



Community Banner Series

Artist Statements

Aisha Chiguichon

“The City of Pickering has many dimensions and characteristics, but one thing that unites the city is the Rouge River that runs through it. It is part of the history, the culture, the natural beauty and where families come together.

My concept series “A river runs through it” explores all the facets that people who live and visit the city know and remember it for. When someone hears Pickering, they instantly think of Ontario’s power centre. However, it is an industrial, technological and manufacturing hub as well. For those familiar with the area it is also known for its healthy art and culinary community. Visitors flock to its beautiful conservation area where they can camp and experience nature right in the middle of the city. Pickering also has a complex and deep history and can be a delight for history buffs to explore. Part of that history is the transformation of the Pickering community into a diverse mosaic of cultures that has enriched and grown with time. With that growth, Pickering has become a hub for people of all stripes to raise their families.

My intent for this series, in addition to bringing a splash of colour, is for visitors, as they see all these seven aspects of the City of Pickering, to see all it has to offer. I have made the designs captivating enough to prompt people who see them to stop and see all the Easter eggs and prompt them to discover them themselves.”

Yen Linh Thai

In preparation for my proposed banner designs, inspiration was collected by 3 different methods:

RESEARCH

Information was collected on the Pickering and Durham region parks. I focused on conservation efforts and local plant/wildlife species, particularly species at risk and under observation.

City of Pickering. "Master Environmental Servicing Plan Amendment (MESPA)." July, 2013

City of Pickering Website "Wildlife" and "Parks & Trails." Accessed 2023

Durham Environmental Advisory Committee. "Natural Areas as Neighbours." 2017

iNaturalist. "Durham, ON, CA." Accessed 2023

Nature Conservancy Canada Website "Common tern." Accessed 2023

The Canadian Legal Information Institute. "Species at Risk in Ontario List." Endangered Species Act, 2007
(last amendment, 2023)

The Greenwood Conservation Area Management Plan Advisory Committee Toronto and Region Conservation Town of Ajax.
"Greenwood Conservation Area Management Plan." 2004.

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA).

"Altona Forest Terrestrial Biological Inventory and Assessment (updated)." 2014.

Yen Linh Thai

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

I reached out to friends and community with a short google form and through instagram. There was space for photo submissions and a few questions about local flora/fauna and green spaces. There was only one photo submitted (a backyard groundhog!) but I received more written responses. The intention was to have the creation process be collaborative and reflective of the community so I did my best to include or research suggestions.

I reached out to the library as well. If there was more time it would have been great to use their space to facilitate in-person community engagement.

What plants, animals and bugs live around the community?

Groundhog, Bunnies, Cedar, Snapping turtle, Otter, Mulberry trees, Grey tree, frog
Beachgrass, Beech trees.

What is your favourite green space in Pickering and what do you love about it?

Altona forest, all the large mature trees and untouched nature

Petticoat Creek Conservation Area, being near the water/Lake Ontario

Petticoat Creek Conservation Area

Beachfront park/Millennium Square

Grand Valley Park

Yen Linh Thai

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EXPLORATION & DOCUMENTATION

I spent some time exploring the Rotary Frenchman's Bay West Park and the Petticoat Creek Conservation Park (I chose a large conservation area, and a waterfront for variety). Altona Forest was also on the list for the wetlands but the forest was too dense at the time to venture in further.

Oliviana Cinco

“The inspiration for this series was inspired by the City of Pickering, its community members and all the natural beauty that exists within this area. Being a resident of Pickering I wanted to focus on motifs that were personal to us and tell the story of what makes this place special.

From the wildlife that roams within the Rouge Hill valley to the outdoor activities that reinforce community and family the work draws on the the things that define us. With a focus on the different seasons and their interchanges this collage series provides the viewer points of familiar connection with a design aesthetic that lets them find something new each time they interact with the work.”