

Residents called on to help create community art installation

Kanata north one of 21 neighbourhoods selected for arts 150 program

WHATSON May 01, 2017 by Jessica Cunha Kanata Courier-Standard

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Artist Margit Hideg is one of 12 artists participating in the Neighbourhood Arts 150 project. Hideg is leading a collaborative community art project in north Kanata and is looking for interested residents to participate. - Submitted

How have your roots influenced your choices in life?

Artist Margit Hideg aims to answer that question through her Kanata-based participatory community art project, titled *The Wisdom of the Trees*.

Her project, part of the Neighbourhood Arts 150 program, will explore the common ways of building a community rooted in earth.

"Trees live in forests — in communities — they depend on each other," Hideg said, much like humans depend on one another for a sense of community.

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To answer the question, residents are invited to attend free workshops at the Beaverbrook library branch and create a piece of art on a triangular piece of transparent Mylar that will form a larger sculpture.

Willing contributors will also be recorded on video answering the question of how their roots have shaped their life choices.

"More participation from different age groups is going to allow us to reflect, in our final artwork, on our diversity and our Canadian identity," said Hideg. "The purpose of the whole project is to connect as many people as we can."

The end result of the collaborative art installation will be unveiled on June 24 at the library branch.

"The larger it grows the better," said Hideg. "Once the people find out, hopefully they're going to come."

The Wisdom of the Trees
from Margit Hideg

The wisdom of the trees

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HIGH-TECH

Hideg is working with five high-tech companies in the Kanata North Business Park, hosting lunch and learn workshops and getting employees' input for the art project.

"The ability to come together as a community, to celebrate Canada 150 and to celebrate our roots perfectly embodies my view of Canadian culture," said Jenna Suds, president and executive director of the Kanata North Business Association, in a news release. "This project enables us to come together as a community and celebrate everything that we as a nation have accomplished in 150 years."

The business association will host an interactive "social media activation" sometime in June with pieces of the final

The business development firm used an interactive social media activation campaign in June that placed art pieces of the main project located discreetly in the business park, said Hideg.

People will be encouraged to share photos of the pieces to continue the storytelling aspect of the project.

"It adds another dimension to the project," said Hideg. "I see it as a challenge for myself as an artist. I'm proud of this complexity."

NEIGHBOURHOOD ARTS

Hideg is one of 12 artists participating in the Neighbourhood Arts 150 — Celebrating Ottawa's Communities program, a Canada 150 and Ontario 150 initiative by the AOE Arts Council.

Neighbourhood Arts 150 invites Ottawans of all ages and backgrounds to participate in free arts experiences taking place in 21 communities throughout the city until October.

"There's going to be a lot going on over the next few months," said Patrice Stanley, project manager of Neighbourhood Arts 150. "We really want people to go to the website, check out what's going on in their neighbourhood, and get out to some of these performances and unveilings."

Hideg said she's interested in working with local schools and community groups to design more Mylar art pieces for the final sculpture.

She will host two upcoming workshops at the Beaverbrook library branch, located at 2500 Campeau Dr.:

- Thursday, May 4, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. for teens
- Tuesday, May 9, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for adults

More workshops may be added before the unveiling on June 24. For more information on Hideg's project, visit thewisdomofthetrees.com.

To see the full schedule of art workshops taking place throughout the city, visit neighbourhoodarts150.wordpress.com.



by **Jessica Cunha**

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