



SELF
GUIDED
WALKING
TOUR

CULTURAL
DISTRICT



CULTURAL
DISTRICT

A HISTORY OF THE SPACE

Previously home to canneries, railways, shipping wharves, a sawmill, packinghouse and even a cigar factory, City planners were challenged with a now defunct industrial area. The district was once the centre of the Okanagan fruit-packing industry and with much of the land in public ownership, the six-block area was ripe for a reimagining.

Significant planning and capital was devoted to turn this area into a Cultural District. An expanding collection of galleries, museums, performance venues and art facilities were joined by a resort hotel, upscale residential development and a beautiful lakefront which is now Waterfront Park.

Since the start of 2000, the City's planned vision of a peopled place, one that lives beyond business hours has taken shape. Today you will find year-round arts, entertainment, outdoor festivals, classes and workshops, boutiques and restaurants, natural spaces and public art.



PUBLIC ART LISTING

The Cultural District is home to more than 1/3 of the entire city's public art collection! Can you find each of these pieces along the way? For a virtual tour of Kelowna's public art collection, visit kelowna.ca/publicart

- | | | | | | |
|----------|--|----------|--|----------|--|
| A | Rhapsody: Robert Dow Reid, 1993 | G | Sentinel: Dawn MacNutt, 2002 | M | The Valley: Ron Hart, Michael Fugeta, 2017 |
| B | I Had a Dream: Zhao Lei, 2002 | G | Okanagan Sunflowers: Jo Scott-B, 2002 | N | Fruit Stand: Glen Andersen, T.S. Thomas, 2002 |
| C | On the Beach: Geert Maas, 2002 | H | Circle of Friendship: Geert Maas, 1997 | O | Concept to Creation: Diane Gorvin, Philip Bews, Jonathan Yeltatzie, 2002 |
| D | Bear: Brower Hatchet, 2010 | I | W.A.C Bennett Memorial Courtyard & Clock Tower: Hartley & Turik Architects, 1981 | P | Skagway: Robert Murray, 1976-1977 |
| E | Chief Sw'Kn'cut, Crystal Przybille, 2019 | J | Military Museum Murals: Larry Hunter, Michelle Loughery, 2002-2013 | Q | Gold, Silver, & Lead, Jed Lind, 2019 |
| F | Running Man: Marion Lea Jamieson, 2002 | K | Flower, Studio F Minus, 2020 | R | Elemental: Crystal Przybille, 2000 |
| G | Flexible Curves: Tommie Gallie, 1986 | L | Natural Language: Jennifer Macklem, Kip Jones, 2000 | S | The Conductor: Ken Curley, 2012 |
| G | Spirit of Kelowna: Geert Maas, 2008 | | | | |

WELCOME TO KELOWNA'S CULTURAL DISTRICT

More than 1/3 of the city's public art collection is found within the Cultural District. Pick up or download the public art brochure at kelowna.ca/publicart, and check out the many pieces noted by a letter along the way!

partnership involving the former Grand Okanagan Hotel and several condominium developments. The Island Stage is a popular venue for community events, live music and cultural celebrations.

was founded in 1905, with the motto "Fruitful in Unity" – which you will find carved into the crest above the front doors. City Hall was originally located on the historical Bernard Ave., until this location was built in 1950.

- 1 Begin at Waterfront Park.
- 2 Walk over the Harmony Bridge towards the lake and you will arrive at Tugboat Beach.
- 3 Turn to your right and walk along the beach. You will arrive at Rotary Marsh, a natural wetland at the mouth of Brandt's Creek preserved during the residential development of this area. A boardwalk over the marsh allows you to enjoy waterfowl in their natural surroundings. With the lake on your right, return to Tugboat beach and continue walking along the wooden promenade, called the Simpson Boardwalk.
- 4 The Simpson Boardwalk is named after local sawmill and box factory owner Stanley Simpson, who sold much of this waterfront property to the City in 1945. Over the grassy knoll and at the centre of Waterfront Park, you will find Island Stage, which was made possible by a public/private

- 5 As you continue to walk along the waterfront, you will come upon the Kelowna Yacht Club. Across from the Yacht Club on Water St. is the Kelowna Community Theatre (KCT), built in 1962. It is Kelowna's first performance theatre, seating 853, and is home to several of Kelowna's performing arts groups. Featuring more than 250 events annually, the KCT has been providing entertainment to residents and visitors for more than 60 years.
- 6 Continuing along the promenade is Stuart Park, named after former Mayor James Stuart. Completed in 2010, this park features a lakeside promenade, performance platform and plaza which hosts live music events, and doubles as a recreational ice rink throughout the winter.

Continue along the waterfront, when you arrive at the Kelowna Visitors Centre, turn left, cross Water St. and continue walking towards the bus loop on Queensway Ave. On your left is Kelowna City Hall. The City of Kelowna

- 7 Tucked in behind City Hall you will find Kasugai Gardens, a symbol of friendship with Kelowna's Sister City, Kasugai, Japan. It was completed in 1987 by local farmer Roy Tanaka, with assistance from visiting Japanese gardeners. The park integrates traditional elements notable in Japanese gardens, such as stone lanterns, pine trees, waterfalls and ponds stocked with Koi. After a stroll through the gardens, continue walking along Queensway Ave. toward Ellis St.
- 8 Set back from the corner, the Okanagan Heritage Museum presents the natural and human histories of the region. While the bunker like building was constructed in 1967, the galleries have been completely reimaged in recent years. Explore geology, biodiversity, and the living culture of the syilx/Okanagan people. Learn about the arrival of traders and settlers, and be inspired by the Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame.
- 9 Continuing north along Ellis St. is the Okanagan Military Museum and Memorial Arena. The museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving and interpreting memorabilia relating to the military service of Okanagan Valley residents. Browse artifacts from the Boer War, World War I and II, the Korean War and the Cold War, along with contemporary military operations. The location of the museum has historical significance, as the Memorial Arena was built in 1945 and dedicated to WWII soldiers.
- 10 Cross Doyle Ave., on the other side of the Innovation Centre, is the Okanagan Regional Library - Kelowna Branch, built in 1996. Like other buildings in the area, its architecture quotes from the District's industrial past.
- 11 Continue towards the Library entrance, walk through the Library Plaza and continue past the Library Parkade before entering the Artwalk on your right. The Artwalk connects pedestrian traffic through the Cultural District. Along the left side there are several pieces of art as well as the UBCO Outdoor Banner Exhibition that adorns the lamp posts. Along the right side, nestled amongst the grapevines are banners that come to life using augmented reality (AR). The vines are North American native vitus labrusca, also known as the Concord grape family used in some wine-making processes.
- 12 Continue towards the Rotary Centre for the Arts (RCA). The RCA is an architectural gem, built around and over the old Growers Supply agricultural warehouse. Beams, walls and flooring from the original building are still present and contribute to the RCA's place on the City's Heritage Register. This multi-disciplinary arts centre opened in 2002 and houses a 326-seat theatre, rehearsal hall, 8 artist studios, an art gallery, a dance studio, rentable space and a bistro. The Alternator Centre for Contemporary Art also calls the RCA home. The Arts Common is a City park located between the RCA and the Kelowna Art Gallery (KAG), and is used for festivals and performances. Keep left as you walk through Arts Common Park to arrive at the KAG.
- 13 Founded in 1976, the KAG hosts a diverse calendar of local, national and international exhibits, with innovative and educational public programming for all ages. KAG has four gallery spaces, including an outdoor courtyard area and hosts a number of lectures, fundraisers and events throughout the year. Admission is free on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Turn back up Cawston Ave. and walk east past the RCA until you reach the Laurel Packinghouse.
- 14 Built in 1917 using local brick, the Laurel Packinghouse is the oldest building of its kind in B.C. Its unique architecture and angled corner was designed to accommodate a railway spur which carried loads of fruit to market. In 2010, the Laurel Packinghouse underwent an extensive structural upgrade to help ensure this valuable heritage site will be around for years to come. The Laurel is a popular venue for community events and is home to the Okanagan Wine Museum and Orchard Industry Museum.
- 15 Crossing Cawston Ave. from the Laurel Packinghouse sits the Old Cannery Building. Built in 1912 as a cigar factory and operating as a cannery from 1918 to 1960, this space now holds various unique boutiques and restaurants.
- 16 Just outside the Cultural District on the corner of Ellis St. and Clement Ave. sits the Old CN Station, built in 1927. The first passenger train arrived in Kelowna in 1925 and service ended in 1965. Since then, this heritage building has undergone major restoration to now operate as a local restaurant. At the north end of the Cultural District, across from Waterfront Park, is Prospera Place. This 6,000 seat venue hosts major concerts, events and trade shows.

LEGEND

- (A) Public Art
- Walking Route
- Cultural District
- Public Washrooms
- Parking

