

## Official unveiling of Rogers Place signature public art

September 8, 2016

The signature public artwork for the City-owned Rogers Place was officially unveiled today. Canadian artist Alex Janvier's Tsa Tsa Ke K'e - *Iron Foot Place*, an intricate tiled mosaic set in the floor of Ford Hall in Rogers Place, is the largest of four pieces of public art chosen to complement the new building.

"Rogers Place will be an iconic landmark and gathering place for millions of citizens and visitors," said Mayor Don Iveson. "It's fitting this artwork by Alex Janvier was chosen for the heart of this space. Not only does it celebrate our shared history, it also represents the natural beauty and tranquility of our landscape."

At a breathtaking 14-metres in diameter, *Iron Foot Place* represents the natural beauty of the Edmonton area, highlighting the skies, lakes and stories of the region. The mosaic is made up of nearly a million byzantine glass smalti tiles, weighing over 3,500 pounds. It took 20 Mosaika staff six months to put the artwork together at its art mosaic fabrication studio in Montreal.

Alex Janvier, one of Canada's most internationally celebrated artists, has deep roots in Alberta. Of Dene suliné and Saulteaux descent, he was born on the Le Goff Reserve near Cold Lake. At age eight he was sent to the Blue Quills Indian Residential School near St. Paul where he escaped into his artwork and began to nurture his talent.

"The inclusion of an artwork of this scale, by a Canadian artist of Alex Janvier's stature, represents a cultural coup and legacy for Edmonton," said Edmonton Arts Council Executive Director Sanjay Shahani. "Placing this powerful Indigenous voice at the heart of Rogers Place transforms the space with a spirit that will enrich, inspire, and provoke those who visit."

"Alex Janvier is not only an internationally renowned artist, he is a great Albertan," said Bob Black, Chief Project Development Officer, Oilers Entertainment Group. "It was a tremendous win for the project that he accepted this commission. It has long been our aspiration that that Ford Hall be a central meeting place and we are thrilled with how this incredible piece of art will contribute to this."

*Iron Foot Place* is the centerpiece of a contemporary art collection at Rogers Place. Completing the collection are: *Essential Tree* by realties.united (Berlin), *Skater's Arch* by Douglas Bentham (Saskatoon), and *9 Figures in Motion with a Puck* by Al Henderson (Edmonton).

All public art commissions for Rogers Place were created through the City of Edmonton's Percent for Art program, which allocates one per cent of qualifying construction costs for City infrastructure projects to acquiring public art. The Edmonton Arts Council stewards the City of Edmonton Public Art Collection and directs the selection process, acquisition, and conservation of new public artworks.

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