

What is Culture?

Culture can be defined in different ways. Some definitions refer to particular values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions of a group of people. Other meanings refer to our everyday life and the behaviour of people that flow from their beliefs.

In the SaskCulture Inc. constitution, culture is defined as, “a dynamic system of acquired elements, with values, assumptions, conventions, beliefs and rules through which members of a group related to each other and the world. Culture defines who we are as a people; keeping alive our past, reflecting our values, articulating our dreams and fostering pride in who we are. It proclaims our existence and identity to the world.

Cultural activity mirrors a culture; it is how a culture perceives and expresses itself, and is perceived and expressed by others. It can be defined as the symbolic forms and the everyday practices through which people express and experience meaning.

More specifically, SaskCulture defines culture and cultural activity as it fits into the areas of arts, multiculturalism, heritage and cultural industries.

Arts

Art is the expression of inspiration and imagination, from individual to collective, from grassroots to professional, and institutional. Art reflects our culture, embraces our past, provides a window to our future to examine ourselves and our experiences and transmits humanity’s knowledge of the world. Examples include: painting, dance, theatre, and music.

Within the scope of SaskCulture, the arts:

- Engage people as audience, creators or interpreters through access and education; and
- Foster traditional to emerging art forms.

Saskatchewan has become one of the first provinces in Canada to enact [Status of the Artist](#) legislation, intended to recognize the value of the labour and experience of skilled artists and ensure fair compensation for their work.

Heritage

Heritage is what we have received from the past. It shapes our present identity and provides insight for our future. It includes stewardship, preservation, research, education and engagement. Heritage activities include: languages, archaeology, and genealogy. Heritage institutions include museums and libraries.

Multiculturalism

Multiculturalism represents the openness to experiencing and celebrating cultural differences within the Canadian context. It is inclusive of all peoples and respectful of the rights of individuals and groups to maintain and practice their cultural heritage distinctiveness, growth and evolution. It recognizes diversity and builds community by encouraging people to share, learn, appreciate, respect and accept.

Cultural Industries

Cultural industries, or creative industries, include the business and individuals that earn their income from the development, production and distribution of cultural products to buyers or users. These products include: books, CDs, film and video, craft and works of art, and other intellectual properties.

