PUBLIC ART ABOUNDS IN TORONTO, which played host to the most recent NASCC: The Steel Conference.

In fact, the city’s Percent for Public Art Program recommends that a minimum of one percent of the gross construction cost of each significant development be contributed to public art.

One piece resulting from the program is “Perpetual Movement,” a steel sculpture in the city’s Liberty Village neighborhood. Created by Chilean sculptor Francisco Gazitua, it pays homage to the area’s industrial heritage and the washing machines that were manufactured here in the early 20th century. Gazitua was inspired by a drawing, illustrating perpetual motion, that he came across in a book when visiting engineering faculty at the University of Toronto.

The 6-ton sculpture, composed of steel plate ranging from 4 mm to 12 mm thick, stands 10 m (32.8 ft) high, 10 m long and 11 m (36.1 ft) wide. It consists of three main elements: two independent supporting columns bolted to a concrete foundation; the structural axis, which is made of 500-mm (19.7-in.) round HSS; and the spiral, which is bolted to the structural axis. The entire sculpture is hot-dip galvanized and also has a paint system using an epoxy undercoat and an acrylic latex top coat.