



Concrete Canvas Murals to Transform Victoria's Rock Bay Neighbourhood into Outdoor Art Gallery

Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2018

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Victoria's Rock Bay neighbourhood is about to be transformed into an outdoor art gallery for street art and creative expression. Over the next two weeks, 16 local, national and international artists will be painting 15 - 16 murals on the walls of 13 sites as part of the *Concrete Canvas Rock Bay Mural Project*.

Concrete Canvas was developed in response to input the City received during development of its *Create Victoria Arts and Culture Master Plan* last year, when street artists asked for more opportunities to participate in and exhibit their art in Victoria. The new Burnside Gorge Neighbourhood Plan also calls for temporary and permanent art opportunities to enhance linkages between the industrial and creative sectors.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

The media is invited meet some of the artists and view the mural painting that is underway on Friday, August 17 from 10 a.m. – noon at the following locations: 401 David Street (east and west sides), 611 Bay Street, and 2725 Rock Bay Avenue.

LAUNCH PARTY:

In addition, the media and the community are invited to attend the *Concrete Canvas Rock Bay Murals Launch Party* on Saturday, August 25, from 2 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. at the Hoyne and Driftwood Brewery parking lot located at 450 Hillside Avenue. Hosted by the Victoria Beer Week Society, the free event will include a mural workshop, live music curated by Holy Smokes Music, a food and beverage area for all ages, and walking tours of completed and in-progress murals.

Through an open Call to Artists, a jury selected 10 local, emerging mural artists and mid-career artists who expressed an interest in mural making. The City's Art in Public Places Committee invited two international artists to participate from Kiev and Detroit, as well as four national artists who reside in Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Montreal. The *Concrete Canvas* mural artists include:

International:

- Vladimir Manzhos (Kiev, Ukraine) – mural at 401 David Street
- Ellen Rutt (Detroit, USA) – mural at 2500 Rock Bay Avenue

National:

- Five Eight (Montreal) – mural at 518 Hillside Avenue
- Bracken Hanuse Corlett (Vancouver) – mural at 511 David Street
- Kenneth Lavallee (Winnipeg) – mural at 356 Bay Street
- Jill Stanton (Edmonton) – mural at 453 Hillside Avenue

Local:

- Peter Allen – mural at 401 David Street
- Lydia Beauregard – mural at 632 John Street
- Theme – mural at 2551 Rock Bay Avenue
- Calvin Coles – mural at 611 Bay Street retaining wall
- Kerri Flannigan – mural at 611 Bay Street retaining wall
- Kay Gallivan – mural at 2219 Government Street
- Caitlin McDonagh – mural at 2725 Rock Bay Avenue
- Kristofer Ray – mural at 626 Bay Street
- Luke Ramsey, City of Victoria Artist in Residence – mural at 518 Hillside Avenue
- Jesse Campbell – mural location to be confirmed

The murals will reflect the character, culture and history of the neighbourhood. Each artist will paint his or her own mural but may share a wall with another artist. The *Concrete Canvas* murals are designed to encourage dialogue, enhance Rock Bay's identity, create opportunities for artists, and establish connections between local artists and businesses.

The budget for the *Concrete Canvas Rock Bay Mural Project* is \$150,000, which is funded by the City's Public Art Reserve Fund. Each artist will be paid a fee ranging from \$1,250 to \$4,000.

For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca/concretcanvas

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