



## *Sacred*, an Indigenous Art Display to Officially Open on National Indigenous Peoples Day

Date: Thursday, June 14, 2018

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Victoria City Hall will soon be home to *Sacred*, an Indigenous multi-media art display curated by Indigenous curator Rose Spahan. The public and the media are invited to attend the opening reception in Council Chambers to officially launch the display on Thursday, June 21 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. on National Indigenous Peoples Day.

“Showcasing Indigenous arts in City Hall reminds people of whose land we are on, and acts as a reminder of the creative work, history and talent of First Nations peoples,” said curator Rose Spahan. “The intent of these works is for the audience to experience the love, creativity, talent and ingenuity of the creations. The artists are diverse individuals, which is showcased in the diversity of their art forms.”

*Sacred* will showcase a range of traditional and contemporary art forms created by eight emerging and established Indigenous artists. The installation will feature artworks throughout City Hall in a variety of media including an indoor mural currently being painted on-site, an LED light painting, a projection onto an exterior wall of City Hall, a short film, a poem, a series of photographic prints, and a series of silkscreened prints.

To be diverse and inclusive, Rose Spahan with the assistance of artist Eli Hirtle, curated artworks by local Coast Salish as well as Métis, Diné (Navajo), Nehiyaw (Cree), Saanich, and Mohawk artists, who call Vancouver Island home.

The *Sacred* Indigenous art display will include:

- *Continuum* by Jesse Campbell and Nicole Neidhardt – a mural focusing on the people in the land and the land within the people, located on the first floor corridor of City Hall
- *River Run* by Dylan Thomas – a mathematical decal that will adorn the spiral staircase in the main foyer of City Hall
- *Raising Lights* by Dylan Thomas – an LED light painting representing a house post, to be located on the east wall of the Douglas Street foyer
- *Releasing the Light* by Dylan Thomas – an outdoor projection onto a Pandora Avenue wall of City Hall
- *Lekwungen: Place to Smoke Herring People* by Eli Hirtle – a film created with the support of Brianna Dick to be viewed on a television monitor in the Douglas Street foyer
- *Here*, a poem by Kevin Paul – to be located on the wall opposite the ground floor elevator
- A series of photographic prints featuring performances organized by Lindsay Delaronde during her Indigenous Artist Residency – to be installed on the hallway wall opposite the Songhees Nation Meeting Room
- A series of silkscreen prints by lessLIE – to be located on the hallway wall opposite the Esquimalt Nation Meeting Room

The event will include a welcome, speeches, a performance by the Lekwungen Dancers, and an opportunity to meet the curators and several of the featured artists. Complimentary refreshments will be provided.

Rose Spahan is a Salish artist, teacher and curator, who works with emerging, Indigenous artists. Spahan has curated 13 shows over 32 years throughout British Columbia, in addition to teaching, lecturing and working as an arts administrator and guest curator and sitting on arts juries.

*Sacred* is part of the City's ongoing work towards Reconciliation. For information on the featured artists and artworks, visit: [www.victoria.ca/sacred](http://www.victoria.ca/sacred).

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**For More Information:**

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