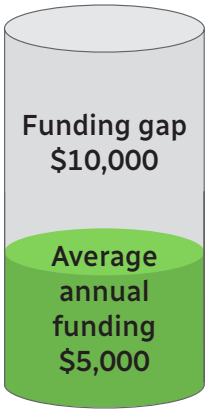


Public art

Total asset replacement value	**$5.8 million**
Current condition	**EXCELLENT**
Projected condition in 25 years	**GOOD**
Annual funding needed to meet target performance	**$19,000**
Annual average funding	**$7,000**
Annual funding gap	**$12,000**
Funding source	**Public Art Reserve Fund**
Data maturity level	**High**



Annual funding needed: $15,000



Assets include permanent art installed across the City of Waterloo.

A FEATURED STORY

A renewed view of Public Art

This year, the City undertook an appraisal of its public art collection that offered more than updated values. It revealed how public art grows in both cost and meaning over time. Rising material prices have increased replacement values, but more importantly, many art works have become lasting symbols of community. This exercise reinforced that public art is more than an asset, it is an investment in our shared space, history and the future.

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 98% 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 $12,000.

98%

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	2025
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	2024	2025
Quantity	Number of permanent art installations	24	26
Quality	Per cent annual inspection of permanent art installed	100%	100%
	Average condition of art work installed	Good	Excellent

The information presented here is based on the best available asset inventory and condition data as of March 2026, 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. .