

The Visual Art Program on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project was developed to create memorable, high-quality, works of art consistent with the international importance of the bridge and to celebrate and promote creativity and friendship between Canada and the US. Multiple artistic features have been incorporated into the project as a result of ongoing community feedback to integrate cultural and historical recognition features where possible, including public art, commemorative art and Community Benefits Plan Art.

Public art is an integral part of the overall project aesthetics and is the result of years of public and stakeholder consultation. Inclusion of public art in the project originated from input received during the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study. Public art commissions include:

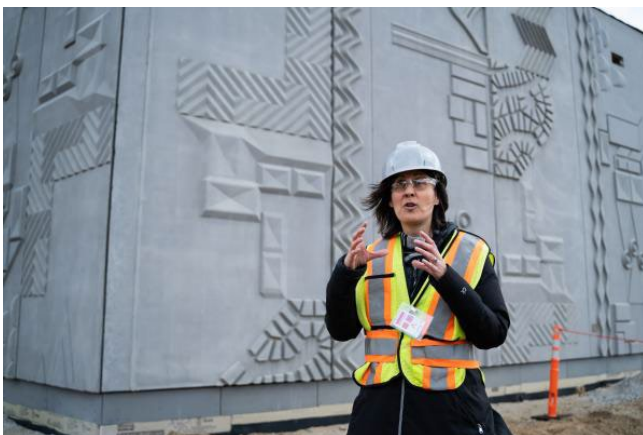
- an artistic building façade at the Canadian Port of Entry
- a standalone Indigenous art commission
- dramatic and dynamic bridge lighting.

A commemorative art feature will also be incorporated into the Canadian Port of Entry. Several local art-related initiatives funded through the Community Benefits Plan have also been installed in Windsor and Detroit.

A juried artist selection process was undertaken for the project commissions following Canadian Heritage guidelines for public artist selection. Each commission also included public consultation opportunities to help inform the artist's themes, ideas and concept.

ARTISTIC BUILDING FAÇADE

An artistic building façade has been integrated into the exterior of the maintenance building at the Canadian Port of Entry which will provide a welcoming and unique experience for future users of the Gordie Howe International Bridge. Unveiled in February 2023, this commission features the work of Sara Graham, a Canadian artist from southern Ontario currently based in Port Moody, British Columbia.



Artist Sarah Graham (left) and the artistic building façade "On the Other Side of Tomorrow" (both left and right).

Titled “*On the Other Side of Tomorrow*,” the façade is composed of 22 stamped concrete panels, each approximately 3x7 metres/10x23 feet. The work reflects national and regional Canadian landscapes and was achieved through the incorporation of illustrative mapping techniques and a combination of different optical perspectives. Elements included in the artwork represent suburban areas, industrial zones and farmland, as well as artistic renderings of mountains, treetops, road systems, lighthouses and water.



Indigenous Art Commission artist, Michael Belmore, and his piece Aazhoge.

INDIGENOUS ART COMMISSION

The second public art commission was installed in October 2024. Titled *Aazhoge*, the 3-metre/10-foot-high free-standing sculpture is a contemporary reflection of the culture and traditions of Indigenous Peoples in Canada, with emphasis on local Anishinaabe First Nations.

Aazhoge is the Anishinaabe word for bridge and can also mean crossing over or seeing other planes of existence. Created by renowned Anishinaabe artist, Michael Belmore, the artwork is prominently located within the Canadian Port of Entry, visible to travellers as they enter and exit Canada. Michael Belmore is based in Newmarket, Ontario.



AESTHETIC BRIDGE LIGHTING

Dramatic aesthetic bridge lighting will be incorporated into the bridge design as an artistic feature displayed along the skyline at night. This will include a dynamic light concept designed in collaboration with renowned Canadian visual artist Douglas Coupland that highlights the symbolic connection linking Canada and the US.

The artistic commission will include nearly 5,000 individual white bridge lights that complement the aesthetic form of the two bridge towers, the road deck edging and illuminate the cables through dynamic and static movement.

Bridging North America hosted a Meet-the-Artist meeting in November 2024, at Art Windsor Essex for community members to share their thoughts on possible themes for the Aesthetic Bridge Lighting commission. The lighting concept will be unveiled in 2025.

In addition to the artistic lighting commission, additional bridge lighting programs that feature movement, animation and intensity levels will further enhance nighttime views of the bridge towers and cables.



Conceptual rendering night view of the Gordie Howe International Bridge.



Conceptual rendering of the commemorative art commission "Make a Joyful Noise" by artist Jordan Sook.

COMMEMORATIVE ART COMMISSION

To commemorate 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, a large-scale freestanding sculpture titled *Make a Joyful Noise*, is being installed at the Canadia Port of Entry.

Created by artist Jordan Sook, the sculpture symbolizes hope and freedom for past, current and future generations.

The artwork is a three metre/nine-foot circular metal structure composed of replica church pews and intentional lighting. Located outside the Canadian Port of Entry's security perimeter and visible to travellers as they enter and exit Canada using the multi-use path, the commemorative artwork will be accessible for the public to visit and reflect upon. Installation of the artwork will coincide with the opening of the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

For more information about the Gordie Howe International Bridge project or Visual Art Program visit www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com or call 1-844-322-1773. Follow us on X at www.x.com/GordieHoweBrg, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GordieHoweBridge and connect with us on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/wdba-apwd.