

Thursday » June
19 » 2008

Wellington to sport that 'hydrant' look

Matthew Pearson

The Ottawa Citizen

Thursday, June 05, 2008

Almonte sculptors Marcus Kucey-Jones and Ryan Lotecki have won a \$255,000 commission from the city's public art program to create 18 fire hydrant-inspired sculptures as part of Wellington Street West's ongoing facelift.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for both of us," said Mr. Kucey-Jones, adding it will be the first time the pair have collaborated.

The sculptures will stand more than a metre high and will be installed on limestone platforms at intervals along Wellington Street West from Western to Breezehill avenues. Mr. Kucey-Jones said it will take a year and a half to carve the sculptures out of marble he plans to import from Italy later this summer.

He said he expects to install the sculptures in 2010.

The pair chose the fire hydrant as a sculptural form because of its interesting shape and for the uncelebrated, but very necessary, role it plays in the urban landscape.

"I think people in the community are going to respond really positively to this. (The fire hydrants) will be real landmarks," he said.

Residents were given a preview of the competition's five finalists last month at the Hintonburg Community Centre. The selection committee took these comments into consideration prior to choosing the winning proposal on May 21.

Selection criteria included artistic excellence, experience of the artist, site integration, reflection of the community and sustainability.

The public art program commissions area artists to create work for display in public spaces. In keeping with city policy, one per cent of construction costs on all projects are to be spent on public art.

Winners have previously been announced in competitions for portions of King Edward Avenue and Bank Street. Plans for a Preston Street competition are in the works.

- - -

Online: Gallery

Wellington West Gets a Facelift

For a photo gallery of the winning art proposal, go to Best in Pictures at ottawacitizen.com

© The Ottawa Citizen 2008

CLOSE WINDOW

Copyright © 2008 CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#) All rights reserved.
CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#) All rights reserved.