

Media Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 21, 2016

Urban Mural Takes Shape at Rogers Place

Edmonton – Painting began today on a vibrant new mural adjacent to Rogers Place Community Rink. The artwork will be painted on the LRT Vent located at 105 Avenue and 102 Street. *Pillars of the Community*, created by former Edmontonians Layla Folkmann & Lacey Jane, will be completed with the assistance of a team of paid youth artists from Boyle Street Community Services.

"*Pillars of the Community* mirrors the diversity and reality of Edmonton," says Layla Folkmann. "We wanted to celebrate the unsung heroes, daily faces, and the less heard or underpraised people who call this city home." Lacey Jane says "The imagery, through the use of faces, colour, and lines highlights the many generations who have shaped this place and further underscores Edmonton's reality, which is urban, vibrant and yet still connected."

Working with local photographer Sandy Phimeister, the artists have captured portraits of people living and working adjacent to Rogers Place. The artists plan to share these images in a photographic exhibit to be held downtown. Five of the images, representing different aspects of the community will be super-scaled and painted on the vent. Recognizing that street and graffiti art are important mediums of expression for inner city youth, the artists have mentored a team of youth artists, sharing their knowledge of artistic practice and technique.

"This mural project is more than just a mural project," says Sebastian Barrera, Youth Outreach Worker with Boyle Street Community Services. "This is a social statement of inclusion, respect and collaboration – an opportunity to honor our people. Also is a chance for our youth to engage in positive activities, work, and learn directly from the artists."

The mural takes advantage of the five-sided ventilation structure located over the Metro Line, which runs beneath the arena complex. Rising 10 metres above the street, the structure provided an ideal opportunity to increase the presence of urban murals downtown, and further connect art with transit commuters and the broader community.

"It is exciting to see a transit property continue to evolve and welcome people into the space through inviting, engaging art," says Eddie Robar, Branch Manager for Edmonton Transit System. "We hope our riders get enjoyment and inspiration out of the piece."

Media are invited to speak with the artists and capture the on-site painting. The artists are anticipated to be on-site for approximately a month.

-30-

The Edmonton Arts Council is a not-for-profit organization that supports and promotes the arts community in Edmonton. The EAC works to increase the profile and involvement of arts and culture in all aspects of our community life.

To arrange a site visit or interview please contact:

Eva Marie Clarke
Communications Officer
emclarke@edmontonarts.ca
780.424.2787 ext 235