

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ARTS IN SASKATOON

2000 years ago and more the indigenous people who lived and wandered this area were creating art as part of their daily life - pottery, decorating clothing, music, dance, and storytelling

- 1886 George Horn arrived in Saskatoon, founded literary society, taught music, organized concerts
- 1902 Saskatoon's first permanent newspaper, *The Phenix*, established
- 1907 First movies shown
- 1910 Philharmonic Society (later The Orpheus Society) formed to perform light opera
- 1913 Saskatoon public library opened in basement of the Oddfellows Hall
- 1915 IODE sponsored an art show
- 1917 University of Saskatchewan Folk Museum showcased embroidery, weaving and other crafts
- 1920 Gus Kenderdine became resident artist at the University of Saskatchewan
- 1921 Hugh Cairns memorial statue unveiled
- 1922 Saskatoon's first radio station on the air
Saskatoon Little Theatre Club formed
Exhibition of craft work and painting at the house of the President of the University of Saskatchewan; it included works from many cultural groups including Japanese, Chinese as well as crafts such as crochet
- 1923 Saskatoon Arts and Craft Society formed
- 1927 Nutana Collegiate Gallery dedicated
- 1928 Saskatoon Orchestral Society founded
- 1931 A chair of music created at the University of Saskatchewan, led to formation of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra
Women's Art Association formed
- 1935 A newspaper article stated there were three societies fostering art appreciation
- 1936 Saskatoon Art Association formed
Cameron Worcester began the Canadian Clay Craft Studios at the University of Saskatchewan
- 1939 - 1947 Saskatoon Symphony Concerts held in Adam Ballroom, Bessborough Hotel
- 1941 The Ukrainian Women's Association set up an arts and crafts museum
- 1944 Saskatoon Art Centre Opened to display the work of local and other artists

- 1946 Broadway Theatre opened
First Provincial art exhibition held in Saskatoon, at the Art Centre
U of S drama department founded
- 1954 Saskatoon Lions Band begins
- 1955 First mural in Saskatoon painted on the wall of a building, by Bill Perhudoff; on a wall inside the Saskatchewan Transportation Company main lobby (bus depot)
- 1959 Saskatoon Lions Band performed for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at City Hall
- 1960 Yevshan Ukrainian Folk Ballet ensemble formed
- 1962 Saskatoon Ceramics Canada formed (later became the Potters Guild)
- 1964 Official opening of Mendel Art Gallery
- 1966 Castle Theatre opened
Saskatoon Potters Guild established
- 1968 Centennial Auditorium opened
- 1970 The Group (later to become The Photographer's Gallery) established
- 1971 The Shoestring Gallery founded by five women
- 1972 25th Street (House) Theatre Centre founded
- 1974 Persephone Theatre founded by the Wright sisters and Brian Richmond
First Sundog Handcraft Faire held in lower Centennial Auditorium
- 1975 Saskatchewan Craft Council organized in Saskatoon
Saskatoon Spinners' and Weavers' Guild formed
- 1977 Saskatoon Chamber Singers founded, first conductor, Robert Solem
- 1979 Dance Saskatchewan registered as a society (office in Saskatoon)
- 1980 Saskatoon Woodworkers' Guild Incorporated
- 1981 Saskatoon International Folkdance Club formed
- 1982 AKA Gallery evolved from The Shoestring Gallery
Prairie Sculptors Association founded by ten local sculptors
Woodworker's Guild held first International Symposium
Guy Vanderhaeghe received Governor General's Literary Award for fiction
- 1983 Persephone Theatre bought its own building and moved to Rushholme Road
- 1984 Broadway Theatre transformed into a repertory film and live performance facility
- 1985 Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan opened

- Saskatoon Quilters Guild founded
- 1987 First Annual Saskatchewan Jazz Festival
- 1989 First Northern Saskatchewan International Children's Festival held, Kiwanis Park
First International Sculpture Symposium held in Saskatoon
- 1990 Sask. Craft Council purchased own building on Broadway Avenue
First Saskatoon International Fringe festival
- 1992 Sask. Jazz Festival became a separate non profit organization
- 1993 Friends of the Broadway Theatre formed to manage the theatre
Prairie Sculptors team won first prize at Quebec Winter Carnival snow carving
- 1995 Anne Szumigalski received Governor General's Literary Award for poetry
- 1996 Flicks Film Festival first held at the Broadway Theatre
Saskatoon Quilters Guild hosted "Quilt Canada"
- 1997 Saskatoon Quilters' Guild first bi-annual quilt show
Spinners' and Weavers' Guild formed
- 1999 Sask. Native Theatre established
First Her-ricane (Women's) Arts Festival
- 2000 First performance of Broadway Youth Series (theatre for young people)
"Voices" exhibition of Joni Mitchell's paintings at the Mendel Art Gallery
- 2001 Saskatoon Writers Coop established
Ballet Canada founded
Arthur Slade received Governor General's Literary Award for children's literature
- 2002 David L. Kaplan, musician, composer and conductor appointed a member of the Order of Canada

This information was gathered from arts groups, the Civic Arts Committee, City Archives and the Local History Room.

We know there is more information out there. Anyone who has additional knowledge, please call Regine Haensel at 975-3391.

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