



St. Vital Bridge Rehabilitation

Public Art Working Group

PUBLIC ART RECOMMENDATIONS

September 13, 2022

Participation

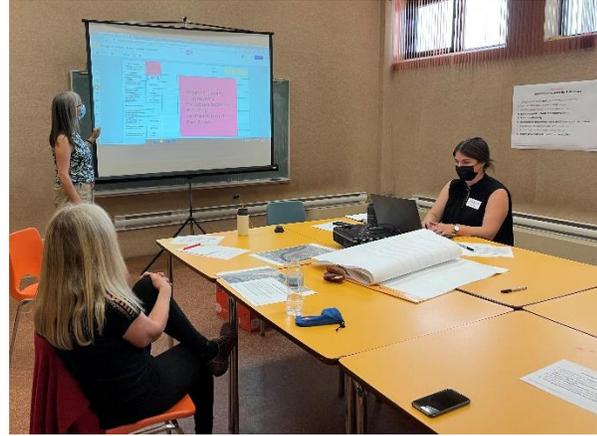
Starting in May 2022, an invitation and self-nomination form to join the St. Vital Bridge Public Art Working Group (referred to as Working Group) was widely distributed to previously identified stakeholders, public art stakeholders, via City of Winnipeg project website, the local neighbourhood newspaper, the Riverview Bugle, and neighbourhood Facebook groups. 12 people applied to participate in the working group, 2 people withdrew their name, and all other 10 applicants became participants of the working group.

Public Art stakeholders identified included:

- Ola Hiraeth studio
- Tony Chestnut clothing and design
- emk clothing
- Evelyn Thora Showroom
- BLDG Architecture
- Trademark Homes

See Appendix A for invitation to participate in the Working Group and see Appendix B for self-nomination form.

The Working Group met 3 times (May 9, 2022, May 30, 2022 and June 28, 2022) at the Fort Rouge Leisure Centre. All meeting notes are included in Appendix C.



Guiding Principles for St. Vital Bridge Public Art

The Working Group developed a set of 9 Guiding Principles for Public Art through a series of brainstorming activities. The guidelines were developed based on a values exercise, which asked the Working Group how public art is valuable to themselves and their community. See Appendix D for complete documentation of results of the values exercise.

The 9 principles that were developed to guide future public art at the bridge were as follows:

1. Convey a sense of the community's unique identity
2. Connect the past, present, and future
3. Visually diversify the environment
4. Embrace the spirit of truth and reconciliation
5. Illustrate the community's diversity
6. Empathize and include various points of view
7. Provoke conversations and new thoughts
8. Facilitate positive experiences for all
9. Ensure physical and mental accessibility

Important Stories and Themes

There were many important stories that the Working Group identified that could be told through a future public art piece. For a complete list of all stories, see Appendix E.

The Working Group selected eight (8) key stories as identified by individuals in the group and affirmed by other participants. Those key stories and themes are as follows:

- a. The Red River and the bridge are an intersection of four neighbourhoods.

- b. What ties many community members together is a deep connection to the Red River.
- c. Change is constant and inevitable, and we need to consider change to be a positive part of life.
- d. Transportation: via river, by bike, or walking
- e. Experience art from all modes of transportation, including biking, walking, skiing, skating, kayaking, canoeing, etc.
- f. Forward thinking – future and change go hand-in-hand.
- g. Reflect stories of the First People in the area and the evolution of the understanding of community.
- h. Should be deep rooted in nature and represent the perseverance of all communities of the area.

To evaluate the stories and themes, the Working Group participants ranked five of the key themes and stories based on how they aligned with the nine guiding principles.

After completion of the matrix and evaluation exercise, three key themes or stories emerged based on their fulfillment of the Guiding Principles:

1. What ties many community members together is a deep connection to the Red River.
2. Reflect stories of the First People in the area and the evolution of the understanding of community.
3. Should be deep rooted in nature and represent the perseverance of all communities in the area.

The Working Group Recommends that the Winnipeg Arts Council proceed with development of public art as part of the St. Vital Bridge Rehabilitation using the 9 Guiding Principles and the suggested three key stories and themes to guide the future Call to Artists, at the discretion of the Winnipeg Arts Council.

The complete evaluation matrix of all stories and guiding principles are found on page 4 for further assessment five key stories.

Evaluation of Key Stories and Themes

WHICH GUIDING PRINCIPLES TO THE KEY STORIES ALIGN WITH?	The Red River and the bridge are an intersection of our neighbourhoods.	What ties many community members together is a deep connection to the Red River.	Change is constant and inevitable, and we need to consider change to be a positive part of life - rooted in the neighbourhood. Forward thinking - future and change go hand in hand.	Reflect stories of the First People in the area and the evolution of the understanding of community.	Should be deep rooted in nature and represent the perseverance of all communities of the area.
1. Create a sense of unique community identity.	<i>High</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High potential</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High</i>
2. Connect the past, present, and future.	<i>High / Medium</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High</i>
3. Create visual diversity in our environment.	<i>Has potential</i>	<i>Has potential</i>	<i>High potential</i>	<i>Has potential</i>	<i>Has potential</i>
4. Be in the spirit of truth and reconciliation.	<i>Has potential</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High potential</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High</i>
5. Embrace diversity.	<i>Low</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High potential</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High</i>
6. Be inclusive and empathetic to different points of view.	<i>Low</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High potential</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High</i>
7. Inspire conversations and new thoughts.	<i>Has potential</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High potential</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High</i>
8. Encourage positive experiences for all.	<i>Low / Medium</i>	<i>Has great potential</i>	<i>High potential</i>	<i>Has great potential</i>	<i>High potential</i>
9. Ensure physical and mental accessibility.	<i>Has potential</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>High potential</i>	<i>Has potential</i>	<i>High potential</i>