

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARTISTS' PROPOSALS ON DISPLAY FOR PUBLIC ART COMMISSION AT THE ESPLANADE

MEDICINE HAT, AB – The Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre is pleased to announce that the artists' proposals for the Alberta Foundation for the Arts competition for the commission of a public work of art are on display until Jan. 28.

On Alberta Arts Day, September 6, 2008, the Honourable Lindsay Blackett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit, announced a partnership between the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) and the Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre to commission a work of art in Medicine Hat. The partnership was accepted on behalf of the City of Medicine Hat by Mayor Norm Boucher.

The AFA collection committee has approved a three-year grant totaling \$150,000 in support of this commission. The work of art will be part of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts collection but will be located as a long-term installation in front of the north face of the Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre. The commissioned artwork will be for the enjoyment of the downtown community, the Medicine Hat public and visitors alike.

Five well-established, professional artists from across Alberta were selected, in consultation with the Alberta Foundation for the Arts staff, to submit proposals for this commission.

The proposals for the competition for the commission of the public work of art are on display now until Jan.28 in the second floor lobby of the Esplanade at 401 First Street SE, Medicine Hat. Visitors are invited to write comments concerning the commission proposals in the comment book provided, which will be given to the selection committee.

These proposal submissions will be considered and assessed by a selection committee at the end of January, 2010; one proposal will be chosen for the commission. The selection committee consists of six local, regional and national jurors, including representatives from the AFA and the Esplanade.

Visitors are invited to join the artists at the Esplanade to discuss the proposals at an Open House on Wednesday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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For further information, please contact:

Joanne Marion
Curator of Art
Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre
403.502.8583, joamar@medicinehat.ca

Terra Rogowski
Marketing / Promotions Coordinator
Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre
403.502.8786, terrog@medicinehat.ca