

# VALLEY PARK PUBLIC ART JURY REPORT

October 4, 2021

## BACKGROUND

This report is an overview of the discussion and decision of the volunteer citizen jury who met Monday September 13, 2021, to determine which of the six shortlisted artists' proposals for a mural at Valley Park branch should be implemented. They reviewed the submissions in terms of technical issues, artistic excellence, response to context, public consultation results and the proposals' response to the following competition goals:

- Art that celebrates and reflects the history and local relevance of the Upper Stoney Creek community.
- Art that celebrates the local geographic environment and HPL's commitment to sustainability.

## AWARD

After discussing the shortlisted proposals, the jury gave the highest overall score to the proposal by **Vivian Rosas**. The commission for the work will therefore be awarded to Vivian Rosas.

## JURY COMMENTS

The jury members applauded the efforts of the 28 artists who made submissions to the competition. The jury extends its thanks to the artists who shared their ideas by submitting to this competition, especially the six shortlisted artists whose proposals were presented for public comment. There were many excellent proposals.

The jury also appreciates the 338 people who took the time to review the shortlisted submissions, select their preferred proposal and provide comments. These helped inform the jury's decision. The public consultation offered important insight into public reaction to each proposal. While there was enthusiastic support for each of the six proposals, the preference was for Vivian Rosas.' The many perceptive comments in support of this proposal influenced the jury in making its decision to award this proposal the highest score.

Jury comments on each proposal are as follows:

### **Vivian Rosas**

The jury appreciated how Vivian Rosas' submission met the competition goal with an image that celebrates the local geographic environment and HPL's commitment to sustainability. The submission is vibrant, full of local nature and has a feeling of discovery. The jury noted the artist's commitment to represent diverse members of the community, physical activity and a healthy relationship with nature.

The jury selected this work because it best exemplifies a commitment to sustainability, welcomes all members of the community and will have a strong visual impact from a distance and up close.

### **Chantal Rousseau**

The jury appreciated the level of detail in the accomplished and beautifully illustrated individual images. Rousseau's vision of nature is specific to the location and provides a timeless educational perspective. The jury felt the work would speak to all ages and meet the competition goal of celebrating the local geographic environment. The jury felt that the grid format did not permit a narrative and is a challenging format for a mural.

### **Natalie Hunter**

The jury appreciated the modernity and vibrancy of Hunter's submission. The movement and photo negative aesthetic are bold and dynamic and would catch the viewer's attention. The jury recognizes the work met the competition goals of being locally relevant but was confused about the repetition of the bridge as a subject and felt that the work would have been more successful at celebrating Stoney Creek with a broader theme.

### **Lisa Pijuan-Nomura and Jeremy Freiburger**

The jury appreciated Pijuan-Nomura and Freiburger's commitment to the history and local relevance of the Upper Stoney Creek community. References to the Farmerettes and Women's Institute, and other imagery, play homage to important parts of Stoney Creek history. The jury remarked that the familiar design elements felt like a museum display and did not aesthetically translate well into a mural.

### **Allison Burda and Cam Lee**

The jury appreciated Burda and Lee's eye-catching design, especially its celebration of diversity and inclusion, which are paramount in public spaces. Children would be drawn to Burda and Lee's cheerful and fun imagery, although it would undoubtedly inspire members of all ages to investigate the image's details. The jury noted the submission's theme did not meet either of the competition themes.

### **Kayla Whitney**

The jury appreciated the references to long history as told through plants and flowers, and in particular the inclusion of Indigenous food sources. This was a creative way to reflect on the history of the Upper Stoney Creek community. The jury felt the image would age well and use colour and movement in a joyous and inviting way. The jury enjoyed the child as a symbol of the future but wondered if a singular child could represent a future of inclusion.