

Backgrounder: Memorial Tributes Removal

Why was the mural removed?

The mural at the Deerfoot Trail and Memorial Drive overpass met the definition of graffiti under The City's bylaws. As a result, Administration was required to remove it in accordance with established requirements and existing enforcement practices.

Community members who wish to honour Parker through art are encouraged to visit Calgary's legal graffiti art walls in Beddington [Bartwall - The Beddington Art Wall](#) or Confluence [Free Wall YYC — The Confluence](#). These spaces provide an opportunity to share artistically in a way that can bring people together while respecting public spaces and established community guidelines.

Did the City receive complaints about the mural?

The City did receive requests through 311 from community members who asked that the mural be removed. While some viewed it as a meaningful tribute to Parker, others indicated it was emotionally distressing and served as a reminder of a tragic event.

Administration considered the circumstances while carrying out its responsibilities under existing bylaws.

Was the pedestrian bridge at Laycock Park cleaned as well?

Yes. The City recognizes that community members have sought to honour Parker in different ways, including through messages and tributes left on the pedestrian bridge at Laycock Park. While these expressions were meaningful to many, the markings met the definition of graffiti under The City's bylaws. As with other instances of graffiti, the bridge was cleaned in accordance with established requirements and existing enforcement practices.

If the artistic expression and sentiments were created as memorials, why weren't exceptions made?

The City recognizes that the mural and written sentiments were created out of care for Parker and a desire to honour his memory. However, The City is responsible for applying bylaws and established processes across all communities and circumstances. Making exceptions for some graffiti would create challenges in administering and enforcing the bylaw fairly and consistently.

As stewards of public spaces across Calgary, The City has a responsibility to approach these situations consistently and fairly, while ensuring that everyone affected by this tragedy is treated with compassion, dignity and respect.

Was Parker's family consulted before the tributes were removed?

Those most directly affected by the removal were advised prior to the work being undertaken and did not express concerns.

Can the community create a permanent memorial for Parker?

Yes. The City recognizes the profound impact Parker's death has had on many Calgarians and respects the community's desire to honour his memory.

Community members who wish to explore a lasting memorial can work with The City to understand the processes, requirements and approvals that apply to permanent memorials. Administration is available to provide information and guidance to those interested in pursuing a memorial that can be safely maintained and appreciated over time.

How is a permanent memorial different from a temporary memorial?

Lasting memorials and public art projects are typically developed in collaboration with family, community members, and artists; with thoughtful consideration given to location, design, accessibility, and long-term care. Any memorial initiative should be a thoughtful and inclusive process, helping to create a tribute that can be meaningfully celebrated and sustained over time.

The following resources are available to the public to pursue a more permanent artistic tribute:

The City's Arts & Culture Microgrant: [Arts and Culture microgrant](#)

Calgary Arts Development, including its Public Art Portal for community-generated project ideas: [How to Apply - Calgary Arts Development](#)

What is The City's overall approach?

The City is committed to balancing compassion for those affected by this tragedy with its responsibility to apply bylaws and established processes consistently. Administration recognizes that people grieve in different ways and has approached decisions related to memorials with sensitivity, respect, and consideration for the broader community.

The City continues to respect the community's desire to remember Parker and encourages those interested in creating a lasting tribute to explore appropriate memorial pathways and opportunities.