

PRESS RELEASE FROM CITY OF SEATTLE

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Indigenous artists selected for Overlook Walk commission

SEATTLE (November 9, 2020) – The City’s Office of the Waterfront and Civic Projects, in conjunction with the Office of Arts & Culture, announced today that the artist team of Malynn Foster, Tamela LaClair and Kimberly Deriana have been selected for a commission on the [Overlook Walk](#), which is anticipated to be completed in 2024.

The artists, who represent both local tribes and urban Indians, will work with the design team to develop a permanent artwork that will help to elevate the importance of indigenous culture and history to the site, and become a focal point on the structure that will connect the Pike Place Market to the central waterfront. The selection panel was comprised of Indigenous community members from various regional tribes as well as urban Indians.

“Seattle’s waterfront, like the entire city, stands on the ancestral lands and the shared waters of the Coast Salish peoples,” said Marshall Foster, Director of Seattle’s Office of the Waterfront and Civic Projects, “We hope this artwork will help to acknowledge and elevate the history and culture of the Coast Salish peoples, and help bring it to life for residents and visitors to our city. We look forward to integrating the experience and perspective of these artists into Overlook Walk and the greater program.”

This major commission of indigenous art will draw attention to the central role of the Coast Salish tribes in this region and their specific history on Seattle’s waterfront. There are already two projects planned for the waterfront program that will [feature the work of Indigenous artists](#) – Shaun Peterson (Puyallup Tribe) will create three Welcome Figures overlooking Pier 58, south of the Seattle Aquarium, and carvers Randi Purser (Suquamish Tribe), Tyson Simmons and Keith Stevenson (Muckleshoot Indian Tribe) will collaborate with Oscar Tuazon on a commission that is based on Indigenous architecture. This newest artwork commission, in conjunction with the Seattle Aquarium’s collaboration with the local Indigenous community in the design of their expansion, seeks to further reinforce the waterfront’s significance to the traditional inhabitants of this land. The artists were selected from a roster of Coast Salish artists, and represent Squaxin Island, Skokomish, Hidatsa and Mandan tribes.

This artwork will be located on the lower level of this new pedestrian bridge in a location known as the Salish Steps, which connects the lower portion of Overlook Walk to the promenade. These amphitheater-style steps not only provide access to the new waterfront and views of Elliott Bay, but they also provide a space for entertainment and community activities. To the east of the Salish Steps, the Office of the Waterfront and Civic Projects, in collaboration with the Office of Arts & Culture, is working with artist Ann Hamilton to develop artwork on a large screen wall under the Overlook Walk bridge. Overlook Walk is a vital east-west connection, allowing for people to walk from the Pike Place Market to the Waterfront.

The Salish Steps commission is funded by Seattle Department of Transportation 1% for Art funds that derive from the Waterfront Seattle project. For more information about Waterfront Seattle, please visit waterfrontseattle.org.