

Public Art Concept Proposals

Project One: Truth & Reconciliation Mural

1. Introduction

We propose the creation of a Truth & Reconciliation mural on the side of the King Heritage & Cultural Centre (KHCC), a prominent and accessible location that symbolizes the intersection of history, culture, and community. This mural is intended to serve as a powerful visual narrative that acknowledges past injustices while fostering a dialogue of healing and understanding. By situating the mural on the KHCC's exterior, it will not only attract the attention of both locals and tourists but also serve as a daily reminder of the importance of reconciliation. The KHCC, a repository of our collective heritage, provides an ideal canvas for this public art project, ensuring that the mural's message resonates deeply within the fabric of our community.

2. Concept

The Truth & Reconciliation mural is envisioned as a poignant piece that captures our shared history and the journey toward reconciliation. Inspired by the stories of Indigenous communities, it honors their resilience and cultural heritage. The mural will feature interconnected scenes representing different aspects of this journey, from acknowledging past injustices to celebrating Indigenous cultures. Central themes of hope, unity, and renewal will be depicted, aiming to educate, foster empathy, and promote shared responsibility.

Public engagement is key, with the mural designed to be accessible and interactive, including QR codes linked to educational resources. Community events and workshops will further connect the public to the artwork and its message. Ultimately, the mural will transform the KHCC into a beacon of hope and understanding.

2.1 Historical and Cultural Relevance

The Truth & Reconciliation mural holds profound significance for the King Heritage & Cultural Centre (KHCC) and its surrounding area, weaving together threads of history, culture, and community. Situated near the historic Toronto Carrying Place Trail—a major Indigenous trading route that once traversed this very land—the mural will serve as a tribute to the Indigenous peoples who navigated these paths long before modern settlements emerged. By honoring this trail, the mural acknowledges the deep-rooted connections of the land to Indigenous history and pays homage to the cultural exchanges that have shaped the region.

The KHCC, as a custodian of local heritage, provides an ideal location for this mural. This artwork will not only reflect the stories of resilience and cultural richness of Indigenous communities but also serve as an educational tool, enlightening viewers about the significant historical context of the area. Through its powerful imagery and themes of hope, unity, and renewal, the mural will foster a sense of shared responsibility and understanding, bridging the past with the present and future.

By integrating the mural into the KHCC, the project aims to transform the Centre into a beacon of reconciliation and healing, offering a space where the community can engage with and reflect on the diverse heritage that defines it.

2.2 Materials and Methods

To create the Truth & Reconciliation mural, we will employ materials and techniques that reflect the rich traditions of Canadian Indigenous art, ensuring that the final piece resonates with authenticity and cultural significance.

Materials:

- **Exterior-Grade Acrylic Paints:** High-quality, weather-resistant acrylic paints will be used for their durability and vibrant colors. These paints are ideal for outdoor murals and will withstand the elements while maintaining their brilliance over time.
- **Traditional Natural Pigments:** Where possible, traditional natural pigments derived from minerals and plants will be incorporated, paying homage to the age-old practices of Indigenous artisans.
- **Brushes and Tools:** A variety of brushes and tools will be used to achieve different textures and effects, including fine-line brushes for intricate details and larger brushes for broad strokes.
- **Protective Coatings:** A UV-resistant, anti-graffiti coating will be applied to protect the mural from sun damage and vandalism, ensuring its longevity.

Methods:

- **Community Consultation:** The design process will begin with consultations with local Indigenous artists and community leaders to ensure cultural accuracy and receive valuable input on the mural's themes and aesthetics.
- **Design and Sketching:** Preliminary sketches and digital renderings will be created to plan the mural's composition, ensuring that all key elements and themes are appropriately represented.
- **Surface Preparation:** The beige siding on the KHCC's east exterior wall will be removed to reveal the brick surface, which will then be cleaned and primed to create an optimal painting surface.
- **Layering Technique:** The mural will be painted in layers, starting with broad background colors and gradually adding more detailed elements. This technique will allow for depth and complexity in the artwork.
- **Symbolic Imagery:** Traditional Indigenous symbols and motifs will be prominently featured, including representations of nature, animals, and spiritual elements, each carefully chosen for their cultural significance.

- Interactive Elements: QR codes linking to educational resources and stories will be integrated into the mural, allowing viewers to engage with the artwork on a deeper level.

By using these materials and methods, the Truth & Reconciliation mural will not only be a visually stunning piece of art but also a meaningful tribute to the resilience and cultural heritage of Indigenous communities. This approach ensures that the mural is both a work of art and a tool for education and reconciliation.

3. Location

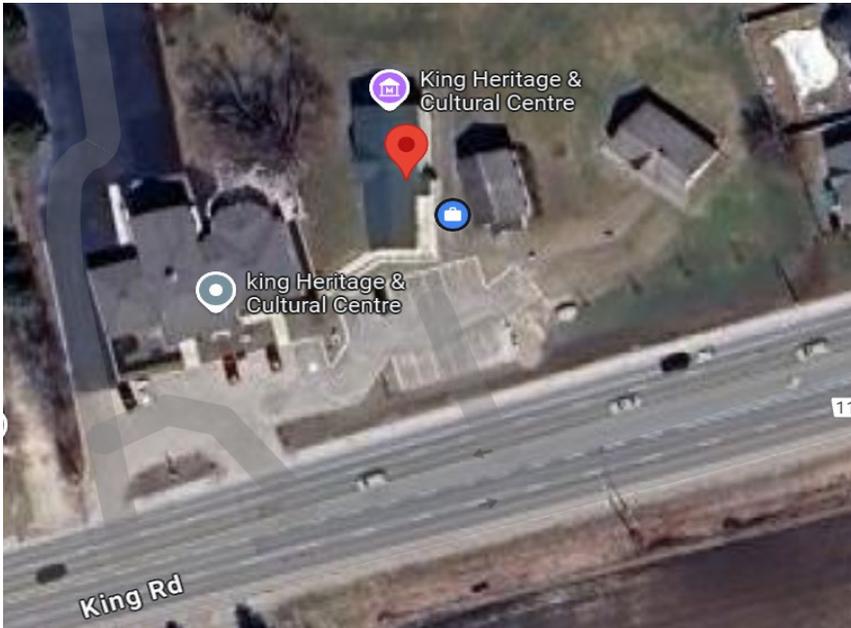
The proposed location is the East exterior wall of the main building at the KHCC. The location can be prominently seen by passing vehicles travelling West on King Road, is accessible with a path already passing in front and beside the space. It is currently underutilized with simple beige siding covering a brick wall. Consultation with Facilities staff shared that the siding is merely decorative and can easily be removed for the mural to be placed directly onto the brick.

The site is also next to “MEMENGWAA” an art piece part of the York Region Arts Council Experience Trail Marker Project, illustrations by Indigenous artist Donald Chretien, Nipissing First Nation, and cultural narrative by Ojibwe Elder Shelley Charles, Georgina Island First Nation.





MEMENGWAA



4. Budget

Provide a detailed budget breakdown for the project. Include all anticipated costs such as materials, labor, installation, maintenance, and contingencies.

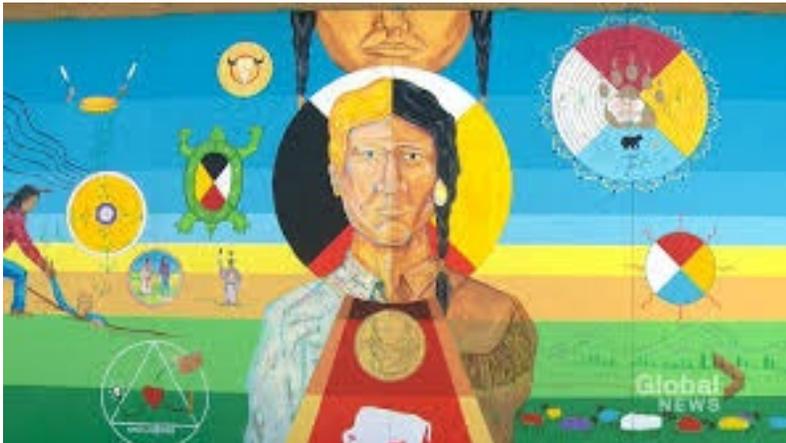
- Materials: \$ 6100
- Labor: \$ 13000
- Contingency: \$ 1300
- Promotion: \$ 2000
- Total Budget: \$ 22,400

7. Timeline

Outline the project timeline, including key milestones and deadlines.

- Project Start Date: January 2025
- Call to Artists: January – February 2025
- Design Phase: March 2025
- Site-Preparation Phase: April 2025
- Installation Date: May 2025
- Completion Date: June 2025

8. Examples



Truth & Reconciliation Mural in Warman, Saskatchewan



Indigenous mural in Winnipeg, Manitoba



Scroll of Reclamation, Phillip Cote, Art Gallery of Ontario

9. Conclusion

In summary, this proposal outlines a well-structured plan to bring an inspiring piece of public art to our community. With a total budget of \$22,400, the project spans several key phases, from the initial call to artists in January 2025 to the final installation and completion by June 2025.

The significance of this project lies not only in its artistic value but also in its potential to enrich the community's cultural landscape, foster local talent, and enhance public spaces. By engaging local artists and stakeholders, the project aims to create a meaningful and lasting impact.

We respectfully request your approval and support to bring this vision to fruition. Together, we can make a significant contribution to the community through this extraordinary public artwork.

Project Two: Pollinator Statue

1. Introduction

We propose the creation of a bee statue at the space located at Old King Road and King Road in Nobleton, celebrating our status as a "bee city." This statue is intended to serve as a powerful symbol of our commitment to environmental sustainability and the protection of pollinators. By situating the statue at this central location, it will not only attract the attention of both locals and tourists but also serve as a daily reminder of the importance of bees to our ecosystem. Nobleton, with its rich history and close-knit community, provides an ideal setting for this public art project, ensuring that the statue's message resonates deeply within the fabric of our community.

2. Concept

The Pollinator Statue project is envisioned as a significant piece that captures our commitment to environmental sustainability and the protection of pollinators. Inspired by our status as a "bee city," the statue honors the vital role that bees play in our ecosystem. The statue will feature detailed, artistic representations of bees and their natural habitat, symbolizing the interconnectedness of all life and the importance of biodiversity.

Central themes of environmental stewardship, community engagement, and education will be depicted, aiming to foster awareness and inspire action. This public artwork will be designed to be accessible and interactive, serving not only as a visual landmark but also as an educational resource. Community events and workshops will further connect the public to the statue and its message. Ultimately, the bee statue will transform the space at Old King Road and King Road into a beacon of sustainability and ecological awareness.

2.1 Historical and Cultural Relevance

The Pollinator Statue holds deep historical and cultural significance for King Township. King's designation as a "bee city" underscores the vital role pollinators play in sustaining ecosystems. This project aims to honor this commitment by erecting a statue that symbolizes the importance of bees. Bees are not just crucial for pollination and biodiversity but are also emblematic of community cooperation and resilience.

Positioned at the junction of Old King Road and King Road, a historically significant area, the statue will serve as a landmark that celebrates the town's heritage and its ongoing dedication to environmental stewardship. The symbolism of the bee ties into the broader narrative of sustainability, interconnectedness, and the shared responsibility we hold towards protecting our natural environment.

The Pollinator Statue will not just be an artistic endeavor but also an educational one. Through community events and workshops connected to the project, residents and visitors alike will have

the opportunity to engage with the statue and the critical messages it embodies. This public artwork aims to transform its location into a vibrant hub of ecological awareness and cultural pride, ensuring that the legacy of King Township as a bee-friendly city continues to thrive and inspire future generations.

2.2 Materials and Methods

The creation of the Pollinator Statue will involve the use of eco-friendly and durable materials to ensure longevity and minimal environmental impact. Materials such as recycled metal, glass, plastic or stone will be considered to create the artistic representation of bees and their habitat. The process will begin with detailed sketches and models, followed by the fabrication of individual components.

Local artists and artisans will be engaged to bring this vision to life, emphasizing community involvement and craftsmanship. Throughout the construction, regular consultations with environmental experts will be conducted to maintain the project's ecological integrity.

By combining artistic innovation with sustainable practices, the Pollinator Statue will not only be a visual landmark but also a testament to King's dedication to environmental stewardship.

3. Location

The proposed location is empty circular space at the corner of King Road and Old King Road in Nobleton. This is a prominent location highly visible to both vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the core of the village. The space currently has an existing raised, concrete and brick perimeter with grass space in the middle. It is underutilized and serves little purpose. Installing a large public art piece in this location will bring new life to the area and add to the proposed revitalization efforts in the village core.





4. Budget

- Artist Fees: \$30,000
- Design: \$15,000
- Materials: \$25,000
- Insurance: \$5,000
- Engineering Expenses: \$10,000
- Fabrication: \$40,000
- Delivery & Installation: \$20,000
- Travel: \$5,000
- Total: \$150,000

7. Timeline

- Project Start Date: January 2025
- Call for Proposals: February-March 2025
- Procurement: April 2025
- Design Phase: April-May 2025
- Site-Preparation Phase: June 2025
- Off-site Art Preparation: May-October 2025
- Installation Date: October 2025
- Completion Date: November 2025

8. Examples



Recycled Road Runner Statue, Las Cruces, New Mexico. Made of recycled garbage



Ethyl the Whale, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Made of hand-recycled plastic trash



Sculpture by the Barefoot Welder, Australia. Made of scrap metal.

Conclusion

These examples illustrate the transformative potential of using recycled materials in public art projects. By reimagining discarded objects, we not only reduce environmental impact but also create striking and meaningful works that resonate with the community. Through the ingenuity of artists and the support of local communities, such projects breathe new life into what might otherwise be considered waste, turning it into inspiring and educational pieces that speak to the values of sustainability and creativity.

As we move forward with our project, we remain committed to these principles. Our phased approach, from the design phase in April-May 2025 to the completion date in November 2025, reflects our dedication to meticulous planning and execution. The various stages, including site preparation, off-site art preparation, and installation, ensure that every aspect of the project is handled with the utmost care and precision.

The selected materials and themes for our artwork will not only highlight the artistic potential of recycled materials but also serve as a testament to our collective responsibility towards environmental stewardship. By involving the community in the creation process, we aim to foster a sense of ownership and pride in the final piece.

Project Three: Public Art Banner Program

1. Introduction

In an effort to celebrate and preserve the unique heritage, culture, and natural landscape of our community, we propose the commissioning of local artists to design street banners for display in the village cores. This initiative aims not only to beautify our public spaces but also to create a visual narrative that reflects and honors the identity of our community. This program seeks to engage local artists by providing them with a platform to express their artistic vision while fostering a deeper connection between their work and the community. Through this program, we aspire to create a more cohesive and visually enriching environment that celebrates the distinct identity of our village cores.

2. Concept

The Public Art Banner Program envisions commissioning local artists to create street banners that celebrate and preserve our community's unique heritage, culture, and natural landscape. These banners will serve as a visual narrative, reflecting the identity and spirit of the village cores while enhancing the aesthetic appeal of public spaces. By providing a platform for artistic expression, the program aims to foster a deeper connection between the artists' work and the community, enriching the environment with imagery that honors our past, celebrates our present, and inspires our future. The banners will be strategically placed to maximize visibility and impact, contributing to a cohesive and vibrant public art presence.

2.1 Historical and Cultural Relevance

2.1 Historical and Cultural Relevance

The Public Art Banner Program is deeply rooted in the historical and cultural fabric of our community. Each banner will draw inspiration from key historical events, cultural traditions, and natural landmarks that have shaped the identity of our village cores. By highlighting these elements, the banners will serve not only as decorative pieces but also as educational tools that inform residents and visitors about the rich heritage of the area.

The program will involve extensive research into local history and consultations with community historians, cultural organizations, and Indigenous groups to ensure that the artwork accurately and respectfully represents the diverse narratives that define our community. This approach will help to preserve important stories and traditions, fostering a sense of pride and belonging among community members.

Incorporating symbols, motifs, and themes from different cultural backgrounds, the banners will celebrate the multicultural nature of our community. They will pay tribute to the contributions of various groups, from the Indigenous peoples who first inhabited the land to the many waves of

immigrants who have enriched our cultural landscape. This inclusive approach ensures that the banners resonate with a broad audience, promoting unity and appreciation for our shared heritage.

2.2 Materials and Methods

The materials and methods involved in the Public Art Banner Program are selected to ensure durability, vibrancy, and sustainability.

- Banners will be made from high-quality, weather-resistant fabrics.
- These fabrics will have UV-protective coatings to prevent fading from sunlight exposure.

Design process:

- Begins with a call for proposals from local artists.
- Selected artists will collaborate with community historians, cultural organizations, and Indigenous groups.
- Designs will be digitized and printed onto fabric using advanced printing techniques.

Installation:

- Carried out by a professional team experienced in public art projects.
- Banners will be strategically placed in high-visibility areas.
- Regular maintenance checks will be scheduled to ensure banners remain in excellent condition.
- Necessary repairs or replacements will be promptly addressed.

Educational component:

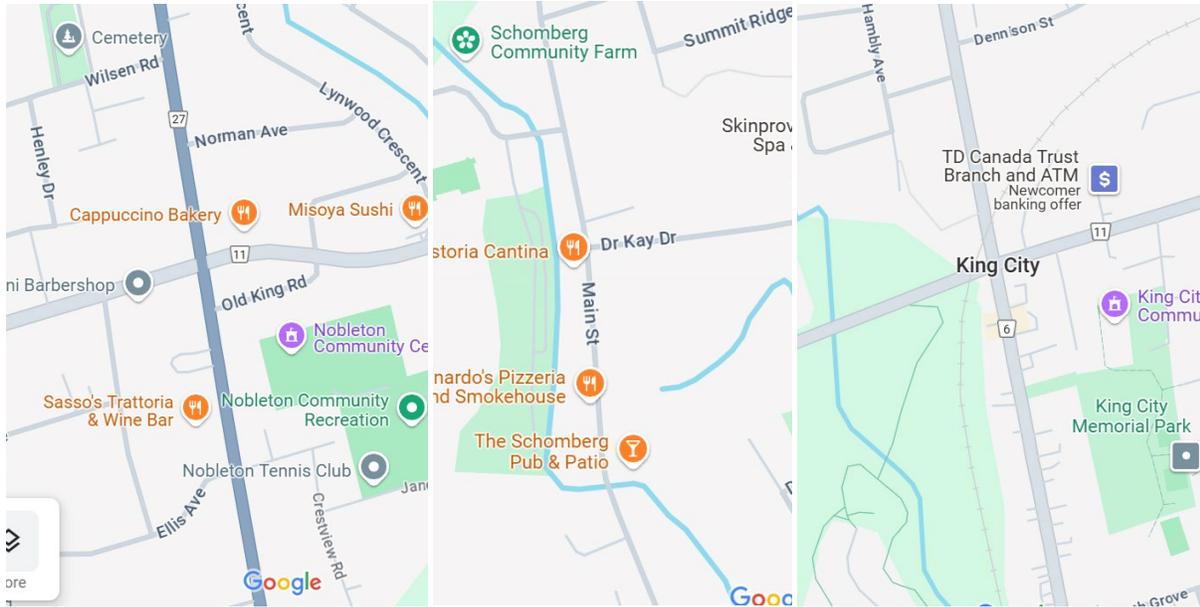
- Information about the historical and cultural significance of each banner will be available through brochures, plaques, and online resources.
- This will help residents and visitors appreciate the heritage and narratives depicted in the banners.

3. Location

Each village core will feature prominently placed banners that capture the essence of the community's unique historical and cultural identity. In the heart of each village, these banners will be mounted in central areas and along main thoroughfares to maximize visibility and engagement.

Notable locations include:

- Major intersections and entry points to welcome visitors and residents alike such as:
 - o Main Street Schomberg
 - o King & Keele, King City
 - o King & Highway 27, Nobleton
- Outside key cultural institutions such as libraries, King Heritage & Cultural Centre, and recreation facilities.



Key Intersections in King Township

4. Budget

Provide a detailed budget breakdown for the project. Include all anticipated costs such as materials, labor, installation, maintenance, and contingencies.

- Design: \$4000 (for three designs)
- Materials: \$5000 (100 banners)
- Installation: In-Kind (Parks)
- Total Budget: \$9000

7. Timeline

Outline the project timeline, including key milestones and deadlines.

- Project Start Date: January 2025
- Call to Artists: January – February 2025
- Design Phase: March 2025
- Production: April 2025
- Installation Date: May 2025
- Completion Date: June 2025

8. Examples



Schomberg Street Gallery Banner, featuring art by local photographer Tom Wray

9. Conclusion

The Public Art Banner Program represents a significant opportunity to celebrate and preserve the unique heritage, culture, and natural landscape of our community. This program not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of our public spaces but also serves as an educational tool, informing residents and visitors about the rich history and diverse narratives that define our village cores.

By investing in this program, we are taking a bold step towards enriching our community's visual landscape and reinforcing our commitment to celebrating and preserving the stories that make our village cores truly unique. We look forward to seeing the positive impact of the Public Art Banner Program on our community and invite everyone to engage with and support this meaningful endeavor.