

NEWS RELEASE

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City of Nanaimo unveils temporary public art installation

Forest Flowers by artists Eliza Gardiner and Isaiah Kingdon brings vibrant native flora to Kinette Evergreen Park

Summary

The City of Nanaimo is proud to announce the unveiling of "Forest Flowers", a vibrant new temporary public art installation by artists Eliza Gardiner and Isaiah Kingdon. Located in Kinette Evergreen Park adjacent to the walking path at the base of Ninth Street hill, the large-scale sculptural work celebrates the beauty of Nanaimo's native plant life through oversized floral forms inspired by the rare Crown Brodiaea flower.

"Forest Flowers" features a cluster of three colourful sculptural blooms rising between six and nine feet tall, designed to surprise and delight visitors as they enjoy the park. Constructed from powder-coated steel and translucent molded acrylic, the flowers are inspired by the violet-purple blossoms native to the Harewood Plains area. Sunlight passing through the petals creates shifting reflections and tinted light across the surrounding greenspace, adding moments of wonder and playfulness to the natural landscape.

The installation reflects the artists' shared interest in community connection, accessibility and the relationship between art and place. Combining Gardiner's community-focused arts practice with Kingdon's digital fabrication expertise, the project merges traditional sculptural inspiration with contemporary fabrication techniques.

"Forest Flowers" encourages visitors to learn more about native and endangered plant species found in the Nanaimo region, inviting residents and visitors alike to reconnect with the natural environment and experience public space in a new way.

Eliza Gardiner is a Nanaimo-based artist, educator and Vancouver Island University professor whose work explores community engagement, accessibility and arts-based learning. Isaiah Kingdon is an emerging artist and designer whose practice bridges traditional craftsmanship with modern digital fabrication technologies.

"Forest Flowers" will remain on display in Kinette Evergreen Park through 2031. More information on the Temporary Public Art program, including an interactive online map, can be found on the [city's website](#).

Strategic Link: The Temporary Public Art Program aligns with the goals of the City of Nanaimo's City Plan by supporting accessible public art experiences that foster creativity, connection and vibrancy in public spaces throughout the community.

Key Points

- The City of Nanaimo is proud to announce the unveiling of "Forest Flowers", a new temporary public art installation by artists Eliza Gardiner and Isaiah Kingdon. The project will remain on display through 2031.
- Located in Kinette Evergreen Park, "Forest Flowers" features three oversized sculptural flowers inspired by the rare Crown Brodiaea native to the Harewood Plains area.
- Constructed from translucent molded acrylic and powder-coated steel, the artwork creates shifting light effects and vibrant colour within the park environment.
- "Forest Flowers" combines community-centered artistic practice with contemporary digital fabrication techniques, creating an accessible and uplifting public art experience for residents and visitors alike.

Quotes

"Forest Flowers is a wonderful example of how public art can deepen our sense of place. This installation brings colour and creativity to Kinette Evergreen Park while celebrating the unique natural beauty of our region. It's a joyful addition to one of our City's parks and a meaningful reflection of the artists who help our community see the familiar in new and inspiring ways."

Leonard Krog
Mayor
City of Nanaimo

"Forest Flowers was inspired by the quiet beauty of Nanaimo's forests and meadows and by the joy that unexpected colour and creativity can bring to public spaces. We wanted to create something playful, uplifting and rooted in place – a work that encourages people to pause, reflect and connect more deeply with the natural environment around them."

Eliza Gardiner and Isaiah Kingdon
Artists

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Contact:

For media enquiries, please contact
Communications
City of Nanaimo
Media.Requests@nanaimo.ca
250-754-4251



View the online edition for more information -

<https://www.nanaimo.ca/NewsReleases/NR260525CityOfNanaimoUnveilsTemporaryPublicArtInstallation.html>