

Arts & Culture

Led by: Director of Partnerships

Service Description

Arts & Culture leads and invests in the development of vibrant and creative communities. We are champions of a revitalized downtown, encouraging economic development and diversification. Through investment in creative industries, we position Calgary as a global city. We provide equitable arts and culture access to Calgarians, visitors and the artists who create the work. We support the production and delivery of festivals and events; provide grants to local artists and organizations; commission, acquire and maintain public art with Calgary Arts Development; plan publicly accessible art and cultural spaces; and support visual, cultural and performing arts programming.

Service Updates

Key service results

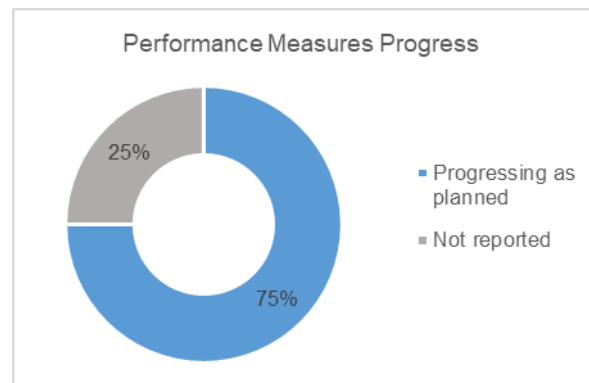
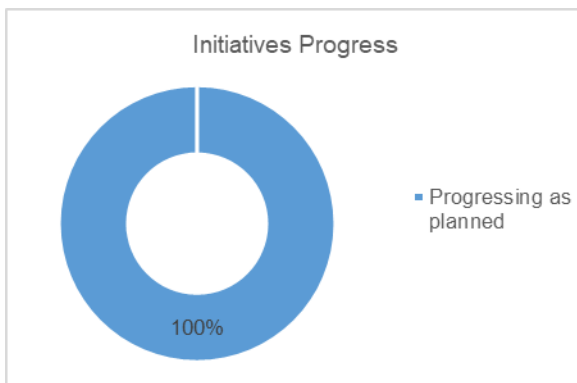
Community investment continued in 2024, funding activations led by local non-profits, cultural groups, Community Associations and Business Improvement Areas. The service is on track to award \$3.3 million through the Festival and Event subsidy program and \$1 million in Arts & Culture microgrant funding by year-end. (Initiative 3)

The service worked collaboratively with Treaty 7 Nations, Indigenous communities and other business units on initiatives including the Tipi program, Orange Shirt Day and the July 1st Powwow. The Blackfoot and Tsuut'ina Tipis are available for Indigenous programming at festivals and events. Other opportunities for artists and arts professionals from the Treaty 7 Nations include multiple Indigenous contract positions with the Indigenous Public Art Program, such as Stoney and Blackfoot curators. (Initiative 7)

Diversity and inclusion continue to be promoted through cultural programming and education opportunities at The City's Canada Day event, including artisan markets, activity booths and stage performances.

Chinook Blast saw 140,000 direct participants, 65 partnerships and included collaboration with seven other business units. (Initiative 5)

Progress summary



Risk(s) impacting the progress

- The health of Calgary's arts and cultural sector. Managing expectations about the Public Art program. Increasing polarization of viewpoints impacts the functioning of the Arts & Culture service.



Measuring Our Performance

Legend

— Actuals

■ Expected Future Performance

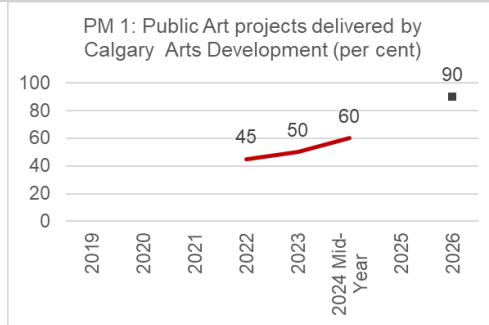
➔ Progressing as planned

⊖ Not progressing as planned

Performance Measures

Story behind the numbers

Status

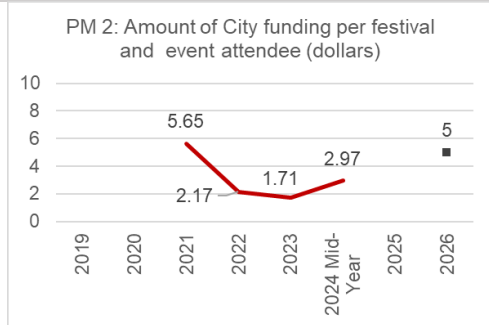


Major projects working towards completion in Q3 include the installation of four artworks in northeast Calgary and the mural panel project in Chinatown, and the development of an exhibit of Indigenous artworks is scheduled for display in Q4.



The City will continue to steward the public art collection and deliver on Truth and Reconciliation through art, while Calgary Arts Development Authority (CADA) will commission new work.

CADA public art has commissioned an artist to begin several projects approved by the Interdepartmental Public Art Team.

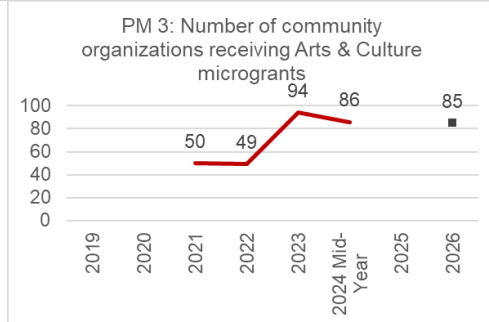


The mid-year dollar amount is not representative of the year-end total because most events are delivered in the last half of the year.



Due to the timing of post-event reports, the mid-year amount is a predicted estimate as of June 12. This is based on expected event totals for the first half of the year.

Festival and Event Subsidy Program funding continued to build on our 2023 goal of increasing the number of low-cost or no-cost festivals and events. These events are more accessible and improve equitable access for Calgarians and visitors.



Eighty-six organizations were approved so far in 2024 for Arts and Culture Microgrant funding, 50 of which are first-time recipients. \$1.03 million in funding will be awarded in 2024, supporting over 94 local initiatives.



As of May 31, eight initiatives approved in 2024 were delivered for \$35,681, engaging 3,487 attendees and 345 volunteers. Recipients worked with 116 community organizations and 85 local businesses, with 259 local artists supported.

The program supports as many organizations as possible, increasing the diversity of opportunities offered to Calgarians.



Progress on Service Delivery

PROGRESS STATUS



Completed



Progressing as planned



Not progressing as planned



Not started

FUNDING TYPE















Capital



Operating

Initiative 1		Impact Area: City-wide	Funding Type:
Support year-round meaningful cultural experiences by progressing the promotion of the Winter City and Eventful City strategies.			
UPDATE 	<p>Winter City Strategy: Chinook Blast 2024 brought more than 433,000 people downtown, a 16 per cent increase from 2023. There was an approximate \$15.7 million economic impact for a \$825,000 investment. More than 1,500 artists, athletes, creative makers, and performers were involved as well as over 200 businesses and 20 non-profit organizations.</p> <p>Eventful City Strategy: The community notification process was implemented to help mitigate event impacts on neighbouring communities. A study was also completed on the noise produced by events in Tomkins Park and its impact on surrounding residents.</p>		
Initiative 2		Impact Area: City-wide	Funding Type:
Support our partners in the film and creative industries by progressing the film friendly strategy.			
UPDATE 	<p>Launched Film Friendly web pages to share information about The City's services and supports for productions looking to film in Calgary. Consolidated processes for 11 business units into one purpose-built service request system. An operational process review and needs, costs and services assessments were completed for ongoing operations, continuous improvement and strategic planning. A comprehensive film friendly strategy is the next major step for the program; defining priorities in collaboration with Calgary Economic Development plus resource scaling and cost recovery for City operations.</p>		
Initiative 3		Impact Area: Ward 7, Ward 8	Funding Type:
Support economic, social and cultural opportunities downtown through Arts & Culture initiatives by investing in partners.			
UPDATE 	<p>The service continues to work with the Downtown Strategy team to support downtown programming and activation.</p> <p>Supported the evaluation of an expression of interest for Historic Fire Hall 1 and Northwest Travellers to determine future site use. Planning is underway for a heavily-programmed summer season.</p> <p>Chinook Blast worked with 83 partners, including 13 art installations and 11 related to sport programming. Over 5,600 attendees participated in the winter-night markets and over 63,000 participated in the Artist Pavilion at the Central Library, a 13 per cent increase from 2023.</p>		
Initiative 4		Impact Area: City-wide, Ward 7	Funding Type:
Invest in Calgary's cultural future through supporting Calgary and Chinatown Cultural Plans.			
UPDATE 	<p>Support for the Chinatown Cultural Plan included forming a Chinatown working group to develop a prioritized implementation plan, including capital improvements in Chinatown.</p> <p>Arts & Culture supported the Anti-Racism Team by hosting "What Flowers They Bloom" for Asian Heritage Month.</p> <p>The Chinatown activation grant is a new \$25,000 program to activate Chinatown through cultural activity, with six projects approved so far.</p> <p>Support for the Cultural Plan for Calgary includes participation in projects such as the Greater Forest Lawn Local Area Plan and the 30-year vision for the Calgary Plan.</p>		

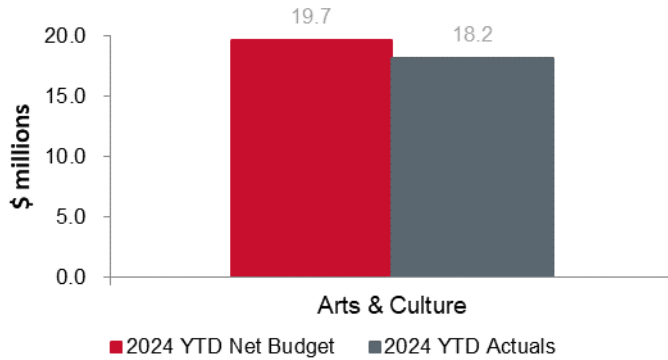
Initiative 5		Impact Area: City-wide, Ward 7	Funding Type: 
Increase equitable access to festivals and events by delivering low-cost and no-cost festivals, events, and programming directly and with our partners.			
UPDATE 	<p>With internal and external partners, Arts & Culture directly delivers no-cost events including Canada Day, Neighbour Day, Culture Days, Orange Shirt Day and New Year's Eve programs.</p> <p>In-progress Canada Day engagement is designed to influence 2025 programming. This will ensure The City of Calgary event delivery aligns with the community's priorities for celebrating Canada Day.</p> <p>Hosted two community events promoting Neighbour Day. Social media was enhanced and prizes were introduced to encourage Neighbour Day activities and improve tracking.</p>		
Initiative 6		Impact Area: City-wide	Funding Type: 
Improve alignment and service delivery to citizens and modernize the arts and culture sector by reviewing and revising the Civic Arts, Public Art and Festivals and Events policies.			
UPDATE 	<p>The Festival and Event Policy was approved by Council in June 2024. The Civic Arts Policy update is in the planning stage. The Public Art Policy, updated in 2023, led to curatorial panel development in 2024 and the Interdepartmental Public Art Team in late 2023, both fundamental processes.</p> <p>Related processes are constantly being improved to ensure equitability and transparency, including the granting programs. A needs assessment is underway to ensure the subsidy granting program aligns with the needs of festival and event organizers and additional funding opportunities are being discussed.</p>		
Initiative 7		Impact Area: City-wide	Funding Type: 
Contribute to Truth & Reconciliation outcomes through Public Art by ensuring Calgary's Public Art Program provides equitable opportunities for Indigenous artists to participate and be reflected in the collection.			
UPDATE 	<p>Arts & Culture developed a funding agreement with the Blackfoot Confederacy to provide them with the resources, framework and support to run a community-led, City supported initiative that will feature Blackfoot art in prominent locations. The service continues to work with the other Treaty 7 Nations on several initiatives. Contracts for Indigenous positions, including Stoney and Blackfoot curators, have been posted and will be commissioned as part of the Indigenous Public Art Program.</p> <p>Arts & Culture provided regular opportunities for Truth and Reconciliation training for staff."</p>		
Initiative 8		Impact Area: City-wide	Funding Type: 
Lead the ongoing development of the arts and culture sector in Calgary through strategic planning, investments and partnerships.			
UPDATE 	<p>The Cultural Leadership Council (CLC) is an advisory group to Arts & Culture consisting of seven organizations that are leaders in arts, culture and heritage in Calgary. The CLC is continuing strategic sector discussions and revising their Terms of Reference, working on updating definitions while also enabling initiatives to support the Cultural Plan. The service liaises between CLC and internal business units and provides project management support.</p> <p>Arts & Culture is working with Calgary Arts Development on a report about the need for reinvestment in arts and culture spaces.</p>		
Initiative 9		Impact Area: City-wide	Funding Type: 
Lead the ongoing development of Public Art leadership and conservation in Calgary through strategic planning, investments and partnerships.			
UPDATE	<p>The Public Art team provides support and guidance for public art best practices to business units, civic partners, community groups and municipalities.</p>		

	<p>Due to LRT platform construction, TransitStory was moved to the 45 Street SW Station. Planning continues on the Famous Five sculpture move ahead of the Olympic Plaza redesign.</p> <p>An Emergency Response Plan is being developed to define roles and responsibilities within The City when artworks are at risk. Public Art is working with municipalities and organizations to support regional emergency response processes for art and heritage collections.</p>	
Initiative 10	Impact Area: City-wide	Funding Type: 
Increase vibrancy in the downtown by contributing toward activities in the Downtown Strategy.		
UPDATE 	<p>Arts & Culture is working with the Downtown Strategy team and multiple partners to enhance the use of existing downtown parks spaces for festivals and events. This is critical due to the loss of key downtown locations to redevelopment, including Olympic Plaza and Eau Claire.</p> <p>The team is also working with Downtown Strategy and Mobility regarding the enhanced maintenance requirements of underpasses with public art.</p> <p>Arts & Culture is partnering with the Downtown Strategy team to enhance communications about events in the downtown realm.</p>	



Service Updates on Financial Performance

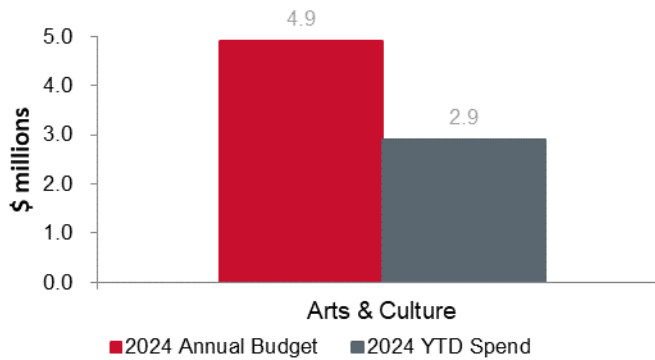
Net Operating Budget and Actuals as of June 30, 2024



Operating Budget Updates - 2024 YTD net operating budget vs actuals:

Arts & Culture had a favourable variance of \$1.6 million which is mainly due timing as billings for events have been slower than expected. It is anticipated that this variance will normalize as we record expenses from summertime events. Approximately 70.1 per cent of the service's operation budget is represented by Calgary Arts Development Authority's annual operating grant. Initiatives funded included events focused on equity, diversity and belonging, a commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and innovative ways to use new and unique venue spaces.

Capital Budget and Spend as of June 30, 2024



Capital Budget Updates - 2024 total capital budget vs 2024 YTD spend:

Arts & Culture has spent \$2.9 million (59.1 per cent) of its capital budget to date in 2024. The spend included transfers to Calgary Arts Development Authority in accordance with the outsourcing of the Public Art Program.