

**From:** "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>  
**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"  
**Date:** 6/8/2023 6:46:50 AM  
**Subject:** Upcoming news release: City celebrates Indigenous History Month with public art launch (June 8, 2023)

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Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing a news release celebrating the launch of *Platforms: Nine Places for Seeing*. The public art program launched in 2010, utilizing citywide infrastructure, from civic buildings to digital screens, for art installations. This year, aligning with Indigenous History Month, *Platforms* will highlight 21 local Indigenous artists. This is an opportunity to showcase Indigenous art throughout the City, while furthering the City's commitment to supporting the local arts community.

Please keep this embargoed until you have seen it go live from the City media account at approximately 12:00 pm on June 8.

Once the news release is live and posted to social, we ask you share this celebratory news and amplify these artists on your own channels.

Best,  
Paul

**Paul Mochrie** (he/him)  
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

**City of Vancouver**  
**News Release**  
**June 8, 2023**

## **City celebrates Indigenous History Month with public art launch** *"Platforms: Nine Places for Seeing" highlights local Indigenous Artists*

The City of Vancouver Public Art Program is excited to launch its new *Platforms* program, *Nine Places for Seeing*.

For the first time in the history of the *Platforms* program, the City is exclusively commissioning 21 local Indigenous artists to create temporary artwork installations throughout Vancouver. Artworks will be installed on a rolling basis between 2023 and 2025.

"We're really excited to see the launch of 'Platforms: Nine Places for Seeing.' This art program celebrates Indigenous History Month and the incredible talent of our local Indigenous artists," said Mayor Ken Sim. "Showcasing Indigenous art throughout Vancouver is one way we can honour the deep history and cultures that have been part of this land long before there was a city here."

Launched in 2010 by the City of Vancouver Public Art Program, the award-winning *Platforms* initiative uses citywide infrastructure - from civic buildings to billboards and digital screens - as temporary canvases for two-dimensional art installations. Commissioning new artworks for places in the city with thousands of passersby encourages public engagement with art and creates high visibility for local artists.

“I’m really glad that the City acknowledged the leadership of Indigenous mentors in this project; they have so much connection and knowledge in the community,” said Aaron Nelson-Moody, participating artist.

For this iteration of *Platforms*, three Indigenous advisors from xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations connected with Indigenous artists whose work they found compelling and appropriate for this opportunity. The City offered Artists the chance to convey their proposals orally, promoting a more inclusive and robust understanding of their concepts.

The new commissioning process successfully engaged a diverse group of Indigenous artists, including 15 Coast Salish artists, with 11 holding lineages from xʷməθkʷəyəm, sk̓wx̓wú7mesh or səliłwətał Nations. The remaining participants are Urban Indigenous with roots in northern BC and eastern Nations. Their work will touch on profound personal themes for each artist such as intercultural histories, joy, transformation, intergenerational trauma and origin stories.

In line with our commitment to supporting the local arts community, all commissioned artists for this project will receive professional rates. This is part of our ongoing effort to ensure that artists are fairly compensated for their work.

For more information on the *Platforms* program and upcoming installations, please visit [www.vancouver.ca/platforms](http://www.vancouver.ca/platforms)

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**For editors:**

The artists and their respective platforms for the 'Platforms: Nine Places for Seeing' initiative are listed below:

Aaron Nelson Moody	Squamish	Western typography and Coast Salish imagery join to tell a story. Lightbox
Adele Arseneau	Nehiyaw Metis	Photographs of cradleboards and moss bags to honour missing children. Transit shelters.
Atheana Picha	Coast Salish	Illustrations showing spring awakening on the west coast. Playhouse Theatre vinyl.
Austin B. Harry	Squamish	Animated spiritual creatures enliven the coastline and city. Video screen.
Chaitlin Aleck	Tsleil-waututh	Photographs of two weavings related to children. Transit shelters.
Chase Gray	Musqueam	Drawings of museum-based Musqueam belongings. Arbutus billboards.
Cody Tolmie	Stó:lō	Animated Xe:xals creation story in contemporary setting. Video screen.
Cory Douglas	Tsimshian/Haida, Squamish	Thunderbird illustration. Lightbox.
Eliot White-Hill	Snuneymuxw	Painting representing Indigenous joy. For Marine Drive Station vinyl.



Bordon Dick	Tsleil-waututh	Painting of dragon with Salish and Chinese design elements. Transit shelters.
Donas Jones	Tsleil-waututh	Illustration of wolf and eagle to represent his two nations. Transit shelters.
C.C.Hall	Heiltsuk	Illustrations of Raven and his search for light and humans. Transit shelters.
Kitty Guerin	Musqueam	Illustrations of sʔi:ʔqəy, the double-headed serpent. Library banners.
Lauren Crazybull	Blackfoot Dene	Painted collage depicting the absence/presence of Indigenous faces. Marine Drive station.
Lisa Lewis	Squamish	Photographs of two weavings, created in honour of MMIWG2S. Transit shelters.
Olivia George	Tsleil-waututh	Illustration of bees and beehives with Salish design elements. QE Theatre vinyl.
Robin Roberts	Squamish	Illustrations related to transformation and performance. Transit shelters.
Shain Jackson	Shishalh	Illustrations of Eagle Woman in sequential dance positions. Arbutus billboards.
Shoshannah Greene	Haida	Illustration of Transformer Raven visiting the big city. Canada Line City Centre Station.
Soloman Chiniquay and Naz Whitford	Lu770 ^yethka Nakoda/Pomo	Photographs and ink drawings of individuals and the landscapes of the places they come from. Arbutus billboards.
Tac George	Tsleil-waututh	Illustrations of crows and salmons. Central Library banners.