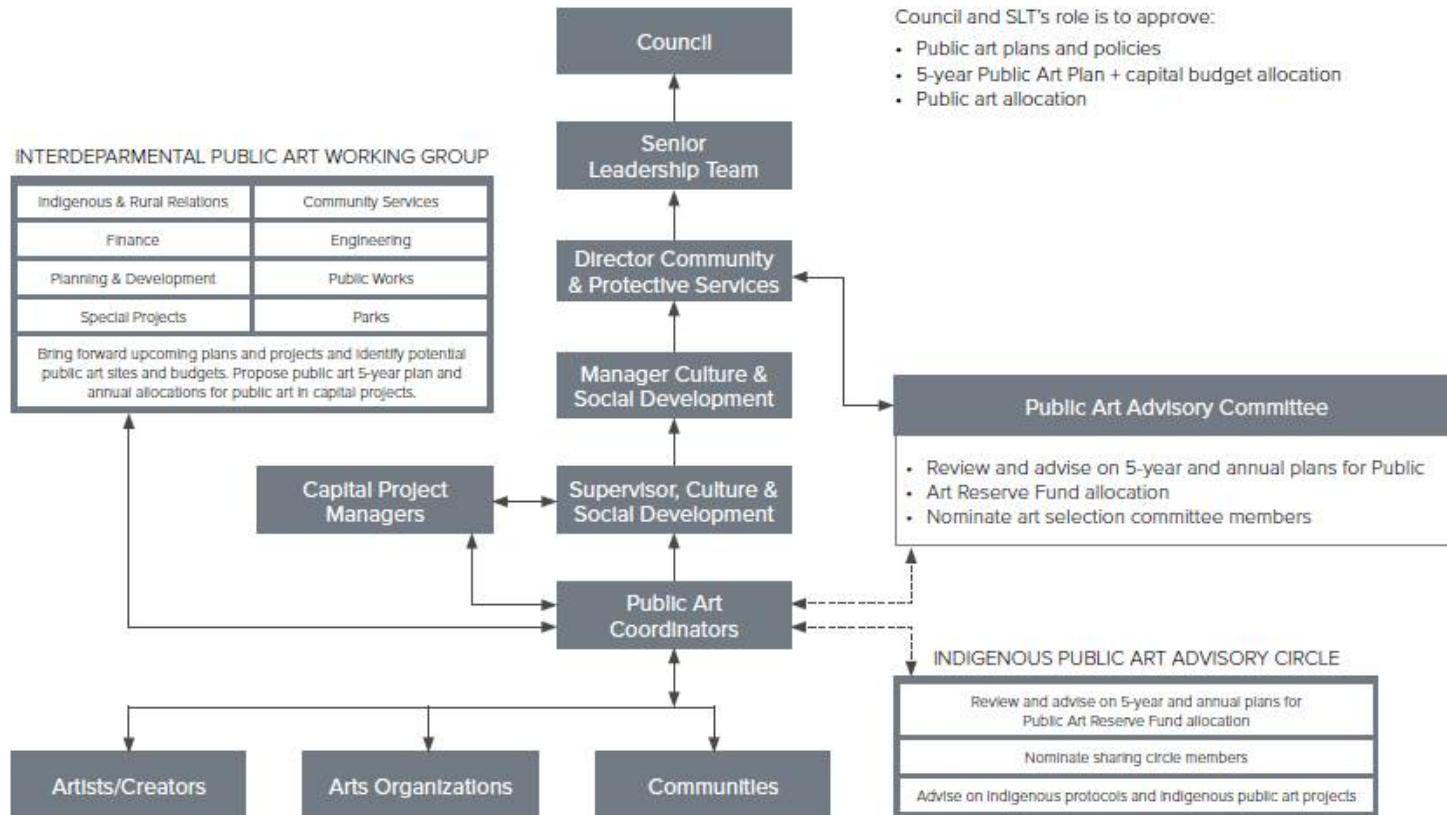
Site Type 3 – Gateways, Corridors, Key Entry Points

Site Type 4 – Streetscapes and Transit

Site Type 5 – Community Facilities

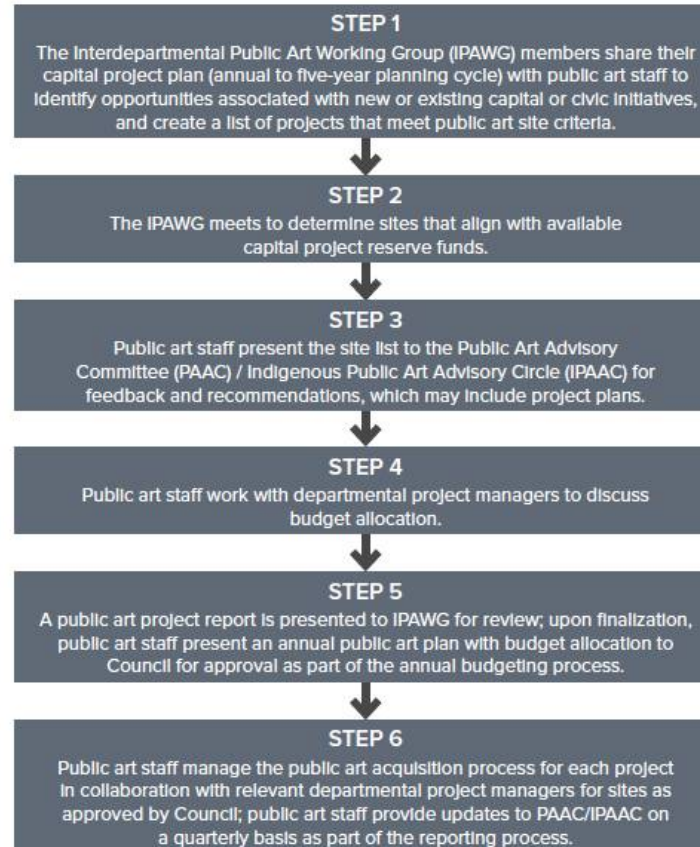
Site Type 6 – Urban Redevelopment

# Governance Structure





# Site Selection Process and Criteria Checklist



## THE SITE

- advances the Public Art Plan's goals
- achieves the region's objectives as established through the strategic plan and departmental plans, including the Municipal Development Plan, Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan, and Urban Design Guidelines.
- meets the aim of providing equity in public art provision in urban, suburban, and rural communities
- adds to the variety of types of sites, art forms, and experiences currently existing and planned in Wood Buffalo
- is located in a publicly active area or increases the visibility of under-used locales
- can be reached from elsewhere using multiple modes of transportation and offers barrier-free access
- evokes historical, social, cultural, or physical interest
- has a high degree of public realm impact
- lends itself to artists' interventions
- has planning and design schedules that are compatible with public art processes



David Robinson – Reflections on the River

*The Wood Buffalo Public Art Plan is based on the belief that public art inspires artists and communities to rethink the use of public space, allowing for free and creative expression in ways that reflect a community's sense of place and identity.*

THANK YOU –  
QUESTIONS?

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