Historian Co-Laureates Year 1

Activity

- A Shared Spirit Kickoff event with community
- MacEwan: Islamic Heritage Month: Presentation on the Canadian Prayer Rug
 - \rightarrow 3 articles in the Griff resulting from the event



For the entirety of **Islamic Heritage Month**, *The Canadian Prayer Rug* – a project highlighting the intersectionality of Alberta history and Muslim heritage on Treaty 6, will be on display at MacEwan (on the second floor of the Library in Room 6-210 from October 1 to 15 and then in Allard Hall's Elder Jerry Wood Atrium for the remainder of the month). Join City of Edmonton co-historian laureates Cheryl Whiskeyjack (who received MacEwan's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2018) and Omar Yaqub on October 13 for a **discussion of the tapestry** that celebrates the bonds shared amongst Canada's diverse communities. Dig into **The Quest History of Islam** in the Americas with Omar Mouallem on October 11, and don't miss a screening of The Final Exam on October 21.

- Islamic Heritage Month Campaign: Exhibition of the Canadian Prayer Rug at...
 - Whiskeyjack Gallery
 - Carrot Café
 - MacEwan
 - Muttart Conservatory
 - Tix on the Square
- EPL: Speaker Series



- Strathcona County: Consultation on DEI work, and planning for future talk
- Urban Farm: Visit and planning for building with traditional knowledge and newcomer awareness
- Edmonton Public Schools Grace Martin School: Story Sharing Day & Activities
- Indigenous People's Day & World Refugee Day event at City Hall
- Roots on 6 Events...
 - Treaty 6 Logo Remix
 - Poetry Nights
 - Art Nights
 - Growing on Someone Else's Garden Zine
- Culture Days at Bent Arrow



Eight tipis will be raised on the Parkdale School grounds. Knowledge Keepers for each tipi will host ceremonies and traditional teachings for different participants each day.

Day 1 – Bent Arrow Staff & Children Services Partners

Day 2 – Families we serve

Day 3 – Community Agency Partners

Day 4 - Closing Ceremony with all participants



• NorQuest: Culture Day: Facilitated workshop on belonging, and story for 900 staff



• Black History Month: Poetry Event & Reflections on Black History in Edmonton



• Innaguration of CofE's Anti-Racism Taskforce

Treaty 6 Medallion Remix

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Roots on 6: Treaty 6 Medallion Remix

Overview

The Treaty 6 Medallion Remix shows a more contemporary exchange regarding living as a settler on this land and one's relationship with it and its people; we want you to explore the intricacies, beauty, and depth surrounding newcomer, settler, Indigenous relationships on Treaty 6 Land, while delving into ideas that have been perpetuated from a colonial lens.

This issue brings a modern and more sensitive perspective to the idea of living responsibly on this land and cultivating relationships, communities, or even moments that reflect the deeper meaning of living together here, while acknowledging either settler or Indigenous identities. Art can involve almost any medium, style, or ideas that capture the artist's version of a Treaty 6 Logo that is relevant and unburdened by the colonial essence of the original logo. It can involve people, places, words, or abstract imagery surrounding the theme of living in this land, whether you are a newcomer or have been here for centuries. Select participants may have the chance to work with a designer and the City's Historian Co-Laureates to refine their concepts and bring them to life through print and digital media.



Sample submissions

Ikram Shire

Its a reinterpretation of the theme Cultivating someone else garden , where I explore how people from lower income countries specifically the global south as a result of colonization are often exploited, and never get to enjoy the products they produce. In a sense that they cultivate someone else's garden and don't enjoy the fruits of their labour.



Maryam Lary

I might look like a stranger to your land,

But the truth is,

You and I are a combination of the same water and sand,

Let our experience and knowledge grow hand in hand ...



Nancy Tangon

The piece contains the Rocky Mountains flowing into the north Saskatchewan river and into hands cupping the water. The Rocky Mountains is symbolic to immigrants because it represents Canada and the promises of this land. The north Saskatchewan river is symbolic to the first people of the land because of its use in travel, healing, and spirituality. Lastly the hands represent the values of these two parts flowing into one. Canada is not one thing, like water is moves to incorporate different aspects of ways of living.



Muna Jama

Recreating the symbol for treaty 6 I wanted to emphasize the connection the was there between the indigenous people and their land I cut out that we're supposed to look like silhouette of people (it doesn't really) and used that same material on the ground that is in the foreground of the piece. This material was somewhat a neutral color blending in with the rest of the background with the earths and mountains. The bright pink material was supposed to represent the newcomers/settlers. It somewhat clashes with the rest of it. I wanted to cut the bright pink into different types of shapes or use different bright colors to represent the different people come to this land.



Diana Ohiozebau

This work draws inspiration from the treaty 6 logo. Based on the theme "Growing on Someone Else's Garden " my work is a reflection of my prosperity and all that I have achieved and become in Canada as well the achievement that are yet to come. I have retained the elements of grass, sunshine and river as depicted in the logo.



Ameena Taher

When I was prompted by the theme of growing in somebody else's garden, I was reminded of the smaller forms of colonialism. Invasive plant species in North America have caused the extinction of many flora native to the earth we stand on- this is perhaps also a metaphor for the depopulation of indigenous peoples in Canada, which began with the arrival of the British. My art depicts a Canada thistle strangling a wood puppy. The Canada thistle, someone misnamed, considering it originated in Eurasia, was introduced by the British centuries ago in North America. The wood poppy, on the other hand, is native to southern Ontario and is now at risk of extinction. First Nations tribes have used this plant in the past for dyes, because of its bright yellow color. The two plants contrast: the Canada thistle, although many do not know its name, is everywhere. It is a weed that is seen all the time in

Edmonton. The wood poppy, although native to this continent, is very rare to see. This demonstrates the multifaceted abuse, exploitation, and depopulation that indigenous communities have endured and suffered for centuries.



Grace Martin Elementary School Submissions









In Development...

Podcast

Join Edmonton's Historian Co-Laureates: <u>Cheryl Whiskeyjack</u> & Omar Yaqub, as they explore how to respond to some of today's biggest problems: hate crimes, isolation, belonging, injustice & health with BIPOC youth & the wisdom traditions they represent.

Mural

The Roots on 6 community mural project will connect artists, equity-deserving communities, and emerging BIPOC artists together to commemorate reconciliation through participatory art-making based on the principles of wahkohtowin (Cree: kinship) & mawadaa [الْمَوَدَّة] (Arabic: communal affection).

The project will develop a series of interconnected public art murals in Edmonton across the buildings of Bent Arrow, MCC Thrift, The Africa Centre and IslamicFamily. These murals will reflect the vibrant identities, cross sections and connections of diverse communities on treaty 6.

The project will centre on community engagement, and skill building. The process of development will capture the stories of Indigenous, Muslim, African, and Mennonite communities and offer opportunities to emerging & established artists.





Culture Days 2023

Roots on 6 Celebration 2023

Thank you!

Cheryl Whiskeyjack <u>cwhiskeyjack@bentarrow.ca</u> & Omar Yaqub omary@islamicfamily.ca

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