

Winner selected for Ottawa South Community Centre public art competition

Ottawa – Local artist Deborah Margo has been selected as the winner of the Ottawa South Community Centre public art competition. The winning artwork will be situated in the vestibule, immediately in front of the original fire station doors. It will serve as a celebratory beacon positioned to be viewed both from outside and inside the community centre.

The winning artwork is contemporary in design, celebrating the relationship of co-existence and conversation between the past and present architectural identities of the old fire hall, and the more contemporary renovation and expansion of the new spaces and materials. The free standing relief will consist of ten copper panels, mounted on a tension cable system. The permanent installation will function as a light enhancer, its warm copper tones emphasized by embossed and punctured imagery. All of the imagery for the copper panels will be created in consultation with the Ottawa South Community as Margo will invite them to contribute to an archive focused on their garden spaces and/or favourite recreational spaces in Ottawa South.

The Public Art Program commissions artists' works for display in public spaces. One percent of funds for municipal development projects is set aside for public art in order to enhance the unique character of the space giving it a sense of identity while ensuring that art is accessible to everyone.

The City's Community Art program initiated a two-stage competition to integrate art into the Ottawa South Community Centre. The surrounding community was given a preview of the submissions from four finalists and was asked to record their comments about the proposals. The art selection committee took these comments into consideration prior to the selection of the winning artist's proposal. The project's selection criteria included such things as artistic excellence, experience of the artist, site integration, community engagement and sustainability.

For more information about the new public art, visit ottawa.ca/arts or call 3-1-1.

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For more information:

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