

NEWS RELEASE

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City of Nanaimo Unveils New Public Art at Westwood Lake

Fluence by artist David Martinello examines our relationship to a forest

Summary

In complement to the Westwood Lake Park amenity improvements, on Tuesday, July 29, the City of Nanaimo unveiled Fluence, an eye-catching new public art installation by artist David Martinello. Located on an exterior feature wall of the new accessible washrooms, Fluence is a modern and timeless work of art meant to enrich the visitor experience at the park.

Pairing the effects of laminated wood beams and green powder-coated aluminum, Fluence examines our relationship to a forest and how we engage with it. With consideration for the value of trees, the artwork speaks to the surroundings of Westwood Lake, making connections with the land and eliciting adventure into the park. Fluence invites visitors to experience public art in a natural setting, fueling imagination, while encouraging curiosity and critical thinking.

David Martinello is a multifaceted artist and craftsperson who investigates the expressive attributes of wood. By responding to the material's characteristics, he contemplates wood's value to develop a holistic account of its influence in natural and constructed environments.

Martinello's practice is informed by a BFA from Queen's University and years of building furniture with his company, Alternative Woodworks. He's curated exhibitions and residencies, and his art has been seen in galleries across Canada, with public artworks commissioned by municipalities in BC and Alberta.

More information on the city's Urban Design Roster can be found on [the City's website](#). More information on David Martinello's practice can be found on [the artist's website](#)

Strategic Link: Arts and Culture are recognized as a significant contributor to the city's quality of life. Creating memorable spaces and experiences supports Council's vision for a healthy Nanaimo.

Key Points

- In complement to the Westwood Lake Park amenity improvements, the City of Nanaimo unveiled Fluence, an eye-catching new public art installation by artist David Martinello.
- Pairing the effects of laminated wood beams and green powder-coated aluminum, Fluence examines our relationship to a forest and how we engage with it.
- David Martinello is a multifaceted artist and craftsperson who investigates the expressive attributes of wood.
- More information on the City's Urban Design Roster can be found at: <https://www.nanaimo.ca/parks-recreation-culture/public-art/urban-design-roster-program>

Quotes

"David Martinello's Fluence creates a moment of connection between people and place, adding a layer of cultural expression to a much-loved public park. It's a meaningful addition to the City's growing public art collection – one that honours community, creativity, and our shared public spaces. We're thrilled to unveil this stunning art installation, which enhances the natural beauty of Westwood Lake, and serves as an example of how public art can enrich our everyday experiences."

Adrienne Mercer Breen
Manager, Culture & Special Events
City of Nanaimo

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