



PATH TO RECONCILIATION



IDA Award Submission
Public Space Management and Operations

Path To Reconciliation Mural 2023



A Journey Towards Reconciliation

In April 2023, the pilot phase of a multi year mural project commenced, organized by Regina Downtown Business Improvement District and the Creative City Centre (CCC). The concept behind this project was to create and install multiple murals in Regina's Downtown Core, focusing on reconciliation in Treaty 4 territory. The vision of the project was centered within our moral obligation to contribute to reconciliation efforts in Regina and Saskatchewan.



Saskatchewan's Treaties Map. (Graphic by the Royal Saskatchewan Museum)



Path to Reconciliation Logo (Designed by artist Geanna Dunbar)

The Path to Reconciliation Mural Project

This mural was unique to Regina Downtown's Urban Canvas Program, as it was installed down the centre of Regina Downtown's F.W Hill Mall. The project was a 325 foot –long by 8-foot-wide path.

The mural was designed and installed by two local indigenous artists- **Geanna Dunbar** and **Brandy Jones** and supported by local Elder Brenda Dubois, and Indigenous Cultural Art Advisor, Audrey Dreaver, from the First Nations University of Canada.

The two lead artists designed the mural to resemble traditional indigenous beadwork, specifically a beaded belt. In total the design consisted of 350 rows of 8 beads in unison forming a literal path, giving the project its name- Path To Reconciliation.



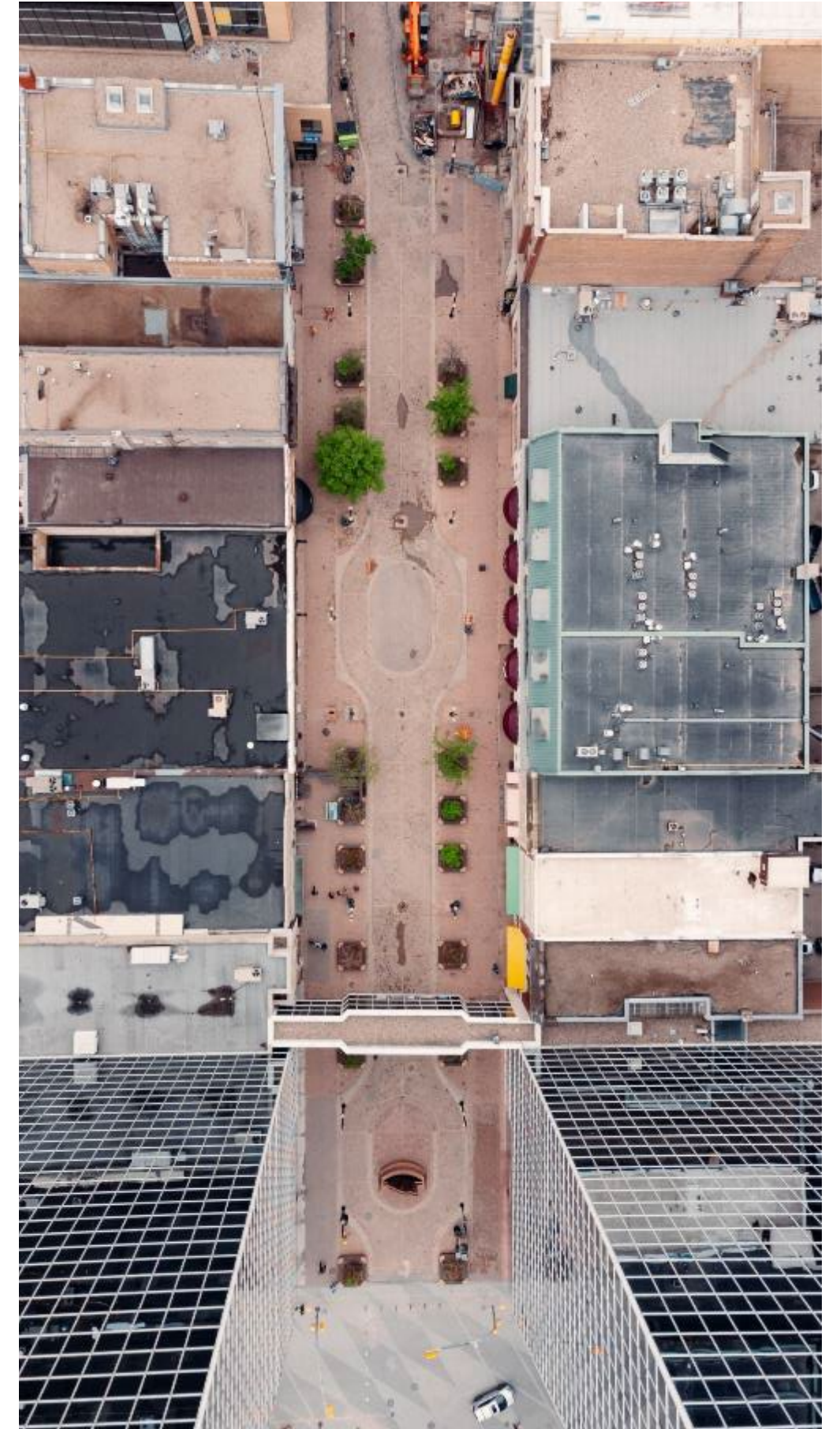
Artists Brandy Jones (Left) and Geanna Dunbar (Right)

Regina's F.W. Hill Mall

The project came to light when Regina Downtown BID secured a grant from the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative (CHCI), for a street painting mural down the centre of F.W. Hill Mall.

The unique factor about the mural location is that F.W. Hill is located on the 1800 block of Scarth Street, which is Regina's only pedestrianized city block. This meant the installation would take place on the actual paving stones of the street.

The project's design concept soon took shape as the artist's factored in the location to create a pathway mural to visually represent Saskatchewan's ongoing journey to Reconciliation.



Regina's F.W. Hill Mall Before Drone Shot (photo by Strat Lab)

Path to Reconciliation Mural Project Timeline



GRANT SECURED (MAR 2023)

RDBID secures grant from Canada Healthy Communities Initiative (CHCI) for a street painting mural project down the centre of Regina's F.W. Hill Mall.



PLANNING (MAR - MAY 2023)

RDBID partners with Regina's Creative City Centre and two local Indigenous artists. Logistics and the design were mapped out. Input from an Elder and Cultural Art Advisor were sought. A call for volunteers was released on May 23rd.



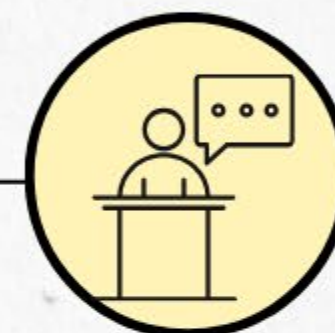
PREPARATION (MAY 2023)

Preparations to the site commenced late May. Supplies were gathered, the paving stones were power washed, fencing went up around the site, and the volunteer headquarters location was secured.



INSTALLATION (JUN 1 - 17, 2023)

Installation took place from June 1 - 17 with the support of over 200 volunteers. Volunteer management was coordinated by RDBID. Volunteer shifts were broken up by 4 hour time slots over the 2 weeks. Working days included Monday - Saturday from 10am - 6pm



DEDICATION (JUN 21, 2023)

Dedication of the mural took place on National Indigenous People's Day on June 21, with a ceremony that included a song and procession led by a local Powwow dance group, the Kawacatoose Boys.

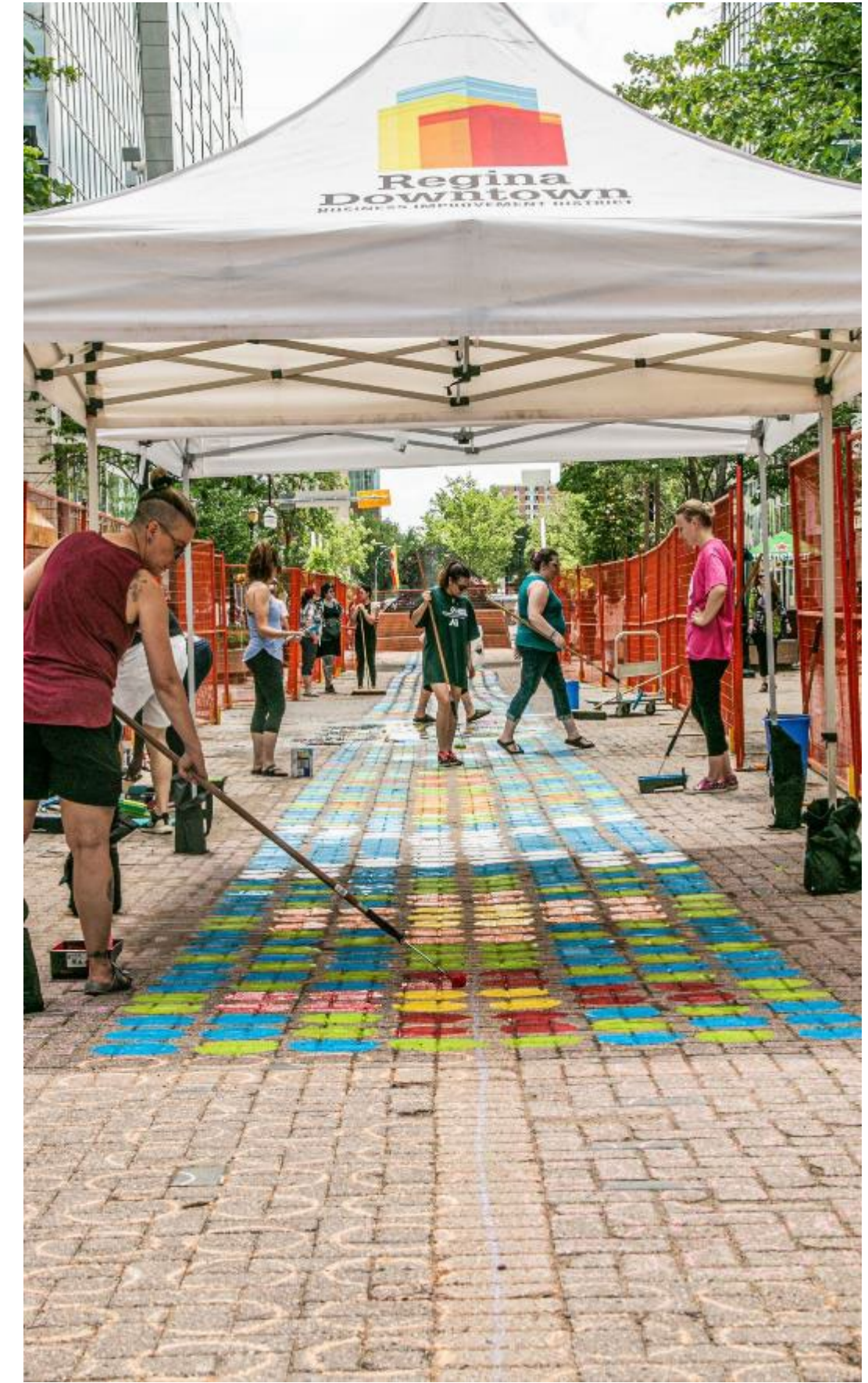
A Vision of Community

The vision of the project was to incorporate the community through the common language of art to foster conversations about reconciliation. This was executed by designing a culturally significant project that allowed all members of the community the ability to engage with.

A call for volunteers was released by RDBID and over 200 volunteers ranging from students, new comers, corporate workers, retired residents and families came together in an effort to contribute and start the conversation about Reconciliation in Regina through this project.



Volunteers using circular stencils to create the rows of 'beads'.



Art In Progress

The installation of the project took 2 weeks. It began on June 1st and finished on June 17th.

During these 2 weeks, nothing but good energy was surrounding the project. Friendships, memories, and community engagement towards Reconciliation was achieved. A nice summer tan was also achieved!

Our biggest challenge was when an unexpected torrential rainstorm hit us one afternoon as you can see the outcome in artist's Brandy Jones' video.



Art In Progress Signage used on Fence during project installation from June 1st – 17th.



National Indigenous People's Day 2023

On June 21st, 2023, the Path to Reconciliation mural project reached its end goal of being complete in time for a dedication ceremony on National Indigenous People's Day.

Over 300 people attended this special ceremony that included a song and procession by a local Powwow group, the Kawacatoose Boys.

The procession started at the white buffalo (south end of the mural) and made its way to Regina's Victoria Park, where the city wide events were taking place for the the day.



Words of Gratitude

Working on a daily basis on a colourful mural that dominated a busy pedestrian-only block gave us hundreds of opportunities to engage with passersby. People were interested in the meaning of the work; they encouraged the artists and volunteers with comments of approval and appreciation for the beautification of the street.

The encouragement didn't just stop there, after the completion of the mural, the positive feedback and support flooded social media for months!



Media Coverage

The Path to Reconciliation Mural project has been recognized both locally and internationally.

Most recently, HyperAllergic, an online art magazine from New York, published an article about the project (top right).

The project was also featured in the Women in the Arts Magazine on the 2nd page. The Women in the Arts Magazine is published by the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C.

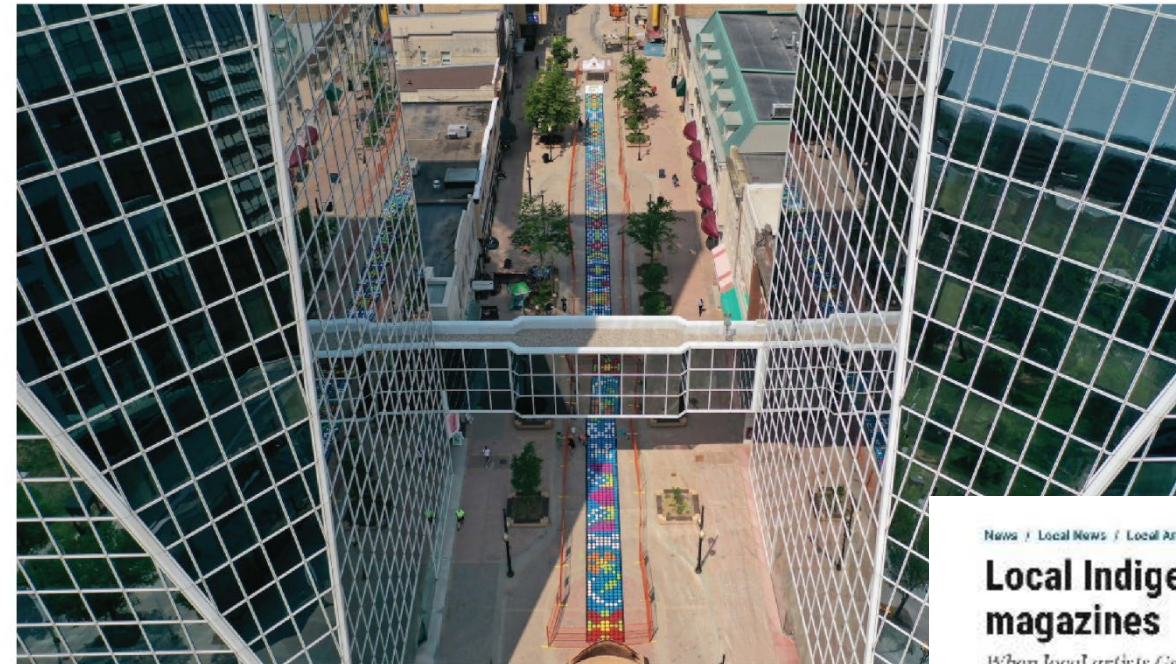
HYPERALLERGIC

News

Indigenous Artists Paint 300-Foot “Path to Reconciliation” in Canada

Geanna Dunbar and Brandy Jones’s pavement mural in the province of Saskatchewan is painted in the style of traditional beadwork.

 Rhea Nayyar June 26, 2023



An aerial view of “The Path to Reconciliation” (2023) in downtown Regina, Saskatchewan (photo by Dan Plaster/CBC News, Centre)

Hundreds gathered in downtown Regina, the capital city of the Canadian province of Saskatchewan, for the unveiling of a **new public artwork** on National Indigenous Peoples’ Day last Wednesday. Geanna Dunbar and Inuvialuit-Gwich’in artist Brandy Jones designed “The Path to Reconciliation,” a 300-foot-long and eight-foot-wide footpath mural on pavement rendered in the style of traditional beadwork. The piece featured over 2,600 painted circular “beads,” also referencing the significant Indigenous symbol rooted in healing, community gatherings, and mutual support.

The mural occupies a stretch of a downtown pedestrian-only city block at the F.W. Hills Memorial. Dunbar and Jones incorporated motifs such as flowers for their ubiquitous representation in Indigenous art and bones to honor how First Nations peoples use every part of an animal for sustenance and survival. The piece also acknowledges **their near extinction due to colonial overhunting**; and the colors of **represent late ancestors** looking down and offering guidance to those still on Earth. The mural is a powerful statement on the importance of reconciliation and the role of art in healing and community building.

News / Local News / Local Arts / Entertainment

Local Indigenous mural project featured in two international arts magazines

When local artists Geanna Dunbar and Brandy Jones created the Path to Reconciliation project in June, they weren’t expecting it to have such a far reach.

Trillian Reynolds

Published Dec 12, 2023 - 5 minutes read

Join the conversation



<https://theadepost.com/news/local-indigenous-mural-project-featured-in-two-international-arts-magazines>