

# CentreCourt and Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam are Proud to Unveil Indigenous Art Mural

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## Phillip Cote's 'The Original Family' brings colour, history and meaning to Garden District.

TORONTO, May 29, 2019 /CNW/ - CentreCourt is thrilled to present 'The Original Family', a work of indigenous art created by renowned artist and educator, Phillip Cote. First proposed by Ward 13 Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, the mural graces the south façade at Grid Condos, CentreCourt's 50-storey tower at Dundas and Jarvis.



The Original Family by Phillip Cote (CNW Group/CentreCourt)

"Councillor Wong-Tam asked us to consider an artistic treatment of Grid's south facade," recalls Mitch Gascoyne, CentreCourt's VP of Development. "Considering the influence and impact that Indigenous culture and history has had on our country, the Councillor and CentreCourt believed that an Indigenous Art motif would be most appropriate. In May of 2018, we selected Phillip Cote to bring the project to life."

Cote brought a number of ideas forward for the piece, and after a final decision was made, work began on 'The Original Family' in the fall of 2018. The completed mural depicts the Anishinaabe Creation story, beginning with The First Man (Waynaboozhoo) and The First Woman and their sacred union.

"It is a depiction of one of our oldest stories," says Cote. "The Anishinaabe Creation Story was brought down through oral traditions and pictographic images drawn on birch-bark scrolls."

Cote worked on the mural for four months, using his contemporary style of Woodland Painting.

"It has been an absolute pleasure working with Phillip," says Gascoyne. "And in equal measure, Councillor Wong-Tam's leadership and foresight on this project has been invaluable to us. CentreCourt is committed to honouring what is best in our communities, and 'The Original Story' is a vibrant reminder of the proud, strong indigenous foundation upon which we build."

"It is exciting to welcome this substantial, Indigenous-centered mural work that speaks to the presence and rich history of Indigenous peoples in this location" said Councillor Wong-Tam. "Phillip Cote is an award-winning artist whose work is widely respected. I thank CentreCourt for their sponsorship of his work, and support of Indigenous placemaking. The mural is located across from the new Indigenous Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship at 200 Dundas St. East. I sincerely hope that these initiatives will move us closer to the goal of establishing an Indigenous Business District in this neighbourhood."

### **About Phillip Cote**

Philip Cote is an artist, an educator, a Sundancer, a Pipe Carrier, a Sweat Ceremony leader, and a member of the Eagle Society. A graduate of OCAD University's Interdisciplinary Master's in Art, Media and Design in 2015, Philip creates opportunities for teaching methodologies on Indigenous symbolism, language, knowledge, and history.

### **About CentreCourt:**

CentreCourt is a real estate company focused on the development of high-rise residential communities located near major amenities, rapid transit networks and employment areas across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). A fully integrated organization that operates across all

areas of development including land acquisition, zoning, design, sales, construction and customer care, CentreCourt is one of the most active high-rise developers in the GTA with 15 high-rise residential projects in various stages of development, collectively representing over 7,000 homes and over \$3.5 billion dollars of development value.

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For further information: Carol King, Brandon Communications, [cking@brandoncom.ca](mailto:cking@brandoncom.ca), 416 850 0614