

ART COMMISSION: CANADIAN PORT OF ENTRY ENERGY COMPLEX

INTRODUCTION

Providing a welcoming experience for travellers using the Gordie Howe International Bridge is a priority for the project's design team. This includes ensuring structures and buildings are visually appealing, unique and memorable.

Visual art has been integrated into the project in accordance with outcomes identified in the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* Federal Screening Report that resulted from the Detroit River International Crossing Study. Multiple art commissions have been identified for inclusion in the project, which include:

- dramatic and dynamic night-time bridge lighting
- an artistic building façade at the Canadian Port of Entry (POE)
- a standalone Indigenous art commission to be completed by an Indigenous artist in Canada.

These visual art commissions are part of a larger effort to incorporate Public Art and other forms of cultural and historical recognition into the project, based on continued community engagement and through initiatives such as the project's Community Benefits Plan.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

Work on the Canadian POE building façade art commission is now underway, with an artist selected to develop a design for the exterior panels of the Energy and Maintenance Complex building.



The building will stand approximately 7 metres/23 feet in height and more than 60 metres/197 feet in length, providing a large, highly visible canvas. The Energy and Maintenance Complex at the Canadian POE is situated near the traffic route for vehicles accessing the Gordie Howe International Bridge to the US and can also be seen in a limited view from traffic entering Canada. While the exterior of the building is visible to passing traffic, pedestrian access is limited to POE staff.

The Artist has an opportunity to provide a design that will be integrated into the façade of the building by manipulating the building's cladding system. The design will be achieved through inscribed imagery or bas relief using concrete form liners. Colour will be used to further accentuate the design.

The design of the final commission will be shared at a future public meeting.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

An extensive selection process was undertaken by Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) and Bridging North America (BNA), with an art jury interviewing five artists for this commission in summer 2019.

Sara Graham, the selected artist, hails from southern Ontario and is currently based in Port Moody, British Columbia. She holds a BFA (1997) from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and an MFA (2006) from the University of Guelph. She has exhibited her work across North America and has also undertaken several public art commissions with the most recent one installed in Richmond, BC in 2020.



Ms. Graham is specifically engaged in a cross-disciplinary artistic practices and theoretical approaches that incorporate philosophical, cultural, sociological and architectural criticism of the nature and condition of the city and city life. One of Ms. Graham's central engagements in her practice is in the mapping of systems and networks and how their interconnectivity affects everyday lives.

On March 9, 2021, Ms. Graham met the community at a virtual 'Meet the Artist' event where she shared previous artwork and thoughts about concept development for this commission. Public comments were collected for her consideration that focused on sightlines, use of colour, shadows and accounting for speed of travel.

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