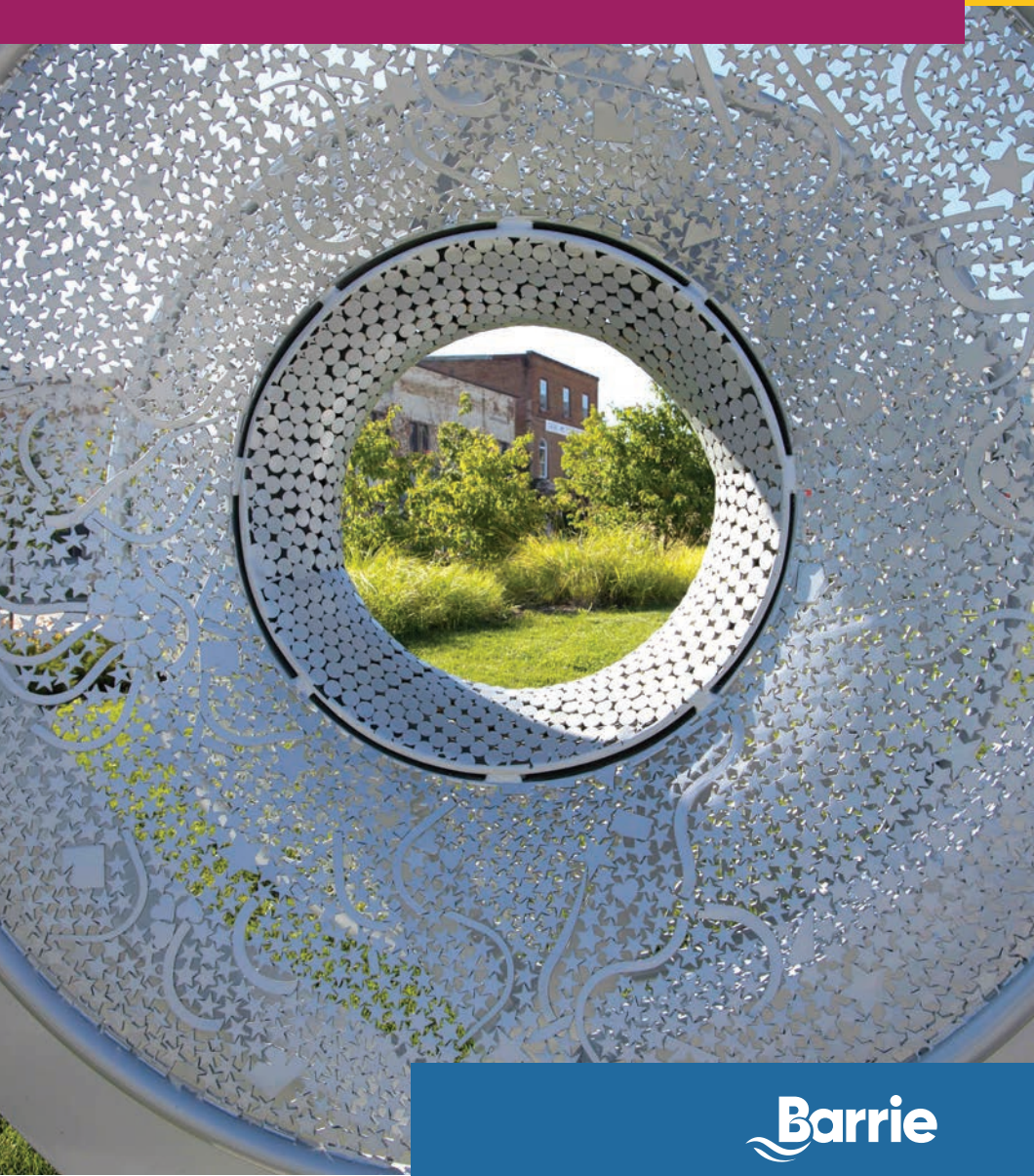


# Barrie Public Art Guide

*Outdoor art in the City of Barrie*



# Land Acknowledgement

The City of Barrie acknowledges the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg people, which include the Odawa, Ojibwe, and Pottawatomi Nations collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. We also acknowledge the Wendat Nation (Huron) who occupied these lands prior to the middle of the 17th century.

We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture and recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples on this land. We are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect with all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit People.

## Meet Barrie's Public Art

Barrie is known for its stunning waterfront, its award-winning restaurants, and its ability to deliver a fun and active lifestyle. But it's Barrie's expanding and evolving arts and culture scene that truly identifies it as a rich, engaging, and forward-thinking community.

Public art is essential to the fabric of a healthy community, and we are committed to growing our collection and developing programming that appeals to residents and visitors.

This guide focuses on the City of Barrie's permanent collection and permanent artwork installed throughout the community. However, our parks, suburban developments and downtown core are punctuated with temporary art and installations in a variety of forms.

Barrie's Public Art Policy was adopted in 2012, and since then we have grown our program to include temporary exhibitions, murals, and artist education initiatives to elevate the skills of our local and regional arts community. This growth has allowed for commissions both large and small that engage artists who use a wide range of media.

Annual events, such as the temporary *Brightening Barriers* exhibition, invite artists to design original works of art that also serve as downtown patio enhancement. Community-focused activations,

such as artist-designed wraps for traffic cabinets, bring vibrant imagery to unexpected places.

As you explore Barrie, we encourage you to look around—there's always something new to see!

Barrie's public art program shapes our identity as a community. It fosters pride in the places we work and play and offers a something truly local and unique to everyone who visits us.

**Stephannie Schlichter, Director of Economic & Creative Development, City of Barrie**

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## The Barrie Public Art Committee

The Barrie Public Art Committee (BPAC) is a working group of Barrie City Council, made up of volunteers from the art and design industry and interested community members. BPAC secures art by commissioning new works, facilitating donations, and organizing temporary installations. BPAC's goal is to enhance Barrie with art and encourage residents and visitors alike to visit public spaces.

**Vision:** Connecting our community through public art

**Mission Statement:** "The Barrie Public Art Committee will enhance the City of Barrie by purposefully acquiring public art that inspires and connects the community in our public spaces. We will promote art appreciation and build lasting relationships through education, integration and activation that engages the community, creates conversation and demonstrates the value of public art".

For more information about Public Art in Barrie, please visit [barrie.ca/PublicArt](http://barrie.ca/PublicArt), scan the QR code below or contact our Public Art Coordinator at [invest@barrie.ca](mailto:invest@barrie.ca).



# WATERFRONT

*Map and Guide for outdoor art in the City of Barrie*



- 1. Sea Serpent*
- 2. Spirit Catcher*
- 3. The Horn and The Heart*
- 4. Urn Wall*
- 5. Barrie Memorial Cenotaph to Fallen Heroes*



Collection of the MacLaren Art Centre.  
Photo: Joseph Hartman, 2013.

## ***Spirit Catcher*, 1986**

**Artist: Ron Baird**

Corten steel, 72 x 79 ft  
Spirit Catcher Park

Ontario-based Ron Baird created this sculpture for Vancouver's EXPO '86, responding to the theme of transportation and communication. Influenced by the iconography of Indigenous oral traditions in the Pacific Northwest, the work references the Thunderbird. Originally installed at False Creek in Vancouver, this 20 tonne steel sculpture took over six months to produce. The sculpture is 72 feet high, and has 16 kinetic quills, 2 wings, 3 legs and a pair of antennae. After EXPO '86, the sculpture was purchased by the Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation and donated to the Barrie Gallery Project in memory of Helen McCrae Peacock and Kenneth Westrup. It is the first work in the MacLaren's Permanent Collection.

[ronbairdartist.com](http://ronbairdartist.com), [maclarenart.com](http://maclarenart.com)

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Collection of the City of Barrie.  
Photo: Mark Wenzel, 2016.

## ***Sea Serpent*, 1986**

**Artist: Ron Baird**

Corten steel, 26 x 10 x 6.6 ft  
Heritage Park

Ontario-based Ron Baird's kinetic *Sea Serpent* was the winning design of an international sculpture competition for EXPO '86. Placed in the centre of the pond in the Marine Plaza in Vancouver it was meant to represent the fear that follows our dream ship. It was donated to the City of Barrie in 2016 by the Sellers family and its transportation, storage and installation were generously provided by Pratt Homes. The City of Barrie would like to thank Karen Pratt Hansen and her team for their support in bringing the *Sea Serpent* to Barrie's waterfront.

[ronbairdartist.com](http://ronbairdartist.com), [pratthomes.ca](http://pratthomes.ca)



## ***The Horn and The Heart,*** 2020

**Artist: John McEwen**

Stainless steel, 8 x 8 x 3 ft  
Meridian Place

Collection of the City of Barrie.  
Photo: Andre Beneteau, 2021.

*The Horn and The Heart* is a memorial to the late Bob Hunter. A local musician and champion of musical performance, Hunter saw the potential for an outdoor live music venue on Barrie's waterfront. His vision was eventually realized at Meridian Place and Hunter's legacy was assured by a grass-roots fundraising campaign supporting a work of public art in his honour. With the assistance of the Barrie Public Art Committee, a national competition for proposals was organized and in 2019 Hillsdale-based artist John McEwen was selected to execute his concept for *The Horn and The Heart*. Thinking through the experience of live music and the relationship between the performer and the audience, McEwen's sculpture incorporates a double-sided horn and a split heart form. Made with stainless steel activated by the artist's signature laser-cut star formations, *The Horn and The Heart* is an elegant work that evokes the experience, emotion and memory associated with live musical performance.

[olgakorpergallery.com/artists/john-mcewen](http://olgakorpergallery.com/artists/john-mcewen)



## ***Vimy Urn Wall,*** 2018

**Artist: Marlene Hilton Moore**

Granite, bronze, 5.6 x 5 x 1.3 ft  
Memorial Square

Collection of the City of Barrie.  
Photo: Bhreagh Campbell, 2019.

The *Vimy Urn Wall*, designed by regional artist Marlene Hilton Moore, contains sacred soil from the April 1917 battlefields of Vimy Ridge. The soil symbolically contains the DNA of Canadian soldiers that lived and fought in the fields and trenches of Vimy. The *Vimy Urn Wall* is placed strategically within Memorial Square, in dialogue with the Cenotaph, which was created to honour local lives lost in World War I. All are remembered.

[marlenehiltonmoore.com](http://marlenehiltonmoore.com)



Collection of the City of Barrie.  
Photo: Bhreagh Campbell, 2019.

## ***Barrie Memorial Cenotaph to Fallen Heroes, 1922***

**Artist: J.F. Murphy**

Stanstead granite, Barrie granite, dimensions variable  
Memorial Square

The Cenotaph is a monument that holds the weight of the sacrifices of our fallen heroes. Artist J.F. Murphy created this piece to honour community members of Barrie, Innisfil, and Vespra whose lives were lost in World War I. Names of those who died in later wars have been added. The word Cenotaph is said to derive from two Greek words indicative of an empty tomb and in time has evolved to mean any form of a memorial erected in honour of those whose mortal remains were lost elsewhere. In 2017, during the remodeling of Memorial Square and addition of Meridian Place, the three-piece, 23 feet high monument with a nine-foot statue of a soldier on top was relocated to a more high profile site at the bottom of Owen Street so that more residents passing by can take a moment to remember the lives lost for our country.

# DOWNTOWN

*Map and Guide for outdoor art in the City of Barrie*



- 1. Dividers Made Into A Juncture*
- 2. Simcoe Country Courthouse Sculpture*
- 3. Column of Valour*
- 4. Shlosha*
- 5. Dream Chamber*
- 6. Ascension*
- 7. Soapbox*





Collection of the City of Barrie.  
Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016.

## ***Dividers Made Into A Juncture,*** 2016

**Artists: Jennifer Davis & Jon Sasaki**

Vintage, local wrought iron fencing,  
5 x 13 x 9 ft

Barrie Public Library, Downtown Branch

The first commissioned piece of public art under the leadership of the Barrie Public Art Committee, *Dividers Made Into A Juncture* was selected with the aim of creating an original permanent outdoor sculpture that functions as a bicycle rack. By repurposing old fences, this piece encourages civic dialogue about the nature of public and private space within the city. In the case of *Dividers Made Into A Juncture*, fence sections that once divided neighbours from one another are repurposed as a community meeting place.

**[jenniferdavis.ca](http://jenniferdavis.ca), [jonsasaki.com](http://jonsasaki.com)**

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Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016.

## ***Simcoe County Courthouse*** ***Sculpture,*** 1970–1979

**Artist: Ron Baird**

Corten steel, 20 x 10 x 5 ft  
Simcoe County Courthouses

This kinetic sculpture by Ron Baird was moved to its present location from another on the courthouse property in 2017.

**[ronbairdartist.com](http://ronbairdartist.com)**



## ***Column of Valour***, 1998

**Artist: Marlene Hilton Moore**

Brass, bronze & limestone, 10 ft  
Mulcaster Street & Collier Street

Collection of the City of Barrie.  
Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016.

The Column of Valour monument is dedicated to the memory of the Volunteer Firefighters who protected the City of Barrie from 1844 to 1998. The monument sits on the site of the original Fire Hall. The brass poles of the monument, which support the bronze dates, 1844-1998, are the original poles of the Fire Hall. The bronze Maltese Cross on the top of the limestone column is a symbol which recognizes the great courage and valour of the Fire Service and is the Firefighters' badge of honour. Stories engraved in the limestone column and an engraved symbolic ladder complete the monument.

**[marlenehiltonmoore.com](http://marlenehiltonmoore.com)**



## ***Shlosa*, 1974**

**Artist: Kosso Eloul**

Stainless steel, 4 x 10 x 5 ft  
MacLaren Art Centre

Collection of the MacLaren Art Centre.  
Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid.

*Shlosa*, a public sculpture by internationally known artist Kosso Eloul, refers to Jewish law and the belief that the world is sustained through three principles: truth, justice and peace. The piece is comprised of three brushed steel blocks, the resiliency of the material offset by the delicate balance of the forms. This tension is central to Eloul's vision drive to capture the precariousness of life and the search for stability.

**[kossoeloul.net](http://kossoeloul.net), [maclarenartcentre.com](http://maclarenartcentre.com)**

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## ***Dream Chamber*, 1976, ed 1/5**

**Artist: Sorel Etrog**

Bronze casting, 5 x 2 x 2 ft  
MacLaren Art Centre

Collection of the MacLaren Art Centre.  
Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid.

Sorel Etrog is one of Canada's pre-eminent artists, a sculptor with an international reputation, renowned for his use of hinge iconography. *Dream Chamber* is one of the most significant pieces of this kind in his oeuvre. Distinctly figurative, this work is evocative of an interlocked skull. It speaks to the transformative power of imagination and a belief in human potential.

**[soreletrog.com](http://soreletrog.com), [maclarenartcentre.com](http://maclarenartcentre.com)**



Collection of the MacLaren Art Centre.  
Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016.

## ***Ascension*, 1997**

**Artist: Ted Fullerton**

Steel & cast resin, 32 x 3 x 2.3 ft  
MacLaren Art Centre

The concept for *Ascension* is based on the Judeo-Christian story of Job. Pious' father Job is caught in a wager between God and the Devil as they test his faith in God by removing all the protections he enjoys as a follower of God. Despite the theft and destruction of all his possessions, the death of his children and the loss of his health, Job's faith in God persists. This work sees Job's story as a metaphor for the indestructibility of nature, which endures and regenerates despite abuse at the hands of humans. The figure of Job in this cast resin sculpture was first modeled from clay and fallen tree branches. The three steel sections that make up the vertical beam refer to the three trials that confronted Job.

**[tedfullerton.net](http://tedfullerton.net), [maclarenartcentre.com](http://maclarenartcentre.com)**



Collection of the City of Barrie.  
Photo: Andre Beneteau, 2021.

## ***Soapbox***, 2006

**Artists: Chris Hanson & Hendrika Sonnenberg**

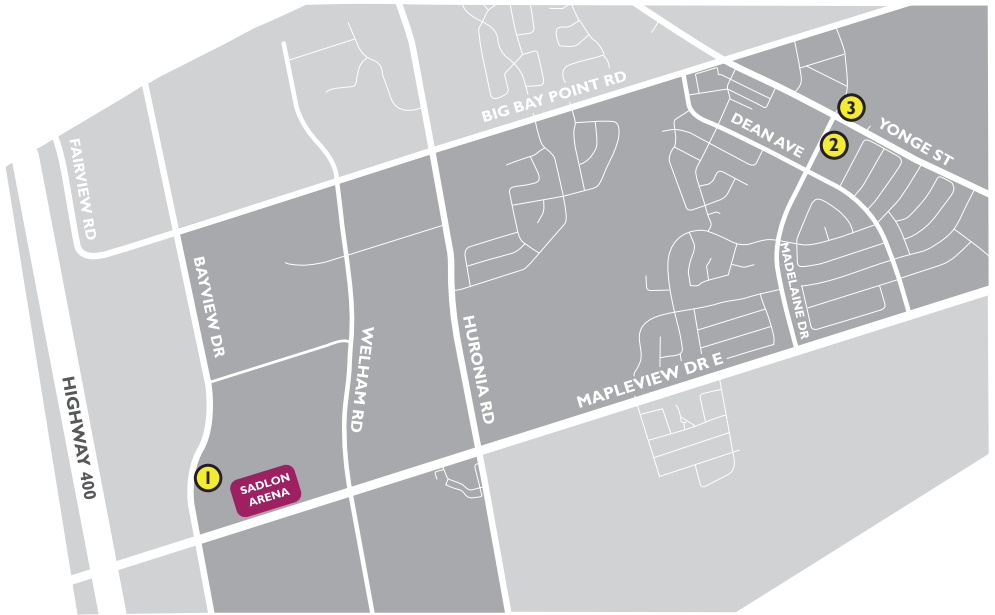
Cast aluminum, dimensions variable  
City Hall

Evoking an ideal central to Canadian identity, *Soapbox* was installed as part of Art in Unexpected Places, a temporary art exhibition hosted in 2017. Ripe for public engagement, this installation celebrates freedom of speech and encourages visitors to exercise it. Painted in the blue and green pastel tones that Minden-based Hanson & Sonnenberg are known for, this piece makes a bright addition to the downtown core.

**[bucketofblood.info](http://bucketofblood.info)**

# BARRIE SOUTH

*Map and Guide for outdoor art in the City of Barrie*



- 1. Scrimmage*
- 2. Wheelie*
- 3. Spirit Clock*



Collection of Barrie Minor Hockey.  
Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016.

## ***Scrimmage*, 2016**

**Artist: Ron Baird**

Stainless steel with mirror finish,  
26 x 12 ft  
Sadlon Arena

Donated by the artist to the Barrie Minor Hockey Association. This sculpture celebrates 50 years of minor hockey in Barrie and contains a time capsule.

**[ronbairdartist.com](http://ronbairdartist.com), [barrieminorhockey.net](http://barrieminorhockey.net)**

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Collection of Pratt Homes.  
Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016.

## ***Wheelie*, 2014**

**Artist: Ron Baird**

Yonge Street & Madelaine Drive

Commissioned by Pratt Homes for the Yonge Station development. This dynamic but whimsical piece is pure steam punk and very dramatic in a high wind.

**[ronbairdartist.com](http://ronbairdartist.com), [pratthomes.ca](http://pratthomes.ca)**



Collection of Pratt Homes.  
Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016.

## ***Spirit Clock***, 2014

**Artist: Ron Baird**

Yonge Street & Madelaine Drive

This site-specific installation, located near the Barrie South GO Train Station, honours Barrie's railroad history and includes a functioning clock, lights and sound which is generated when the wind blows through it.

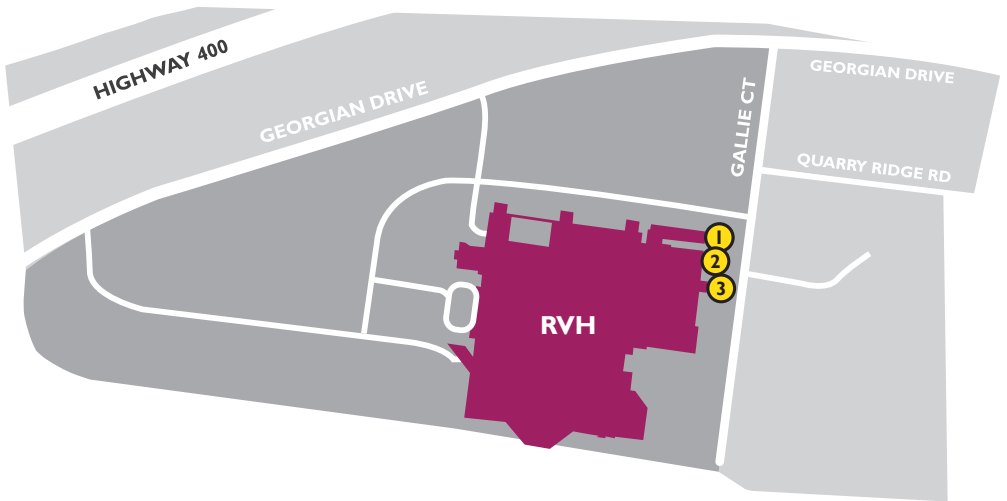
**[ronbairdartist.com](http://ronbairdartist.com), [pratthomes.ca](http://pratthomes.ca)**



*Art@RVH is transforming the idea of care and community through the selective acquisition and placement of contemporary fine art at RVH. The goal is to provide an enhanced and uplifting experience for patients, their families, staff and members of the community during their visiting or working hours.*

# Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH)

*Map and Guide for outdoor art in the City of Barrie*



- 1. Aristotle's Square*
- 2. Monarchs*
- 3. Healing Circle*



## ***Aristotle's Square*, 2011**

**Artist: Ted Fullerton**

Cast resin & steel, 10 x 7 x 3 ft  
RVH main entrance, Gallie Court

Collection of the Royal Victoria  
Regional Health Centre.  
Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016.

This sculpture is intended by the artist as a poetic metaphor for the four Aristotelian elements of creation—earth, water, air and fire. For many cultures the symbol/image of the square suggests birth with its balanced dimensions of the vertical (the mystical) and the horizontal (life experience). The male and female figures facing each other invoke the potential of life while their polar opposite positions suggest harmonic balance somewhat like the Eastern symbols of Yin and Yang.

**tedfullerton.net**

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## ***Monarchs*, 2015**

**Artist: Derek Martin**

Corten steel, 11 x 10 x 2.5 ft  
RVH garden, Gallie Court

Collection of the Royal Victoria Regional  
Health Centre.  
Photo: Mark Wanzel.

The artist's concept is a symbolic representation of our ability to overcome obstacles. The work is comprised of a large body or "flock" of over 500 corten steel butterflies encountering an invisible wall which is manifested by the density and proximity of the butterflies as they meet, rise and overtake the barrier. The idea of a barrier or wall is a suggestive device used in this composition to represent things and events which impede or arrest actions and ideas, while the physical surmounting of the barrier by the monarchs provides hope and inspiration.

**mar-10house.com**



## ***Healing Circle, 2015***

**Artist: Timothy Laurin**

Concrete, resin, aluminum  
& bronze, dimensions  
variable RVH patio, main  
floor cancer centre

Collection of the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre.  
Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016.

In response to the health centre's smudging policy, Laurin, of Métis heritage, developed this multi-piece work in order to create a safe, regenerative space as a permanent sacred site for patients to conduct smudging ceremonies. There are two main components—a central piece that incorporates a ring of 36 flush-mounted, half-inch, bronze-filled circles in the limestone patio in the centre of which is a permanent ceremonial pedestal. The companion piece located on the nearby plinth is inspired by the idea of an inverted feather. Themes of ascension, the mystical and formal religion mingle with traditional First Nations references and the use of symbolic colour.

For more information about public art in  
Barrie, please contact the Economic &  
Creative Development at:

**[invest@barrie.ca](mailto:invest@barrie.ca) or [barrie.ca/PublicArt](https://barrie.ca/PublicArt)**



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