

Edmonton City Hall A Self-Guided Tour

A Showcase of Alberta Artists

Edmonton City Hall is the site of one of the largest and most expansive public art projects undertaken in Alberta. Art acquisitions for the building were planned as a showcase for Alberta artists.

Most of the funding was provided by the City's Percent for Art allocation, which set aside one percent of the construction budget for City Hall, in order to buy art for the building. The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, endorsed by the Edmonton Downtown Development Corporation, also contributed financially to the acquisitions.

All Alberta artists were invited to submit proposals for commissions. More than 400 individual submissions were received. Enormous effort and thought went into the final selection, with two juries providing broad-based community representation. The eight major pieces are prominently displayed in the public areas of City Hall.

From realistic winter scenes to abstract murals and mixed media, the art in this building celebrates the region's immense cultural vitality.

- A** **City Room, north wall, flanking staircase**
Promise of Dusk and To Morning Light by Edmonton artist Douglas Haynes, acrylic on canvas. Each panel measures approximately 6.4m high by 2.4m wide.
- B** **North lobby wall**
Ultima Thule (Farthest North) by Edmonton artist Glenn Guillet, acrylic on sintra.
- C** **Outside, north side of City Hall on 103A Avenue**
Caravel by Edmonton artist Isla Burns, free-standing sculpture.
- D** **River Valley Room, main floor**
There is a River by Edmonton artist Hilary Prince, acrylic on canvas.
- E** **Heritage Room, main floor**
Edmonton, Aspects of History by Calgary artist Wendy Toogood, mixed media (textile).
- F** **Main floor stairway niches**
One by Calgary sculptor Petronella Overes, steel and glass.
- G** **Second floor stairway niches**
Madrigal by St.Albert media artist Mitsu Ikemura, mixed media (silk, fiberglass).
- H** **Third floor stairway niches**
Passages of Time by Edmonton computer artist Judith Armstrong, vinyl acrylic paint on Lexan.

In addition to the eight major pieces, other pieces of art have been selected for placement in public locations throughout City Hall.

City Hall

Welcome to Edmonton City Hall, an Edmonton landmark, the home of our civic leadership, and a gathering place for the community.

This building was designed by Edmonton architect and former Alderman Gene Dub. It was opened August 28, 1992, on the site of the former City Hall.

Gene Dub's design combines the old with the new, as located throughout the building are reclaimed pieces of the old City Hall.

There is always something happening at City Hall in every season. Edmontonians come here to enjoy events, festivals and activities year-round.

This self-guided tour will highlight the many features of City Hall and the history of its redevelopment.

Enjoy your visit at Edmonton City Hall!

Learn more about City Hall and take a virtual tour of the building at:
www.edmonton.ca/cityhall



Edmonton City Hall – Your Civic Centre

City Hall is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays and statutory holidays. For all general inquiries about City Hall please call '311'.

Events at City Hall

Arrangements can be made for special events to be held in the City Room, Heritage Room, or Plaza at City Hall. These rooms are available for registered, non-profit local community groups presenting free activities of interest to the public. Rooms can be booked by contacting the Civic Events Office.

The Civic Events Office can be reached at:
780-944-7740
civic.events@edmonton.ca

Visit the City Hall website at:
www.edmonton.ca/cityhall



1 The South Plaza

In summer, the fountains and the wading pool in front of City Hall are often filled with kids playing and having fun. The fountains, which arch over from each side, run daily during the summer months. In winter, the wading pool is turned into a skating rink. There are change rooms on the southwest side for winter and summer use.

The burgundy pillars outside the building in the South Plaza are reclaimed burgundy granite from the old City Hall.

2 Kids in the Hall

Kids in the Hall Bistro provides the public with good food and excellent service. It also meets the needs of at-risk youth through a training program that gives them life skills and employment skills. This program is run by E4C, a non-profit organization.

For more information visit: www.e4calberta.org

3 The Friendship Tower

This clock tower stands two hundred feet high on the south side of City Hall, displaying the time and ringing out music for all to enjoy. The tower has 23 carillon bells that weigh 40,000 pounds all together. The bells are programmed to play over 99 different melodies, but there is also a manual keyboard for playing new songs or adding to the repertoire. It plays a short melody just before each hour during the day.

4 The Arcade

This is a three-storey corridor entrance located at the south side of City Hall. The white rock-limestone walls located in the Arcade, and throughout the building, came from Tyndall, Manitoba. When the rock was split from the quarry, fossils were found embedded in the rock that date back to pre historic times.

See map inside.

5 South Lobby

Located in the South Lobby is the Citizen and New Arrival Information Centre, Old City Hall Plaque, City Hall Dedication, New City Hall Plaque and Employment Wall.

The Citizen and New Arrival Information Centre is designed as a place where new and current citizens can come for information about the City of Edmonton.

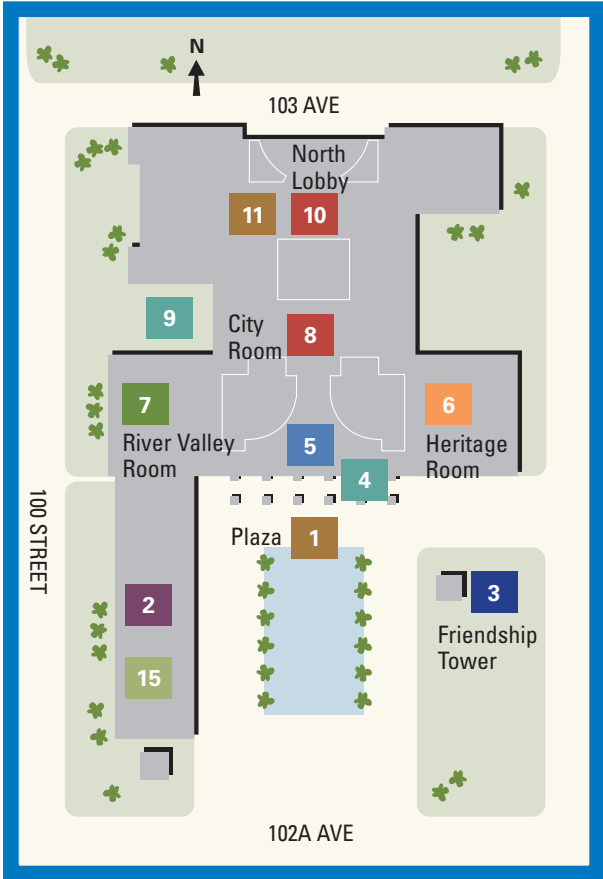
The Old City Hall Plaque was salvaged from the previous City Hall and mounted on the west side of the South Lobby. It serves as a reminder of Edmonton's past and how the City has evolved.

The City Hall Dedication is located above the entrance to the City Room. It states: "Look to the future, take pride in the past. This City Hall is dedicated to our community, its spirit and hopes."

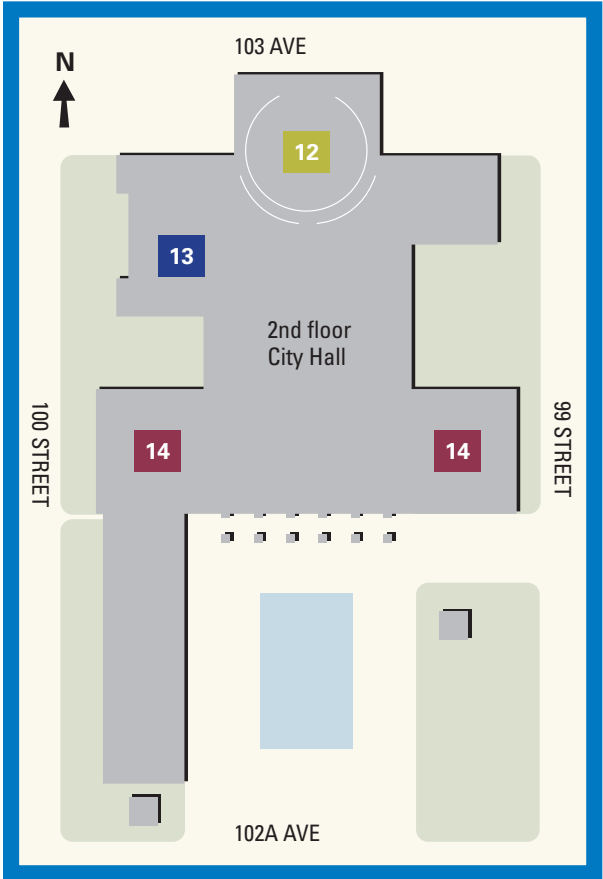
The current City Hall Plaque, made of brushed aluminum to match the look of the building, is mounted on the east side of the South Lobby. The plaque highlights those involved with this project and the official opening on August 28, 1992.

The Employment Wall carries all the current postings for those seeking employment with the City of Edmonton.

Main Floor City Hall



2nd Floor City Hall



6 The Heritage Room

Council committees, City administration, boards and commissions use the Heritage Room as a boardroom for meetings. When it is not booked by one of these groups, non-profit organizations can book the room at no cost.

Calgary artist Wendy Toogood created the artwork in this room using cloth on a wooden frame. Called *Edmonton, Aspects of History*, it captures moments from our past and present, including: settlers and homesteading, major Edmonton industries like agriculture and oil, our culture and festivals, and exciting moments in sports.

Please see [E](#) in the Showcase of Alberta Artists.

7 The River Valley Room

The River Valley Room takes its name from a painting by Hilary Prince that hangs on the south wall of the room. Entitled *There is a River*, the painting celebrates Edmonton's North Saskatchewan River Valley.

This room is a replica of Council Chambers. It is used as the Committee Meeting Room. City Council has three committees who meet here regularly to discuss important issues, they are: the Executive, Community Services, and the Transportation and Public Works Committees. Each one consists of four Councillors, so each of the twelve Councillors sit on one of the committees. The Mayor heads the Executive Committee.

Please see [D](#) in the Showcase of Alberta Artists.



8 The City Room

The City Room is the main public gathering area and focal point of the building. It is used for hosting special events, presentations, graduations, cultural displays and arts programs.

Located here is the larger of the two pyramids, standing eight stories high. To clean the glass, a hydraulic arm was installed based on the same designs as the Canadarm that is used on the space shuttles.

The beige-coloured stone on the floor, called travertine, is from the old City Hall and was combined with the grey stone, called terrazzo, to produce a virtually non-destructive floor finish. The wood throughout the building's interior is maple, and was laser cut to meet the acoustic needs of the City Room's upper storeys.

Please see [A](#) in the Showcase of Alberta Artists.

9 The West Courtyard

In the West Courtyard is a famous Edmonton sculpture created by Lionel J. Thomas, titled *The Migrants*. This sculpture used to be the centerpiece of the old City Hall fountain. It was so popular that when the current City Hall was built, Edmontonians requested it be used in the design. Created to symbolize the annual migration of our Canada geese, it is also known to some citizens by the affectionate nickname, the *Spaghetti Tree*.

10 The North Lobby

This is the building's second entranceway. The breezeway outside is for vehicular traffic including official delegations, motorcades and drop-off traffic. Inside, opposite the entrance, is a colorful piece of artwork titled *Ultima Thule (Farthest North)* by Glen Guillet. The colours are meant to suggest moods that remind us of the landscape.

Please see [B](#) in the Showcase of Alberta Artists.

11 The City of Edmonton Sports Hall of Fame

On the south wall of the third floor is a gallery of athletes recognized by the City for their contributions to sports in Edmonton. There are pictures of sports stars such as Eskimos great Jackie Parker, hockey legend Wayne Gretzky, Olympic medal winners Jamie Sale and David Pelletier, and many more. Recent inductees are displayed in the north lobby on the main floor.

The rest of the tour continues on the second floor.

12 Council Chamber

Council Chamber is where City Council gathers to debate and decide important civic issues. The Mayor and Councillors sit at the semi-circular table in front, with the Mayor in the centre and the Councillors at either side. The gallery contains public seating for up to 200 people.

City Council meetings are recorded and shown online at www.edmonton.ca

City Hall's second glass pyramid roof sits over top of Council Chamber.

13 Media/Conference Room

This room is used for smaller meetings and City of Edmonton media conferences. The room is also connected to the offices that house various local media outlets that make up City Hall media.

14 The Offices of the Mayor and Councillors

The Mayor and Councillors work on the second floor with the Mayor's office on the east and Council's on the west side.

Located in the hallway between the offices of the Mayor and Councillors are displays which highlight Edmonton's historical milestones and recognize former Councillors and their contributions to Edmonton.

Located in the corridor between the Mayor's office and Council Chamber, as well as between the Councillors' office and Council Chamber, are panels which honour past Mayors and their contributions to Edmonton.

15 Councillor's Wing

City Councillors work on the top floor of the Councillor Wing. The green marble on the exterior is from the elevator lobbies of the old City Hall. This wing is closed to the public.