

walking in wahkohtowin

About the Project

Indigenous culture and artistic expression were on display during two special evenings with Elders from the Edmonton area and youth from Thelma Chalifoux, Edith Rogers, TD Baker and kisewatisiwin Schools.

The Elder and Youth Gatherings were made possible by the City of Edmonton Community Based Budgeting Project that included tremendous support from City Councilors Keren Tang and Jo-Anne Wright.

EPSB Indigenous Cultural Liaison, Corey Wells and Metis Artist Krista Leddy both submitted grant applications and collaborated together for the events.

One of the project's primary goals was to facilitate an opportunity for Indigenous youth from the Mill Woods community to spend valuable time with Indigenous Elders. Our hope was that meaningful relationships would be created from the activities and conversations throughout the evening that included food, laughter, artistry and cultural connections.

We want to express our deepest gratitude for Elder Anne Magnusson and Elder Evelyn Day for sharing their time, wisdom and support for these significant endeavors.

About the Art

As part of the Elder and Youth Gatherings, participants also took part in a unique art project led by Métis artist Krista Leddy. Attendees created individual tiles to represent their own uniqueness.

The tiles have been combined into four art pieces that represent the importance of each individual 'walking in wahkohtowin' together as a community.

The four sacred animals (eagle, buffalo, bear and wolf) included in the Medicine & Balance Wheel teachings shared by Corey Wells with students throughout each school year, were the foundation for each of the four pieces.

