

KNOW YOUR ROOTS ART TOUR

This guide has been adapted from a resource put out by Reconciliation Saskatoon and the Saskatoon Public Library, with special help from Anastaisa Hauser (Reconciliation Saskatoon's Youth Advocate), the City of Saskatoon, and the Saskatoon Survivors Circle as well as with leadership and teachings from Residential School Survivors and Knowledge Keepers.

It is our hope that by learning more about the history and artistic contributions and representations of Indigenous Peoples in the context of Saskatoon we will be prompted to respect, care, and honour neighbours and to pray for healing, joy, and reconciliation for the future of all who live here.

In the following pages you will find a brief description of a variety of public artworks in Saskatoon that help us understand more about the history, present, and future of Indigenous people in this land. Each piece is listed in its neighbourhood for easy walk planning, as well as colour coded using the four categories below as an additional means of exploring various themes in art & story around us. Additional sites to note that are outside of the core are listed at the back of the guide. This is not an exhaustive list of Indigenous art in Saskatoon. If you have ideas of pieces that should be included, please let us know!



For more information and ideas for action steps, visit beaconnectr.org.

For an online map of these sites for easy navigation, visit ebap.ca/justice-resources/

Finally, to share your experiences, ideas moving forward,
please drop a note to kari@ebap.ca.

BROADWAY



TRANSIT SHELTER

CORNER OF 12TH STREET EAST AND BROADWAY AVENUE

Built in 2019, the Transit Shelter at 12th Street East & Broadway Avenue was designed by students from Nutana Collegiate, inspired by the teachings of Elder Harry Lafond, and serves as an expression of the commitment to truth and reconciliation. The panels reference the seasons, earth, fire, water, the medicine wheel, and a teepee as symbols of story. and community in Treaty 6 territory..

SAADAT QALBI/MIYAWATAM 1

MAIN STREET AND BROADWAY AVENUE

The title of these works translates to "Happiness of the heart/They are joyful or fun-loving". The hand-painted aluminum sculptures feature floral motifs that take inspiration from both Cree/Michif beadwork and traditional East African henna design. They are meant to celebrate the labours of women as teachers, care workers and nurturers who strengthen communities. The works were created by Ruth Cuthand - who is of Plains Cree, Scottish, and Irish ancestry - and Suada Jailan, who is from Somalia and grew up in a Kenyan refugee camp.



IPIY MÎNA SÎPIY, LIGHT SCULPTURE

813 BROADWAY AVENUE

The Cree syllabics translate as "river and sky" The artwork by Tony Stallard, and developed in collaboration with Cree artists Joseph Naytowhow and Kenneth T. Williams, highlights the role that language preservation has in reconciliation. It also celebrates the river as a historic meeting place for Elders and it's continued importance as a meeting place in contemporary times. The work also references the Treaty 6 message, "as long as the river flows, the grass grows, and the sun shines."



DOWNTOWN



GABRIEL DUMONT SCULPTURE

FRIENDSHIP PARK ON 19TH STREET NEXT TO BROADWAY BRIDGE

Created by artist Bill Epp, this statue features Gabriel Dumont on his horse and was unveiled in 1985 to commemorate 100 years since the 1885 Resistance. You can learn more at www.metismuseum.ca.

YELLOW QUILL FIRST NATION MURAL

300-224 4TH AVENUE SOUTH

This mural is the largest artwork in all of Saskatoon and was painted onto Saskatoon's First Nations Bank in 2017 by artist Emmanuel Jarus. The building is owned by the Yellow Quill First Nation, who commissioned the piece. The red ribbon in the work recalls Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The blue in the mural symbolizes the Yellow Quill people's water reserves, which were destroyed by British settlements and dams. The water running along the bottom shows that the Yellow Quill people are rising up from the water, rather than being overcome by it.



WICANHPI DUTA WIN OR RED STAR WOMAN STATUE

76 25TH STREET EAST



Indigenous women and girls are five times more likely to experience violence than other Canadians, and 12 times more likely to be murdered or go missing. Cree artist Lionel Peyachew's work on this statue was inspired by Amber Redman, a young woman who was murdered in 2005. The Red Star Woman is a life size bronze sculpture "representing the artistry of a fancy dancer, with her shawl as her wings, her arms gliding in the sky, like an eagle dancing in the clouds". It is a reminder of the continued trauma faced by Indigenous people and ensures we never forget missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirited people.

DOWNTOWN

THOMPSON CHAMBER MURAL

206 2ND AVENUE NORTH

The mural's artist, April Doecker, created this reconciliation-themed project as a participant in Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Program competition for Canada 150. The image is of an Indigenous woman holding people in her palms. As Doecker notes, "The little people are the young people, and she's like the mother...the people are coming together and sharing their ideas."



BICYCLE RACKS WITH TREATY 6//MÉTIS MEDALS

201 1ST AVENUE SOUTH (ACROSS FROM MIDTOWN PLAZA)

Installed in 2021, these bicycle racks feature Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis medals. They represent the spirit of reconciliation that Saskatoon hopes to embody as a community, and the project recognizes that there have been thousands of years of settlement on the South Saskatchewan Riverbank.

SAADAT QALBI/MIYAWATAM 3

241 2ND AVENUE SOUTH

The title of these works translates to "Happiness of the heart/They are joyful or fun-loving". The hand-painted aluminum sculptures feature floral motifs that take inspiration from both Cree/Michif beadwork and traditional East African henna design. They are meant to celebrate the labours of women as teachers, care workers and nurturers who strengthen communities. The works were created by Ruth Cuthand - who is of Plains Cree, Scottish, and Irish ancestry - and Suada Jailan, who is from Somalia and grew up in a Kenyan refugee camp.



DOWNTOWN

SCYAP MURAL

BETWEEN 1ST AND 2ND AVENUES SOUTH & 20TH STREET WEST

A newer mural (painted in 2022) by Métis artist April Doepker represents the resilience and beauty of Indigenous culture through colour, pattern, and meaningful imagery such as Traditional female dancers with eagle feather fans, floral motifs, braided sweetgrass and more.



THE FOUNDERS STATUE

ROUNDBABOUT AT THE BASE OF VICTORIA BRIDGE NORTH SIDE

In 1882, Chief Whitecap and John Lake -- who are considered Saskatoon's founders -- worked together to establish a settlement that would become Saskatoon. However, Lake prevented Métis people from continuing to occupy their river lots, an action that directly contributed to the 1885 Resistance. Regardless of how you view the relationship, without these two founding figures Saskatoon would not exist. This statue by Hans Holtkamp has always been a part of the Rock Your Roots walk.

RIVERSDALE



THE COMING SPRING OR "WHERE OUR PATHS CROSS" SCULPTURE

NORTH VICTORIA PARK, BETWEEN AVENUE D SOUTH & AVENUE E SOUTH

One pole points north and represents the long history of First Nations people. The pole that points south symbolizes the history of the Métis people. The two poles intersect to show the interconnected history of these two groups. The 29 healing jingles on the north pole recall the 29 communities in Treaty 6 Territory that had their children taken into residential schools. The fringes that are affixed to the south pole represent the generations of injustice dealt to the Métis. Artist Gordon Reeve also made the sculpture heated, enabling people to share their culture in all four seasons.

SPIRIT OF ALLIANCE MONUMENT

ROUNDBOUT ON AVENUE A SOUTH AND SPADINA CRESCENT

This bronze sculpture recognizes the contributions of Indigenous people in the war of 1812. The individuals included in the monument are Chief Wabasha IV, Colonel Robert Dickinson, Dickinson's wife Totwin and their daughter Helen. Chief Wabasha acted as an ally to the British against the United States, and Dickinson was a trader who acted as a liaison between the British and the Indigenous people. Totwin represents the role of women as both supporters and fighters. Artists Jean-Sebastien Gauthier, Ian (Happy) Grove, and Adrian Stimson worked together on this piece.



RIVERSDALE

RESURGENCE

CORNER OF 20TH STREET WEST AND AVENUE B SOUTH

Resurgence is a 3D aluminium sculpture by Ruth Cuthand and Henry Lau, painted by Steven Paul. The buffalo cow and calf are in an intimate position, representing the relationship between Indigenous people and the buffalo.



SAADAT QALBI/MIYAWATAM 2

602 20TH STREET WEST

The title of these works translates to "Happiness of the heart/They are joyful or fun-loving". The hand-painted aluminum sculptures feature floral motifs that take inspiration from both Cree/Michif beadwork and traditional East African henna design. They are meant to celebrate the labours of women as teachers, care workers and nurturers who strengthen communities. The works were created by Ruth Cuthand - who is of Plains Cree, Scottish, and Irish ancestry - and Suada Jailan, who is from Somalia and grew up in a Kenyan refugee camp.



ADDITIONAL SITES YOU MIGHT VISIT...

CHIEF MISTAWASIS BRIDGE

CONNECTS MCORMOND DRIVE AND MARQUIS DRIVE

Named for Chief Mistawasis, who signed Treaty 6 in 1876. The bridge opened in 2018.

TRANSIT SHELTER AT ED FEEHAN

RUSHOLME ROAD & AVENUE M NORTH

Installed in 2021. In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action #79 and #93, students from the E.D. Feehan Newcomer Youth Engagement Program (NYEP) and the miyo mâcihowin program met with Métis Elder Nora Cummings, First Nations Elder Harry Lafond, and Newcomer Community Leader Senos Timon to create this piece of art led by immigrant artist Muveddet Al-Katib. As the students reflected on Elder Cummings and Lafond's teachings, with inspiration from Newcomer Community Leader Senos Timon, the following theme emerged to represent their story: "We are all different and should be proud of that. We must remember who we are and reach out to one another."

DR. FREDA AHENAKEW BRANCH, SASKATOON PUBLIC LIBRARY

100-219 AVENUE K SOUTH

This library was originally known as "The Library on 20th", but was renamed in 2017 after Dr. Freda Ahenakew, a leader in Indigenous language preservation.

ROUND PRAIRIE BRANCH, SASKATOON PUBLIC LIBRARY

170-250 HUNTER ROAD

The Round Prairie Métis were a community of buffalo hunters who established a wintering site near Dakota Whitecap in the late 1800's. Many were eventually forced to migrate to Saskatoon in search of work, and by the 1940's they had established a close-knit community near the current site of the library. They were forced by the Crown to relocate in the 1950's. The library opened in 2017.

WAHKOHTIWIN SCHOOL

3555 JOHN A MACDONALD ROAD

Conversations about renaming started in 2016, when the Néhiyawiwîn Cree Language and Culture Program at the school celebrated its 10th anniversary. Elders guided the process and advised on the importance of the name change, selecting Wahkohtowin ("kinship") through a traditional naming ceremony.

ADDITIONAL SITES YOU MIGHT VISIT...

RECONCILIATION CIRCLE

NORTH PART OF VICTORIA PARK, BETWEEN AVENUES D & E SOUTH

In 2017 a portion of Victoria Park was renamed Reconciliation Circle. The request was presented to Saskatoon City Council by Shirley Isbister, president of the Central Urban Métis Federation. This portion of the park is also home to the sculpture Where Our Paths Cross.

WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK

RR4 PENNER ROAD

At Wanuskewin in the Opimihaw Creek Valley, visitors can view 19 archeological sites that prove this area was a major meeting place for almost every pre-contact cultural group across the Great Plains. Wanuskewin became a Provincial Heritage Property in 1983, a National Historic Site in 1987, and is in consideration for a UNESCO World Heritage Designation. Bison have been reintroduced to Wanuskewin with the goal of establishing a heard that preserves the Northern Plains genetic heritage, and to recognize the spiritual connection between the bison and Indigenous Peoples of the Great Plains

WHITE BUFFALO YOUTH LODGE

602 20TH STREET WEST

The White Buffalo Youth Lodge is dedicated to improving the quality of life and health for children, youth, young adults and their families. It is a multipurpose centre that serves as a youth recreational facility and also provides educational classes and meeting spaces. All programs and services are provided for free.

CHOKECHERRY STUDIOS

204 A AVENUE J SOUTH

Chokecherry Studios is a haven for hundreds of Saskatoon youth, offering art programs and mentorship to young and emerging artists in the city, as well as being a safe and supportive space to spend time. They opened in 2019.

SASKATOON INDIAN & MÉTIS FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

168 WALL STREET

The Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre (SIMFC) is a non-political, autonomous and a non-profit organization that was incorporated in 1968. It is a part of the Friendship Centre Movement which is representative of 120 Friendship Centres across Canada that serve the Indigenous people living in urban environments.

For more than 50 years, the SIMFC has met the unique needs of Saskatoon's Indigenous community by supporting First Nations and Métis cultural distinctiveness, Its variety of programming has included sports, festivals, and cultural activities, along with important services that holistically meet the needs of families and individuals alike.

ADDITIONAL SITES YOU MIGHT VISIT...

SASKATOON INDIAN & MÉTIS FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

168 WALL STREET

The Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre (SIMFC) is a non-political, autonomous and a non-profit organization that was incorporated in 1968. It is a part of the Friendship Centre Movement which is representative of 120 Friendship Centres across Canada that serve the Indigenous people living in urban environments.

For more than 50 years, the SIMFC has met the unique needs of Saskatoon's Indigenous community by supporting First Nations and Métis cultural distinctiveness, Its variety of programming has included sports, festivals, and cultural activities, along with important services that holistically meet the needs of families and individuals alike.

TRANSIT SHELTER AT ADEN BOWMAN

1904 CLARENCE AVENUE SOUTH

The transit shelter art project, developed in collaboration between Métis Elder Nora Cummings and students at Aden Bowman Collegiate, commemorates Métis families who once lived on the land where the school now stands. Inspired by Métis history, values and heritage, the design includes traditional plants -- such as crocuses and Saskatoon berries -- that once grew nearby.

TRANSIT SHELTER PROJECT 2022

885 CONFEDERATION DRIVE

This Transit Shelter was created through a collaboration between the Saskatoon Survivors Circle and Indigenous artist, Justine "Tini" Stilborn. The artwork's storytelling begins on the left panel, with the Sixties Scoop depicting young Indigenous children being taken from their homes and families. This panel was done in red to convey the stereotype of the red skin of Indigenous people and the bloodshed and pain experienced. The back panels depict Indigenous children's involuntary assimilation to euro-western culture shown by the cutting of their hair.

Panels representing Residential School atrocities were done in orange to align with orange shirt day and the Every Child Matters movement. A panel in yellow represents hope and joy as Indigenous people return to their cultural practices and reconnect with their ancestors. For the first time there is also art on the ceiling of the bus shelter which depicts the dawn of a new day.

NOTES