

MEDIA RELEASE
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AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING PUBLIC ART PROJECTS
Destiny Swiderski's *Amiskwaciw Wâskâyhkan Îhtâwin* is Honored Today by Public Art Network Year in Review

WASHINGTON, DC —Americans for the Arts today honors 49 outstanding public arts projects created in 2016 through the [Public Art Network](#) Year in Review program, the only national program that specifically recognizes the most compelling public art. Chosen by a jury from 325 entries representing communities across the country, the roster of winning projects was unveiled at Americans for the Arts' 2017 Annual Convention in San Francisco.

Amiskwaciw Wâskâyhkan Îhtâwin is immersive wayfinding that celebrates Edmonton's people, history, landscape, and wildlife. Walkers are led from Michael Phair Park into Beaver Hills House Park by a flock of Bohemian wax-wing birds. 150 copper silhouettes capture the birds in all stages of flight and are decorated with storytelling patterns created in community workshops facilitated by Métis artist Destiny Swiderski. Knowledge holders and Elders supported the artist throughout. The artwork places Cree – an Indigenous language of the Edmonton area – in the heart of downtown. The syllabics and translation express the Indigenous roots of this special place; a place to gather and share stories about the past, present, and future.

"These selected works reflect the incredible diversity of public art projects, including temporary to permanent, sculpture to performance art," said Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. "The innovation of work demonstrated in the Public Art Network Year in Review shows the breadth of talent from artists around the country. I congratulate them and their commissioning groups for these community treasures."

"Successful design is the understanding of the historical references of site, place, and time that turns the community's voice into an experiential narrative that captures the identity of that place," said artist Destiny Swiderski.

The presentation of the Public Art Network Year in Review was generously supported by the Kenneth Rainin Foundation, sponsor of the 2017 Public Art Preconference: Expanding the Ecosystem. Jurors Sherri Brueggemann, manager of the Public Art Urban Enhancement Program for the City of Albuquerque Cultural Services Department; Kevin B. Chen, artist and curator from Oakland, CA; and artist Alison Saar from Los Angeles, CA, were on hand for the session to announce the selected projects.

The artworks selected for the Public Art Network Year in Review can be seen [on this page](#). The complete presentation, which includes photos and descriptions of the 49 works, is available for purchase through [Americans for the Arts' store](#).

Public Art Resource Center (PARC)

At the 2017 Annual Convention, Americans for the Arts also unveiled its new [Public Art Resource Center \(PARC\)](#). Supported by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, PARC is a first-of-its-kind online portal where users can access resources and tools tailored to the specific needs of a rich array of stakeholders in public art, including artists, public art administrators, private sector partners, fabricators, and community stakeholders, among others. A public art services directory, a public art programs directory, and many other resources are available on PARC, giving the field centralized access to information about current and ongoing issues impacting the public art field.

The Public Art Network is a program of Americans for the Arts, designed to provide services to the diverse field of public art and to develop strategies and tools to improve communities through public art. The network's constituents are public art professionals, visual artists, design professionals, and communities and organizations planning public art projects and programs.

Americans for the Arts is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education in America. With offices in Washington, D.C., and New York City, it has a record of more than 55 years of service. Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts.

Additional information is available at www.AmericansForTheArts.org.

The Edmonton Arts Council is a non-profit society and charitable 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.

For information about the EAC, please visit: www.edmontonarts.ca
To visit the Public Art Collection, please visit: www.edmontonpublicart.ca

For more information, photos, or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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Photo by Shirley Tse – Girl Named Shirl Photography