



## Commercial Alley Outdoor Art Gallery to Feature Artwork by Austin Willis

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Original artwork proposed by local artist Austin Willis has been selected as the Commercial Alley Outdoor Art Gallery’s sixth installation. Located on the west wall of the Youth Empowerment Society building on the 500 Block of Yates Street, the outdoor gallery showcases temporary installations by local artists to add colour and vitality to the area.

Willis’ proposal was one of seven submissions the City received in response to a juried Call to Artists process for emerging artists and artist teams. His proposal for the annual four-panel 1.2-metre by 2.4-metre artwork will feature bright colours, bold lines, and shapes to create fun, yet intense energy.

“Public art helps revitalize spaces and creates joy and happiness in the people who inhabit those spaces,” said Austin Willis. “As an emerging artist, I have a great interest in public art and look forward to creating works that not only energize Commercial Alley, but encourage passersby to stop and enjoy the moment.”

Originally from Piedmont, California, Willis moved to Victoria in 2015 to attend the University of Victoria’s Visual Arts Program. He tends to focus on bright colors and bold lines in pursuit of energetic positivity, love, and happiness. Currently, Willis is working in a more abstract fashion, using shape, space, colour and line in order to play with spatial illusions and the pictorial shifts between foreground and background.

Willis’ four-panel artwork will be showcased in Commercial Alley from August 2018 to August 2019. Austin Willis will receive \$2,000 and up to \$250 stipend for shipping the artwork to the location. Installation of the artwork will be provided by the City of Victoria.

The Commercial Alley Outdoor Art Gallery initiative was launched in 2014 with an installation by Other (a.k.a. Troy Lovegates), followed by artworks by Roy Green, Liz P. Dempsey, Daniel Ellingsen and most recently Kai Choufour.

For more information, visit: [www.victoria.ca/publicart](http://www.victoria.ca/publicart)

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