



Indigenous Artist in Residence Selected

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Coast Salish artist Dylan Thomas (Qwul'thilum) has been selected for the role of Indigenous Artist in Residence with the City of Victoria. The residency program provides the opportunity for a local artist to develop artistic works and engage the community in dialogue, workshops, events, and activities for a two-year term.

“On behalf of Council, I would like to congratulate Dylan Thomas,” said City of Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps. “The Indigenous Artist in Residence program is an important part of the City’s reconciliation and decolonization work as we bring Indigenous ways of thinking and knowing into an established institution like the City. We look forward to the exciting initiatives Dylan will undertake in this role.”

Thomas has a rich family history linked to Victoria. As a member of the Lyackson First Nation, he also has heritage from the Songhees, Squamish, and Snuneymuxw Nations. With a diverse practice ranging from furniture design and sandblasting, to wood carving, printmaking, jewelry and new media, Thomas has also recently started exploring stone carving, a Coast Salish media that he hopes to revive.

“I hope to use my experience as a Salish artist, my experience as an Indigenous person, and my experience as a lifelong resident of Victoria to create work that meaningfully honours the local Indigenous people – past, present, and future,” said Thomas.

Thomas has received two previous public art commissions with the City of Victoria. You can see his work at City Hall as part of the Sacred display, which includes the decal adorning the spiral staircase in the main foyer. He was also selected as the winner of the Summer Banners program earlier this year, a series of designs that depict symbols of lesser-known aspects of the Lekwungen territory's history and mythology.

The Indigenous Artist in Residence will work with the community and City staff to produce a range of artistic works, which may include an exhibition, performance, publication or forum. “The Selection Committee offers their heartfelt thanks to all the applicants to the Indigenous Artist in Residence program,” said Lou-Ann Neel, Selection Committee Member. “There were many wonderful artists that expressed an interest in this role, which was very validating and reassuring in terms of the future of Indigenous artistic traditions and contemporary practice in the Greater Victoria area.”

The community is invited to meet Dylan Thomas at a casual “Meet and Greet” gathering on Wednesday, January 22 from 5 – 7 p.m. at City Hall. Registration is not required.

For more information, visit: victoria.ca/publicart.

ATTACHMENT:

Photo of Dylan Thomas

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