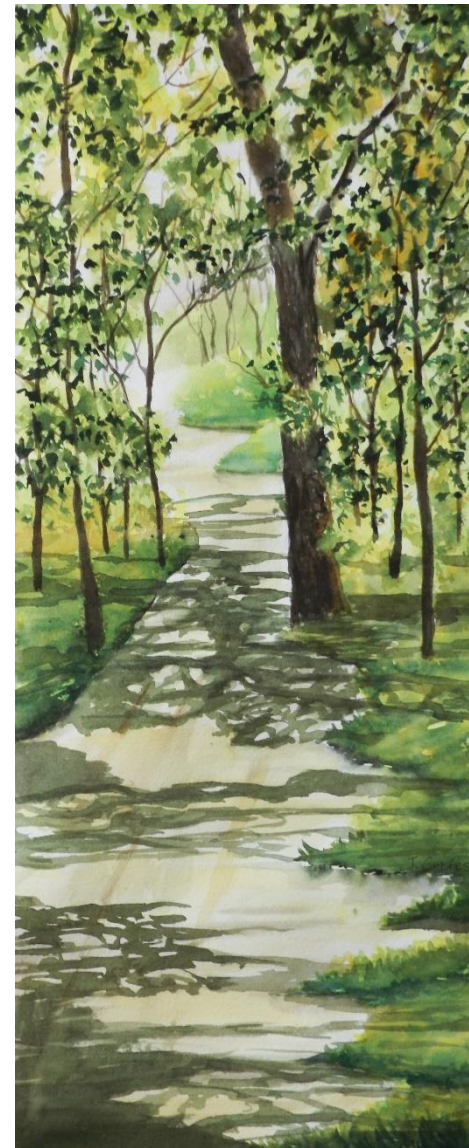


Community Banner Program

2021 Selections

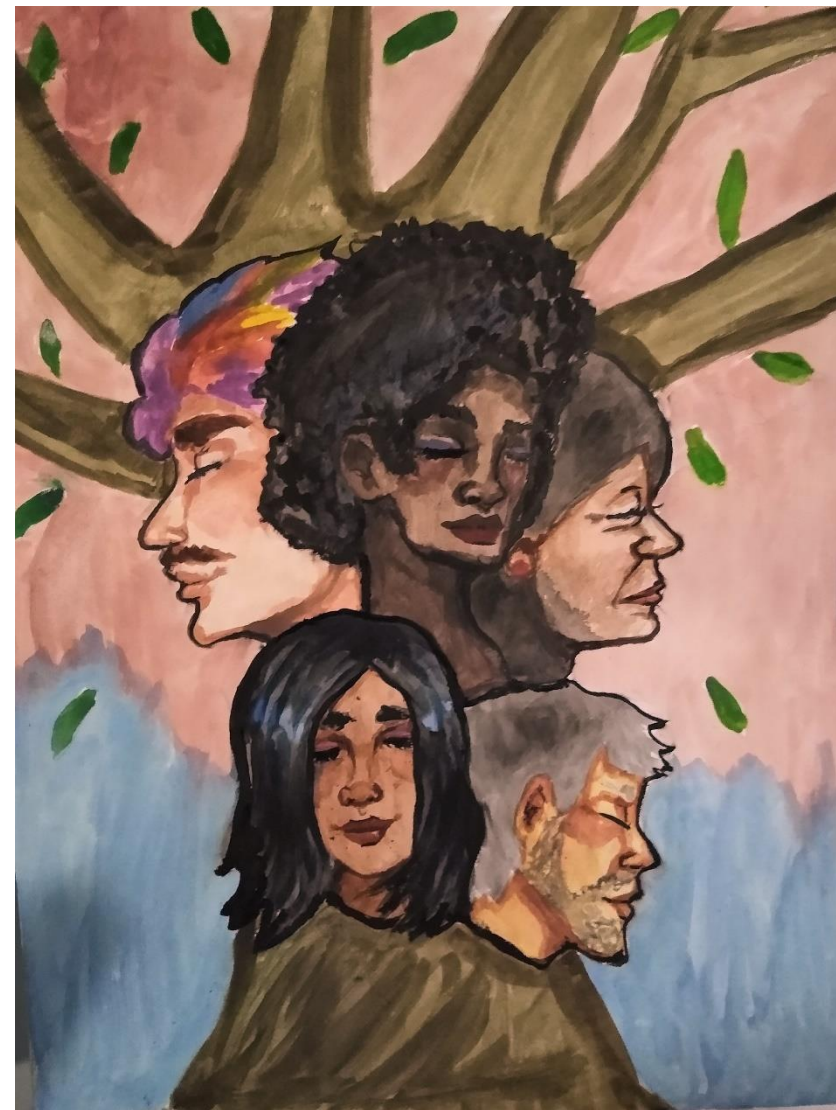
Seaton Trail - Julieta Cortes

The Seaton Trail in Pickering provides the opportunity to get in touch with nature. A good hike will keep you balanced and recharged now that working from home has become more of a norm. As an artist, I always capture pictures that have interesting light and shadows. A hike on the trail is always very rewarding.



Unity - Leanne Gibson

My painting represents the diversity and heritage of Pickering. This piece symbolizes that all people come from the same roots, and as a collective can blossom and create a strong, harmonious foundation. Like an ecosystem, everyone has something beautiful they contribute, we are all the same, yet different, we all work together to keep these roots of our society strong, and strive to change it for the better, as we grow tall and reach for the sky. From roots we came, upwards, unified, together we reach.



Transform - Cznco

For this theme "The Roots of Art" I was inspired by the natural environment of the city of Pickering and thinking about the times my mom and I spent together enjoying nature. I wanted to create a piece that portrays hopefulness and optimism through the use of yellows and oranges, channeling the energy of the sun. I painted butterflies to symbolize community, diversity, collectiveness and transformation. I believe that the role of art and the artist is to reflect the times we live in, so for me, "The Roots of Art" reflect the ability to transform and evolve into something more beautiful and progressive, just like the butterfly.



Summer Star - Jason Lujan

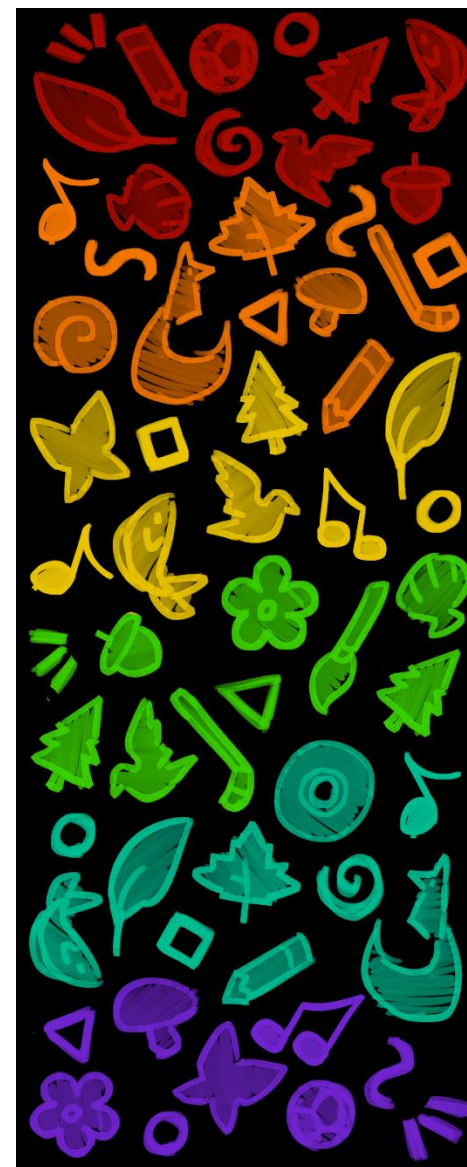
Landscapes are tied to holistic health and there is much research of the healing properties of even seeing specific places. I believe the same can be said of art that presents the idea of a place, particularly when those images (with the aid of symbology) reinforce Native systems of belief and worldview.

The placement of the township is at a location where one is able to see where sky meets water and land at the same time. When the Covid-19 pandemic began to overtake the United States and Canada in March 2020, after a period of sheltering place, I began making gouache paintings on paper centered on my mind's eye picture of the landscapes of southern Ontario. After a while, Native cosmic design elements (rendered in spray paint) began appearing into the pictures. I have often referenced Indigenous cosmology in previous artwork, but this time it was unexpected. The process of creation involved closing my eyes and thinking about horizons - where earth meets sky - and then letting instinct take over for the painting process.



Connection - Sarah Urquhart

When thinking about the theme, the roots of art, I think of the things that inspire creativity. The things that make us human. I've always been fascinated by nature and how it has influenced our lives. It's not just the plants and animals that have inspired me to create my artwork, but also what it inspires in others. Music, literature, movies, paintings...all these things have the ability to bring people together through their connections to nature. The most important thing about them is that they unite us, make us feel, think and create. To me, that's what art is all about.



Serene - Shaadia Rimzy

The inspiration for this piece was the theme “Roots of art.” Right off of the bat, the phrase reminded me of the art of my roots, Sri Lankan art. I love the serenity captured in South Asian art, especially depicting the beauty of women in nature. To capture the essence of traditionally made art made in South Asia, I used bright colours and many brush strokes to give the piece a painterly feel. Through the woman and botany in the painting, I incorporated movement while keeping it relatively flat to mimic Sri Lankan art.

I know many Sri Lankans that live in Pickering, friends, and family included. With this piece, I hope they resonate with the tranquility of the piece, all while being reminded of the bright and bustling culture of Sri Lanka.



A Walk in the Park - Alyssa Devine

My piece is of some wooden statues done by sculptor, Dorsey James that can be found in Alex Robertson Park. I figured that with the theme “roots of art”, these sculptures work very well. They are literally art pieces carved into trees that are rooted into the soil of a beautiful Park in Pickering for people to see and enjoy for years and years to come. It demonstrates the beauty of nature and art all in one.



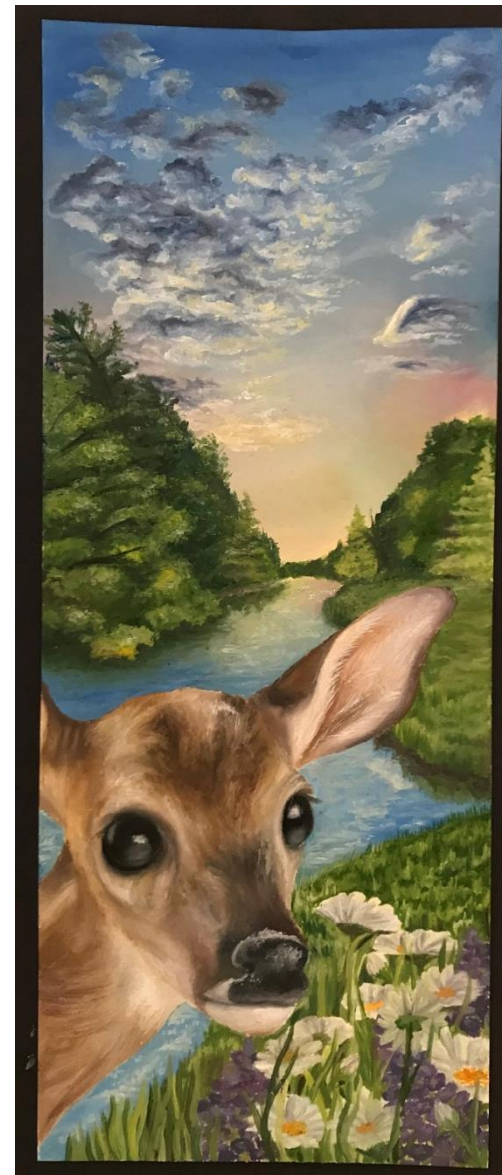
The Gazebo of Esplanade Park - Nic Ginther

My piece is centered around the Gazebo that sits in Esplanade Park. I have always seen this location as a place rooted in the community, as it is the spot for many events, concerts, and celebrations. I illustrated the Gazebo to be under a bright blue sky and surrounded by greenery to show the many lovely days I've spent around it. This piece feels truly like a reflection of the coming together to celebrate community and art.



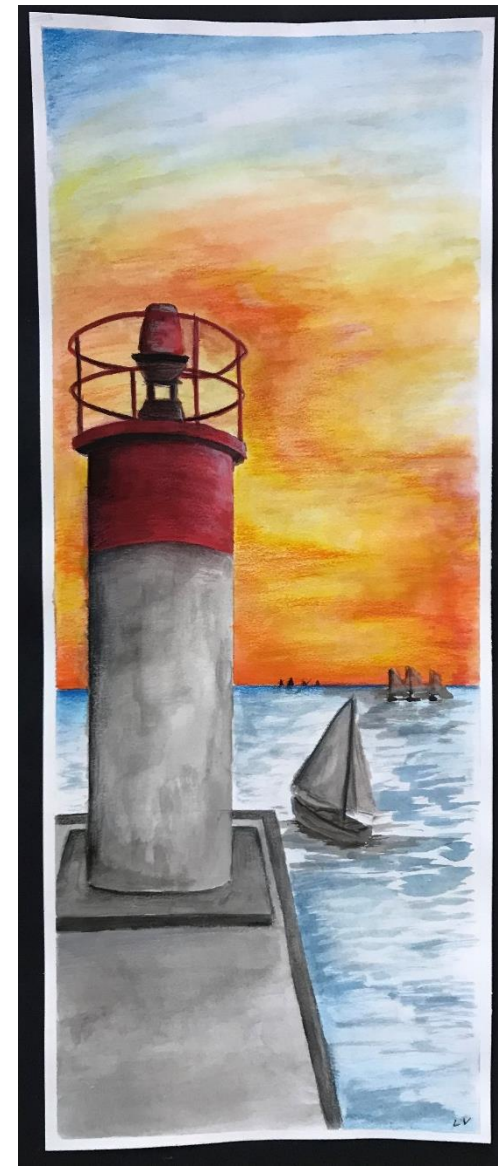
Nature's Influence on Art - Natalie Hodges

Canada's identity and the roots of art are heavily intertwined with nature. They have grown and matured together and will continue to influence the other. Ontario's wildlife is a major inspiration for everything I create. The collective community of Pickering, and many Canadian cities, are built around our natural landscapes. Pickering's illustrious landscapes transcend all of its diverse cultures. As a first-generation Canadian, nature and art have been a connector between my heritage and my identity as a Canadian. Art exists as its own language and history. It tells the story of community, culture and life. Throughout the history of Canada, nature has influenced all aspects of art. That is why wildlife seemed to be a fitting muse for my connection with the roots of art and community of Pickering.



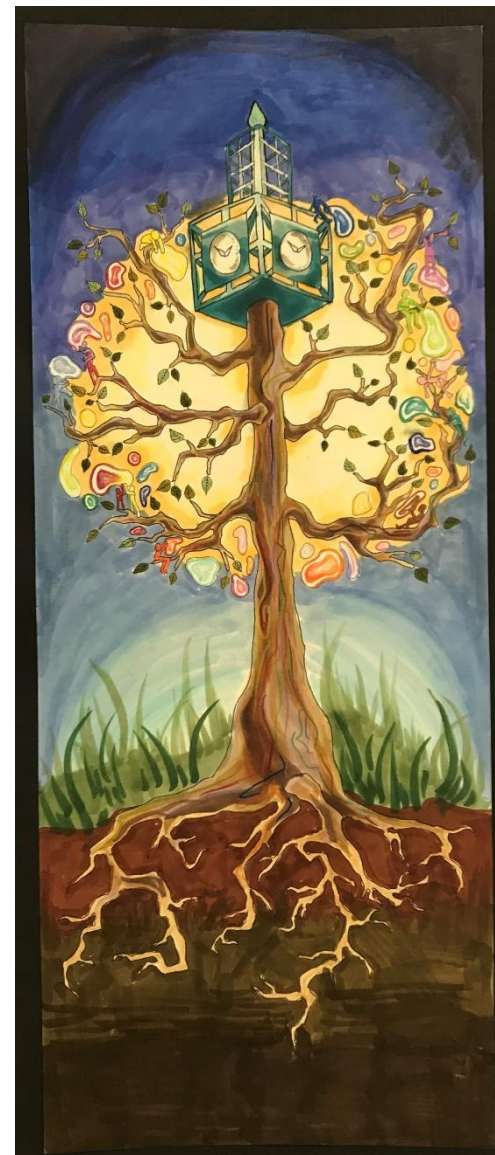
Lighthouse - Lary Vo

Inspired by the beautiful scenery every time I go to Beachfront Park. It was amazing to see the immense amount of diversity and the community that exists in Pickering. In this piece, I wanted to show what Pickering provides to its people and the community. I used watercolor and pencil crayons to highlight the vibrant colors of Pickering and the feelings one would get - joy, relaxation, and a sense of freedom



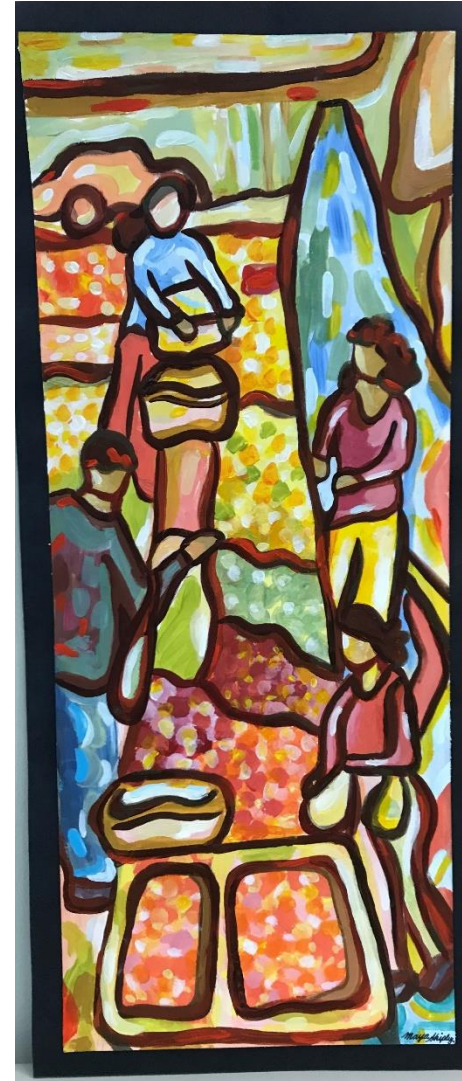
Rooted in Culture - Sterling Wedge

I was inspired by the theme "roots of art", hence why a tree was the center of my piece. I also included a part of the clock tower from city hall, since city hall is the heart of Pickering, and where I personally grew up around. Through studying the rich history of different cultures in Pickering, I felt inspired to draw people contributing their culture (depicted as colourful orbs), and to have their colours integrated in the veins of the tree. Overall, everyone's unique culture and history contribute to Pickering every day, and I wanted my piece to recognize that since the roots of art are grounded in our unique experiences and backgrounds.



Day in the market - Maya Shipley

This piece is called “Day in the market” by Maya Shipley. This banner represents the culture, heritage and diversity of the Pickering area by looking at it through a lens of the community aspects that make Pickering special. In this poster, I chose to recreate the vibrant and energetic scene of the market and the community elements that it brings. I specifically went for bright colors because I feel that they replicate the happy atmosphere I feel when I’m strolling through markets. I was inspired to use this scene to represent the theme of “the roots of art” because I believe that art comes from what we see and feel around us.



Roosters - Francis Nodora

The design of this piece was heavily inspired by the roosters that roamed freely in my home town back in the Philippines. The rooster was the first animal I ever drew as a kid and from then on my interest for art has only grown. The rooster is a big part of the "roots" of my artistic journey.



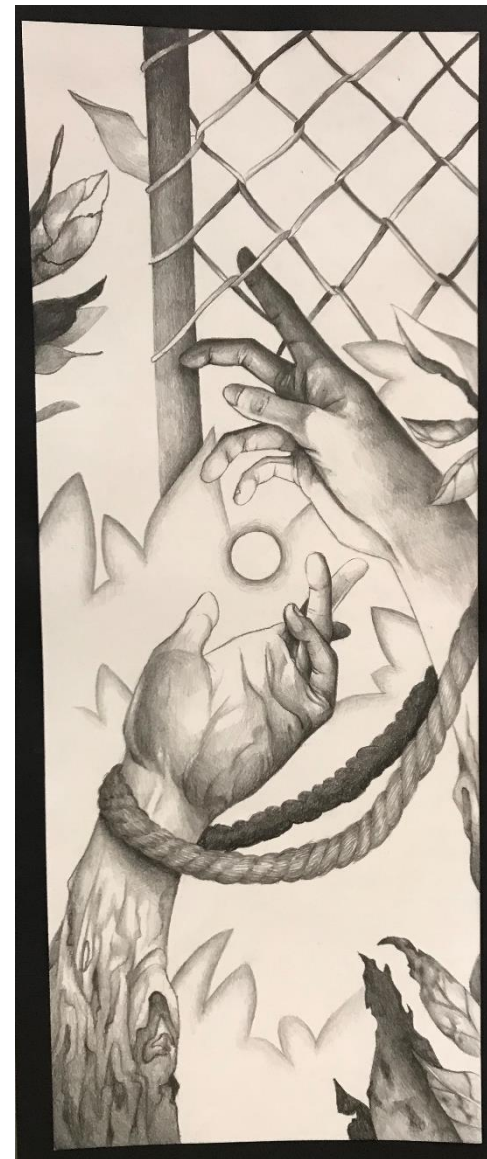
Beauty Within and Around - Jackie Sayers

My piece titled “Beauty Within and Around” represents how art stems from the beauty of nature surrounding us. Art is a beautiful language that roots from inspiration and tells an audience how an individual may see the world. For my painting, I illustrated the given theme through bright colours and metallic accents, as well as by images of tree roots and nature scenery referenced from Pickering. From the top of my painting to the bottom, it displays a bluebell field, a sunset sky and a sandy beach. Each scene is framed by tree roots, as a way to interconnect the piece together. The distinct scenes signify how nature surrounds us with beauty and the interwoven tree roots speak to the fact art drives from these sights.



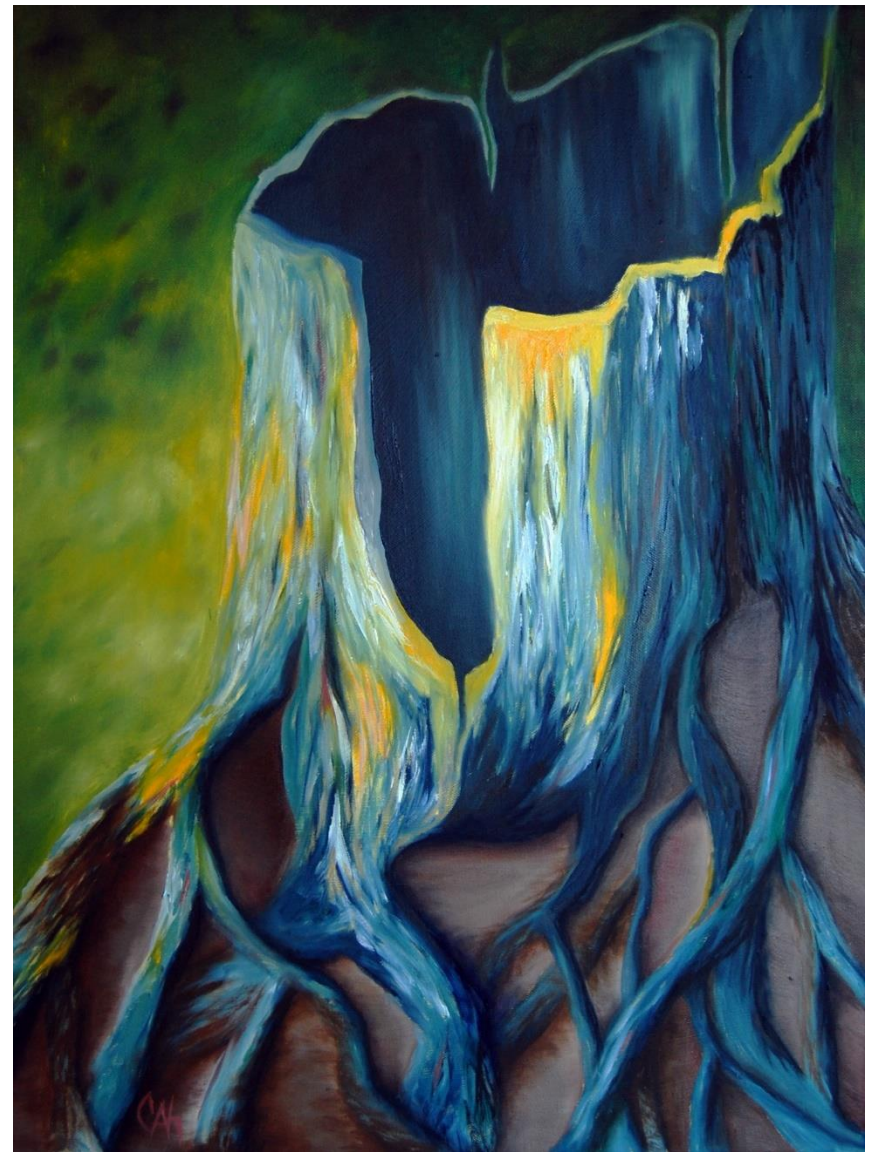
Interconnection - Mike Lee

My piece titled Interconnection, speaks to the way relationships and connections are built through art. When I read the prompts like culture, heritage, and diversity, I realized that connection was the basis for all those things. The theme Roots of Art allowed me to connect the art aspect to my piece, and create a narrative that features both the motif of plants and vegetation, as well as connection and togetherness. Through the background of a chain-link fence consumed by leaves and bark hands bounded by rope, I showed the overlap between the themes. The hand's cup a glowing orb, representing creation and how culture, heritage, and diversity all nurture the ability to create. My piece highlights the relationship between art and the connections people have, and how art cannot exist without connections and connections cannot exist without art.



Inside - Cheryl-Ann Hills

Walking along the many park trails of Pickering with my daughter, I often come upon these tree stumps who serve as reminders of yesterday. Trees reflect our own growth, planting roots firmly, bending with each struggle adapting to the seasons and changes in the environment. These two paintings of tree stumps were inspired by the trees of Rouge National Urban Park. Our culture and heritage are rooted in the land of Pickering, its lush parks and forests and flowing waters. The painting “Inside” reminds us to see past the superficial and inside our own hearts and minds, our beliefs rooted and firm.



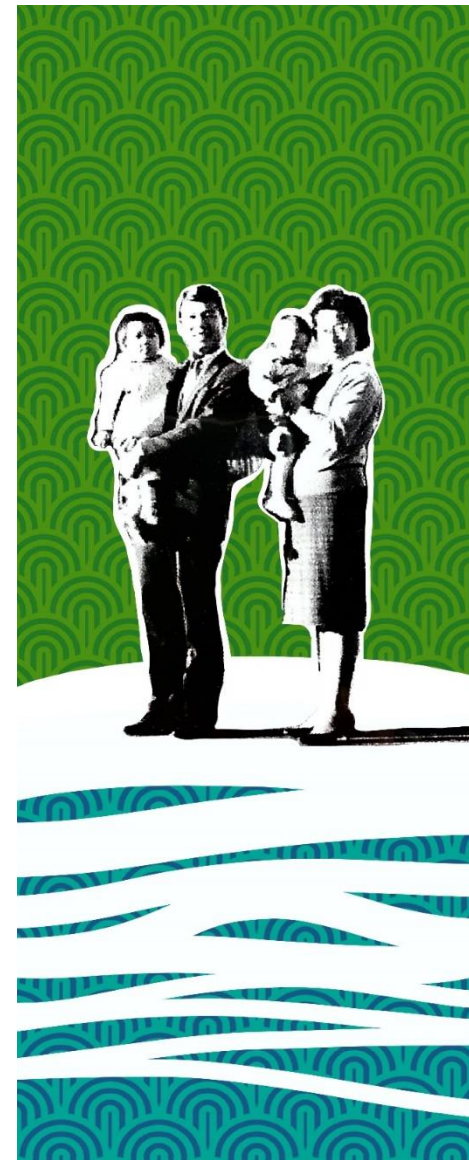
Wood Cut - Cheryl-Ann Hills

Walking along the many park trails of Pickering with my daughter, I often come upon these tree stumps who serve as reminders of yesterday. Trees reflect our own growth, planting roots firmly, bending with each struggle adapting to the seasons and changes in the environment. These two paintings of tree stumps were inspired by the trees of Rouge National Urban Park. Our culture and heritage are rooted in the land of Pickering, its lush parks and forests and flowing waters. The painting “Wood Cut” reflects the fragility of life and how we are a small part of everything around us.



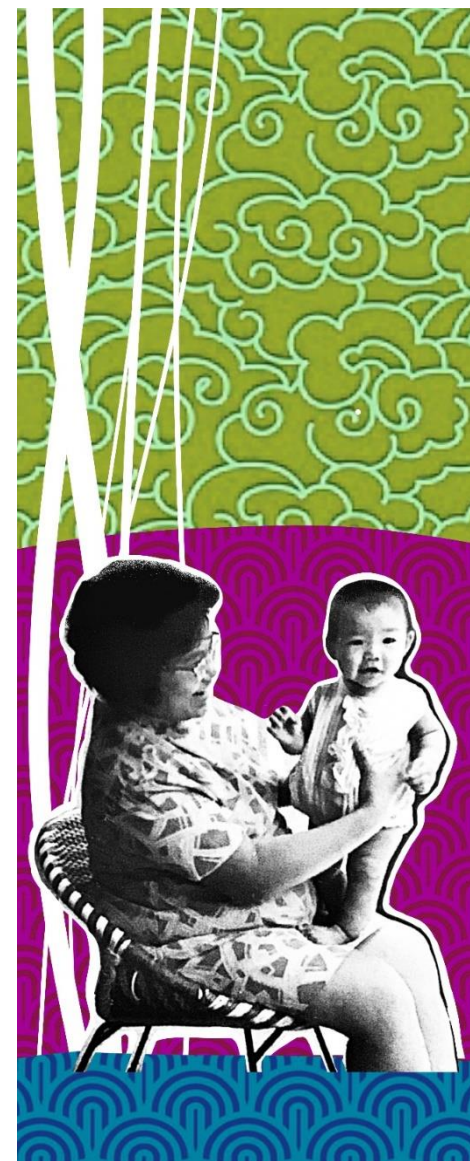
Rolling Hills & Rushing Water - Don Kwan

This artwork is inspired by the idea of family, community, travel and the energy of the landscape. I sourced vintage family photographs and paired them with abstract patterns that evoke the beauty of nature in our everyday life. The images, shapes and colours represent the diversity of life and cultures.



Big Sky - Don Kwan

This artwork is inspired by growing up in a family that enjoyed travelling and exploring different parts of Ontario, including Pickering. I sourced vintage family photographs and paired them with abstract patterns that evoke the beauty of nature in our everyday life. This artwork also celebrates family connections.



Colours of Fall - Sushma Sharma

“Colours of Fall” highlights the beauty of change during seasons which is inspired by the natural scenery in the City of Pickering. The colour changing leaves and abundant trees symbolizes the abundance and growing cycle in one’s life. Fall is a physical embodiment of change, the transitions of colour, weather, and animals migrating from their native homes symbolize temporary pleasures. The artwork celebrates the community and landscape of Pickering.



The Lighthouse - Sushma Sharma

Plainly speaking, a lighthouse serves to provide light to incoming ships, illuminating a way home during dark nights. Pickering is home to many lighthouses and is known for its welcoming gaze and atmosphere. It is home to many and will always serve as a reminder that no matter how far one goes, the lighthouses of Pickering will always welcome them home.



Norsowea - Mario Dimain

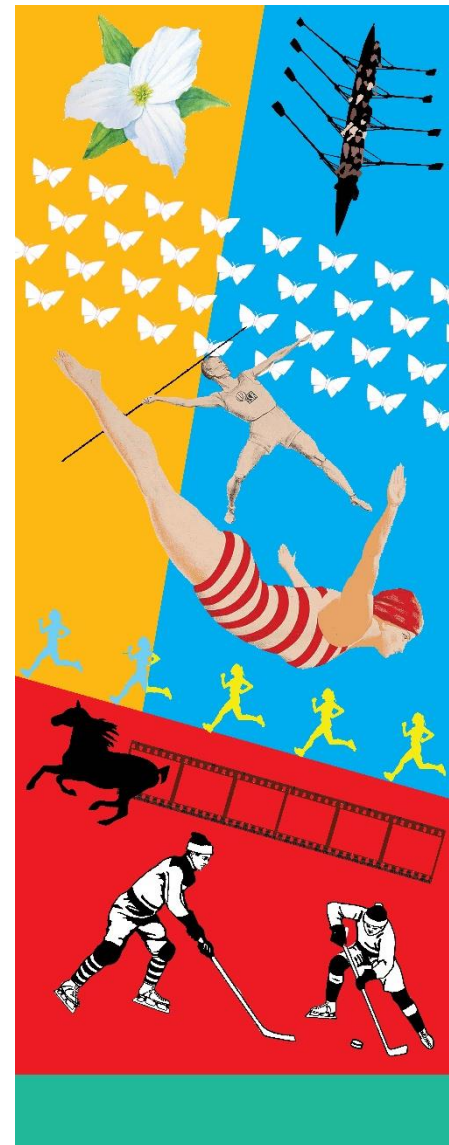
If we should know the roots of art, we must also know the seed that generated the roots. The seed is the challenge that needs a ground to sprout. This year's theme: "The Roots of Art" well signifies the seed, and the Pickering Banner Program is the perfect ground. The roots that grew from the seed has reached deeply into the hearts of Canadian artists who are now infused with the needed inspiration to create the art. NORSOWEA represents North-South-West-East corners of the multi-cultural society of Pickering. They are the four squares merging together as one image of a diverse city. The dripping white paint over the random colours are the symbolic roots of art. The gold dots are the artists, touched by the roots.



John Mathews

The banner design emphasises Pickering's unique heritage and natural waterfront setting, which contribute to the city's sense of place. Visitors and residents use the picturesque waterfront area for a range of activities that include boating, jogging, swimming and winter sports. The artwork also celebrates the City of Pickering's place within popular culture, as a filming location. The banner makes reference to the 1979 film 'The Black Stallion', which was shot at a farm in north Pickering near Altona. A galloping black stallion and filmstrip is referenced in the lower half of the artwork.

The design also features references to the natural world, through Ontario's provincial flower, the Trillium, and butterflies, which highlight Pickering as a place where both residents and nature can thrive.



Love from the lake - Yasaman Mehrsa

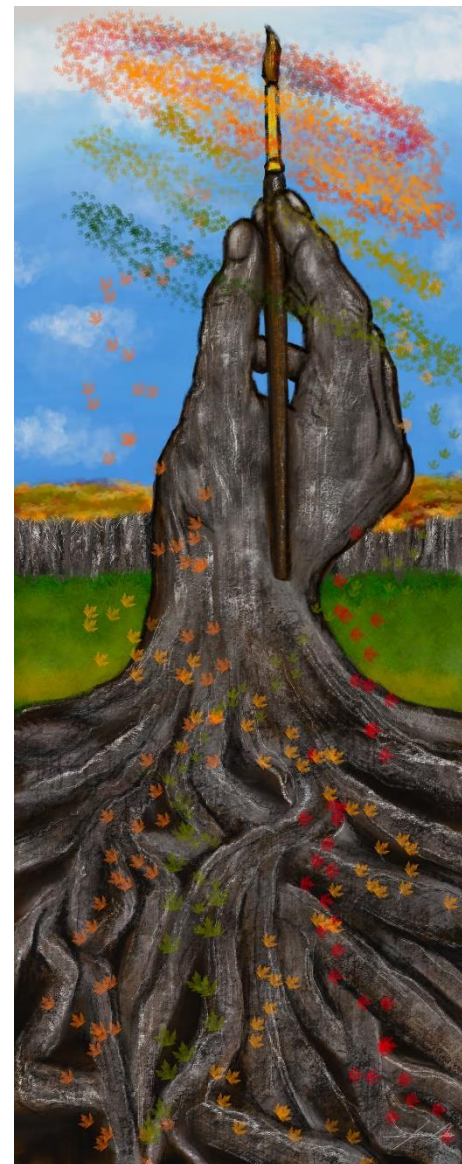
Art is one of the main means of communication that can connect the world and reflect on cultural and social dynamics. Art represents people, tradition, culture, freedom, understanding, unity, and harmony. I believe art is one of the purest forms of communication; Art allows people from different cultures to tell stories, share experiences, and connect to others. In my view, the root of art is simply an expression of our nature and existence. I get inspired by colours, patterns, sounds and shapes in nature. I believe that nature is both all around us and deep within us; Art can open our eyes to the intricacy and beauty of the natural world. Pickering's waterfront is the inspiration for me to create an artwork for this banner project. The colourful trails along the shoreline are a peaceful place to relax, connect, and enjoy the lake. My vision is to spread love, peace, and happiness with my art. My design depicts a hand holding a big heart in the lake and is spreading love to the communities.



The Roots of Art - The Brush - Jason Das

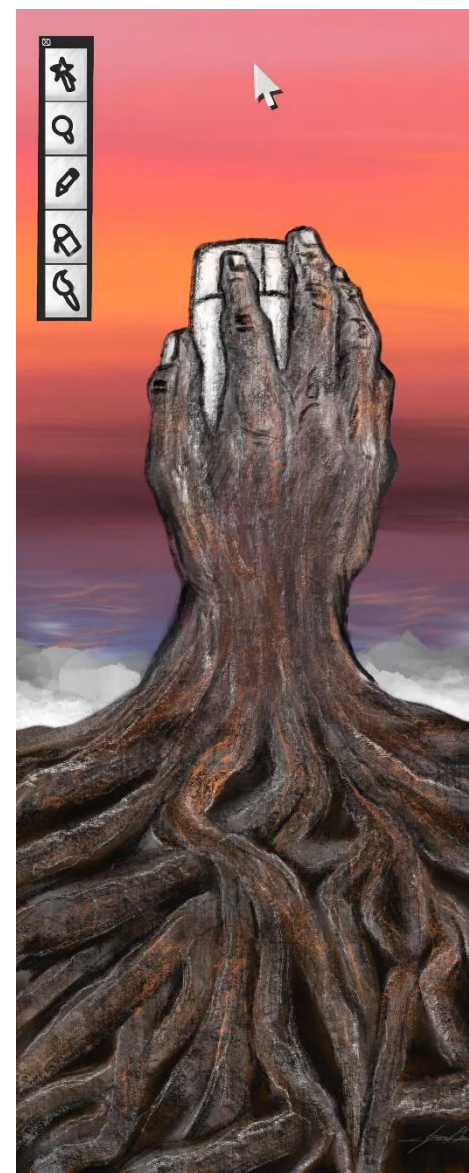
When I think about the theme around “The Roots of Art”, I think about myself as an artist. How it all began was in Pickering. I remember my parents signed me up for a painting class at the Pickering Recreation Complex. There I learned how to use a paintbrush with skill and finesse and using mediums like watercolour, acrylic, and oil paints.

When I think of roots, I think of the large ones created by old trees. Trees like the Sugar Maple Leaf that surround the Durham region. Watching their leaves change colour in the fall around the Rouge Valley is a sight to be seen



The Roots of Art - The Mouse - Jason Das

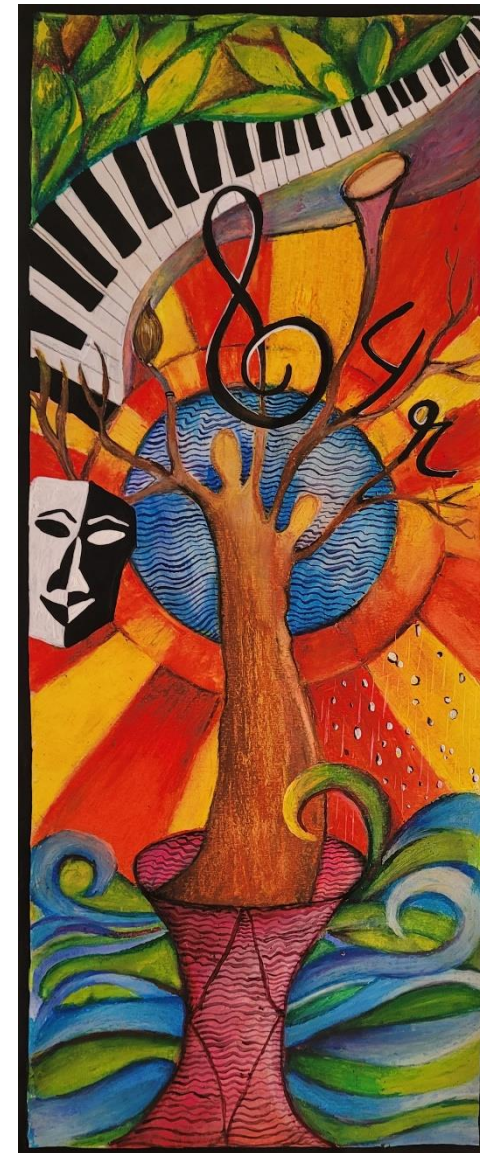
As an extension of “The Roots of Art”, I reflect on the growth I’ve taken as an artist. I’ve worn many hats in my career, and one of the things I loved learning about is the advancement of digital art. I was an early adopter who loved signing out any books I could get out of the Pickering Library, or using the computer labs at my old high school; Pine Ridge Secondary to learn Photoshop. Using a mouse to create visual wonders, such as capturing an old Sugar Maple Leaf tree by the Pickering Waterfront. I wanted to capture the waterfront at dusk. Like a large canvas ready to point and click a new creation for everyone to see.



RISING HIGH - MEHTAAB WACHHAIR

During the pandemic, I visited Pickering and felt welcomed to the city, even during one of the hardest phases of our lives. This artwork represents the strong values that the people of Pickering have. The figures in the tree trunk show the strength of the community and represent the oneness this pandemic has caused upon everyone. The rain drops and sun and moon behind the tree, represent the people of Pickering working day and night, rain, or shine to keep art flourishing. The purple drum represents the beat of life and the design in it reflects sand dunes and the waves in blue and green reflect the waterfront and land.

This is because various artwork has originated from or are made from multiple places around the world in water or on land. The numbers and letters in this artwork show the art of writing/literacy/numeracy, the mask shows the art of drama/theatre, and bright colors show the liveliness, happiness, and joyous spirit of the Pickering community. The piano and musical notes represent the harmony of life and the leaves represent the art of greenery and agriculture maintained in this community. The different forms and roots of art throughout the city which have been represented in this artwork, shows the diversity of the city and that everyone is welcome in the city of Pickering.



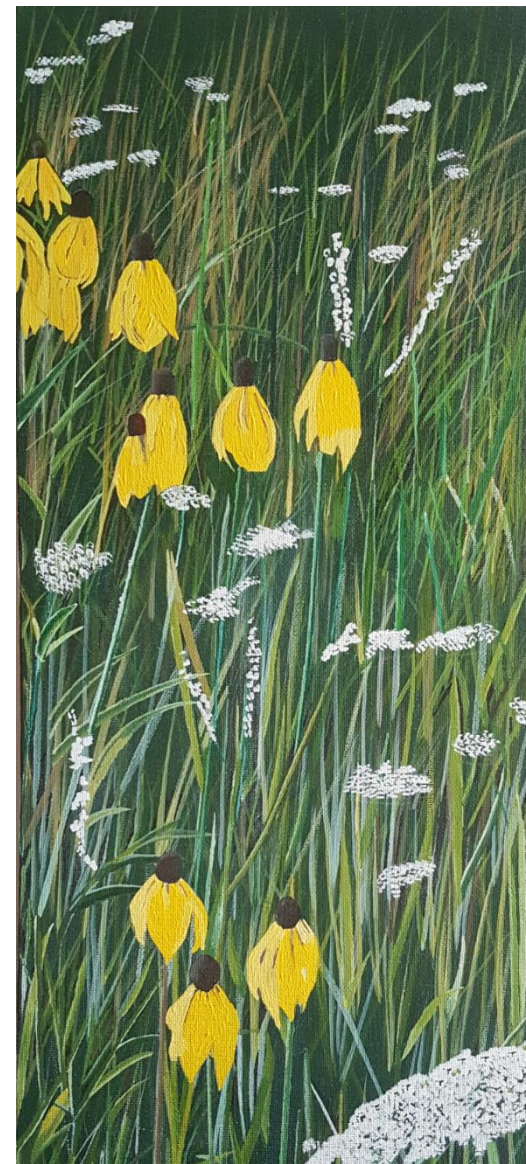
THE ORCHESTRA OF ART - MEHTAAB WACHHAIR

The roots of art could have multiple meanings. I believe that the roots of art come from various places as there are different things deemed as “art”. Art includes music, visual arts, performing arts, architecture, construction, nature, and it is also seen as a form of unity between one another, hence the instruments (drum, tuba, piano), art supplies (brushes, color palette), tools (hammer, ladder), waves, sun/moon, people, and rainbow (which shows inclusion) in this artwork. The hands holding and raising the tuba represents the diversity, unity, and spirit of taking art of the Pickering community to the next level. These various art forms shown, represent the various types of roots of each type of art in Pickering.



In Harmony - Tuncel Mustafa

Through the Pickering wildflowers, this artwork represents the diversity of people that make up the Pickering community. This is reflected on the many variations of colors, shapes, sizes, and origins from different types of flowers. Different cultures have come together to form a harmony with equity, each bringing values from their unique and colorful backgrounds. I believe that this composition is going to well-represent Pickering's multi-culture richness.



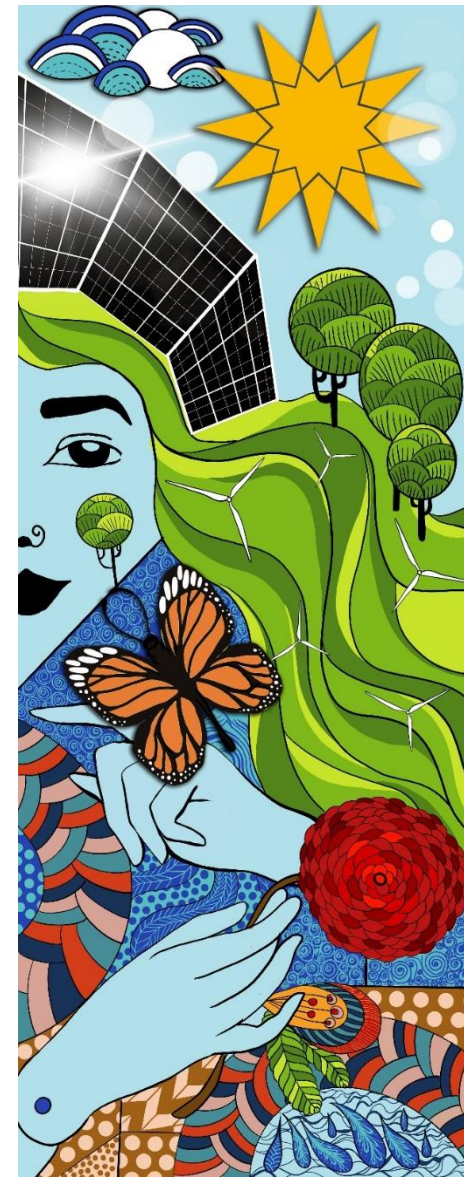
Origin, Diversity, Creation and Recreation - Enrique Bravo

This illustration honours aboriginal art as the origin of all artistic manifestations of the city, as well as the historical heritage. The children playing and painting represents the cultural and artistic diversity that time and history are creating in the melting pot of nationalities and artistic tendencies are what the new generations are spreading throughout the community of Pickering.



Clean Energy 1 - Asli Alin

Inspired by the diverse community that forms Pickering, I offer two distinct original banner designs as my proposal. The first of my proposed designs shows an illustration of hands clasped together around a centre, which symbolizes the heart of a community. In the image, hands are displayed, presented in an array of brilliant colours to represent the diverse background of individuals, and to emphasize the idea of how a strong community is built via the connectivity developed amongst its individuals, irrespective of their background, cultures, beliefs, and/or the colour of their skin.



Diversity- Asli Alin

Inspired by the diverse community that forms Pickering, The second design is a reflection upon the prominent identity Pickering has as being one of the most important energy centres in the country, and its efforts to move forward, and to find ways to produce energy in cleaner, and sustainable ways. This second image depicts mother nature wearing a glowing crown made from solar panels; her green hair is adorned with wind turbines as flowers. Mother Nature is holding a rose on one hand, and a butterfly in the other, symbolizing prosperity and the lightness of sustainable energy.



Pollinator Painters - C.M. Duffy

I cut my imagination loose as it lost itself in the forest of ideas that were conjured by the theme, Roots of Art. Several concepts were culled from these sojourns. I knew that I specifically wanted to tap into a concept that wove into it an embodiment, suggestion or literal depiction of roots or plants. I singled out flowers as the focal stars of endless artworks crafted by people over the ages since they're vibrant works of natural art in their own right. With this direction I explored creative metaphors that could utilize and celebrate the inherent beauty of flowers.

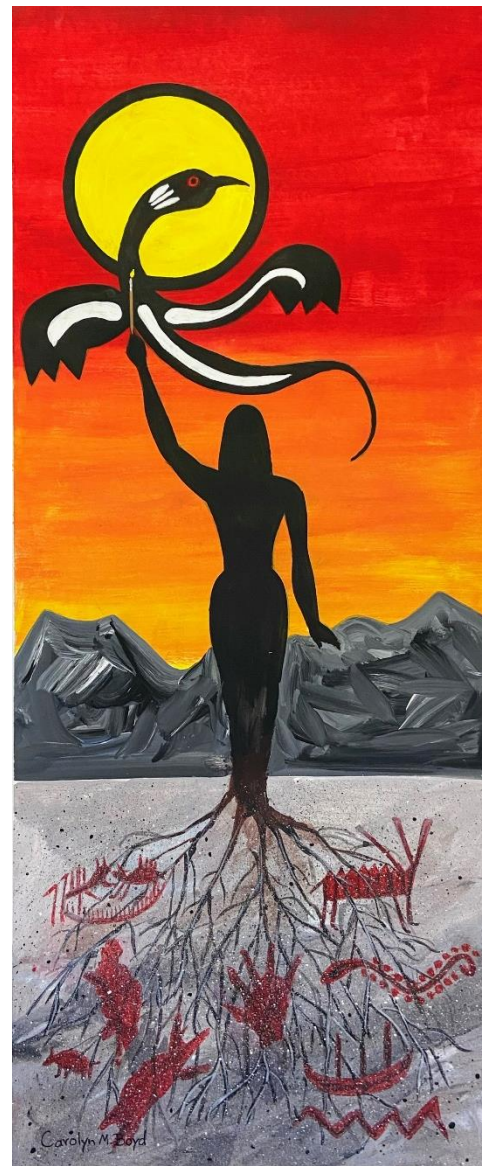
Ruminating upon flowers and their practical roles within nature I inevitably mused on their wondrous function and support for a multitude of wildlife. Without flowers our lives and the rest of the planet's balance would not be possible. So many species rely on flowers and in turn these flowers depend on their pollinators. We all benefit from this symbiotic embrace. And so within my image the pollinators give vibrant colour to the flowers as they team up together to create the final expressions of them within the painting. The flowers return the favor by giving the pollinators their own hues.

Through this whimsical scenery I hope to evoke thoughts about our own symbiotic relationship with art itself. Art can nourish and sustain us all by providing meaning, communication and beauty. It is a vital and necessary give-and take that we all will participate in for as long as we co-exist with the birds, bees and flowers on this planet- and for as long as there is blank canvas, paper or cave walls!



Paint The Sky From The Roots - Carolyn M. Boyd

From ancient pictographs on rock, the roots of art come alive. A woman paints the sky with great flair and vibrant expression. The world around her comes alive with hope and joy. She welcomes the new day with abundant enthusiasm.



For more information about the program please contact:

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