

FEBRUARY 2019

A comparison of public art
programs in other communities



PUBLIC ART

Community Comparison Report

Allan Boss, Ph.D.
Culture & Heritage Manager

Preamble

PUBLIC ART Community Comparison Report

As communities grow they must not only plan for the future but adapt to change and react to possibilities. In 2005, for example, the Alberta government celebrated its centennial in many ways including the provision of grants for centennial related projects. The Okotoks Arts Council applied for a grant that allowed the Town of Okotoks, Culture and Heritage Services to run a sculpture symposium where three artists created three sandstone sculptures that are now on display in the Town.

That year Culture and Heritage created Public Art Program Guidelines (PAPG) to provide direction for the acquisition, placement, maintenance and de-accession of public art works in Okotoks. The 2005 report recommends the Town of Okotoks “begin the process towards” increasing awareness, understanding, and acceptance of public art and involve community in the process of enhancing public space.

The PAPG includes two key sections:

1. Establishing a Public Art Advisory Committee as a sub-committee of the Culture, Parks, and Recreation Committee.
2. Establishing a maintenance fund.

Neither of these recommendations occurred for the following reasons:

1. Changes in management took place in Culture & Heritage Services between 2005 and 2009 and priorities shifted.
2. Town of Okotoks assessed committee structures in 2013 and reduced the number of committees, making the establishment of a Public Art Advisory Committee contrary to direction.
3. The Town of Okotoks further analyzed committee structures in 2018, further reducing the number to key governance committees in favour of focusing on public engagement and specialized task forces.



Champing at the Bit
Jock Hildebrand, 2005



Diamond Buffalo
Morton Burk, 2005



River Nymph
Vahe Tokmajyan, 2005

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The PAPG also contains many outdated recommendations, references and alliances.

It was for these reasons that the 2018 Culture, Heritage & Arts Master Plan (CHAMP II) recommends that the Town of Okotoks “Develop public art policy & program.” CHAMP II recommends a public art policy and program with consistent funding to purchase, commission, manage and maintain a public art program.

In preparation for developing a Program for Public Art in Okotoks and a Municipal Policy (PPAMP), Culture and Heritage Services (CHS) looked at 14 Alberta communities to understand how each community deals with public art. This report analyzes data gathered from these 14 communities. In alphabetical order those communities and their populations are:

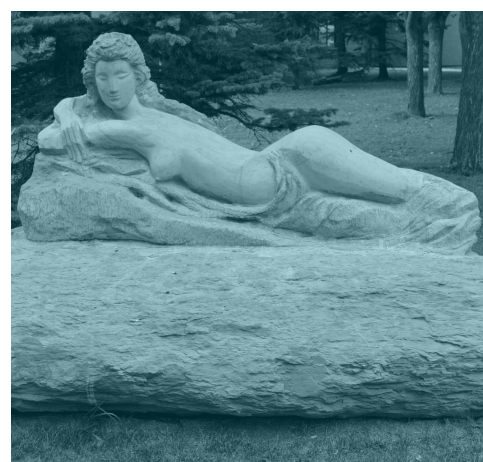
Airdrie -- 61,581	Leduc -- 24,279
Calgary -- 1.5M	Lethbridge -- 99,769
Cochrane -- 26,320	Medicine Hat -- 63,260
Edmonton -- 1.3M	Spruce Grove -- 35,766
Fort Saskatchewan -- 26,382	St. Albert -- 65,589
Grande Prairie -- 69,088	Strathcona County -- 71,332 (Sherwood Park) 98,381 (including rural)
Lacombe -- 12,442	Wood Buffalo -- 111,999



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The consultation considered three areas.

1. Does the community have a council approved public art policy?
2. How does the community fund their program?
3. Does it include Maintenance Funding?

Of the fourteen communities the study considered, 12 had policy in place to deal with public art. Two communities did not; there were Fort Saskatchewan and Leduc.

Of the fourteen communities the study considered, 13 had maintenance programs in place to deal with public art in the community. Only one community did not, Leduc.

Funding mechanisms varied from community to community. Eight communities used a percentage funding mechanism. Six communities allocated 1% of eligible capital projects, with eligibility varying from community to community. One community, Medicine Hat, allocated 1.25% and Wood Buffalo allocated 0.5% of eligible projects.

All communities except Leduc and Spruce Grove had funded maintenance programs in place for their public art.



Champing at the Bit
Jock Hildebrand, 2005



Diamond Buffalo
Morton Burk, 2005

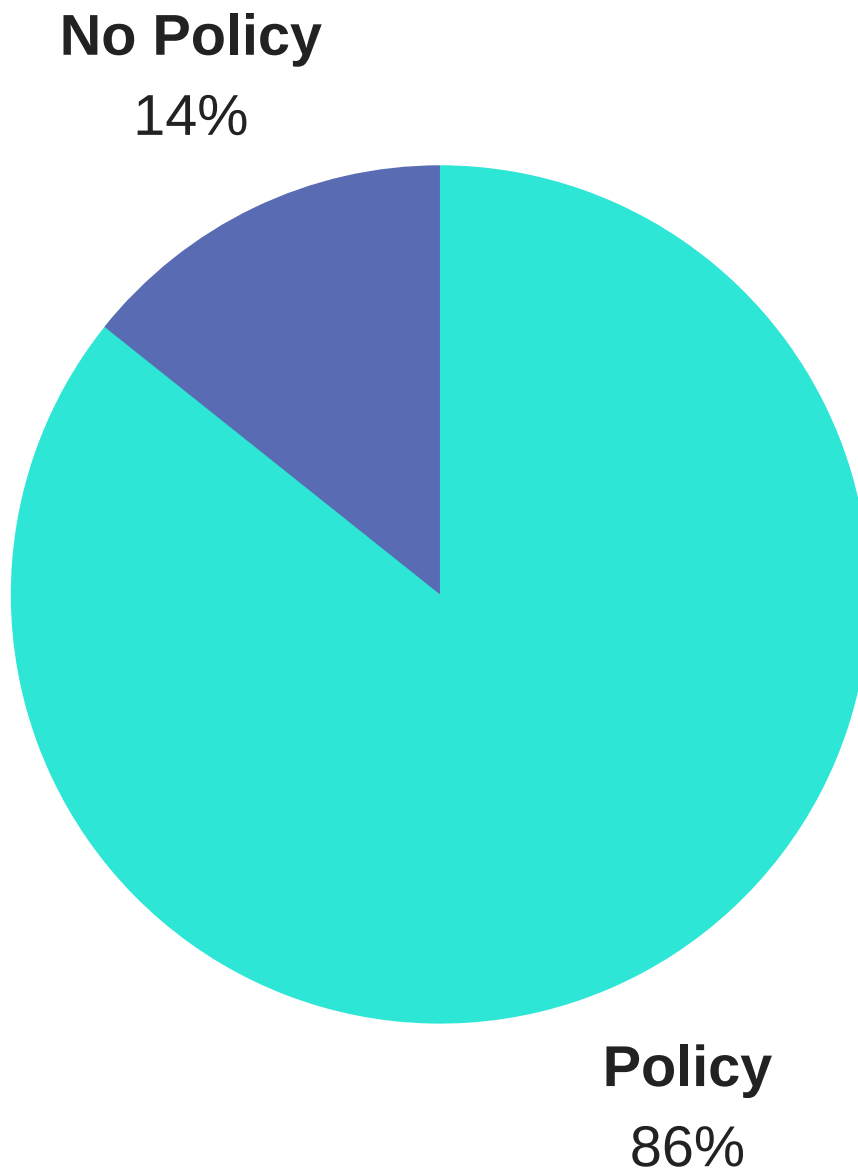


River Nymph
Vahe Tokmajyan, 2005

Policy Analysis

PUBLIC ART Community Comparison Report

Of the fourteen Alberta communities this study considered, twelve had policy in place to deal with public art. Two communities did not.



Policy Analysis

PUBLIC ART Community Comparison Report

Funding mechanisms varied from community to community. Eight communities used a percentage funding mechanism. Six communities allocated 1% of eligible capital projects, with eligibility varying from community to community. One community, Medicine Hat, allocated 1.25% and Wood Buffalo allocated 0.5% of eligible projects.

Municipality	Policy	Public Art Funding	Amount	Notes
Airdrie	Yes	case-by-case	case-by-case	"Allocate specific funds as part of annual operating budgets to ensure maintenance of current and future public art asset inventory."
Calgary	Yes	Yes	1%	1% for the portion up to \$50 million; and 0.5% for the portion over \$50 million. PROGRAM UNDER REVIEW
Cochrane	Yes	yes	Endowment Fund	Establishing endowment fund to aid and promote art initiatives
Edmonton	Yes	Yes	1%	1% of qualifying construction budgets to cover the costs of implementing City Policy
Fort Saskatchewan	No	Yes	\$65K	No official policy in place, but \$65K per year allocated from budget into public art reserve.
Grande Prairie	Yes	Yes	\$25K	\$25k annually towards the new public art fund. In addition, if the arts development fund of \$80k is not fully expended, that policy directs unspent funding to the public art reserve.
Lacombe	Yes	Yes	1%	One Percent of "Qualifying Construction Budgets" on publicly accessible municipal projects as determined in the Capital Budget Process.
Leduc	No	No	NIL	N/A
Lethbridge	Yes	Yes	1%	a. Provide an additional 1% of total cost of all community services capital projects within each 3-year Capital Improvement Program b. Allocate 10% of each years public art fund to a maintenance reserve c. allocate 5% of each year's public art fund to the City of Lethbridge Fine Art Collection."

Policy Analysis

PUBLIC ART Community Comparison Report

Funding mechanisms varied from community to community. Eight communities used a percentage funding mechanism. Six communities allocated 1% of eligible capital projects, with eligibility varying from community to community. One community, Medicine Hat, allocated 1.25% and Wood Buffalo allocated 0.5% of eligible projects.

Municipality	Policy	Public Art Funding	Amount	Notes
Medicine Hat	Yes	Yes	1.25%	The "Percentage of City Construction" is a flat rate of 1.25% of the total construction/renovation costs of Community Development, Cultural Development and Parks and Outdoor Recreation capital projects of a total not greater than \$1 million to a minimum contribution of \$12,500 and a maximum contribution of \$100,000."
Spruce Grove	Yes	Yes	1%	Allocate one percent (1%) of total budget of any publicly accessible municipal capital facility project for the procurement of artwork to be publicly displayed in a public area.
St.Albert	Yes	Yes	1%	1% of eligible capital projects over \$250K
Strathcona County	Yes	Yes	1%	1% of each County capital works project with a budget in excess of \$500,000; Artworks exceeding \$250,000 will be taken to Council for approval.
Wood Buffalo	Yes	Yes	0.50%	.5% of the total cost of eligible municipal capital projects over \$1 Million

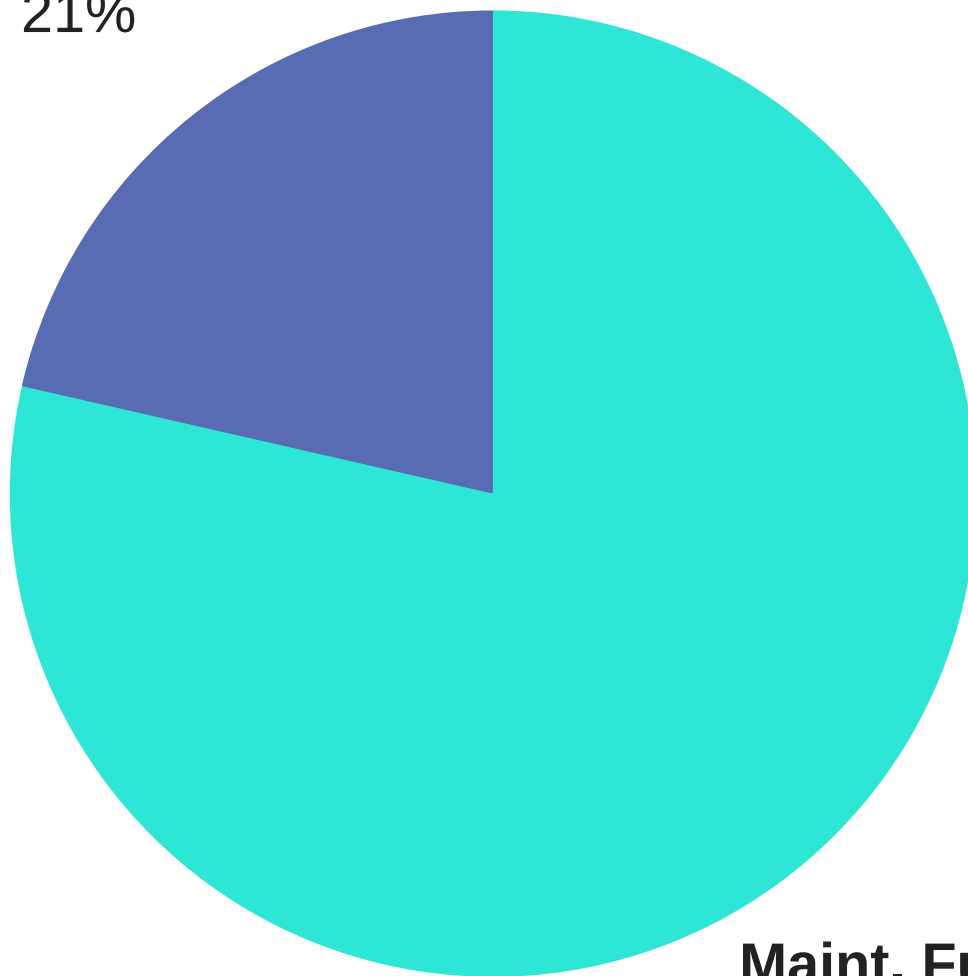
Maintenance Fund Analysis

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Of the fourteen Alberta communities this study considered, eleven had funding in place to maintain public art. Three communities did not.

No Maint. Fund

21%



Maint. Fund
79%

Maintenance Fund Analysis

Funding mechanisms varied from community to community. The majority of communities funded maintenance out of the funds allocated to public art. One allocated the responsibility for maintenance to the department where the art was placed. One community allocated maintenance to public works.

Municipality	Maintenance Funding	Notes
Airdrie	Yes	"allocated through the City of Airdrie Optional Amenities Agreement, or through budget of the City of Airdrie department where the piece of public art will reside."
Calgary	Yes	The Public Art Reserve will be financed through the Percent for Public Art Allocation.
Cochrane	N/A	N/A
Edmonton	yes	Funded out of the 1%
Fort Saskatchewan	Yes	\$6K per year for maintenance of existing pieces.
Grande Prairie	Yes	"The Public Art Reserve is to be used for the procurement, display and conservation of public artwork. 5% of the funds received annually will be used solely for ongoing maintenance costs for public arts."
Lacombe	Yes	Lacombe Arts Endowment Fund. Amounts unspecified.
Leduc	No	N/A
Lethbridge	Yes	b. Allocate 10% of each years public art fund to a maintenance reserve.
Medicine Hat	Yes	The .25% would be specifically allocated for ongoing maintenance costs for public art work.
Spruce Grove	Yes	Public Works adds it into their ongoing maintenance budget.
St.Albert	Yes	A budget for significant refurbishment or replacement of public art based on estimated conservation and maintenance costs and, established by retaining an amount equal to a minimum of 10% of new public art project budgets and an annual budget contribution.
Strathcona County	Yes	Public Art Projects will allocate 10% of their budget to maintenance and conservation.
Wood Buffalo	Yes	Public Art Reserve. 10% part of operating budget with maintenance assumed by Parks, Transportation, or Building maintenance.