



Object Name	Statue
Collection	Metro Parks Tacoma - Permanent Collection
Date	1891
Description	<p>During the initial phase of Wright Park's development, prominent Tacoma businessman Clinton P. Ferry recommended the addition of classical public art in the European tradition. During a trip abroad in 1891, he purchased nine statues as a contribution to this effort. Only six survived the journey to Tacoma: two dancing girls, two lions, the "Fisherman's Daughter," and a statue of winged Mercury. All were copies of famous carved sculptures, cast in a sandstone and concrete composite. All but the statue of Mercury survive today.</p>

"Dancing Girl with Hand on Chin" is one of two matching statues, based on neoclassical sculptures by Italian artist Antonio Canova. (The original is titled "Dancing Girl with Her Finger on Her Chin" and was sculpted 1806-10. Today it stands in the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica in Rome.) Early pictures show that the Ferry version of the statue did indeed have her hand on her chin when the statues were first installed in 1892, but sometime in the mid-20th century the statue was broken and restored with her hand across her waist instead.

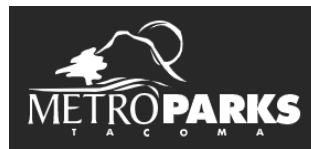
When the dancing girls were originally installed in Wright Park in 1892, Yakima Avenue continued as a roadway through the park from Division Street to 6th Avenue. The dancing girls stood on opposite sides of the roadway welcoming people to the park. When the roadway was closed to vehicles in the 1930s, the statues were moved much closer to one another. Over time, the two statues acquired the nicknames "Annie" and "Fannie,"

one for the daughter of Charles Wright and the other for Fannie of the Fannie Paddock Hospital, now Tacoma General. In the 1930s they were also nicknamed "Violet" and "Pansy." They were restored and placed on new marble bases in 2009.

Location [Wright Park](#)

Object Number WP - 014

Web link [Metro Parks Tacoma, Wright Park](#)



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