

**Media Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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#HappyWall art installation comes to Sir Winston Churchill Square

Edmonton... Happy Wall, an internationally-loved pixel art installation, will help keep Sir Winston Churchill Square as a hub of activity for people while the area is impacted by the Valley Line LRT development and other rehabilitation projects.

"We want to let people know that, even though there's work going on, Churchill Square is still a welcoming, vibrant, active, destination for citizens and visitors," said Tannia Franke, Civic Precinct Supervisor with the City of Edmonton. "When heading to the Art Gallery of Alberta, Winspear Centre, Citadel Theatre, or TIX on the Square, we hope people will stop by Happy Wall to play and add their own message or picture."

The installation will be in place from May 2018 to May 2019.

Created by Copenhagen artist [Thomas Dambo](#), Happy Wall inspires self-expression from everyone who comes into contact with it. The interactive public art installation is 17 metres long and is covered with 1,040 coloured panels of reclaimed wood that can be flipped to create images or phrases. Edmonton is the first city in Canada to host a Happy Wall. Dambo's Happy Wall, which was crafted in 2014 to revitalize construction sites, has been installed in Denmark, Chile, Brazil, and the United States.

"Dambo is an internationally-renowned artist with a penchant for placemaking projects - animating unexpected or transitional spaces across the globe with his upcycled art installations," said Bob Rasko, Sir Winston Churchill Square Programmer for the Edmonton Arts Council. "That's why Happy Wall was a perfect fit to bring some colour and energy to Sir Winston Churchill Square during construction. We can't wait to see the creative messages and images that Edmontonians dream up over the next year - and share with the hashtag *#Happywall*."

The Edmonton Arts Council, in partnership with the City of Edmonton, programs activities in Sir Winston Churchill Square for casual and day-to-day public use. Monday to Friday programming will include large-format chess and checkers games, as well as basketball nets and ping-pong tables.

Food trucks will be on the Square Monday to Friday to serve up some delectable offerings to lunchtime crowds. [Three Bananas Café](#) and [L'Espresso Café](#) will remain open during construction, and will feature live music on Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m.

Looking to take Transit to Sir Winston Churchill Square? [Visit takeETS.com](#) for route and schedule information.

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