

●●●○ **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.

**MANIDOONSAG IMAA MIKINAAKO-MINISIING**  
**SACRED SPIRITS OF TURTLE ISLAND**

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.

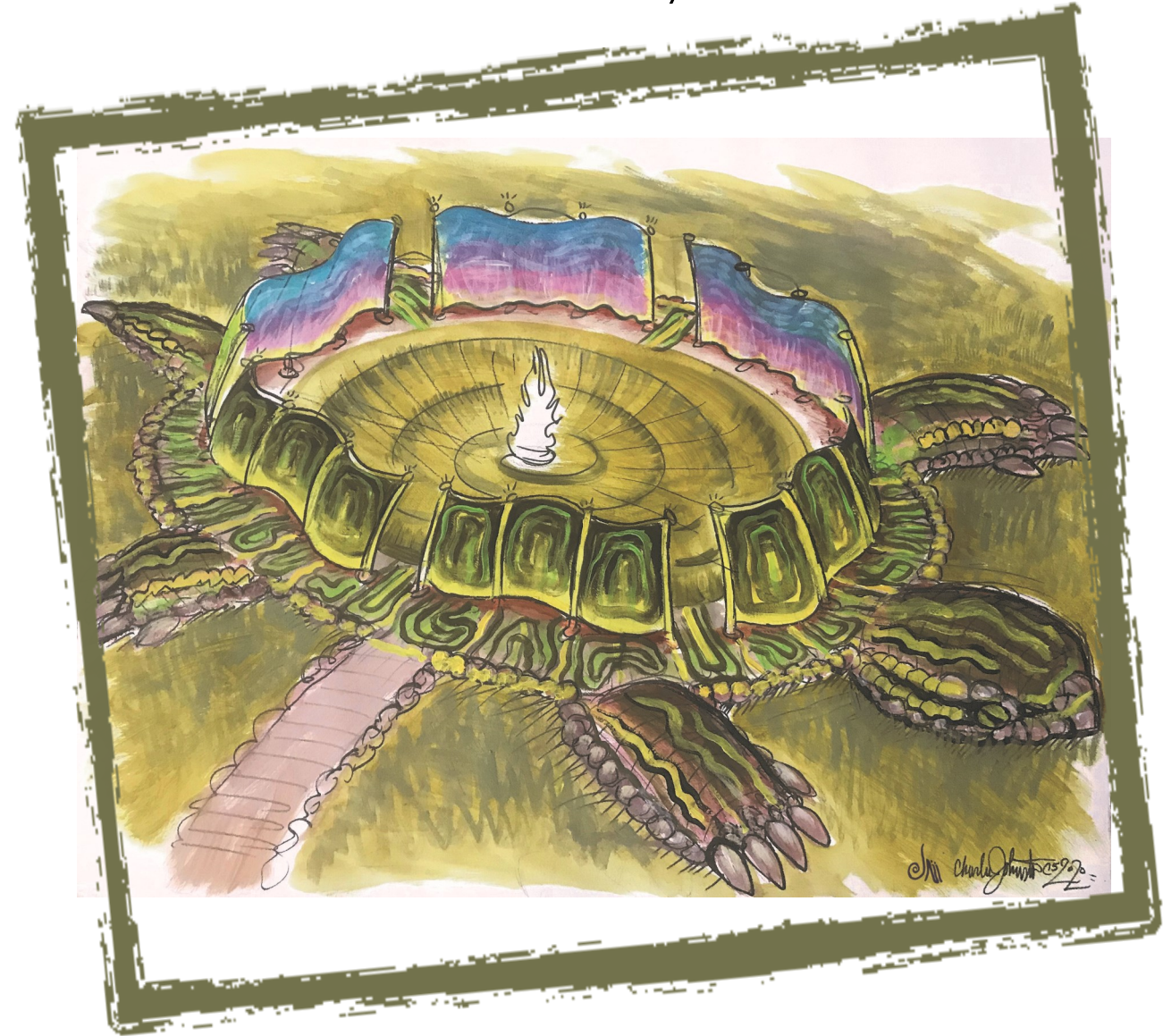
Dynamic partnerships were formed through the Interlake Art Board, Selkirk Friendship Centre, Promoting Aboriginal Student Success (PASS), Selkirk Community Arts Centre, Selkirk and District Community Foundation, Selkirk Red River Metis Local, Indigenous Languages of Manitoba, Manitoba Arts Council and the Gaynor Family Regional Library.

The installation was also joined in its creation by Métis and Indigenous Artists:

- Ashley Christiansen/Métis,
- Annie Beach/Peguis First Nation,
- Brad Lent/Métis and
- Bobbie Sinclair/Peguis First Nation
- Jon Ostash.

**MANIDOONSAG IMAA MIKINAAKO-MINISIING**  
**SACRED SPIRITS OF TURTLE ISLAND**

MMIWG2S Mural Unveiling &  
October 4<sup>th</sup> MMIWG2S  
Awareness Day Event



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

Commemorating the history and legacy of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls & Two-Spirited October 4<sup>th</sup> is MMIWG2S Awareness Day  
**MANIDOONSAG IMAA MIKINAAKO-MINISIING**  
**SACRED SPIRITS OF TURTLE ISLAND.**

## 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 32' 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

Hand painted on each segment of the turtle's shell are the powerful images of the 13 Grandmother Moons.

## 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.

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

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.

## Agenda

**12:00pm**  
Event Opening Remarks  
MC Wab Kinew & Nahanni Fontaine

**12:15pm**  
Opening Prayer  
Elder Leslie Spillett

**12:20pm**  
Honour Song  
Sprit Sands Singers

**12:30pm**  
Honoured guests

Chief Glenn Hudson  
Peguis First Nation

Hon. Alan Lagimodiere, Selkirk  
Minister of Indigenous Reconciliation  
and Northern Relations

Chief Debra Smith  
Brokenhead First Nation, Treaty One  
Grand Chief Arlen Dumas  
Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

Chief Dennis White Bird  
Rolling River First Nation

**1:00pm**  
Spirit Sand Singers and Dancers  
Grass Dancer - Micheal Esquash Jr.  
Jingle Dress Dancer – Pearl Henry  
Hoop Dancer – Buffy Handel  
Dancer – Brendon Patrick

## Agenda

**1:30pm**  
MMIWG2S Family Member  
Myrna Rize Abraham

**1:40pm**  
Hand Drum Song  
Pearl Henry

**1:50pm**  
MMIWG2S Family Member  
Del Daniels

**2:00pm**  
Elder Leslie Spillett

**2:15pm**  
Aspects of MANIDOONSAG IMAA  
MIKINAAKO-MINISIING / SACRED SPIRITS  
OF TURTLE ISLAND MMIWG2S Mural  
Jeannie White Bird & Muralists

**2:50pm**  
Closing Prayer  
Elder Leslie Spillett

**3:05pm**  
Invitation for Open Mic  
MMIWG2S Family Members & Friends

**4:00pm** Event concludes