



**Saskatoon Bus Rapid Transit System**  
Public Art Strategy Engagement Summary  
Fall 2021 - Summer 2022

# ABOUT THE BRT PROJECT

The City of Saskatoon's new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System will feature public art at various locations along the routes. The City of Saskatoon joins many cities in Canada and around the world that feature public art in and along transit routes. Transit is critical for a city, and transit art programs, in general, can have a positive and transformative impact. The BRT System is set to launch in 2026 and more information can be found **online here**.

## **LeuWebb Projects Joins BRT Design Team**

In summer 2021, the City of Saskatoon selected the artist collective LeuWebb Projects to develop a strategic and collaborative approach to the BRT public art project. The first part of this effort involved community engagement to help LeuWebb address the ideas of space, object, and pedestrian movement related to the BRT stations.

## **Engaging with Communities of Saskatoon**

From autumn 2021 to summer 2022, we engaged with community groups from a wide variety of sectors to develop several key art-related aspects for the project, including: thematic interests and meanings; potential locations of artworks; opportunities for integration with the new transit infrastructure; future collaborative and participatory art partnerships; community-led ideas; scale, media and material interests, and more.

This report forms a summary of what we heard and how we've integrated the diverse input and feedback towards the BRT public art theme and strategy.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Key Dates, Outreach Events, Community Members and Organizations

2021 October	Public Art Advisory Committee Introductory Meeting (online)
2021 November	Artists and Arts Organizations Engagement + Follow-up Survey (online)
2022 February	Consultation with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers (online)
2022 March	Saskatoon Open Door Society - Afghan Refugee Engagement (online)
2022 March	Consultation with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers (online)
2022 April	Saskatoon Open Door Society - Karen Community Engagement (online)
2022 April	Open Drop-in Session and Zine Outreach at Wonderhub (in-person)
2022 April	Public Survey on Saskatoon.ca Engage Page (online)
2022 May	Zine Outreach at SaskAbilities and Zine available at Wonderhub, Discover Saskatoon, University of Saskatchewan (in-person)
2022 May	Visits and Meetings with Community & Local Arts Organizations: AKA Artist Run Centre, PAVED Arts, Remai Modern, Wanuskewin (in-person)
2022 May	Public Art Advisory Committee Follow-up Meeting (online)
2022 June	Consultation with University of Saskatchewan Galleries
2022 June	Consultation with Bus Riders of Saskatoon (via Saskatoon Transit) (online)
2022 July	Community Engagement Summary to previously consulted groups (online)
2022 July (tbc)	Consultation with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers (online)



# WHAT WE HEARD

We've summarized key feedback collected across all forms of engagement and presented common elements over the following pages. This input includes selected quotations and sketches. Several themes were recurring throughout and there were also variations which suggest the benefit of further detailed community engagement as part of the Phase II artwork creation and realization. While much of the feedback has been integrated into the theme and strategy, not all suggestions were directly applicable due to budget limitations, available space, and other practical considerations.

Together  
*Together*

Connecting  
Community

“Artwork that brings a smile to your face and that is representative of Saskatoon.”

“Every single station should have some form of public artwork. If budget is an issue, the central stations (downtown, college ave, Victoria ave, and parts of 22nd) should be prioritized.”

CULTURE

Disability  
Awareness

Nature

Saskatoon  
multiculturalism

respect  
Indigenous  
peoples

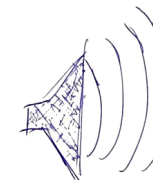
“A wide variety of mediums would be nice. The BRT stations are great locations to showcase some beautiful artwork.”

Kids

# WHAT WE HEARD (continued)

WHAT SHOULD PUBLIC ART DO?  
WHAT SHOULD IT LOOK LIKE?

- Tells a story
- Sharing languages and cultures
- Inclusive, belonging
- See ourselves reflected
- Colourful
- Landmarks
- Permanent
- Can be enjoyed through all Seasons
- Lighting
- Sound



## Storytelling

We heard that storytelling through art was something important for communities to feel reflected and recognized in the city.

Ideas of inclusion, belonging and celebrating diversity were talked about, and language was recognized as being a key part to expressing this diversity and creating a sense of inclusion.

## Where should the Art go?

Participants were asked to list locations that they thought would most benefit from the addition of public art.

Along with site visits by the artist team and identifying areas in the city currently under-served by public art, this community input has helped to inform the proposed distribution of artworks across the BRT system. See the **Locations for Art** map on page 8 for more information.



“Make sure art installations don’t block the view of oncoming bus traffic.”

Visibility promotes safety and public art should not interfere with this.”

# WHAT WE HEARD (continued)

## Storyline

- The bus travels through neighbourhoods and places, like a storyline
- An opening for the viewer to create a story or elaborate upon the art and continue the narrative

## Kids

- Importance of kids being a part of the art, how storytelling comes into play and how children grow up with art

## Seasons

- Changeability with light, shadow, weather, and time of day  
Winters are long and dark – art should also be enjoyable in the cold, dark winter months

## Making the Art


- How art can be created collaboratively – making art can create community
- Important to reflect different roots in the City, and explore the different diversity groups that exist in Saskatoon

## Dynamic

- Changeability – how the art can physically change over time
- Interactivity - how to incorporate within maintenance/budget
- More tactile, more accessible please

## Short Term

- Temporary artwork partnerships present unique opportunities



“Developing a strong community engagement/consultation process (for Phase II) will be important, including involvement of Treaty 6 and Métis Nations.”

## Further Engagement

The challenges of carrying out community engagement over the course of the ongoing pandemic meant that some activities intended for in-person interaction were limited. Phase II of the BRT Public Art Plan, the implementation phase, will include more detailed, project-specific and artist-led community engagement and participation opportunities. Additional voices and perspectives will be welcomed throughout this process.

WE ARE ALL  
CONNECTED

# THEME

**We are all connected: across time, across space, across borders. Our paths cross, our lives touch, our stories link and build upon one another.**

These connections form the texture of our communities and the fabric of our city, creating a rich woven tapestry and bringing colour to the urban realm. As the new bus rapid transit system threads its way through Saskatoon's neighbourhoods, its movement both connects and opens new possibilities for shared understanding and experience.

From the region's deep Indigenous history and important continued presence of First Nations and Métis peoples to the most recently welcomed newcomers to the city, the connections are intricate and varied, resilient and inclusive.

**We are all connected: our histories and memories, our dreams and hopes, our movements and destinations.**

As we move through the city, we see and hear ourselves, our families and friends reflected through art as we learn about our neighbours and fellow transit riders.

**Together, we can weave a new, shared story for the future of our city.**





# EXAMPLES

## Stand-alone Pieces



Daan Roosegaarde  
Marbles, Rotterdam



Cliff Garten  
Light Rail Art, Phoenix

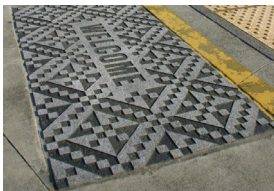


Robert Stadter  
Inside-out, Paris

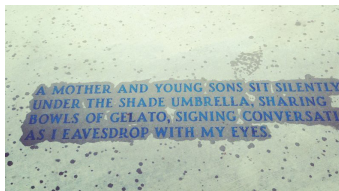


Amy Malbeuf  
iskotew - Edmonton

## Paving integrated + Audio Pieces



Jerry Mayer  
Sound Transit Art Programme



Agnieszka Matejko  
Callingwood Sidewalk Poetry, Edmonton



Jamez & Einar  
De La Torre  
Metro Light Rail Art, Phoenix Arizona



Plants imprinted on concrete



Poetricks  
Kings Cross, London

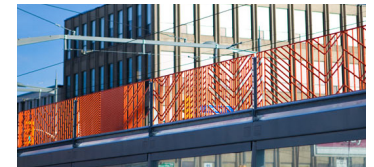
## Shelter Roof-mounted Pieces



Nestor Kruger  
'Colour Transit', St Clair Streetcar Line, Toronto



Kristan Horton  
'Icing', St Clair Streetcar Line, Toronto



Sarah Graham  
'Flat Space', St Clair Streetcar Line, Toronto

## Other Possibilities & Legacy



Maxwell Bates and Barry Smylie  
Calgary BRT



Gabriel Barcia-Colombo,  
New York Minute - New York, NY.



Toons in Transit - PAVED Arts  
Saskatoon

Patrick Cruz -  
Translink  
Vancouver



# Acknowledgements

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Kathy Allen - Arts & Grants Consultant, City of Saskatoon

Ellen Wardell - Urban Design Manager, City of Saskatoon

April Sora - Immigration, Diversity & Inclusion Consultant, City of Saskatoon

City of Saskatoon Public Art Advisory Committee

Saskatoon Open Door Society: Karen & Afghan Refugees

University of Saskatchewan Galleries

Remai Modern

AKA Artist Run Centre

PAVED Arts

Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority

SaskAbilities

Bus Riders of Saskatoon

## What's Next?

The Public Art Plan for the BRT concludes with a detailed Phase I report in the summer of 2022 which will present further opportunities for comment following its publication. Phase II, the implementation phase of the BRT Public Art Plan, will feature detailed, project-specific opportunities for community participation and engagement as part of the creative production process.

Stay tuned for future opportunities!