

Monday, October 4th, 2021

**MANIDOONSAG IMAA
MIKINAAKO-MINISIING**

SACRED SPIRITS OF TURTLE ISLAND

Commemorating the history and legacy of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls & Two-Spirited.

For some Indigenous peoples, Turtle Island refers to the continent of North America.

In various Indigenous origin stories, the turtle is said to support the world, and is an icon of life itself.

Turtle Island therefore speaks to various spiritual beliefs about creation and for some, the turtle is a marker of identity, culture, autonomy and a deeply-held respect for the environment.

Visit www.gfrrl.org for more information on this project and future events.



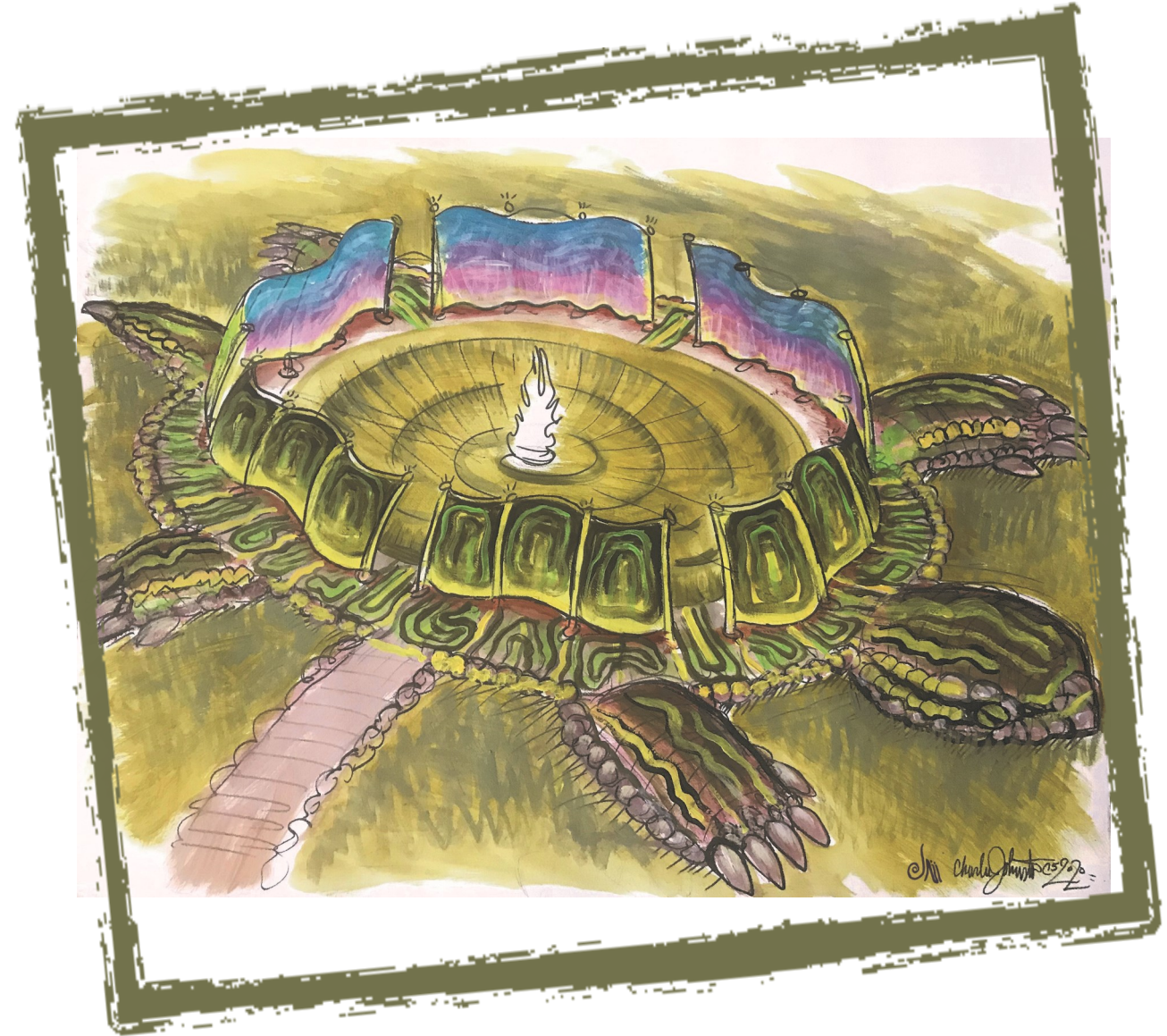
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MANIDOONSAG IMAA MIKINAAKO-MINISIING SACRED SPIRITS OF TURTLE ISLAND

Inviting our community to step into an experience like no other of its kind.



**Unveiled, Monday October 4th, 2021
Gaynor Family Regional Library**

●●●○ Vision

Create a double sided, interactive, amphitheater shaped sculptural mural that measures over 2000sf or 70ft in diameter.

Four sections composed to align with the journey of the cycle of life and a Spiritual Path of the Indigenous People of Turtle Island. Each section measures 32ft in length and align with the four directions of traditional teachings, depicting the spiritual journey of the Anishinaabe:

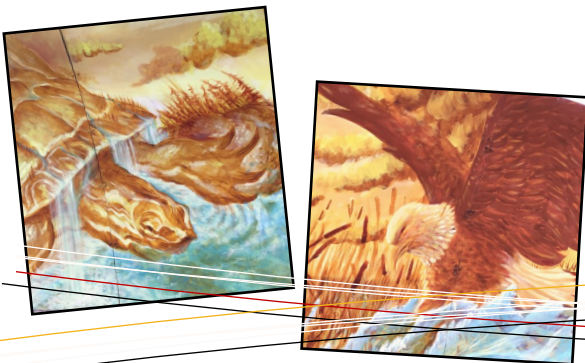
Stages of Life Creation
(The Story of Our Creation)
East - Yellow Panels,

Dance of Life
(Our Time Here on Mother Earth)
South - Black Panels,

Journey of Exiting Life
(Our Journey Into the Next Realm)
West - Red Panels

Spirit World
(When We Sit With Our Ancestors)
North - White Panels

Painted on each segment of the turtle's shell are the powerful images of the



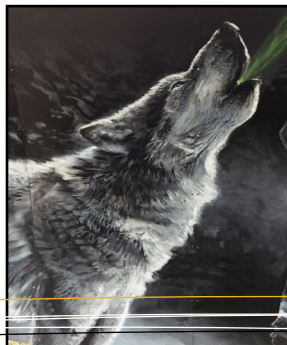
●●●○ Healing

The amphitheater space sets a feeling of standing within the shell of the turtle's structure where community and MMIWG2S families can gather and help heal together.

Know that prior to being born, we are all Sacred Spirits, as we enter and live our human existence on Mother Earth we are Sacred Spirits, when our lives get interrupted through acts of violence resulting in the becoming one of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls and Two-Spirited we are still Sacred Spirits; just as we are when we sit alongside our Ancestors in the Spiritual Realm.

In 2019 as an Anishinaabe Ikwe and a MMIWG2S Family member and Survivor of Violence, Jeannie White Bird submitted a proposal on behalf of Rolling River First Nation to the Department of Women and Gender Equality/Government of Canada to Commemorate the History and Legacy of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

With this support the foundation was formed to honour MMIWG2S Families and Survivors of Violence in creating a healing space that also invites community to learn and share.



●●●○ Project

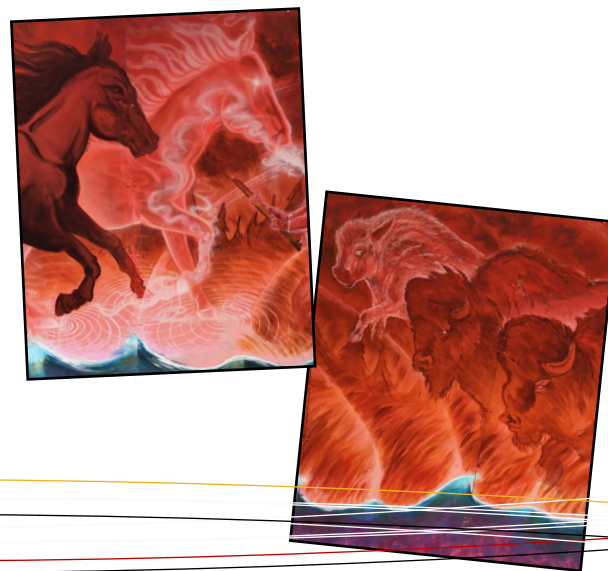
"What is healing for MMIWG2S Family members?"

The project was conceived by a thoughtful process with MMIWG2S Family members, spending meaningful time with Elders and Knowledge Keepers to listen as they provided true guidance and direction. Taking over two years, this collaboration was designed and saw many challenging and heartfelt moments.

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The traditional naming honour for the project emerged from a MMIWG2S family member at the Wiping Away the Tears Gathering held in 2020. We turned to an Anishinaabemowin language speaker for the translation.



●●●○ Partnerships

Dynamic partnerships were formed through the Interlake Art Board, Selkirk Friendship Centre, Promoting Aboriginal Student Success (PASS), Selkirk Community Arts Centre, Selkirk and District Community Foundation, Indigenous Languages of Manitoba, Manitoba Arts Council, Red River Mutual, Province of Manitoba, Selkirk Community Church, Selkirk Renewal, Building Products and Concrete Supply and the Gaynor Family Regional Library.

The installation was also joined in its creation by Indigenous and Non-Indigenous artists:

- Jeannie White Bird
- Ashley Christiansen
- Annie Beach
- Brad Lent
- Bobbie Sinclair
- Jon Ostash
- Charlie Johnston

Special recognition to Charlie Johnston, international muralist, for his significant collaboration and mural co-ordination.

