



Infusing Spirit Murals Enhance Centennial Square Parkade

Date: Friday, April 15, 2016

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Four murals featuring contemporary Canadian and First Nations imagery now enhance the stairwell at Centennial Square Parkade. Created by a team of three professional artists and three local youth, the *Infusing Spirit* mural series is part of the City's *Art on Parkades* initiative, designed to improve the parking experience downtown.

Local artists Jennifer Johnson, Joanne Thomson, and Beth Threlfall were selected for their proposal to collaborate with youth to create a series of murals to beautify a City parkade. Appointed by the Victoria Youth Council, the three young artists included Jody DeSchutter, Owen Anthony Parnell and GaHwi Woo.

Painted with acrylic on birch wood, the four murals encompass three themes: the four elements – earth, fire water and air; the four views of Victoria – parks, city, harbour, skyline; and the four “vertical slices of wild” – underwater, shoreline, forest and sky.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

The media is invited to learn more about the murals and interview some of the artists.

WHAT: *Infusing Spirit* mural series
WHEN: Monday, April 18, 2016 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
WHERE: Centennial Square Parkade, 645 Fisgard Street
(Meet at the stairwell entrance in Centennial Square)

The artworks symbolize “Infusing Spirits”, representing Victoria’s overlapping cultures and the importance of spirits who watch over us in our visible and invisible lives. The seawolf and salmon embody wildlife and the surrounding waters, while open hands welcome all people to the land of the camas. The branches of the Garry oak weave the connection of history and multicultural threads, and the two-spirited thunderbird crowns the mural, protecting the interconnectedness of families.

Earlier this week, the artworks were blessed during a private Kwakiutl ceremony with First Nations Elders and Mayor Lisa Helps in attendance.

The Centennial Square Parkade *Art on Parkades* public art competition was juried by a selection panel consisting of a visual art instructor, an urban design professional, a local artist/curator, a member of the Art in Public Places Committee, and a member of the Victoria Youth Council. The budget for the mural series was \$10,000. For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca/publicart

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For More Information:

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