

# GREAT ART FOR GREAT LAKES 2016-2018



## Overview

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In 2017, Great Art for Great Lakes commissioned eight local artists across the Great Lakes to create unique community participation projects that focus on ideas that evoke a sense of celebration and highlight the grandeur of the Great Lakes and its connection to its people, their history, and diverse cultures.

Through a series of public workshops or actions, each of the eight Great Lakes communities have now co-created a permanent artwork as part of celebrating Canada's sesquicentennial.

This piece chronicles the commissioned Great Art for Great Lakes Artists, the 3800+ participants engaged in co-creating this artwork, and what was learned along the way.

**3800+**  
**ENGAGED**



Canada

*Great Art for Great Lakes* is funded through the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Canada 150 Fund, and is part of a larger initiative: *Greatness: The Great Lakes Project*, which began at a 2015 roundtable convened by Ontario's Lieutenant Governor, Honourary Patron of Waterlution.



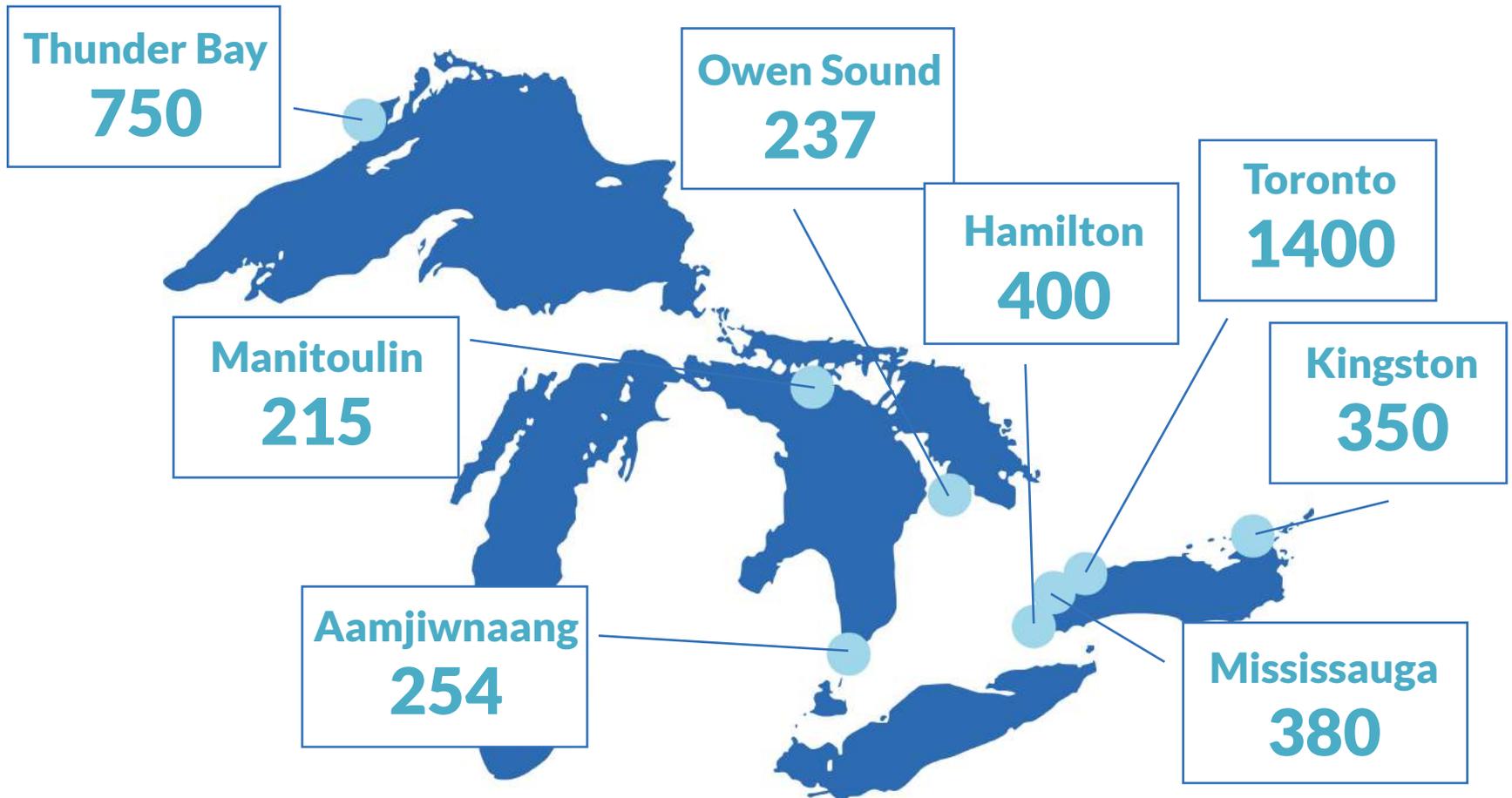
"*Greatness: The Great Lakes Project* is a bold, aspirational initiative focused on values and identity. It is intended to amplify the essential human need to connect with something bigger than ourselves, to encourage a deep emotional and spiritual commitment in people. It is an effort to connect us to the epic and extraordinary: five Great Lakes and their rivers and streams that are the heart and arteries of a third of our continent. The project promises to launch a new era for the Great Lakes, and the people who live in the watershed: a future where their epic majesty is a source of pride for all of us, and a future where we celebrate and sustain them for all who follow."

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The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell,  
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario  
*from reception speech held at Queen's Park on October 6, 2016*

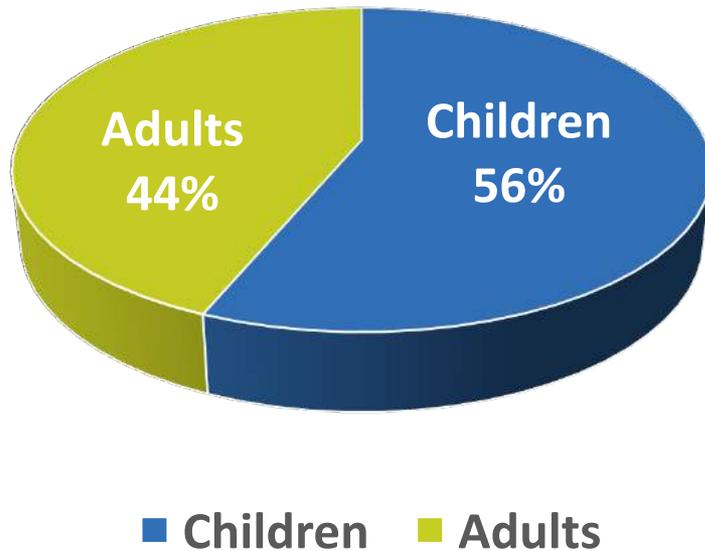
# 98% of Ontarians live in the Great Lakes Basin

## 3800+ Participants



## Participant Profiles

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Participants spent

**72,354  
MINUTES**

making art

Which equals

**1205  
HOURS**

or

**50  
DAYS**







Maurice Bitran,  
*CEO and Chief Science Officer, Ontario Science Centre*

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“At the intersection of art and science, DEEP BLUE is a beautiful reminder that only our collective action – inspired by art and grounded in science – will help us preserve the wonderful patrimony of life that the Great Lakes represent for future generations. This three-dimensional, community-created installation serves to deepen our appreciation for the beauty of Lake Ontario and our understanding of the correlation between the health of the lake and the vitality of the people who live on its shores. We are honoured and delighted to give DEEP BLUE a permanent home at the Ontario Science Centre, where it will inspire the public to take the environmental action necessary to safeguard the ecology of the Great Lakes.”



**9 ARTISTS**



**58 VOLUNTEERS**



**35 NEW PARTNERSHIPS**



“Visual culture provides a springboard for distinctive conversations both personal and as a community. For *Threading Water*, relationships to water were told through the making process, through each individual square, and through the shared experience. The people who participated in the project talked to their friends and family about the work and created a ripple effect. People of all ages are open to friendly, accessible, and non-threatening social spaces that welcome collaborative, community-engagement. Art is fueled by curiosity and a search for answers. **The discovery and the sharing is part of the inherent beauty of art.**”

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*Artist, Betty Carpick*



## # Of People that will see the Artwork each year:

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The Tett Centre,  
Kingston

**100,000**  
people each year

The Hamilton Public Library's  
Central Branch, Hamilton

**1.5 Million**  
people each year

Touring Mississauga

**130,000**  
people each year

Providence Bay Village  
Square Park, Manitoulin

**10,000+**  
people each year

Ontario Science Centre,  
Toronto

**1 Million+**  
people each year

The Roxy Theatre,  
Owen Sound

**30,000**  
people each year

Aamjiwnaang Community  
Centre, Sarnia

**33,000+**  
people each year

Mariners Hall, Marina Park,  
Thunder Bay

**38,000**  
people each year

If visitors spend  
**1 MINUTE**  
engaging with the artwork

each year this equals

**2,841,000**  
**MINUTES**

thinking about the  
Great Lakes each year!

That's

**7784**  
**MINUTES A DAY!**



## “Tales from the Toilet”

In Hamilton, Kingston & Mississauga, Great Art for Great Lakes partnered with Watermatrix to giveaway 6 Ultra High-Efficiency Toilets to the public that participated in the Tales from the Toilet giveaway.

The toilets were used as a tool for engagement with the public to encourage discourse on water. Great Art for Great Lakes also partnered with Hamilton Water, Utilities Kingston, and Peel Water for these events, where resource guests from each used the toilets as a literal platform to engage with community members to address questions and concerns about water in their municipality. With two toilets to give away in each community, participants were encouraged to enter into the Tales from the Toilet contest, where they contributed a question, hope, concern or thought on water. These names were used to draw for the winners.

In each community, it was discovered that the public often wasn't aware of many fundamental water basics, i.e.

*Where does our clean drinking water comes from?*

*Can you drink the water that comes out of your tap at home?*

## WATERMATRIX GIVEAWAY

# 6

## ULTRA HIGH-EFFICIENCY TOILETS TO PARTICIPANTS



WATER MATRIX



# Greatness

THE GREAT LAKES PROJECT™



## The Greatness Wall

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In almost all of the communities, Great Art for Great Lakes assembled the Greatness Wall as an interactive tool for the community to engage with the Great Lakes.

The wall was open to participants of all ages, with interactive exercises such as “The Name Game” where participants used labelled magnets to name each of the Great Lakes on the lake shapes on the wall.

Additionally, participants could use other magnets describing lake activities such as: canoeing, swimming, or kayaking, and place them along the different Great Lakes where they personally experienced these activities. Participants had the opportunity to draw their own stickers to describe memories of the lake.

The Greatness Wall engaged the public to evoke memories, feelings and thoughts of their relationship to the water. Working often together with groups unknown to them before the activity, participants could share in these memories together.



# Aqua Viva, The Tett Centre, KINGSTON

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# Aqua Viva

Andy berg

Ceramic wall relief. 93”w x 104”h

“Our community enthusiastically responded to the creation of clay elements for Aqua Viva and in doing so, collectively built a visual, intellectual and tactile interconnection to our Great Lake waters. Via an art of processing and making, the Kingston community now has a permanent ceramic art work upon which to deepen our collective relationship and commitment to Lake Ontario, and by extension all of the Great Lake waters. As the artist entrusted with this community process, I am inspired by the care, artistry and commitment that Kingston participants have given to Lake Ontario.”

- Artist, Andy Berg



4

PUBLIC EVENT  
& WORKSHOPS

350

PEOPLE  
ENGAGED

332

CERAMIC  
CONTRIBUTIONS



# How We Engage

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## Great Food. Great Lakes.

Event featuring food from local restaurants, Indigenous chefs, local brew, farmers, and water resource guests

## Aqua Viva Clay-Making Workshops

open to the public of all ages

## Aqua Viva Clay-Making Camp for kids

## Unveiling at the Tett Centre

open to the public for an extended period



## Kingston Partners

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# Lake Ontario Portrait, Hamilton Public Library, HAMILTON

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# Lake Ontario Portrait

## Nicole Clouston

*Sculpture. Wall relief, acrylic prisms & mud. 36" w x 73" h*

*"The strong interest that has been shown by the community of Hamilton throughout the making of Lake Ontario Portrait has been very exciting. All of the participants have been willing to get muddy, ask interesting questions about microbial life, and have fun making art together. I am really looking forward to installing the finished artwork and having more engaging conversations about our relationship with Lake Ontario."*

*- Artist, Nicole Clouston*

3

**PUBLIC EVENT  
& WORKSHOPS**

400

**PEOPLE  
ENGAGED**

62

**LIVING  
MUD COLUMNS**



# How We Engage

## Ice Cream Social

event during 100in1Day open to the public to enjoy a free scoop and conversation with local environmental water resource guests

## Bring Mud. Make Art.

event open to the public during Hamilton's annual SuperCrawl

## Unveiling at the Hamilton Public Library

open to the public for a 5-year period



## Hamilton Partners



# Mi Lake, Port Credit Library, MISSISSAUGA

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HELLO  
my name is  
Mississauga



THE SMALL ARMS  
BUILDING  
CREATIVE HUB @1352  
Connect | Collaborate | Create



Great Art  
for  
Great Lakes

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
CONTACT INFO: \_\_\_\_\_



# Mi Lake Vanessa Logan

*Live edge wood and glass sculpture. 22"w x 72"h x 16"d*

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*"I love the community's enthusiasm for contributing images to Mi Lake. The participants of all ages have a great Lake Ontario connection to share - whether it's a distinct memory, or a favourite view. It's been an honour to collect and magnify those connections for Great Art for Great Lakes."*

*- Artist, Vanessa Logan*

**3**

**PUBLIC EVENT  
& WORKSHOPS**

**380**

**PEOPLE  
ENGAGED**

**438**

**PIECES OF  
SEA GLASS**



# How We Engage

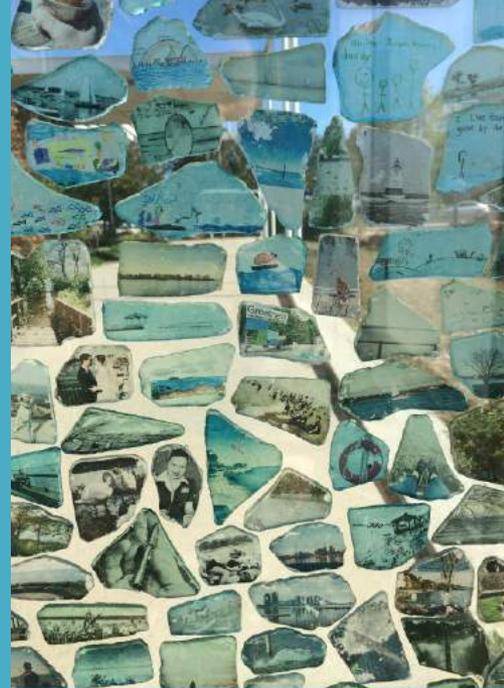
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## Two Days of Sea Glass workshops

at the Mississauga Waterfront Festival with special guests from Peel Water, Living Hearth Farms, and live food demonstration from Chef Ken at Nellie James Food

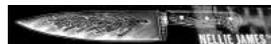
## Public Unveiling at the Port Credit Public Library

The artwork is now touring with the Small Arms Society.



## Mississauga Partners

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# Stories of the Lake, Providence Bay Village Square Park, MANITOULIN

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# Stories of the Lake

Julianne Steedman

Aluminum sculpture. Plasma cut with exterior decals. 70"w x 82:h x 10"d

*"For this project, I was extremely excited to work with the community in an area that I feel such a strong connection to, and create meaningful artwork that shares history, builds connections and tells a story; the story that the lake has to share. This collaborative work celebrates the small truths and hidden miracles of our northern environment — its history, people, and landscape."*

*- Artist, Julianne Steedman*

2

PUBLIC EVENT  
& WORKSHOPS

215

PEOPLE  
ENGAGED

100

LAKE ONTARIO  
STORIES



# How We Engage

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## Providence Bay Beach Social

open to the public with storytelling on the beach, samplings of bannock and berries, and a beach walk led by Manitoulin Streams

## Public Unveiling at Providence Bay Village Square Park

where the artwork is on permanent display. Guests enjoyed samples of local brew from Manitoulin Brewing Co & Split Rail Brewing Co.

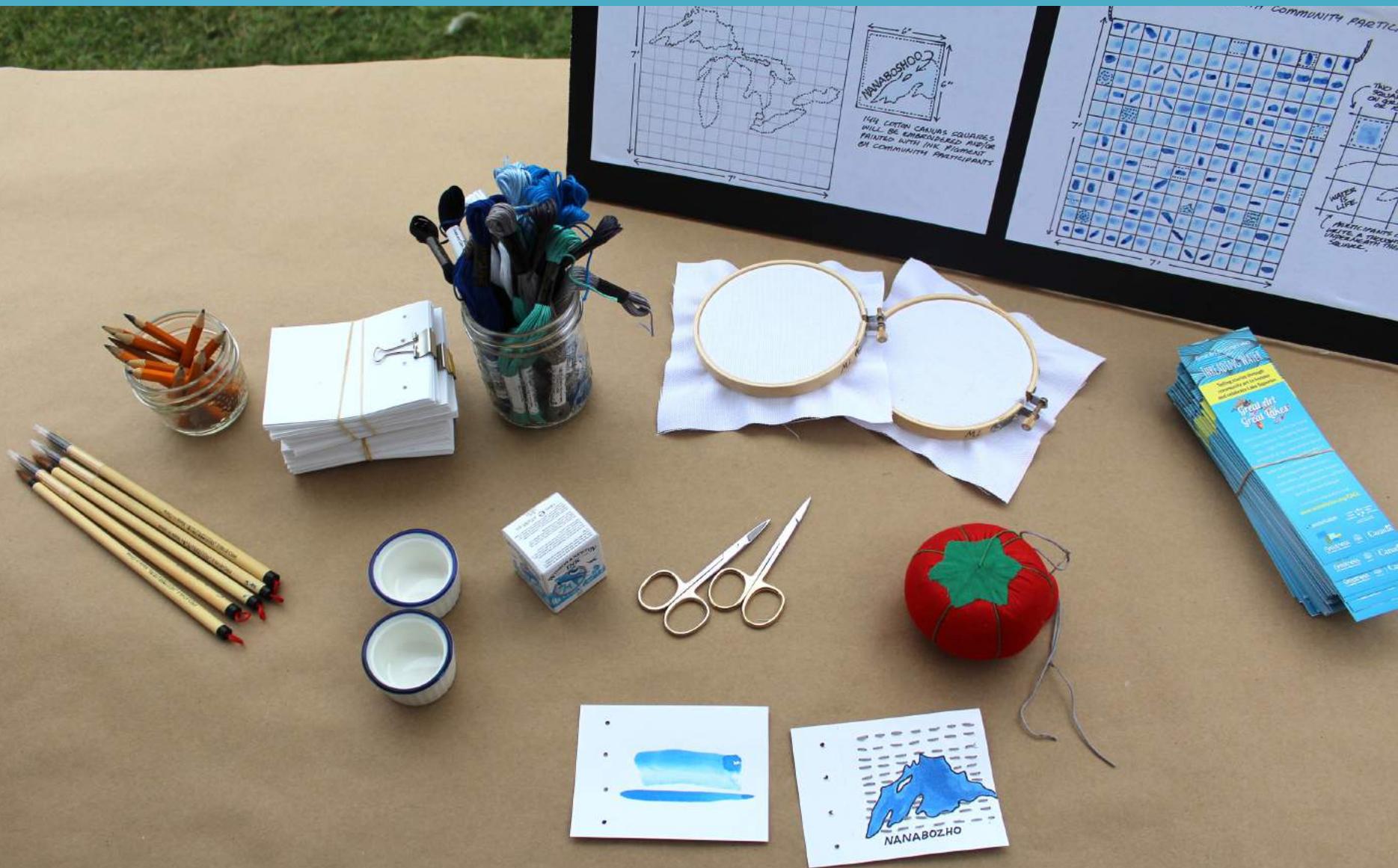


## Manitoulin Partners

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# Threading Water, Marina Park, THUNDER BAY



# Threading Water

## Betty Carpick

Assemblage. Wall mounted, mixed media. 132 squares. 72" w x 65" h

*"All of our actions have an echo in the water. For this community-engaged arts project, I invited people to tell stories about relationships to water to create a collaborative quilt-like assemblage. During five free public maker sessions, people of all ages and abilities used embroidery and fabric paints with a water-inspired palette to present images and words that reflect their connection to Lake Superior and the Great Lakes."*

*- Artist, Betty Carpick*



6

PUBLIC EVENT  
& WORKSHOPS

750

PEOPLE  
ENGAGED

134

FABRIC  
SQUARES



# How We Engage

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## Six Threading Water Workshops

led by Artist across Thunder Bay, open to the public of all ages and abilities. Sponsored in part by local gelateria, Prime Gelato

## Public unveiling at Marina Park

where the quilt is on permanent display



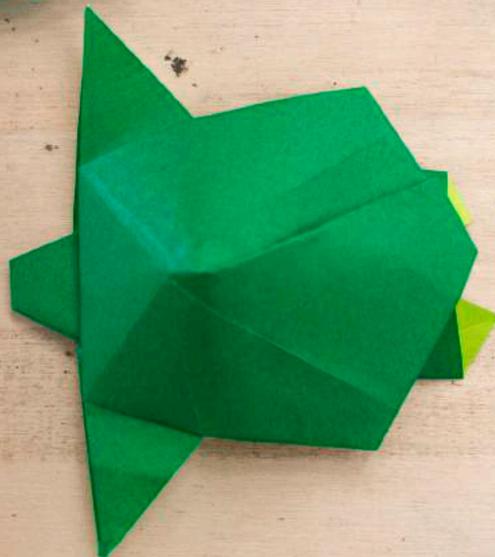
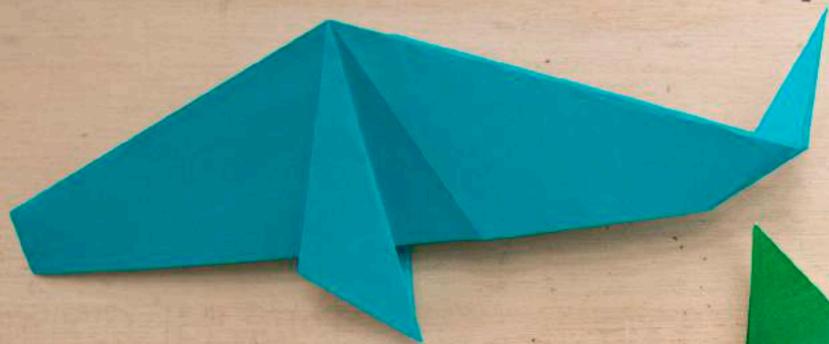
## Thunder Bay Partners

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# Deep Blue, Ontario Science Centre, TORONTO

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# Deep Blue Labspace Studio

Site-specific ceiling installation. 2000+ paper origami & suspension system

*"We are honoured to be part of an ambitious project that brings together communities, especially young people, to promote the health and ecology of our Great Lakes. As socially-engaged artists, we believe that contemporary art should serve to inspire, educate, and foster positive action."*

*- Labspace Studio*

6

**PUBLIC EVENT  
& WORKSHOPS**

1400

**PEOPLE  
ENGAGED**

2000+

**PIECES OF  
LAKE ONTARIO  
SPECIES ORIGAMI**



# How We Engage

## Five Workshops

led by Labspace, Daniel Ranger and the Ontario Science Centre with special guests from the TRCA to share stories of living species as visible in the origami creations by Daniel Ranger

## Unveiling at the Ontario Science Centre

where the artwork is on permanent display

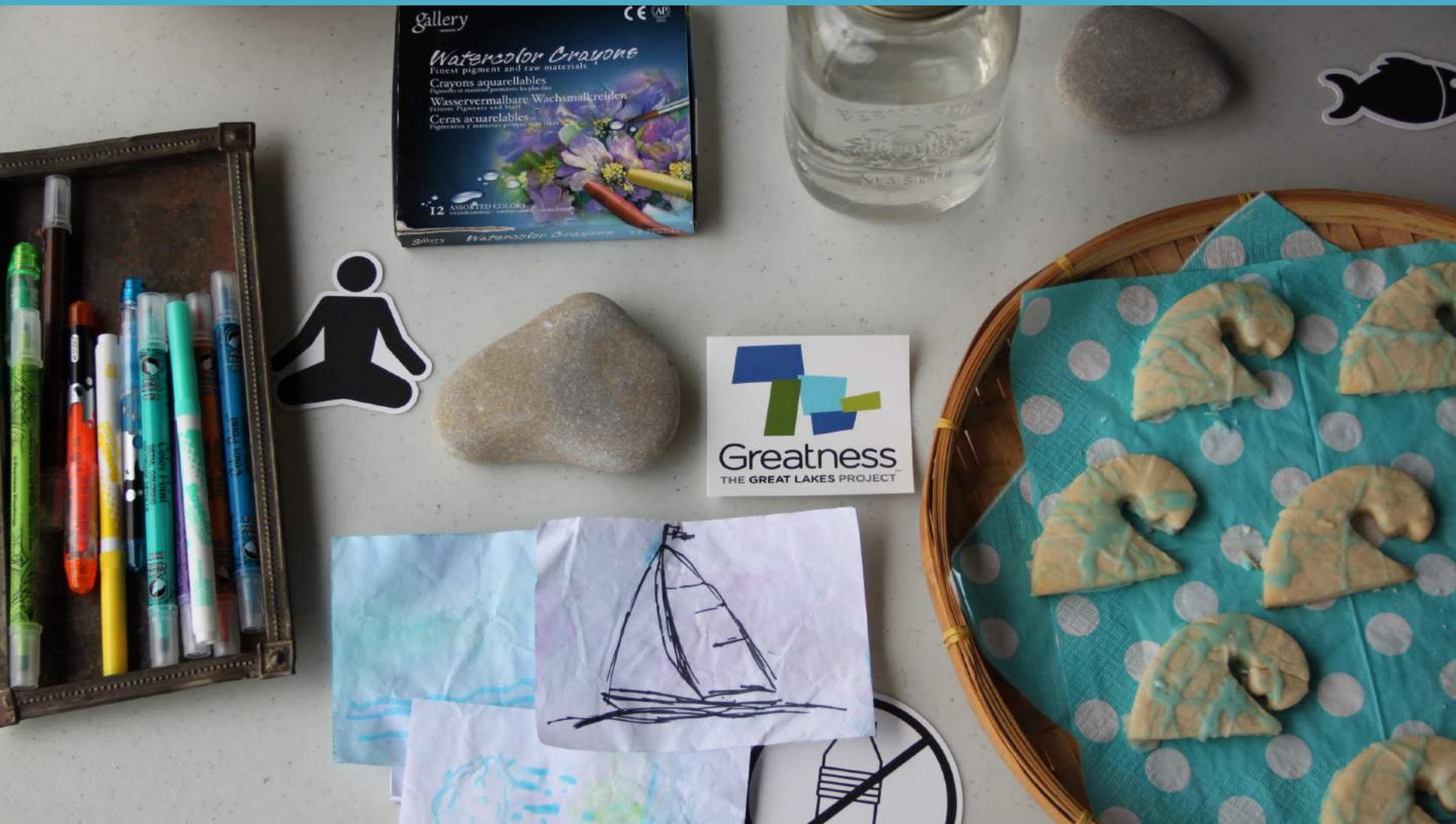


## Toronto Partners



# The Ripple Project, The Roxy Theatre, OWEN SOUND

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# The Ripple Project

## Julia White

Steel and wood sculpture, laser cut. Led lights. Base 24"w x 60"h x 48"l

*"It has truly been an inspiring experience working with my community on The Ripple Project. I am so appreciative of this opportunity to listen and gather and weave together diverse voices and perspectives about what water and our Great Lake Huron means to us. It is my desire that our collaborative installation of The Ripple Project continue to be a source of inspiration, hope and vision for my community around all aspects of water and our Great Lake. It is such a treasure."*

*- Artist, Julia White*

**4**

**PUBLIC EVENT  
& WORKSHOPS**

**237**

**PEOPLE  
ENGAGED**

**125**

**WATER DOODLES  
CONTRIBUTED**



# How We Engage

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## 3 Artist-led Workshops

held at the Meaford Farmers Market, the Owen Sound Farmers Market, and the Tom Thomson Art Gallery in Owen Sound, open to the public of all ages and abilities

## Public Unveiling at The Roxy Theatre

where Julia White cut the ribbon with Mayor Ian Boddy and MPP Bill Walker. The Ripple Project is on permanent display at The Roxy Theatre

## Owen Sounds Partners

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TOM THOMSON  
ART GALLERY



# Mookibii, AAMJIWNAANG

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# Mookibii

## John Williams

Painting. Acrylic on canvas. 8'w x 5.5'h

*"Among the Ojibway legend and lore it is said that mermaids brought medicine to the people. In the painting, Soul Cloud is seated in the centre of the canoe with tobacco in his left hand, offering it to the water spirits. The imagery of smouldering sage offering smudge, thundering beats of the drum and voice form a song, and Mookibii emerging from the water. Evoking the feeling of being seated in the canoe—cleanse your mind, heart and soul with the smudge. Speak your prayer to the Creator, make your offering to the water, and embrace the existence of our culture."*

*- Artist, John Williams*



2

PUBLIC EVENT  
& WORKSHOPS

254

PEOPLE  
ENGAGED

120

HAND PRINTS  
CONTRIBUTED



# How We Engage

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## Community Workshop

held at Maawn Doosh Gumig Community Centre where members of the community centre contributed hand prints that encircle the legend of Mookibii

## Public Unveiling at the Maawn Doosh Gumig Community Centre

attended by Mayor of Sarnia, Mike Bradley, and media





Congratulations  
to all of the artists and the participants



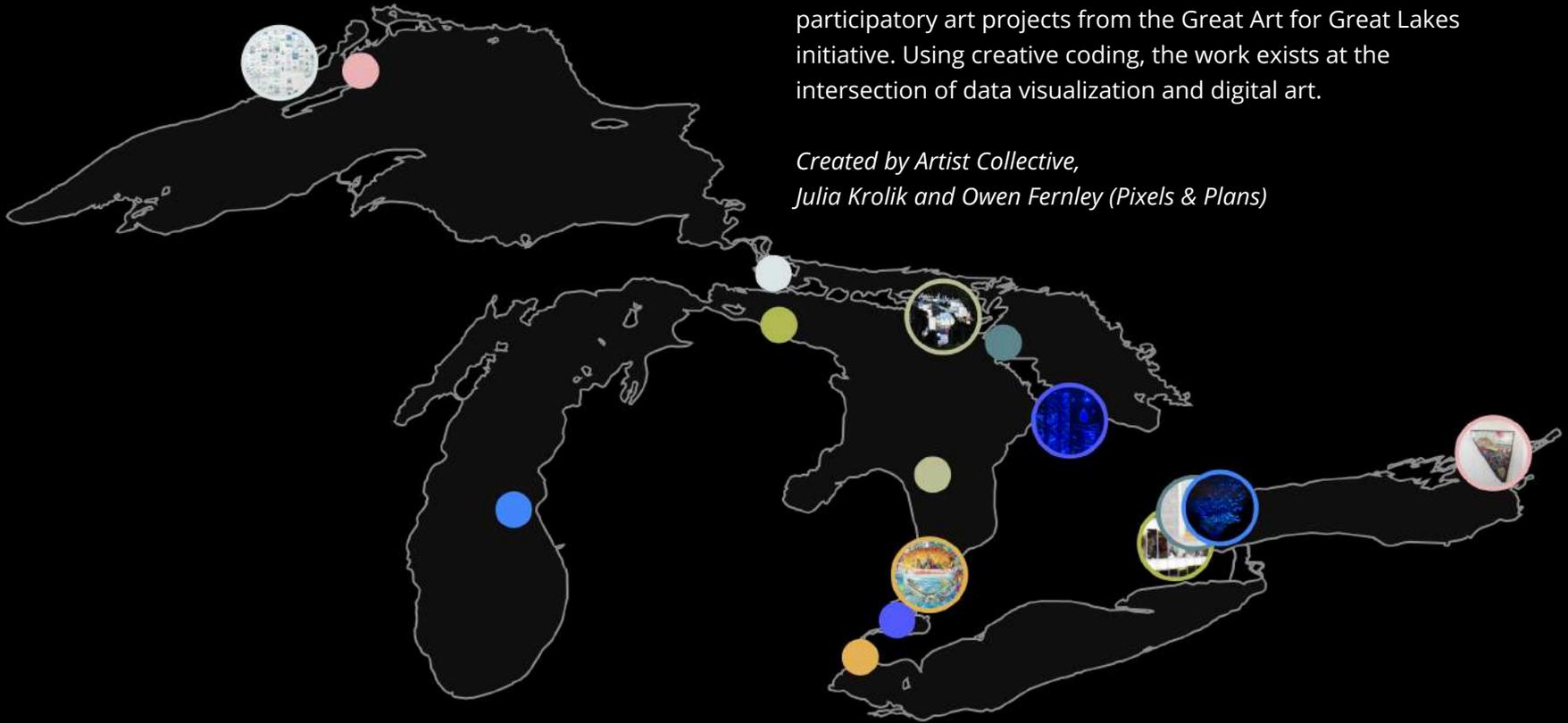
# Community Flow

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COMMUNITY FLOW is a digital online art piece that showcases the individual contributions and final creations of eight participatory art projects from the Great Art for Great Lakes initiative. Using creative coding, the work exists at the intersection of data visualization and digital art.

*Created by Artist Collective,  
Julia Krolik and Owen Fernley (Pixels & Plans)*





What does the Lake do for our communities?

# Greatness

## THE GREAT LAKES PROJECT

Hamilton  
Public Library  
FREEDOM TO DISCOVER

# A Word From Christopher McLeod,

Project Lead, *Great Art for Great Lakes*

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It is with great excitement that I look upon the new public art works installed in Aamjiwnaang, Hamilton, Kingston, Mississauga, Owen Sound, Providence Bay, Thunder Bay and Toronto, as they continue to operate within those Great Lakes Communities. A new public space for connecting with the Great Lakes exists now where it had not existed previously—a new place to consider our past roles, and future responsibilities when it comes to these fresh water bodies.

With equal excitement, the memories of the artist led public workshops, and the thousands of private experiences created, leaves me feeling thrilled about the effectiveness of participatory, dialogical art practices. These experiences, combined with the remaining object, have a lasting effect on those involved. In the Call for Proposals, we were very clear on emphasizing both the collaborative and the collective magnitude of the Great Lakes within all of the projects. Artists needed to prioritize community dialog about the Great Lakes and what the Great Lakes means to its people. Participation from the public and the artist in co-creating a community-based, Great Lakes-themed artwork— under the direction of the artist—was our goal.

Participatory Art isn't created in the solitary space of the artist studio, but out among neighbours, friends, and family. For *Great Art for Great Lakes*, that is exactly what we found in each of the eight communities—those that understood the overwhelming need to celebrate our Great Lakes with all we have available. Without everyone coming together, these types of projects would simply not work. So thank you to all! From our community partners, host sites, local businesses, volunteers, and the public who came out, showed up, and got involved.

And finally, to the fantastic artists from each community that went above and beyond the details in the Call for Proposals: few within a community are willing to put themselves out their on such a personal and professional level for the betterment of that community. Artists play such a vital role in so many facets of our daily lives, yet are seldom given the credit they deserve. It has been an honour working with each artist, seeing and being a part of their processes, and supporting them in their practices.

Sincerely,  
*Christopher McLeod*

# A Word From Karen Kun,

Founder of Waterlution & Co-Founder of Greatness—The Great Lakes Project

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At the outset of *Greatness—The Great Lakes Project*, our collective goal was to create opportunities for those living in the Great Lakes basin to celebrate the grandeur and importance of the largest group of freshwater lakes on Earth. As we got deeper into the vision, mission, and goals of *Greatness*, we developed programming that offers citizens and visitors multiple ways to experience the culture and stories of these ancient waters.

This is what makes *Great Art for Great Lakes* so exciting to watch unfold this year. Not only have we engaged over 3800 participants across the province, we have started to learn how participatory art can be a tool to connect individuals with the lakes and their community. By offering community-engaged workshops curated by emerging local artists, and pairing these experiences with water resource guests varying from City Water bodies, restoration experts, and Conservation Authorities, this has allowed a dialogue to develop in a creative and relaxed environment between the public and those that manage water in Ontario. We believe the learning has only just begun.

We are proud of the new partnerships and connections made through *Great Art for Great Lakes* across the eight Great Lakes communities, and look forward to using art as a tool for social change in the future.

Incredible projects like this only happen with strong partnerships and a passionate team. Thank you to our funders, Ontario Trillium Foundation and Canada 150 Fund and to the entire *Great Art for Great Lakes* team.

It has been an honour to be part of this project,



Karen Kun, *Waterlution*

## HOW CAN WE INSPIRE PEOPLE TO BE MORE ENGAGED WITH THEIR GREAT LAKES?

