




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	August 28, 2023
SUBJECT:	All Our Relations Public Art Ceremony on National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (Ward 2)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 2
SUBMITTED BY:	Peter Fortune Acting Director, Tourism and Culture Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

The purpose of this Communication Update is to advise Council that the Hamilton Waterfront Trust and the City of Hamilton have completed a Public Art process to commission a permanent Public Artwork to be installed in the new West Harbour – James Street Plaza at the foot of James Street North (North of Guise Street). The volunteer citizen jury selected the work "All Our Relations" by an artist team led by Angela DeMontigny and supported by Paull Rodrigue Glass, Cobalt Connects, Lafontaine Iron Werks Inc. and EXP. This monumental artwork consists of five 40-foot panels comprised of thousands of colourful glass beads representing traditional Indigenous teachings, the Thanksgiving Address as well as Hamilton's rich biodiversity. Installation is scheduled for September 2023.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Saturday, September 30, 2023) has been selected as the date for the unveiling ceremony as the artist team is led by an Indigenous artist, Angela DeMontigny (Cree/Métis), and Indigenous themes are central to the work. The event will celebrate the installation of this important artwork at the Waterfront as well as recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation through the inclusion of Indigenous ceremony, drumming, performances and remarks by knowledge keepers. The event is being planned collaboratively with City staff from Indigenous Relations, Placemaking, Public Art and Projects and the artist team.

This public artwork also aligns with the City's Urban Indigenous Strategy's themes and action items as follows:

Land

6. Work with the Indigenous community to establish and maintain a piece of land that the community can use for ceremonial, spiritual and other activities. (this is the Artist's intent for the piece & this area will be designated as an official site for Sacred Fires)

Spirit

13. Create opportunities for public art by Indigenous artists.

21. Identify or create ways to support Indigenous artists.

22. Commission public art in a prominent location that honours mutual respect and the spirit of reconciliation.

People

23. Bring together partners to offer public education to all residents about the history of Indigenous peoples and current topics that will contribute to reconciliation. This public education program should include highlighting local Indigenous resources and museums and promote awareness of national holidays such as National Indigenous Peoples Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Community members are invited to attend the event on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at West Harbour – James Street Plaza at the foot of James Street North (North of Guise Street). The event will commence with a sacred fire ceremony, drumming will begin at 10:30 a.m. leading to remarks by Indigenous leaders, City leadership and Angela DeMontigny from 11:00 a.m. to noon. Programming including live performances, food and an Indigenous marketplace will also take place from noon to 4:00 p.m. All are invited to explore the All Our Relations artwork at or following this event.

More information on this public art project can be found at:

<https://www.hamilton.ca/things-do/arts-music/public-art/west-harbour-james-street-plaza-public-art-project>

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact Jen Anisef, Cultural Projects Specialist by email at Jen.Anisef@hamilton.ca or by phone at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 7612 or Peter Fortune, Manager of Placemaking, Public Art and Projects by email at Peter.Fortune@hamilton.ca or by phone at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 6281.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A