

ArtworxTO

Toronto's
Year of
Public
Art
2021

Creativity and
Community

Everywhere

Introduction

ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021 will be driven by the guiding principles of the Public Art Strategy and will mobilize the 21 strategic actions endorsed by Toronto City Council.

Celebrating creativity, diversity and inclusion through public art will foster a more vibrant city, with new opportunities for artists and new ways for residents and visitors to understand, appreciate, and engage with our city.



Foremost among the guiding principles is a commitment to advancing reconciliation in Toronto through Indigenous place-making.

Reconciliation

For ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021, the commitment to advancing reconciliation means that:

- projects will acknowledge the Indigenous history, present and future of the land they are situated on;
- Indigenous projects should be guided by self-determination, freedom of expression, equitable access to resources and greater influence over public art practices; and,
- Indigenous communities and creators must be at the centre of the decision-making process for any Indigenous-focused project



The City of Toronto Public Art Strategy 2020/2030 commits to 21 actions, which underpin the pillars of ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021 program.

Pillar One

Creativity

The Toronto Public Art Strategy will create new platforms for artists and community partners to create and experiment with public art.

- + **Issue open calls** to artists and curators for project ideas
- + **Animate Toronto** with temporary public art
- + **Identify public art opportunities** and **engage artists** as early as possible in all projects
- + **Champion career-launching platforms** for the next generation of public artists
- + Create new skills development and leadership opportunities for **Indigenous artists, curators and art consultants** in the field of public art
- + **Deliver a range of competition** types and opportunities
- + **Encourage new methods** of community-engaged public art works in a variety of media

Pillar Two

Community

Connecting the public with public art is fundamental to amplifying the impact of Toronto's collection.

- + Enable the public to **discover and interact** with public art through creative online resources
- + Activate public art through **community-focused educational and interpretive programming**
- + Create more public art **opportunities for artists from equity-seeking communities**
- + **Engage Indigenous communities** to identify sites of significance across Toronto for Indigenous public art projects
- + **Ensure that juries and advisory committees are reflective of the diversity of the arts sector**, and the population of the City of Toronto
- + Engage artists and communities city-wide in decision-making related to public art through **meaningful consultation processes**
- + Establish an **artist-in-residence** program in City divisions
- + Pursue new opportunities for **destination public art**

Pillar Three

Everywhere

Public art should provide opportunities for residents to engage with the city's diversity and creativity on an everyday basis, no matter where they live.

- + Develop City-wide standards to consistently apply the “**Percent for Public Art**” policy to municipal capital projects
- + Produce public art master plans on a city-wide basis to **provide strategic direction on future project plans**
- + Pool public art funds to produce **new works in underserved areas of the city**
- + **Advance Indigenous place-making city-wide** through public art
- + **Integrate public art in a variety of media** into a broader range of public realm improvements
- + Protect public art works city-wide through proactive **maintenance and conservation**

**ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of
Public Art 2021 will translate
strategy into action, working
in close collaboration with
partners in the arts, business
and government.**

To achieve the objectives outlined for each pillar, ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021 will focus on three program areas to support artists, key arts institutions and the public.

Creativity

Artist-led
Projects

Getting money directly to artists for artist-initiated temporary public art projects, including a new Toronto Arts Council granting stream, **Animating Toronto Streets**.

Community

Partnership
Grants

Arts organizations and festivals will be eligible for different levels of partnership with the City of Toronto on ArtworxTO activities, including funding, communications, and production support

Everywhere

Engagement
Projects

Through both grants to partners and improved City efforts, the public will benefit from new tools and programs to help access and engage with public art in Toronto.

Legacy

ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021 will create a lasting legacy that will continue to advance the Public Art Strategy's goals beyond 2021.

This legacy will be defined by input from the community, particularly that of the External Advisory Committee, with preliminary options including:

Creativity

- + Artist in Residence Program

Community

- + City-wide Public Art Fund

Everywhere

- + Artists Endowment/Arts Interpretation