

Be'er Sheva Park Behind the Art



Learn more about the art featured throughout your park!

Funding for this project provided by the Norcliffe Foundation with fiscal sponsorship from The Seattle Parks Foundation. Inspiration and placemaking are provided by the rich and diverse community of Rainier Beach.

LC Pitre Artwork

Community



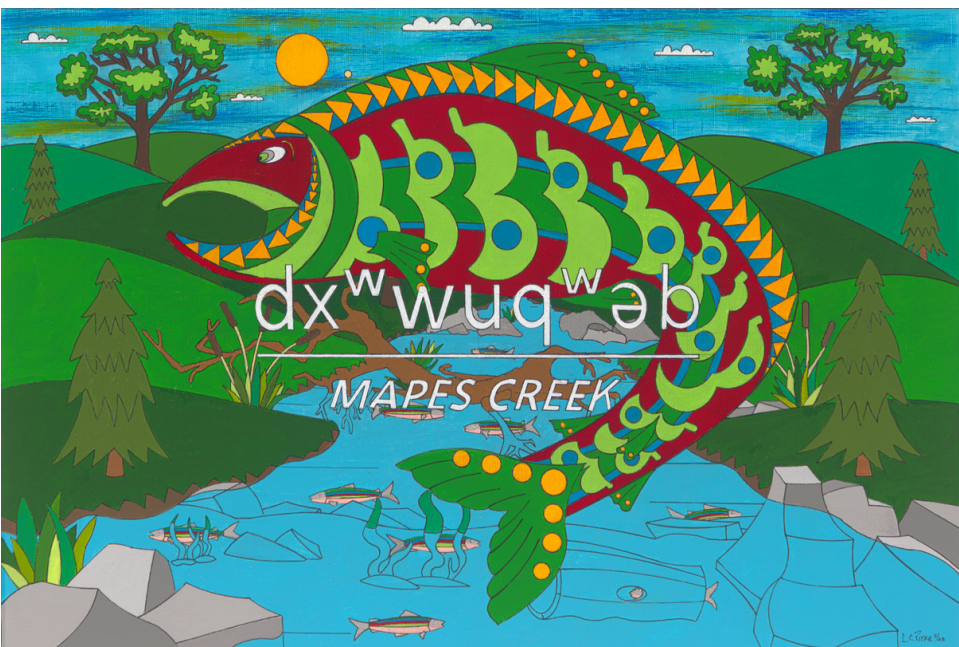
We Have the Power



Check out the calendar of events at the Cultural Stage and how to set up your own performance here:

Link: <https://www.rbculturalstage.com/>

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Learn more about Mapes Creek by viewing our video series: [Engage, Educate, and Discover at Dx^wwuq^wəb/Mapes Creek](#)

Link: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11038701>

Creating the Artwork

Creating these three art pieces was a community endeavor! Artist Lawrence Pitre facilitated and engaged Rainier Beach residents, park users and community partners in developing each art piece. There were multiple opportunities to provide input for each piece's conceptual development and general themes. As the work was created, the community provided feedback and guidance to the collaborative design and voted on the final product. We hope you find this artwork to reflect the vibrant community that is Southeast Seattle. We are grateful to the Norcliffe Foundation for providing the funding to facilitate this community design process and ensure artwork exists throughout the park.

Artist description of the artwork, by LC Pitre

I realize that as an artist my work provides an avenue for viewers to engage in life. In particular, the Community, Mapes Creek and Cultural Stage exhibits descriptive elements that evoke emotions of a forgotten community reborn on a commitment to leave no child behind.

These dynamic compositions feature geometric shapes composed of flowing angular lines and circular forms in a vivid spectrum of colors. The dizzying interplay between moving forms and people is the perfect representation of movement and flux, which are the hallmarks of modern art. Utilizing the most prominent color found in nature, green embodies the richness and lush greenery produced in association with Mother Earth. This is why each piece is soothing and captivates the viewer with its sense of depth and humanity. Lastly, each piece in its true vibrancy captures the beauty of the people and its surroundings. This is how a park should always be! Built by the people for the people, this is why we have the power.

Learn more about LC Pitre here:

<https://www.lcpitre.com>

Those Who Came Before Us

Artist- Lisa Jackson, Suquamish Tribe



When I came across the opportunity to create a piece for Be'er Sheva Park, I was instantly inspired. I originally designed a woman in a cedar hat and fabric cape to represent modern Native Americans and had her standing on the beach of Be'er Sheva Park. When I submitted it, I was so excited and also worried that I hadn't actually followed the application rules, but I was inspired and wanted to share that inspiration regardless.

A couple months later I received an email that I was chosen to do a piece in the park. I was full of shock and excitement, as I've submitted pieces for other projects before but had never been chosen. I told everyone, and was excited from the moment I found out and will continue to be excited, as this is my first public art piece.

I was inspired to focus on the park as a place where people and animals once connected. It is believed that our people could talk to animals long ago. That inspired me to go very traditional with my design. The woman standing on land took the longest to design. Making the cedar hat and cedar cape look like cedar but still a watercolor-type effect took some time. Also, by creating the designs for the hat and cape I wanted to tell a story.

Inside the cape, the whale represents strength and honor, the shapes on the bottom right represent the mountains where our ancestors gather and hunt, and the shapes on the left represent the water that connects the people to everything. The cedar hat contains a diamond pattern, each notch represents a person, a family member in the past and present, all woven together, never to be forgotten.

The remainder of the piece focuses on the beach pre-contact. From the salmon going upstream, to the eagle making its catch of the day. And people standing on the beach to welcome their family back after a long journey on the water. I wanted to give people visiting Be'er Sheva Park an opportunity to imagine our world from back then to where we are now. Taking them on a journey through their own imagination.

Learn more about Lisa Jackson here: <https://creativeculturaldesigns.com/>