

New information from Gordie Howe International Bridge project team

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PONT INTERNATIONAL **Gordie Howe** INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

Cette publication est également disponible en français sur demande.

Good afternoon,

Here are a few things we wanted you to know about:

“*Make a Joyful Noise*” The Concept for Commemorative Art at the Gordie Howe International Bridge

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project team is pleased to unveil the artistic concept developed by contemporary artist Jordan Sook, that recognizes and commemorates the region’s role as a destination for freedom-seekers of African descent leaving behind slavery and oppression by travelling the Underground Railroad to Canada.

Between 1800-1860, more than 30,000 refugees from slavery and free people of African descent used the network and routes of the Underground Railroad to reach freedom with many of them crossing the Detroit River to Canada.

Mr. Sook has developed a concept for a free-standing sculpture entitled “*Make a Joyful Noise*” that symbolizes hope and freedom for past, current and future generations.

The concept was influenced by the feedback provided to Mr. Sook by local community members from the Black, African and Caribbean diaspora. A sketch of the concept will be on display at Art Windsor-Essex, along with some of Jordan’s Sook’s original works, until fall 2024.

Read more about the artistic concept and view images [here](#).

WDBA appreciates the donation of time and expertise provided by Public Art Consultant Karen Mills, as well as materials and the installation of concrete provided by Amico, a Windsor-based company, to support the commission.



Now Accepting Community Benefits Funding Proposals

All \$23 million of the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy funding will be invested in the host communities of Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit before the end of the Design-Build period. Approximately \$5.5 million (\$3.3 million in Canada and \$2.2 million in the US) is currently available and the project team intends to assign a portion of this funding this year to support the expansion of existing projects and add new initiatives to the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy.

The project team is facilitating two concurrent Calls for Proposals to identify investments, including:

- a call for high-value programming initiatives that align with community investment priorities and will bring lasting benefits to the residents of Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit;
- a call for regional tourism and economic development initiatives, including events and programming that will deliver benefits for the Windsor-Detroit region.

There is specific criteria for each call and interested organizations are encouraged to attend an information session in July to learn more.

Visit [GordieHowelInternationalBridge.com](https://www.gordiehowelinternationalbridge.com) for more information about the information sessions, eligibility and how to apply.

Proposals must be submitted by Thursday, July 25, 2024, at 4:00 P.M. EST.

2024 COMMUNITY BENEFITS CALL FOR PROPOSALS



Submit a proposal for community programming, tourism and economic development by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 25, 2024



Visit GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com for more information on eligibility, how to apply and to register for upcoming information sessions

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