



# ION Public Art Passport



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## Message from the Chair

Waterloo Region is home to so many talented artists – sculptors, painters, musicians, filmmakers and writers. Our vibrant and diverse arts community provides tremendous potential to forge connections and broaden our economic diversity.

The public art installations at the ION stations speak to the creativity, diversity and community engagement that makes Waterloo Region a terrific place to live, work and play.

I have always felt that there is a need to create multiple spaces to showcase our local artistic talent. The Region supports our emerging artists and arts organizations in part because this is an important sector of our local economy.

*Karen Redman*

Karen Redman  
Regional Chair

## Why public art?

Region of Waterloo recognizes the value of public art in increasing the stature and maturity of the community, elevating the cultural profile, and adding another feature for consideration in peoples' choices of places to live and work.

## Public art fosters place-making

The ION public artworks were selected using the Region's two-stage juried process to create unique and creative spaces along the ION light rail transit route.

### Public art:



encourages  
community  
collaboration



provides  
opportunity for  
artistic expression



nurtures  
community  
identity



# ION Stations



**"Continuum"** by Catherine Paleczny

Depicts the bounty of our region, and is a reflection on the progression of time and the interconnectedness of agricultural and technological resources. The binary code in the sky spells out "ION: Shaping the Future for Waterloo Region."



**"Fabric of Place"** by Lilly Otasevic

A celebration of cultural diversity. The fabric inspired panel designs, chosen with help from the community, celebrate traditional hand-made textile techniques used by the mothers and grandmothers of many cultures. The intricate patterns also represent the connectedness in the fabric of community.



**"The Passenger"** by Brandon Vickard

Seen initially as a waiting passenger, the sculpture challenges our perceptions by highlighting the urban environment as a space shared with wild animals – such as squirrels, raccoons, owls and turtles. They inhabit our city stealthily, rarely seen and when we do meet them we are often startled to remember they are there.



**"Spinal Column"** by Sandra Dunn

A bench forged out of an actual piece of the ION light rail track. The bench depicts a spinal column, linked to our biology, health and the hospital, but more importantly is a metaphor for the ION as the spine of our community, and represents manufacturing as the backbone of the region.



**"Because Cats Can't Fly"** by Edwin and Veronica Dam De Nogaes

Inspired by the gears of local industry, bicycles and clocks, it is a welcoming reference to the community's past and present, a focal point for an evolving neighbourhood filled with people of all ages, who value healthy living and a sense of play.



**"Tall Tales of Mill Street"**

by Tara Cooper and Terry O'Neill

An artwork, which celebrates the local history of Mill Street, the story of the Schneider Plant and commemorates the many remarkable tales connected to this significant location.



**"Three Sisters"** by Lindsey Lickers

A collaborative project, which depicts the traditional story of Three Sisters and the Young Iroquoian Boy. The artwork is a reference to the history and culture of the First Peoples and a reminder to all of the need for community, collectiveness, unity, and sustainable food.



**"shaping Residency"** by Stephen Cruise

"shaping Residency" features two sculptures inspired by the Fraktur drawing tradition of the early Mennonite settlers of Waterloo Region from Pennsylvania. Fraktur images are often found on early marriage certificates, baptismal records, and school workbooks.



**"Arras"** by Elana Zur and Lauren Judge

Characterizes the present-day social fabric of ethnicities, genders, generations and commerce existing in the Kingsdale neighbourhood. The recognizable patterns and textures in the work reflect the community's history and cultural influences.



**"Pin Art"** by Ken Hall

Encouraging playful interaction, this artwork generates a stimulating interplay as residents and visitors participate in a creative exchange by manipulating the aluminum pins of the sculpture and make time for fun amidst the busy day.

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