

# **Public art**

Total asset replacement value	\$2.5 million	
Current condition	GOOD	
Projected condition in 25 years	GOOD	
Annual funding needed to meet target performance	\$15,000	
Annual average funding	\$5,000	
Annual funding gap	\$10,000	
Funding source	Public Art Reserve Fund	
Data maturity level	High	

Funding gap \$10,000

Average annual funding \$5,000

Annual funding needed: \$15,000



## A FEATURED STORY

# **Public Art, Public Reflection**

Waterloo's approach to Public Art is thoughtful and distinct and nested into parks, libraries, city facilities, and guiet corners inviting moments of discovery and reflection. These artworks honour the city's history, celebrate community, and connect residents to the environment in meaningful ways, transforming familiar spaces into places of inspiration. Public Art is present throughout the city, with 25 unique pieces offering opportunities to pause, reflect, and engage with Waterloo's evolving story.

#### **CURRENT STRATEGY**

The City of Waterloo recognizes that Public Art is an asset that enhances the quality of life for its citizens, strengthens community pride, improves the aesthetics of the public environment, and contributes to the City's cultural aspirations, social wellbeing and economic vitality. Public Art is a mechanism to celebrate culture and heritage, reflect community diversity, express shared values and define the unique local identity. Public Art advances the City's strategic goal to build a well-designed and appealing City that supports the three pillars of sustainability (economic, environmental, social) and engages the community. The city owns several temporary public art installations scattered throughout, intended for festivals and seasonal displays and are not intended to be replaced.



### ASSET PERFORMANCE

Public art is a non-depreciating asset and asset performance is expected to stay in good condition with regular maintenance applied. The only risk is vandalism which this report does not address. The city must maintain the copyright and moral right of the artwork and the artist. Hence, a consistent maintenance program and funding is essential to keep up the quality and integrity of the artwork.

Approximately 92% of public art assets are currently considered fair or better performance. Over the 25-year timeline, with the current level of funding, we anticipate the percentage of our public art assets with fair or better performance to stay the same. Based on the best available public art asset data and observed conditions, increased funding is needed for continual monitoring of vandalism and other environmental damage, as reflected in the annual funding gap of \$10,000.



Public art assets with a fair or better performance

#### LEVELS OF SERVICE

The following tables show the levels of service established by the city for public art assets. These metrics include the technical and community level of service required as part of the Ontario Regulation 588/17. Service metrics are reported for the prior year ending on December 31.

#### **COMMUNITY LEVELS OF SERVICE**

The following table outlines the qualitative descriptions that determine the community levels of service for public art assets.

SERVICE ATTRIBUTE	QUALITATIVE DESCRIPTION	2024
Scope	Description, which may include maps, of permanent public art installed on City Property.	Refer to map

### **TECHNICAL LEVELS OF SERVICE**

The following table outlines the quantitative metrics that determine the technical level of service for public art assets.

SERVICE ATTRIBUTE	QUANTITATIVE METRICS	2023	2024
Quantity	Number of permanent art installations	24	24
Quality	Per cent annual inspection of permanent art installed	100%	100%
	Average condition of art work installed	Good	Good

The information presented here is based on the best available asset inventory and condition data as of March 2025, as well as funding details from the 2024-2026 approved capital budget and the 2027-2033 capital forecast.

The forecasting model allows staff to project the condition of City assets over a 25-year timeframe and therefore all funding is based on a 25-year average.

