

LANSDOWNE PARK

PFS STUDIO



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Recreating and Reimagining a Civic Place
PFS Studio created the winning scheme *Win, Place, Show* for an international design competition to restore and transform the long-neglected, yet beloved site of the former Central Canadian Exhibition into a new waterfront park and civic heart for Ottawa, with a seamless integration envisioned between the re-imagined park with federal lands along the parliamentary Queen Elizabeth Drive and the adjacent UNESCO World Heritage designated Rideau Canal.

Lansdowne Park has remained true to this vision in restoring the site through contemporary design language and careful preparation for its future, while honouring its enduring legacy of place through exhibition, display, and recreation. The associated public realm masterplan integrates the park spaces with the fabric of the adjoining mixed use development and stadium refurbishment as part of this ambitious city building project.

Cultural and Social Sustainability

The park includes preservation of two significant heritage buildings. The Aberdeen Pavilion remains the 'jewel at the heart of the park' and the great 'tent' for flexible indoor programming. New thresholds and surrounding plazas on all sides serve to orientate all spaces on site through visual connection with the Pavilion. The adaptive reuse of the relocated Horticulture Building includes a teaching kitchen and community hall, and now houses City offices to facilitate the rich schedule of events which has returned to the site.

A series of interpretive elements embed stories of the Algonquin People on the site. The paving of the Square is inspired by an ash basketry pattern, a teaching circle in the Children's Garden incorporates seating in the colours of the medicine wheel and is surrounded by text representing the Seven

Grandfather Teachings and trees, and ethnobotanical plantings are incorporated in the demonstration gardens and in planting palettes throughout the park.

The park is designed with universal accessibility measures embedded in all aspects of its design including clear travel paths, seating with backs, tactile wayfinding paving, and multi-lingual signage including *Anishinaabemowin* and braille.

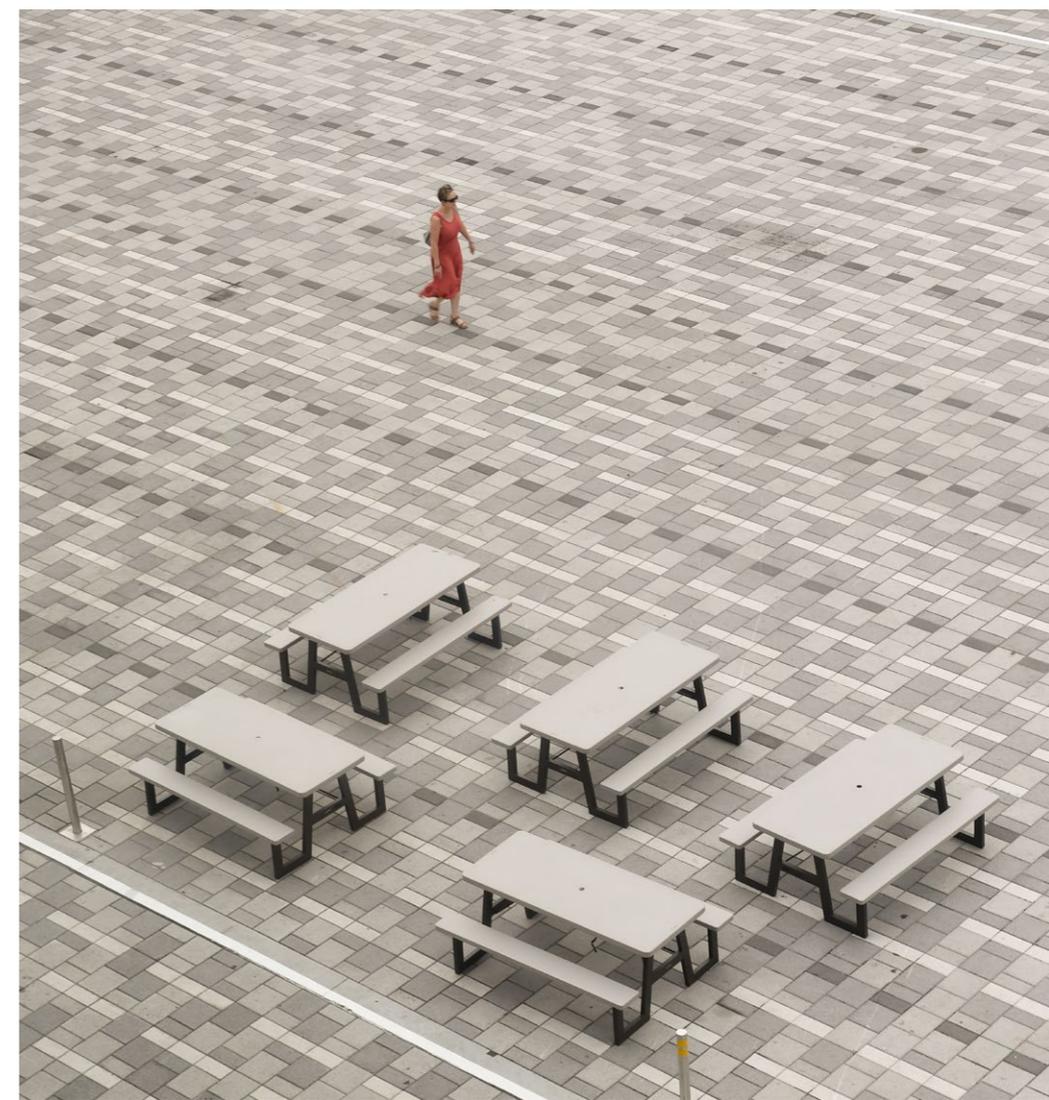
Two significant integrated public art pieces, *Moving Surfaces* and *Uplift*, provide additional animation to the park and convey stories about the significance of water to the site and its relationship to the Canal. The programmable screen of *Moving Surfaces* can be used for curated visual arts as part of the City arts program.

Environmental Sustainability

The park design integrates sustainable objectives by retaining a 100-year storm discharge within the shallow basin of the Great Lawn; user activated water for children's play on the plaza is captured for overnight irrigation of the lawn and surrounding plantings; LED lighting with a sophisticated control system, and highly efficient irrigation are used throughout the park; robust, handsome, durable materials and finishes are employed throughout; runoff from the Horticulture roof is captured for reuse in the demonstration gardens; a greatly expanded tree canopy across the site, with substantial soil volumes in urban locations, provides pollution mitigation, with shade and habitat creation; and the integration of urban agriculture makes reference to the agricultural heritage of the site and Ottawa Valley.











**LANSDOWNE PARK
OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA**

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Awards |
World Architecture News, Landscape
Architecture Long List 2014, Win, Place,
Show
Ottawa Urban Design Award of Excellence,
Visions and Masterplans, 2015
CSLA 2016 Jury's Award of Excellence - Prix
d'excellence du jury 2016
National Urban Design Award, RAIC, 2016

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