



PUBLIC ART COUNCIL POLICY

RAL-170
Effective Date:
March 10, 2026

POLICY STATEMENT

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (the “Municipality”) is committed to a public art ecosystem with sustainable structures and supports that foster a connected community, visible Indigenous presence, and vibrant public realm. This Policy establishes and supports the Public Art Program and provides a framework for implementing the Public Art Plan 2021-2030.

DEFINITIONS

“Artist” means a person who:

- is recognized as an artist;
- possesses skill, training, and experience in their artistic discipline;
- is active in and committed to their practice; and
- has a history of public presentation.

“Public Art Program” means the program adopted by Council and supported through the Public Art Reserve for the purpose of developing, selecting, acquiring, and displaying the Municipal Public Art Collection.

“Public Art Reserve” means the monetary fund established to support activities of the Public Art Program.

“Public Art Work Plan” means an annual prioritized list that sets out Public Art Program areas and projects with associated budgets and approaches.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Public art is fundamental to building community identity and a sense of place that is unique to the region.
2. Public art refers to artistic and cultural expression as experienced in the public realm.
3. Public art is a place-based creative practice. Unlike a singular, moveable art form, public art embraces a series of creative practices that encompass a variety of forms

and approaches, temporary or permanent, that respond to and engage with specific sites and situations:

- a. the outcome of an Artist's creative practice can be part of the actual infrastructure of a physical built environment, or it can be part of the community engagement process of establishing or redeveloping an area, a place, or a space; and
 - b. public art can be permanent or temporary space-specific work. It can form part of a festival, be a series of events, or be an intervention co-created with community.
4. The Public Art Program aims to honour Indigenous Communities and cultural ways of knowing.
5. The Public Art Program acknowledges the distinctiveness of communities, people, and cultures, and cultivates an inclusive community where cultural traditions and expressions are respected, promoted, and equitably resourced.
6. The Municipality will support the Public Art Program through a sustainable and responsive percent-for-art funding model that allocates one percent (1.0%) of the annual estimated construction costs of approved capital projects to the Public Art Reserve.
7. Where budgeted funds are not spent or allocated in their entirety within a budget year, such funds will remain in the Public Art Reserve.
8. The Public Art Reserve will support the commission and conservation of public art, as well as access to public art opportunities throughout the region.
9. The Public Art Committee will collaborate with municipal departments to develop an annual Public Art Work Plan that aligns with the goals and objectives of the Public Art Program.
10. The Public Art Work Plan will be presented to Council prior to approval of the annual municipal budget.
11. If the Public Art Work Plan is approved, identified annual initiatives will be funded by one or a combination of the following:
 - a. allocations from the Public Art Reserve; or
 - b. direct project funding as approved by Council.
12. For capital projects with estimated budgets over \$25 million, the creation of a separate public art plan and 1% public art allocation should be built into the project budget.

RESCIND AND REPLACE

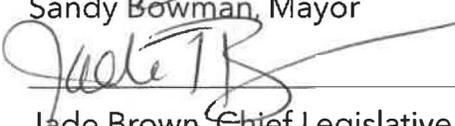
This Council Policy rescinds and replaces the Public Art Policy PRC-170, dated September 27, 2022.

APPROVAL

This Council Policy is approved by:



Sandy Bowman, Mayor



Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer

March 10 2026
Date

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Public Art Administrative Procedure PRC-170-P01

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Cross References: Fiscal Responsibility Policy FIN-160
 Wood Buffalo Public Art Plan 2021-2030

DETAILS AND REVISION HISTORY

Date	Action	Description
July 9, 2014	Introduction	New Municipal Public Art Policy PRL-160.
September 8, 2015	Revision	Policy revised to extend policy term.
September 27, 2022	Revision	Public Art Policy PRC-170 rescinded and replaced Municipal Art Policy PRL-160. Changes were made to content and format.
March 10, 2026	Revision	Public Art Council Policy RAL-170 rescinded and replaced Public Art Policy PRC-170. Changes were made to content and format.