

Working together for Reconciliation in Edmonton

Edmontonians literally joined hands in solidarity as part of Reconciling Edmonton's community round dance and artwork showcase at City Hall today.

"Edmonton's vibrant and inclusive future rests with the relationships we build today within our communities," said Mayor Don Iveson. "By continuing to share the knowledge and experiences of our Indigenous people, we can build resilience in our city."

The showcase partners poetry with artwork from Jennie Vegt, Artist in Residence in the Office of the City Clerk, as part of her final requirement of her residency.

"I've been lucky to work with many Edmontonians around heritage, art and writing but it felt like lines were drawn around "Indigenous" and "mainstream" versions of the past and modes of expression," said Danielle Metcalfe-Chenail, Reconciliation in Solidarity Edmonton (RISE) founding member. "Through RISE, I connected with other talented people who wanted to bridge that gap and that could draw attention to our shared history and future. This is where Reconciliation Edmonton was born."

RISE brought Reconciling Edmonton to their partners as a way to further the dialogue surrounding reconciliation and to connect Edmontonians to their unique history. Reconciling Edmonton was a partnership between Reconciliation in Solidarity Edmonton (RISE), the City of Edmonton, the Canadian Native Friendship Centre, the Edmonton Arts Council and the Edmonton Heritage Council.

The artwork will stay on display at City Hall until December 7, 2015 and will be traveling to other locations in Edmonton throughout 2016.

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