

Unveiling of the Diversity Mural

SHERBROOKE, October 06, 2021 - In response to the issues of cultural diversity and using the art of graffiti as a tool for inclusion, a constructive partnership between Actions interculturelles and Estrie Aide was born. Together, they embarked on the production of a major mural. Almost the entire wall of Estrie Aide's building was used as a canvas by well-known Sherbrooke graffiti artists Guillaume Cabana and Boris Biberdzic, who painted an urban work illustrating the beauty of difference.

Through this artistic, cultural, and unifying project, representatives of the cultural communities actively collaborated in the brainstorming and consultation sessions to identify certain emblematic elements of their reality that should be included in the final work, all with the goal of promoting community cohesion. *"This project is the result of a long reflection on the issue of how cultural diversity is represented. It is a tribute to the beauty present in our differences. In our eyes, it is a precious gift; we are all perfect imperfections. In this graphic work, we have presented different scenes that represent mutual aid and support. The universal form of expression that is dance was chosen because it represents the movement of the current of everyday life,"* say the two artists in a common voice.

This mural also aims to contribute to improving the living environment of nearby residents, while highlighting the significant contribution of a multiracial and multicultural population to our community. The realization of this mural is possible thanks to the contribution of the City of Sherbrooke through its Tags and Graffiti Committee.

"The Tags and Graffiti Committee's mandate is to promote urban art that improves the environment and enhances the beauty of Sherbrooke's surroundings. I am delighted with the appearance of this new work of art, signed by two talented artists" said Chantal L'Espérance, President of the Tags and Graffiti Committee.

"This work of art is evocative of our community's openness to the world and sense of mutual aid. It was therefore only natural for the City of Sherbrooke to contribute financially," added Sherbrooke Mayor Steve Lussier.

During the unveiling, the artists, themselves from culturally diverse backgrounds, explained their work and their artistic approach. Then, Milka Mumbesa, a dynamic young leader of the Dialogue+ project, told us about the impact of this work in the community and its important link with the awareness campaign against discrimination, *On se ressemble + qu'on pense*.

About Actions interculturelles

For more than 30 years, Actions interculturelles has highlighted the contribution of cultural diversity and supported socio-professional integration for a just, inclusive, and prosperous society through innovative, structuring, and collaborative actions.

About Estrie Aide

Estrie Aide is a non-profit social economy organization (NPO) that has been working in the Estrie community since 1997. It contributes to the revalorization of everyday objects and to the development of the people who make up its team and its community.

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With the financial participation of:

