

Art City

Art City

Art City is your guide to Perth's art in public places.

This walking guide features artworks commissioned by the City of Perth and other organisations.

Aspects of Perth's cultural heritage may be discovered and explored as you follow the walking guide and view the artworks.

Central to the Art City walk is Perth's CBD. Along St George's Terrace are examples of significant architecture ranging from early colonial buildings to contemporary developments. From the Terrace you can experience shopping in the malls and arcades or visit Barrack Square and Perth's spectacular foreshore.

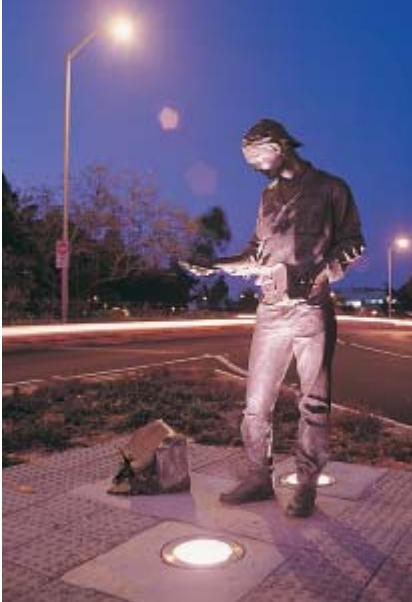
On a walk through Perth's Cultural Centre to Northbridge, you will find the Art Gallery of WA, the WA Museum and the State Library. Renowned for being Perth's cultural and entertainment district, Northbridge offers a number of fine restaurants, cafes and great galleries to enjoy.

Enjoy your Art City walk and allow the artworks to challenge your perception and enrich your understanding of life in Perth.

For more information about Perth's Public Art, please contact the Community Services Unit on 08 9461 3403.

For information about guided walks, please contact the City Visitor Program Officer on 08 9461 3444.

Art City is sponsored by Transperth's CAT buses and Healthway to promote "Be Active Everyday".



1. Unidentified Photographer

Barracks Arch, corner St George's Terrace & Elder St

Artist: Anne Neil in collaboration with Greg James

Date: 1996

A life-size bronze figure looks back through time at an image of the Barracks before it was demolished to make way for the new freeway extension. Holding a Box Brownie camera and a handful of photographic plates, the Unidentified Photographer beckons the public to look inside his camera.

Inside the Gladstone bag are bronze models of various trade tools of the professionals who once worked on the Terrace.





2. Conic Fugue (Enigma)

QV.1 Building, corner St George's Terrace & Milligan Street

Artist: Charles O. Perry

Date: 1991

Conic Fugue was commissioned as a counterpoint to the QV.1 building. The soft curving edges and vivid red provides a contrast to the grey colour scheme and hard edges of the architecture.

The artwork is a single-surfaced, single-edged monolith that has been wound upon itself three times, similar to DNA. The sculptor suggests that you fix a point on the edge and follow it with your eye.



3. As the Crow Flies

*Intersection of St George's Terrace,
Milligan & Mount Streets*

Artist: Anne Neil

Date: 1996

Referring to distance and direction, *As the Crow Flies* is based on an Aboriginal Dreamtime story; the experiences of the early settlers and the business community along St George's Terrace.

Comprised of four elements - a crow, its nest, poetic text and a street sign, the artwork is layered with meaning and allows room for interpretation.



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4. Going Home

*Florence Hummerston Reserve,
corner Mount Street & St George's
Terrace*

Artist: Anne Neil

Date: 1996

These seven kangaroo silhouettes are captured in mid-flight, carrying briefcases.

The concept of the artwork is derived from people working on the Terrace and returning home. The kangaroos, once abundant in the area, are seen racing back to King's Park after a hard day at work. The briefcases draw attention to contemporary life on the Terrace and brings a touch of humour to Perth's premier business avenue.



5. State Images Mosaics

Swan Bell Tower, Barrack Square

*Artists: Community groups
with artists Simon Gevers and
Tania Ferrier*

Date: 2000

Ten regional community groups won the State Images Community Art Competition to have their mosaic design installed at Barrack Square. The images represent each region's culture, community and lifestyle at the turn of the millennium.

Artists used over 60,000 tiles to create mosaic artworks from the original designs. The mosaic works were duplicated and are also displayed in the corresponding regions, linking country and city.



6. Bronze Swans

Swan Bell Tower, Barrack Square

Artists: Sue Flavell & Gina Moore

Date: 2000



These larger than life bronze swans highlight a natural heritage feature of the Swan River.

The river was once heavily populated by black swans, surprising the early explorers who had only known white swans.

The texts engraved on the surface of each swan are not intended to be easily read, they are messages to be unravelled.





7. Gumnut Babies

Stirling Gardens, St George's Terrace

Artists: Claire Bailey & Indra Geidans

Date: 2001

The bronze Gumnut Babies are based on the characters Snuggle Pot and Cuddle Pie created by May Gibbs in the 1930s.

May Gibbs, a popular author of children's books, attributed the creation of the Gumnut Babies to her memories of Western Australia's wild flowers. Her aim was to encourage a love of the Australian bush in children.

8. Kangaroos

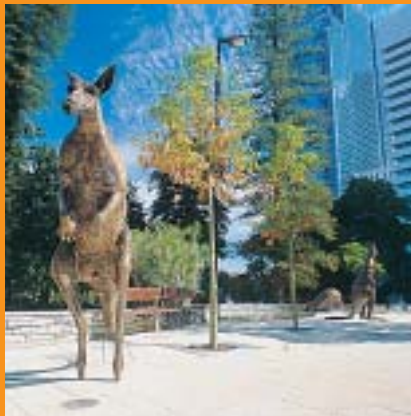
Stirling Gardens, St George's Terrace

Artists: Joan Walsh-Smith & Charles Smith

Date: 1997

These life size bronze kangaroos are a realistic representation of how kangaroos might behave in the bush. You can imagine the mob being startled from its quiet feeding by the sound of traffic and bounding away, led by the large male.

The sight of the kangaroos bounding at full speed along the pavement of St George's Terrace makes a surprising contrast to the backdrop of the CBD.



9. LAND

*Land Department and Titles Office,
Hay Street East*

Artists: Anne Neil & Steve Tepper

Date: 1997

This artwork was inspired by the architecture of the former Land Department and Titles Office building.

It celebrates the achievements of the government architect George Temple Poole. The major architectural features of the building are recreated in the artwork.

Mineral deposits have marked our State's history and the artists have used copper to reflect the association of the building with the land and mining.



10. Percy Buttons' Aspiration

Hay Street Mall

Artist: Adrian Jones

Date: 1996

Twelve metres above the Hay Street Mall, amongst the heritage facades, this aerial artwork is a tribute to Percy Buttons - an intriguing street entertainer.

Percy amused the public on their way to the theatres and cinema houses that once crowded the Hay St Mall in the 1920s and 40s.

You can read details about his life on the news placards at street level, beneath the sculpture.



Temporarily removed due to construction works.

11. Historical Plaques

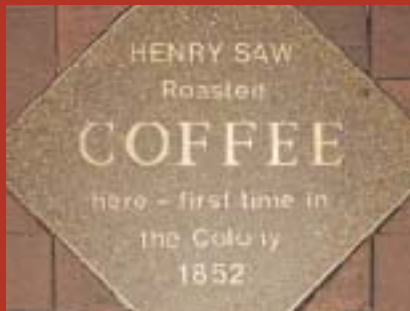
Hay Street Mall

Artist: Adrian Jones

Date: 1996

A series of three plaques commemorate everyday life on Hay Street by drawing on the past of the site. The plaques connect us with history and provide an interesting and humorous counterpoint to today's Hay Street Mall.

The bronze plaques remember a boot maker's sales quip from 1917, the early camel trade in the 1890s and the first time coffee was roasted in the Colony (1852).



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12. People In the City

*Central Park, corner Hay &
William Streets*

Artist: Anne Neil

Date: 1999

People In the City illustrates the hustle and bustle of city life and crowded street corners as people wait for the lights to change.

The series of cast aluminium outlines are traced from real people. Passers-by often ponder over whom the outlines might represent.



13. Meteorite (Fire... Water... Earth)

Forrest Place

Water Feature: City of Perth

*Paving Feature Artist: Malcolm
McGregor*

Date: 2000

The Meteorite is a water feature symbolising a meteorite impact, a relatively common phenomenon in northern WA.

A mist of atomised water shrouds the sphere of Mt Magnet granite during the hotter months and cools the surrounding air. Submerged fibre optic lights illuminate the water and mist, creating an eerie quality after dark.

Surrounding the sphere at its base is a swirling pattern of stone incorporating images of geckos on black and pink granite.



14. Two Fighting Snakes

Forrest Place

Artist: Matthew Gill Tjupurulla

Date: 1995



A popular Forrest Place artwork depicts two snakes fighting over two Tjupurulla men at the homeland of the artist's father near Lake Mackay in WA's Northwest. The 5 x 7 metre mosaic was constructed using over 17,000 mosaic tesserae of red, black, yellow and white granite.

The original design was translated from a dot painting created by the Balgo Hills artist in 1988. The painting is part of the City of Perth Art Collection.





15. Between 1979-1980

Perth Cultural Centre, James Street

Artist: Clement Meadmore

Date: 1981

Owned by: Art Gallery of WA

Standing against the city skyline is this dramatic modern sculpture.

Constructed from Cor-ten steel, the geometric sculpture has a unique rusting process and corrodes only to a certain point, when the patina becomes a rich dark brown.

It is made of three four-sided sections precariously balanced to arouse a sense of unease and tension. The sculpture implies a lightness that belies the massive weight of the steel sections.



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16. Der Rufer (The Caller)

Perth Cultural Centre, James Street

Artist: Gerhard Marcks

Date: 1967

Owned by: Art Gallery of WA

Der Rufer was inspired when the artist was standing beside a man who called across a river to attract the ferryman on the other side.

The figure in upright, forceful stance may symbolise the triumph of man's spirit over oppression and adversity. The few swinging folds in the garment convey a sense of movement.



17. Gate 2: Coalesce

Perth Cultural Centre, James Street

Artist: Akio Makigawa

Date: 1987

Owned by: Alexander Library

Akio Makigawa's sculpture has become a Perth landmark and meeting place.

The gate is used as a symbol of the meeting place, the exchange of ideas and a passage for development. The stepped form symbolises the stages to knowledge, understanding and achievement. A series of flags and totems express the idea of marks of progress, learning and growth through the stages of development.



18. Pagoda

Russell Square, Northbridge

Artists: Drago Dadich & Greg James

Date: 1995

This artwork tells the story of the evolution of Western Australia, particularly the cultural diversity of Northbridge.

Each of the four structures contains a distinct fountain arrangement and a number of small bronze castings.

The southern fountain features a galleon set in Nambam granite accompanied by classical heads spouting water. The artist intended for this combination to reflect the European influence in the area, past and present.

On the northern side, a spectacular 1.8m high pagoda emerging from the pond acknowledges the influence of the various Asian communities in Northbridge.

The eastern fountain observes the natural environment through a traditionally symbolic snake and bearded dragon on a polished granite surface set against a backdrop of tree roots. The most striking object on this side is a school bag, which links the environment with children, a symbol of the future.

Inspired by modern society's leisure based lifestyle, the western side of the pagoda is particularly pertinent to Northbridge and its emphasis on fun and enjoyment. It presents a very relaxed image with a hat, towel, sunglasses and turtle greeting spectators from the top of the spiral form.



19. Nexus

Lake Street, Northbridge

Artist: Simon Gauntlett

Date: 2002

Nexus celebrates the Greek community in Northbridge.

The seven ribbed terrazzo columns are based on classical Greek architecture and create an impressive urban feature.

The seven illuminated water jets trace the original watercourse for which Lake Street is named.

The sandblasted frieze draws on the tradition of story telling and gives a view of the Greek community's role in the development of Northbridge.



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20. Sculptured Seats

Claisebrook Cove perimeter walkway, East Perth

Artist: Mark Cox

Date: 1995

The industrial heritage of East Perth is an important part of Perth's local history.

This series references the industrial past by recycling timbers that were used in old buildings and warehouses once common in the area. The seats use timber from the old Public Works Department workshops and are based on pulleys, beams and rollers.

The forms are sculptural and practical, offering an opportunity to sit and enjoy the surroundings.



21. The Impossible Triangle

Claisebrook round-about, East Perth

Artists: Brian MacKay & Ahmad Abas

Date: 1999

The Impossible Triangle is an East Perth landmark based on a concept by the British geneticist Lionel Penrose and his son Sir Roger Penrose, a mathematics professor.

A geometric phenomenon, the work relies on the viewer to look at the sculpture from different angles. When viewed from a specific position, the illusion of a perfect triangle is complete.

The Impossible Triangle is clad in etched aluminium panels and stands 13.5m tall.



22. The Greenway

*Corner of Claisebrook Road &
Royal Street, East Perth*

*Artist: Nola Farman in collaboration
with Tract WA Pty Ltd.*

Date: 1994

The East Perth area has been developed and altered many times since its natural state as a wetland.

The Greenway is a series of artworks that relate to the chain of wetlands, which ran from the river westwards to the sea.

The artworks reference some of the locally extinct flora and fauna and the power of water to sculpt the landscape.





23. Regeneration

Victoria Gardens, East Perth

Artist: Joanna Lefroy Capelle

Date: 1996

Alongside the water as it flows into Claisebrook Cove is a recessed limestone colonnade that contains a 14-metre relief mural, providing a visual history of Claisebrook.

The mural tells a story of the rising and falling fortunes of East Perth and traces its origins from the Bibbullmun nation to the arrival of Europeans, industrial and horticultural growth, the phase of dormancy, and finally urban renewal in the 1990s.

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24. Channel markers, posts and seats

*Claisebrook Cove perimeter
walkway, East Perth*

Artist: Malcolm McGregor

Date: 1995

Located on the banks of the Claisebrook Inlet, these artworks draw their inspiration from the channel markers used to aid in river navigation.

The artworks were constructed from jarrah timber salvaged from the demolition of warehouses on the site. The seats also commemorate features that once occupied the site: Solomon Cook's water-driven flourmill and the caretaker's cottage at the entry to Victoria Gardens by architect Richard Roach Jewell.



25. The Charnock Woman

Victoria Gardens, East Perth

Designers: Miv Egan, Sandra Hill & Jenny Dawson

Date: 1996

The 25 metre pavement mosaic tells the Bibbulmun Dreamtime story of the evil Charnock Woman.

Four magpie totems in flight symbolise the spirit people who turned themselves into magpies to attack the evil Charnock woman who used her hair as a net to trap children. During battle the Charnock woman was flung into the sky and formed the Milky Way.



26. Ngango Batta's Mooditcher (Sunbeam's Living Strength)

Victoria Gardens, East Perth

Artist: Toogar Morrison

Date: 1997

The Claisebrook bank of the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) has always been a significant and sacred meeting place for the Nyoongah people.

A place rich in food, with a spring-fed lagoon, it became a refuge with the growth of Perth and the curfew laws forbidding Aboriginal people to be in the city after 6.00pm.

A dreaming track meanders along the water's edge, representing different aspects of the site.



27. Sea Queen

Claisebrook Cove, East Perth

Artist: Tony Jones, assisted by Matt Dickmann

Date: 1995

The Sea Queen refers to the artist's childhood, learning to sail, playing, swimming and fishing in the Swan River.

A figure holding a model yacht stands in the water, its carved head turning with the wind. Nearby is an old, repainted fishing boat "moored" against a dock at the water's edge representing another aspect of river life.

The artwork is constructed from recycled jarrah and old boat parts.



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28. Tree Of Symbols

*Intersection of Hay Street &
Forrest Ave*

Artist: Kevin Draper

Date: 2002

Constructed using hand-forged and welded steel the five metre sculpture takes the form of a wrought iron Banksia tree.

Attached to its branches, in place of leaves, are various signs, symbols and logos from authorities and businesses in the immediate area. Most of the hand cut symbols are contemporary although some historical symbols go back as far as 100 years referencing past businesses.



29. Peter Pan Statue

Queens Gardens, Corner Hay & Plain Streets

Artist: George Frampton

Date: 1929

This bronze statue of Peter Pan, from the classic novel written by JM Barrie, is a replica of the famous original statue in Kensington Gardens, London.

Designed by the late George Frampton, with only five of its kind in existence, the Perth Peter Pan statue was the last of the sculptor's works. It was placed in Queens Gardens in 1929 as a gift to the children of Perth.



30. Yagan

Heirisson Island

Artist: Robert Hitchcock

Date: 1984

This statue was installed to commemorate Yagan, a courageous Nyoongah tribal leader.

A fierce warrior, intelligent negotiator and statesman, Yagan gave willing assistance to the first white explorations. This early friendliness however, did not last and when conflict did eventually arise, Yagan and his followers defended Nyoongah territory until 1832 when they were overpowered and exiled to Carnac Island. Yagan escaped and was killed in 1833.



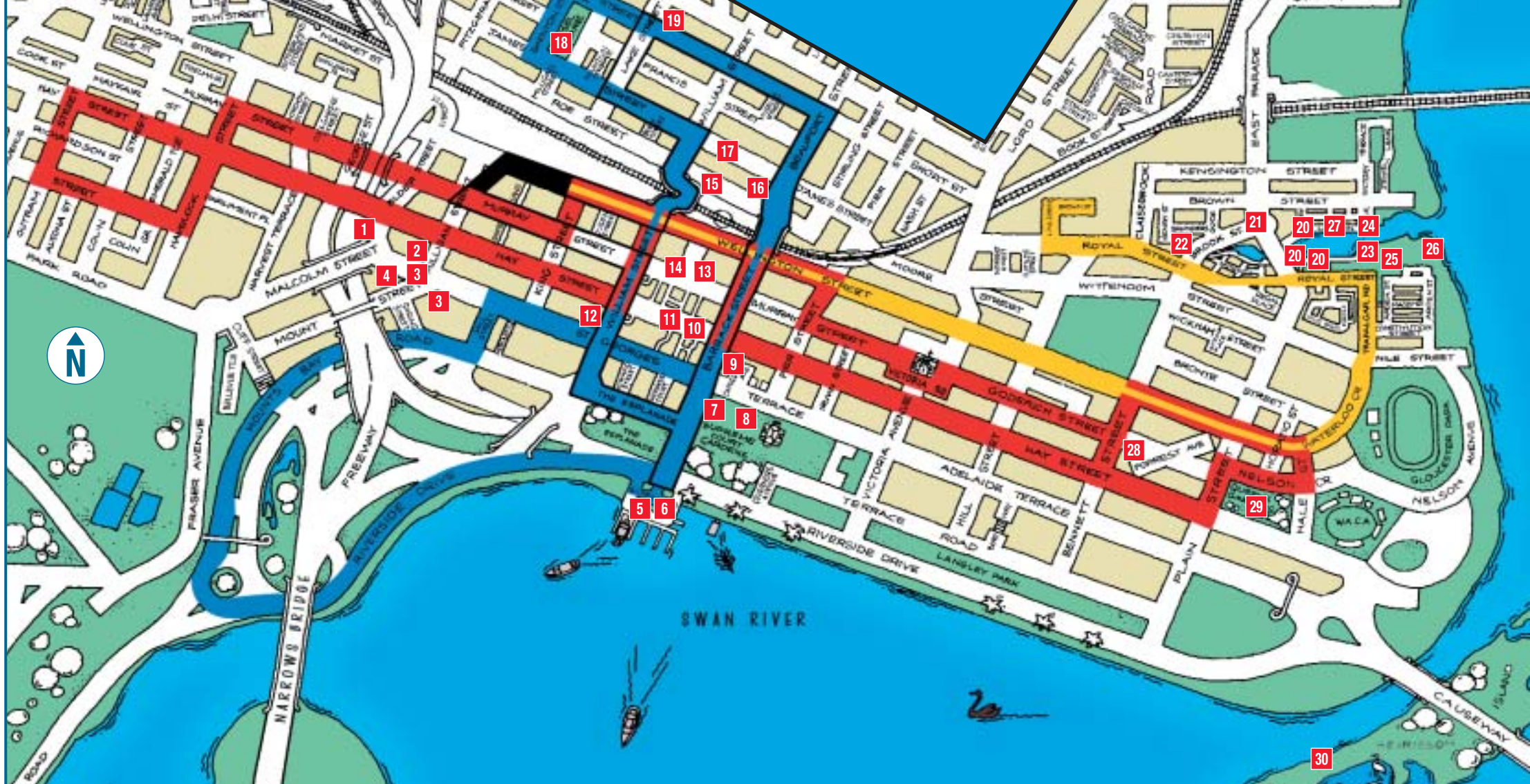
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30. Yagan

Whether you are in the CBD for shopping, sightseeing, or travelling between appointments, Transperth's CAT buses offer you a fast, free and convenient way to travel around the city. For further information phone 13 22 13.

- Artwork Locations
- Blue Cat
- Red Cat
- Yellow Cat







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www.perth.wa.gov.au