

# Public Art Portfolio Update

Economic and Creative Development

City Building Committee

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Public art is a powerful placemaking tool. It encompasses all artwork that is displayed in the public realm and can be enjoyed by anyone to bridge gaps between art and public space through planned intervention. \*

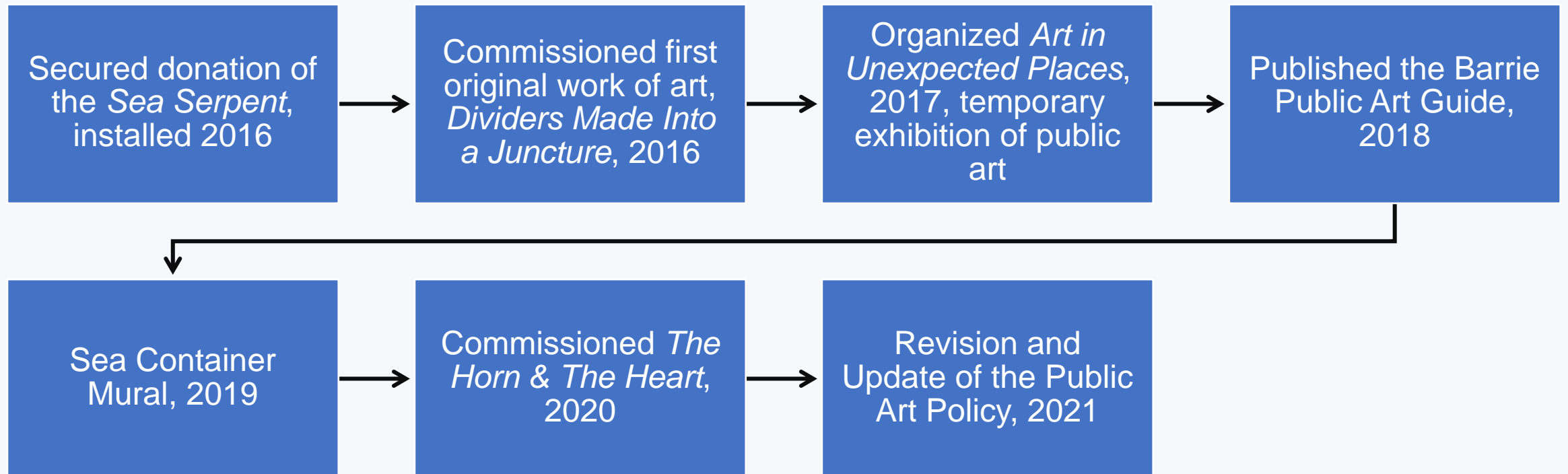
*\*(artscapediy.org/approaches-to-creative-placemaking/)*

- 2012 - Barrie City Council approved its first Public Art Policy
- The policy established the Barrie Public Art Committee (BPAC)
- BPAC is a volunteer working group of Council that promotes awareness and understanding of the importance of high-quality public art and works to educate and engage Barrie residents and visitors alike.



*The Horn & The Heart, John McEwen, 2020*

# Barrie Public Art Committee Program Highlights



## Public Art Supports the following Strategic Priorities of Council:

- Growing our Economy
- Fostering a Safe & Healthy Community
- Building Strong Neighbourhoods
- Supporting a Vibrant & Safe Downtown
- Offering Innovative & Citizen Driven Services



*Dividers Made into a Juncture, Jen Davis & Jon Sasaki, 2016*

# Public Art Supports the following Goals & Objectives of Economic & Creative Development:



**Foster a vibrant Downtown  
Economic Corridor**



**Promote growth of a  
diverse and sustainable arts  
and cultural sector**



**Position Barrie as a  
premiere business  
investment destination**

And supports:

- Placemaking, tourism development and overall civic pride
- Building stronger integration between businesses and the arts

# Public Art Coordinator Role (Hired June, 2021)

- Coordinates all aspects of the City's Public Art Program, in accordance with the Barrie Public Art Policy
- Key liaison with the Barrie Public Art Committee (BPAC), a volunteer working group
- Leads the implementation of public art projects initiated by City Staff, Council and BPAC
- Develops opportunities for community engagement with public art
- Manages Barrie's Public Art Collection, facilitating regular maintenance and didactic signage
- Brings a public art lens to City initiatives, developments, strategies and master plans to identify opportunities for placemaking and integration of culture



*The Land Between Rama and Barrie II, Tanya Cunnington and Bewabon Schilling, 2021 at North Country*

# Barrie Public Art Achievements (June 2021 to present)

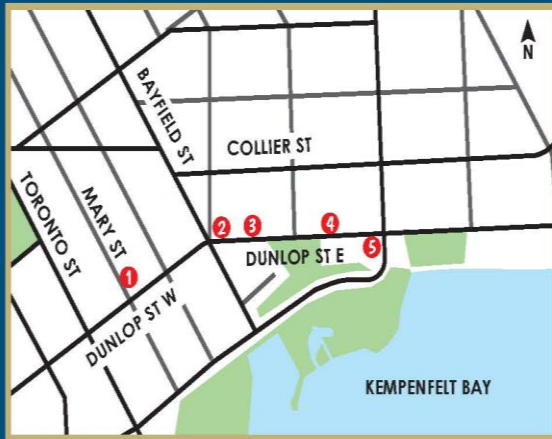
- *Brightening Barriers* temporary public art exhibition, 2021
  - Barrie Public Art Committee secured \$40,000 grant from the Canadian Healthy Communities Initiative
- Public art projects sponsored by Ward Councillors
  - 1 completed
  - 2 in progress
- *Hello Winter* Projection Program Support
- Revision and update to the Public Art Guide
- Guided School Tours – Fall 2021, Spring 2022 (60 Students)

## Brightening Barriers

Artist Designed Patio Enhancement

Family Scavenger Hunt!

Brightening Barriers is a temporary public art project organized by the City of Barrie and the Barrie Public Art Committee. Local and regional artists have been paired with downtown business owners to create an artistic response on their seasonal patio fencing. Take a walk through downtown and visit all five installations!



- 1** THE NORTH  
49 Mary Street
- 2** NORTH COUNTRY  
10 Dunlop Street East
- 3** KENZINGTON BURGER BAR  
40 Dunlop Street East
- 4** HOMESTEAD BAKERY  
80 Dunlop Street East
- 5** ONE FORTY SEVEN  
147 Dunlop Street East



*The Long & Winding Road, Derek Martin, 2021 at Bayside Variety*



*Line Up, Amy Bagshaw, 2021 at The North*



# The Path Forward for 2022

## Highlights:

- *Brightening Barriers* temporary public art exhibition, 2022
  - Include the re-installation of 4 exhibits from 2021 and 4 new exhibits
- Community engagement opportunities (Public art tours, scavenger hunt, etc.)
- Artist Development Program – 3 mural making workshops offered virtually to local artists
- Continued Liaison with Barrie Public Art Committee to support and develop community projects (MacLaren Art Centre, Recreation & Culture, Parks Planning, Downtown BIA, Heritage Barrie)
- Artist designed wraps for Traffic Cabinets (3)
- Sea Serpent Maintenance



**February 9**  
Project Management: From Start to Finish

**February 16**  
Materials and Techniques in Mural Making

**February 23**  
Digital Design for Mural Making

6:00-8:30 pm  
\$50 for all three workshops

**2022 WORKSHOPS  
FOR ARTISTS IN BARRIE**

The graphic features a blue background with a white pencil illustration at the top left and two white asterisks at the top and bottom right. The text is presented in white boxes and icons.

# The Role of Barrie Public Art Committee



- A working group of Council, BPAC continues to play a key role in advancing the Public Art portfolio with the support of Staff.
- To address new vacancies and volume of interest and projects, a call was made in late 2021 to attract new members.
- Seven applications were received and have been endorsed by BPAC to join the membership. Council approval is required to confirm their membership until the end of the current Council term.

# Building a Future for Public Art

1. Developing a Public Art Master Plan
2. Integrate practices and policies that champion public art within City programs and processes
3. Support and cultivate significant and permanent public art projects for our community
4. Continue to grow community art opportunities, seek opportunities to engage residents in public art as part of placemaking and continue to strengthen support for the overall program



*The Sea Serpent*, Ron Baird, Installed 2016  
(photo credit: Mark Wanzel)