



## Summer Banners – A Creative Collaboration Between City’s Artist in Residence and Ecole Shoreline Students

Date: Thursday, May 11, 2017

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The City of Victoria’s Artist in Residence Luke Ramsey in collaboration with 18 Ecole Shoreline Community Middle School students, has created a set of four banners that will adorn lampposts downtown and in Beacon Hill Park for the next two summers.

“The banner design provided an amazing opportunity for both our Artist in Residence and the youth involved to explore and create together,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “What better way to come together in understanding than by collaborating to create art.”

With the support of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, Grade 6 – 8 Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth participated in two drawing workshops led by Ramsey in January. The project provided an opportunity for the youth to explore their self-esteem and confidence through collaborative art making and contribute to the design of the banners.

“For me personally, it’s rewarding to see unknowns explored in collaborative creativity, and to be a part of a collective working towards a unified goal,” said Artist in Residence Luke Ramsey. “I was facilitating the direction in this activity, however the work truly shows a group effort. Predominately in the art world, the individual is at the centre of a piece. This exercise explored the potential of artists from different backgrounds contributing to an equal playing field together.”

Both workshops were hosted by Education Liaison, Songhees Elder and Master Carver, Butch Dick afterschool at the Songhees Wellness Centre. The students were provided an original poster of their drawings designed by Ramsey as well as honorariums for their artistic contributions.

In the first workshop, the youth used a natural object such as a rock, piece of wood or flower to find inspiration. Drawings were shared among the students as part of the collaborative process. In the second workshop, Ramsey displayed the students’ drawings and led them in a group discussion about shape, composition and collaboration, which resulted in one overall art piece.

For the final design, Ramsey used aspects of the students’ artwork in combination with his own drawings to create an abstract collection of imagery which captures the whimsy and personality of the students. The banner artwork features smiley faces, unicorns, skateboarders, cats and many other motifs, making the overall design colourful, dynamic and playful.

In describing the process, the youth expressed it was a positive experience. Some feedback included: "I loved meeting new people and friends", "I like being able to work together and come together to make something new," "I like art because it evokes emotions and it lets you achieve anything you want," "I wish we could do this more," and "What I liked most was being included."

"We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Artist in Residence Program, and grow the partnership between our Shoreline students and the Songhees Wellness Centre," said Michelle Troughton, Vice Principal of Ecole Shoreline Community Middle School. "The students were thrilled to have an opportunity to work with Luke Ramsey and to commemorate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> through the celebration of art and culture. We embrace opportunities for our students to engage in hands-on opportunities with our community."

The banners will complement downtown streetscapes over the summer season. Installation of the banners begins tomorrow and will continue the week of May 29.

**MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:**

The media is invited to meet the youth involved and Luke Ramsey tomorrow morning at Ecole Shoreline Community Middle School and film the banners being installed on downtown lampposts. Some of the original artwork will be on display at the school.

**LOCATION #1:** Meet Shoreline Students and Artist in Residence Luke Ramsey  
Friday, May 12, 2017 from 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Ecole Shoreline Community Middle School, 2750 Shoreline Drive  
(Media is asked to check in at the office.)

**LOCATION #2:** Installation of Summer Banners Downtown  
Friday, May 12, 2017 from Noon – 1 p.m.  
Wharf Street between Yates and Belleville Streets

The City of Victoria's biennial summer banner program showcases local artists and reflects the vibrancy and creativity of Victoria. This year's banners are aligned with the City's programming to mark Canada's 150th.

— 30 —

**For More Information**

Nichola Reddington  
Senior Planner  
Arts, Culture and Events Office  
250.361.0363

Luke Ramsey  
City of Victoria  
Artist in Residence  
778.922.3643

Michelle Troughton  
Vice Principal  
Ecole Shoreline Community Middle School  
250.386.8367