



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sculpture Saint John's Final Symposium Postponed until August 2021

SAINT JOHN – Sculpture Saint John is postponing its fifth and final Symposium until August of 2021. The event was to take place August 6 to September 19, 2020 at Long Wharf.

Like many other festivals and events that highlight the summer calendar, Sculpture Saint John is following the advice of our health officials and has made the difficult decision to postpone until next summer. First and foremost, we want to do our part in keeping New Brunswickers safe. Avoiding gathering in large numbers has been a key part of our province's strategy in our collective fight against COVID-19.

Sculpture Saint John is part of an international movement that began in 1959 in Austria to encourage artists from around the world to come together and share their expertise. The first New Brunswick International Sculpture Symposium was held in 2012 in Saint John where residents and visitors experienced significant works of art created in real time over a six-week period. The biennial event, the largest of its kind in North America, occurred again in 2014, 2016 and 2018. An exact date for the 2021 event will be decided upon in the coming months. It will remain at Long Wharf.

Months of planning goes into each Symposium, including the selection of international artists and the logistics of bringing them to Saint John from around the globe. Our province has been under a state of emergency for several weeks and it is unlikely that international travel restrictions will be lifted in time to make travel arrangements for the artists.

One of the main goals of the Symposium is to connect communities through affordable public art. Each artist is paired with a community partner, and these works created during the symposium will be permanently installed across the region. At our recent launch we announced the eight artists and community partners selected for the Symposium and these will remain the same for 2021. They are:

James Boyd, New Brunswick, Canada – Deer Island Chamber of Commerce
Philip Savage, New Brunswick, Canada – Uptown Saint John
Valerian Jikia, Republic of Georgia – Town of Oromocto
Viktar Kopach, Belarus – Kiwanis Club of Saint John
Zdravko Zdravkov, Bulgaria – City of Dieppe
Songul Telek, Turkey – Town of Grand Bay-Westfield
Canan Zöngür, Turkey – City of Moncton
Pauls Jaunzems, Latvia – Friends of Seaside Park

Since its inception, the event has been fortunate to receive tremendous support from our incredible sponsors and partners as well as our many volunteers. Sculpture Saint John is a critical economic driver for the city. During the first four symposiums, more than 125,000 visitors experienced New Brunswick granite coming to life on Saint John's vibrant waterfront. Over the years, in excess of 150 individuals and companies have helped Sculpture Saint John contribute more than \$3 million to the local economy.

"We look forward to re-invigorating our planning in the coming months to prepare our final legacy event for the summer for 2021," said Diana Alexander, Executive Director, Sculpture Saint John. "And when it is safe to do so, we encourage New Brunswickers to visit the 30 sculptures that have already been installed in communities around the province from St. Stephen to Fredericton to Riverview. It's a wonderful opportunity to re-discover these beautiful communities and enjoy the world-class art that has been gifted to our province."

A map of the sculpture trail featuring pieces from 2012-2018 can be found here:

<http://sculpturesaintjohn.com/sculpture-trail/>

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Cutline for submitted photo: Oliver Harwood of British Columbia works on his sculpture, *Song of the Deep*, from the 2018 Symposium. This piece now resides in St. Andrews, NB.

For further information, please contact:

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