

First Peoples Artwork Collections

Gathering of the Clans

Gathering of the Clans (1998), a mirror etching by northern BC artists John Sam, Derrick Chief, and Ella Chief, is displayed above the stairs between the first and second floors of the Geoffrey R. Weller Library. It represents the eight major clans in the Prince George area, as well as a single human face which symbolizes the entire human race. The etching is presented in a traditional Northwest Coast style.



Beaver Woman

Beaver Woman (1989) is located in the corridor leading to the First Nations Centre, exiting off Student Street. It is a red cedar panel that was hand-carved by Nisga'a artists Virgil and Shirley Stanley.



First Nations Artifact Collections

UNBC holds First Nations artifact collections housed in a recessed display case, at the north end of the Learning Commons on the first floor of the Geoffrey R. Weller Library. It includes baskets, carvings, and clothing representative of First Nations throughout B.C.



Grizzly Bear Transformation Mask

UNBC's largest single artwork, by Haisla artist Lyle Wilson, was created for the B.C. Pavilion for Expo '92 held in Seville, Spain. *Grizzly Bear Transformation Mask* (1991) is a motor-activated transformation mask with costume. This permanent installation is located next to the First Nations Artifact Collections, in the Learning Commons.



First Peoples Artwork Collections at UNBC

UNBC's collection of First Peoples artwork is a living legacy to Canada's northern Indigenous peoples and includes over 250 individual works.

UNBC's artwork collections include First Nations artwork by prominent artists from British Columbia, including Gitksan artists Ron Sebastian and Michael Blackstock; works by Haida artists Bill Reid, L. D. Scow, Freda Diesing, and Joe Mandur; Nisga'a artists Virgil and Shirley Stanley; and local First Nations artists including John Sam, Derrick Chief, Ella Chief, and Billy Edmund.

The pieces from the Inuit Art Collection originated from the region now known as Nunavut and include works from three main communities: Cape Dorset, Pangnirtung, and Baker Lake. Both the carvings and prints document Inuit life and culture as reflected in the forms of the people and creatures.

The UNBC artwork collections are managed and maintained by the Artwork Collections Coordinator.

unbc.ca/about-unbc/artwork-collections

UNBC
ARTWORK
COLLECTIONS
A Walking Tour

First Peoples Artwork
Collections at UNBC

UNBC UNIVERSITY OF
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First Peoples Artwork Collections: A Walking Tour

Bill Reid Banners

The atrium of the main floor of the Charles J. McCaffray Hall features ten hanging banners by renowned Haida artist Bill Reid. The imagery depicted on the banners represents characters taken from his sculpture, *Spirit of Haida Gwaii* (1986).



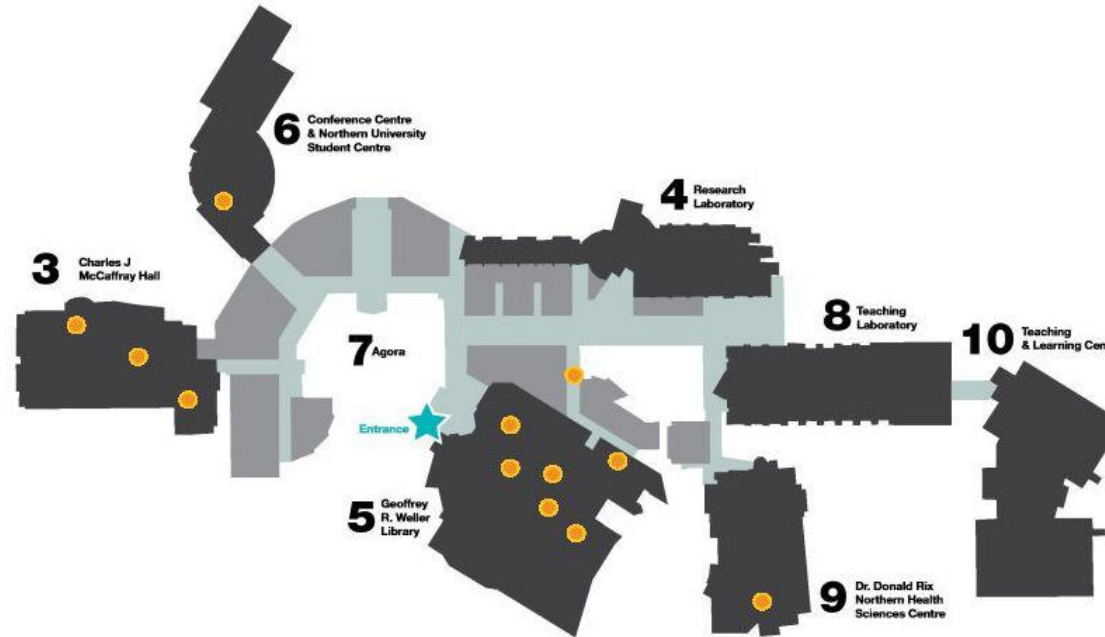
Senate Doors

The main floor of the Charles J. McCaffray Hall also houses UNBC's Senate Chambers. The entrance to Senate displays elaborate doors constructed of laminated yellow cedar with fully carved front panels featuring human and animal carvings. These doors were carved by Gitxan artist Ron Sebastian.



Sebastian and Blackstock Prints

The first floor of the Conference Centre features several silkscreen prints by Gitxan artist Ron Sebastian that represent clans or house groups from Northern BC communities including that of Raven, Beaver, Bear, and Caribou. They are typical of Sebastian's preference for regional symbols. The second floor features silkscreen prints by Gitxan artist Michael Blackstock that represent Thunderbird, Eagle, and Mountain Goat.



Young Woman

This alder wood mask is located in Lhuhuhwhezdel: The Gathering Place, adjacent to the First Nations Centre. It was carved in 2001 by the distinguished Haida artist Freda Diesing and is dedicated in her memory.



Reconciling Light

Reconciling Light (2022) by Kwakwaka'wakw artist Simon Daniel James is on permanent display in the Learning Commons. The carving features a circular sun at its center with eight rays extending out. To tell the truth about what happened at residential schools, James used archival and family photos to create images on the sunrays.



Ray Anderson Collection

The largest of UNBC's collections was donated by Ray Anderson in 1999; it includes 25 major Inuit sculptures, 75 smaller soapstone sculptures, and 40 stone-cut Inuit prints. The sculptures are displayed throughout the Geoffrey R. Weller Library, in the Office of the President, and on the first floor of the Dr. Donald Rix Northern Health Sciences Centre.

