



PRESS RELEASE
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The Diversity Rally September 23 to 26, 2008

Four Public Artworks to celebrate Quebec's Artistic Diversity!

Montreal, September 16, 2008 – As part of the Diversity Rally and the Quebec Week of Intercultural Encounters, Culture pour tous is coordinating the creation of four collective works that exemplify intercultural dialogue.

The Diversity Rally is a 400 km bicycle tour initiated by the immigrant support organization Centre R.I.R.E. 2000— on the occasion of the Quebec City's 400th anniversary—in order to promote cultural diversity within Quebec society. The Rally follows the Route verte and makes stops in the cities of **Granby**, **Sherbrooke**, **Victoriaville** and **Quebec City**. The bicycle journey is interspersed with various activities, such as the unveiling of public artworks which will be donated to the four municipalities. The project is made possible through the support of the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles du Québec and the participating cities.

In **Granby**, the artist **Hélène Plourde** is working in partnership with the community groups Atelier 19 and Solidarité ethnique régionale de la Haute-Yamaska (SERY) to create a bas-relief made of wood and aluminum on the theme of intercultural dialogue. The artwork is being created by means of writing and graphic workshops with participating immigrant citizens and students from L'Envolée high school. Entitled *Dialogue*, it will be installed on the L'Envolée school wall facing Parc Jean-Yves Phaneuf, and will be unveiled on September 23 to coincide with the cyclists' passage.

In **Sherbrooke**, **Nathalie Caron** and **Margrethe Ulvik** are collaborating with the multiethnic school LaRocque to create *Les Bateaux-étoiles*, a small fleet of reduced-scale copper boats inspired by the idea of the initiation journey. The sails and nylon ropes will be woven during workshops with immigrant children from the multiethnic school LaRocque. The artwork will be installed on **September 19** on the Passerelle des Draveurs footbridge at the Lac des Nations, and presented on **September 24** during the Quebec Week of Intercultural Encounters opening ceremony.

In **Victoriaville**, **Lynda Baril**, **Laurent Luneau** and **Michèle Rappe** are also organizing workshops with the participation of Solidarité Nord-Sud, l'Association d'intégration sociale and the Communauté Colombienne de Victoriaville. The artists are preparing a concrete sidewalk that will contain a tree and cast objects entitled *L'aire de l'humanité*. The concrete base is composed of about eighty 1 ft.-wide cubes, each one containing a symbolic object for each of the participating immigrants. The artwork will be installed at Place Sainte-Victoire and inaugurated on September 25, 2008.

Finally, in **Québec**, the photographer **Éric Côté** and the author **Pedro Nel Marquez** offer a series of photographs representing residents of the capital of different origins, and a text by the Columbian writer. Presented on a banner, the installation will be unveiled at the Espace 400^e on **September 26**, and will then be on a traveling display in various Quebec City public spaces.

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