From 2007 through 2023, the Royal Bison Art & Craft Fair blew through town at the Old Strathcona Performing Arts Centre in the heart of Edmonton, Alberta. Through the years, it gathered a ferocious following of loyal visitors and makers. Every spring and winter, a top-notch community of designers, illustrators, ceramicists, and assorted hangers-on showcased their work, bringing with them some of the most vivid art and craft in Canada. The fair revelled in all things local and indie, acting as a springboard for creative endeavours from the prairies and beyond. But after 16 years, it was time for the Royal Bison to retire. At the end of 2023, it roamed into the prairies, deeply content with its extensive contributions to the art and design community.

The Royal Bison Art & Craft Fair has been shaped by the efforts of more than a few local Edmonton community organizer-vendor-artists. The longest-term organizer was Vikki Wiercinski, who produced the fair for thirteen years, starting in 2010. Over the years, vendors joined in to help organize the fair, which included: Andrew Benson, Emily Chu, Genevieve Ongaro, Jeanie Andronyk, Jim Johansson, Josh Holinaty, Morgan Pinnock, Nico Humby, Stephanie Simpson, Tracy Niven, and Zeph Mitchell. The fair was created by illustrator Raymond Biesinger, to whom Edmonton’s art & design community owes a solid for starting this thang.

The Royal Bison began its inaugural journey in 2007, with this poster designed by Raymond Biesinger. From there, new artists were brought in to refresh the fair’s visuals each season, which included posters, totes bags and other swag. Over the years, the Bison’s visual language continued to change and evolve.
The Royal Bison tote bag became an important artifact and collector's item for its loyal following. A big thank you to all the artists and designers who contributed to the Bison's posters and swag over the years!