

Press Release

For immediate release

## **Unveiling of a spectacular community art installation Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 3-4pm**

**Beaverbrook Library, 2500 Campeau Dr., Kanata, ON K2K 2W3**

Ottawa, June 15, 2017– This upcoming Saturday, **June 24<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00pm** Councillor Marianna Wilkinson, AOE Arts Council Executive Director Victoria Steele, artist Margit Hideg and the Beaverbrook Library staff welcome the Kanata and greater Ottawa community for the grand unveiling of the “The Wisdom of Trees” community arts installation which is made from more than 150 pieces of art made by members of the Beaverbrook Library and staff of Kanata based businesses: You.i TV, Thinkwrap Commerce, Martello Technologies and Ericsson Canada Inc.

The Wisdom of Trees is part of an official Canada 150 and Ontario 150 community engaged arts project NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS 150 – *Celebrating Ottawa’s Communities* by the AOE Arts Council. It is supported by these generous Funders: The Government of Canada, Ontario 150; and is partnered with: Ottawa 2017, AOE Arts Council, the BIA North Kanata and the Kanata Beaverbrook Library.

### **ABOUT THE PROJECT:**

During this project Hungarian-Canadian artist Margit Hideg gave workshops at the Beaverbrook Library and Lunch and Learn Sessions at Kanata North businesses. After a meditation on the symbolic parallels of trees in forests and human individuals in communities led by Margit, participants took time to reflect on their Canadian identity: in thought and appreciation of themselves, their culture and family roots. They then designed a triangular mylar piece with paint markers in a way they felt visually depicted their identity within their community. These triangular pieces will be what is used to form the Beaverbrook Library installation. Margit interviewed participants about how their roots shaped their choices of life. She explores the notion that ultimately re-sets roots add more opportunities to grow and interact with each other. Regardless where we live, once we encounter our true identity, we discover the essence that links us to the rest of the universe both physically and spiritually.

Margit explains her main motivations for the community collaboration:

“With my work, I am trying to bring people back to nature. I strongly believe that we need to spread the message that we have to ground ourselves like trees, in order to find our sense of self, celebrate the fact that we are interconnected with all species, parts of the same web of life, and therefore are also responsible for each other.”

The seed of this project is to inspire deeper community connections through collective creativity, and to encourage broader community engagement to celebrate who Canada is in 2017. The wisdom of trees is intended to evoke ways to express direct reality by exploring the natural power through reflection. This project will inspire notion of harmony, the universal law of nature: learn to live together by sharing.

Margit will also be exhibiting The Wisdom of Trees project at “Personal Structures” Exhibition organized by the European Cultural Centre in the context of the Venice Art Biennale. She will be collaborating with international artists during this exhibition.

**MEDIA ARE INVITED TO ATTEND:**

**EVENT SCHEDULE:**

**3:00pm** – a welcome from the Beaverbrook Library followed by a greeting from Victoria Steele of the AOE Arts Council, a statement from Margit Hideg, an address from Jenna Sudds, executive director Kanata BIA and closing remarks from Councillor Marianne Wilkinson.

**3:15pm** – Cake and refreshments will be served in Program Room A along with a photo board viewing

**3:30pm** – video screening in Program Room A

**WHO:** NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS 150 – *Celebrating Ottawa's Communities*, Councillor Marianna Wilkinson, AOE Arts Council, artist Margit Hideg, Beaverbrook Library, Kanata North BIA and Kanata based businesses: You.i TV, Thinkwrap Commerce, Martello Technologies and Ericsson Canada Inc.

**WHAT:** NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS 150 – *Celebrating Ottawa's Communities*, Unveiling of The wisdom of Trees installation

**WHERE:** Beaverbrook Library, 2500 Campeau Dr., Kanata, ON K2K 2W3

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 24th, 3-4pm

**SOCIAL MEDIA:**

Follow Neighborhood Arts 150: @150ArtsOttawa #150ArtsOttawa

You can find additional pictures and videos at: [www.thewisdomofthetrees.com](http://www.thewisdomofthetrees.com)

Get all the latest news in real time on our Twitter hashtag: #wisdomofthetrees150

Information: Media relations, Margit Hideg, [margit@thewisdomofthetrees.com](mailto:margit@thewisdomofthetrees.com), T: 613.220.0331



