

Community Piano Program

2021 Report



Keeping it Local

Our goal was to deliver a fully functional outdoor piano to the community; complete with graphics, hand painted mural, or promotional design on the piano surface, and stationed in Esplanade Park for the season.

During early community consultation, the Cultural Advisory Committee (CAC) discussed new initiatives to celebrate black artists. Several visual art projects were in development, and local artist Aisha Chiguichon was selected to work with staff and the CAC on the theme, and design elements of the piano.

Aisha's design celebrates the community as a whole, and encompasses the cultures of Pickering through images of singing and dancing under the project title:

Music Has No Colour



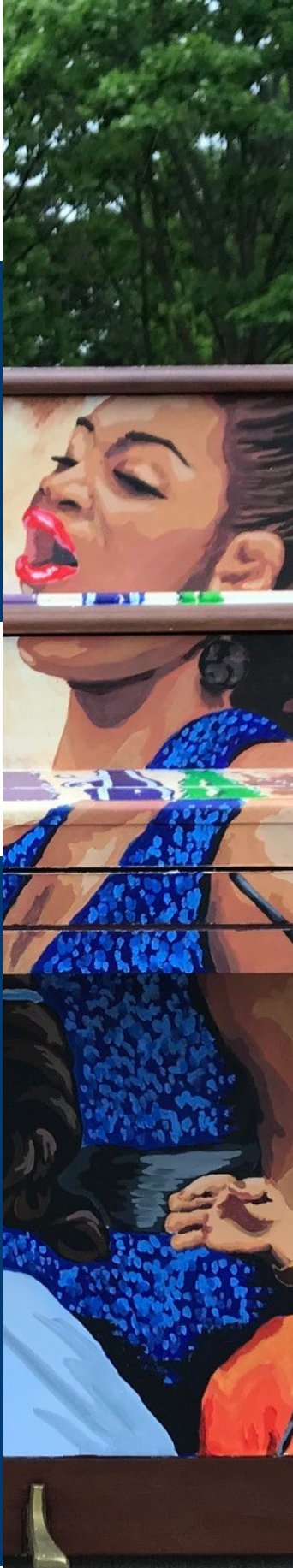
Aisha recorded and filmed a vignette describing the design that can be found at

<https://www.pickering.ca/en/discovering/place4arts.aspx>

The piano was installed in Esplanade Park on May 28, 2021 and stayed operational all season until it's removal on October 5, 2021.

The piano used in the inaugural year of the program was donated to the City. Logistics of transporting it became an early hurdle of the project. To resolve the problem, staff utilized a local moving company. Outdoor elements and weather also needed to be considered. A local upholsterer was hired to fabricate a custom cover to keep the piano dry and safe all season. This investment extended the life of the piano, and kept the piano in tune for longer periods of time.





The piano stayed tuned all season thanks to the services of Paul Hahn & Co.



As the piano and design elements were in good condition, staff worked to relocate the project to the George Ashe Library and Community Centre for an extended showing.



Piano Project Nurtures Community Engagement

The newly formed Pickering Anti Black Racism Taskforce (PABRT) was looking for opportunities to introduce themselves to the community, and staff were looking for ways to showcase the piano artwork and artist during the pandemic. The result was full panel discussion posted on the City's YouTube Channel that was moderated by local radio host Cora Reid, and included the artist Aisha, and members of the PABRT.



Artist Talks:Piano Project Artist Aisha Chiguichon & PABRT, hosted by Cora Reid, Black Rose Movement



2022 Piano Project will launch in February with a budget of \$7,000 to deliver a new playable outdoor piano, wrapped in a community design or with original art work by a commissioned artist.

For more information contact:

Jesse St. Amant
Coordinator, Cultural Services
Community Services Department
905.420.4660 ext. 3607 | 1.866.683.2760
jstamant@pickering.ca

   @pickeringevents



City of
PICKERING