

Living in Relation: A Story of Indigenous Partnership and a Process of Decolonizing

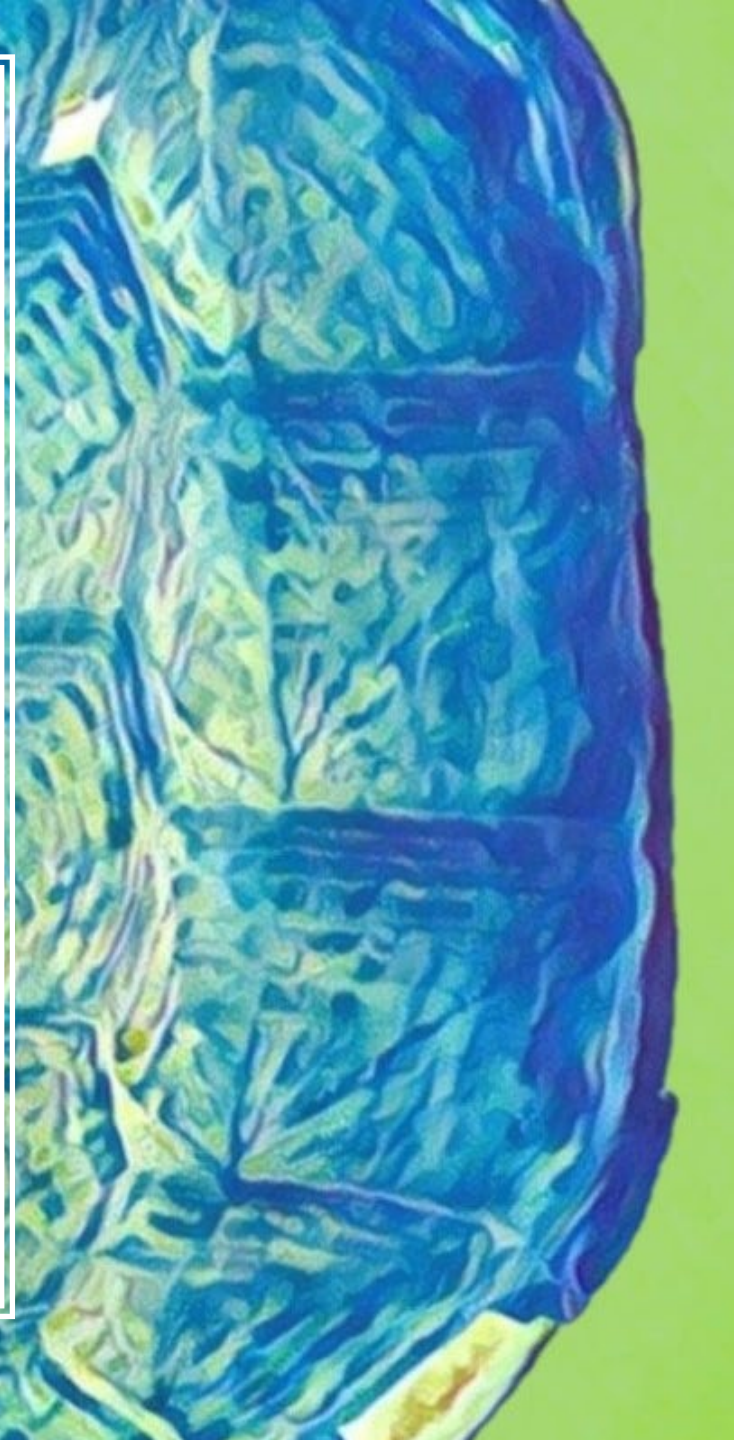
Monday, November 7, 2022



Introduction

Wellington County Museum and Archives, in collaboration with our Indigenous Partner Amber Holmes (Naawayaa) has unveiled a new exhibit, “Living in Relation” which provides engaging opportunities and connection through Anishinaabe teachings, worldviews and land-based pedagogies.

This collaboration has opened up new perspectives on museum processes and practices, has created examples for collaboration with Indigenous communities, and demonstrates what decolonizing can look like in museum settings.



Amber's Story

- Naawayaa (The One in the Middle)
- Sharing the 7 grandfather teachings
- Protocols
- Acknowledging the Land
- Self-Determination

Debwewin
TRUTH



Nibwaakaawin
WISDOM



Zoongide'ewin
COURAGE



Zaagidiwin
LOVE



Seven Grandfather Teachings

LIVING WITH INTEGRITY

Minwaadendamowin
RESPECT



Dibaadendiziwin
HUMILITY



Gwayakwaadiziwin
HONESTY



“A museum is a not-for-profit, permanent institution in the service of society that researches, collects, conserves, interprets and exhibits tangible and intangible heritage. Open to the public, accessible and inclusive, participation of communities, offering varied experiences for education, enjoyment, reflection and knowledge sharing.”

- International Council Of Museums, August 2022

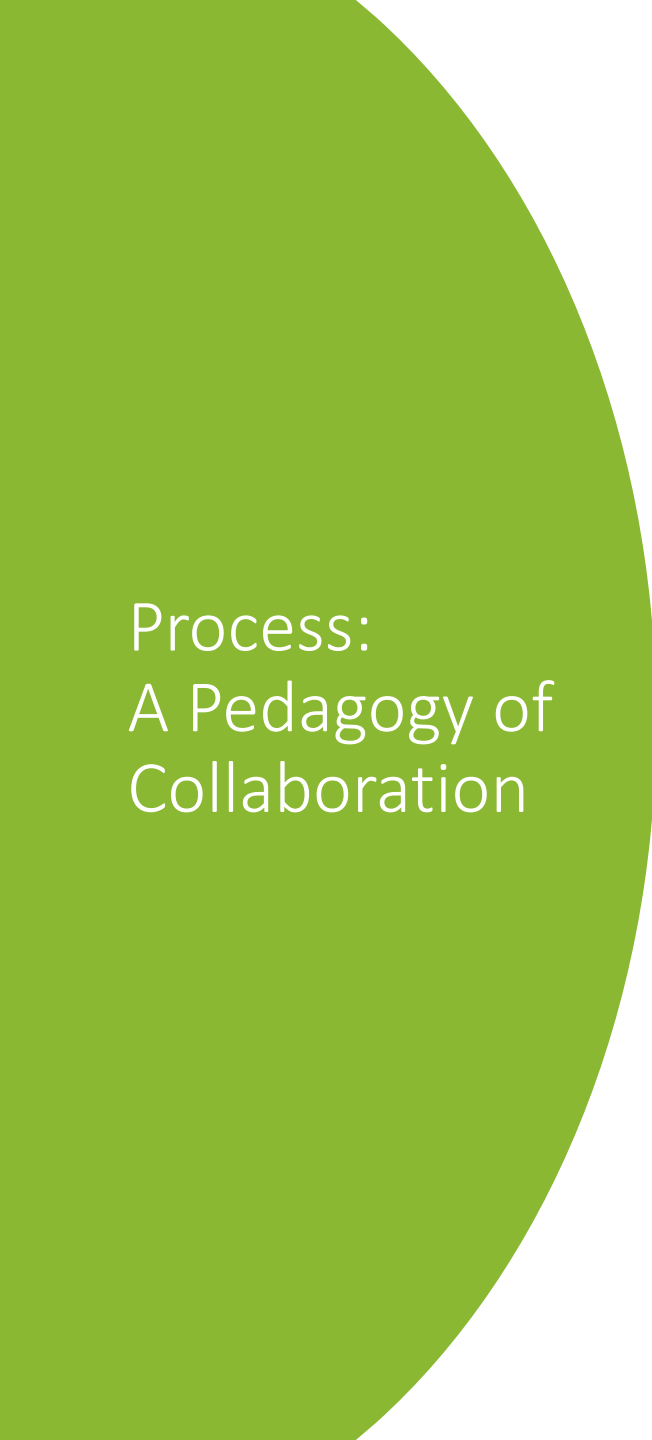


Amy's Story

- Values (Personal, Museum, Corporation)
- Diversity and Inclusion in Museum (what is missing?)
- Decolonization of Museums (online Museum Studies)
 - 'freeing of minds from colonial ideology' - metaphor for those wanting to critique positions of power and dominant culture.
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action #67


Museums in Canada have a responsibility to adopt and implement the **TRC Calls to Actions** and the **UN Declaration** on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for Reconciliation.

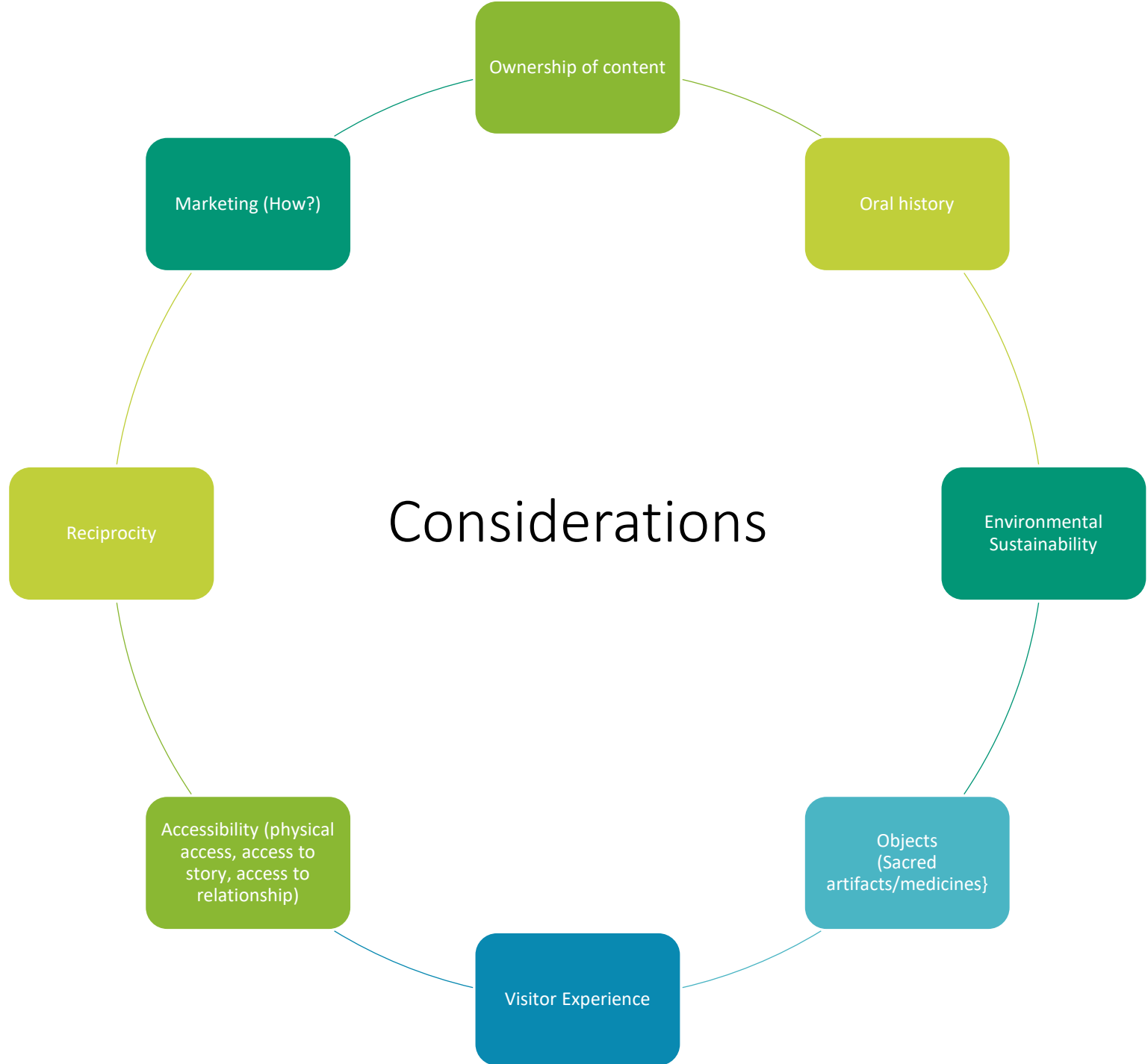
The **UN Declaration** highlights the urgent need to **respect and promote** the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples and that **recognizing that respect for Indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices** contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment.

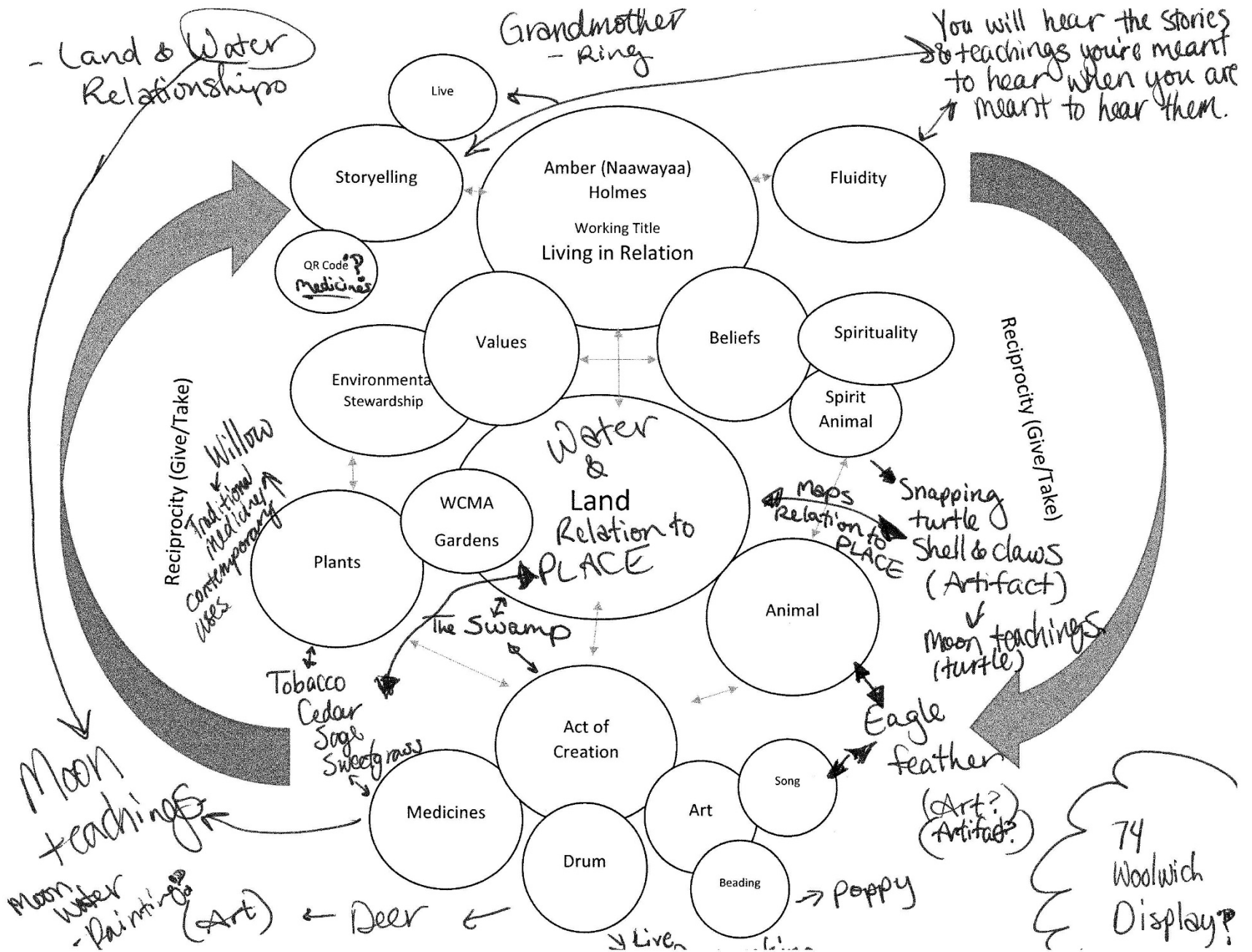


Process:
A Pedagogy of
Collaboration

How do we acknowledge that truth while also supporting our work as community institutions?

- Starting from a place of shared values
 - Intentions
 - Relationship vs. Product
 - Reciprocity vs. Unilateral (one-way)
 - Transparency
- 





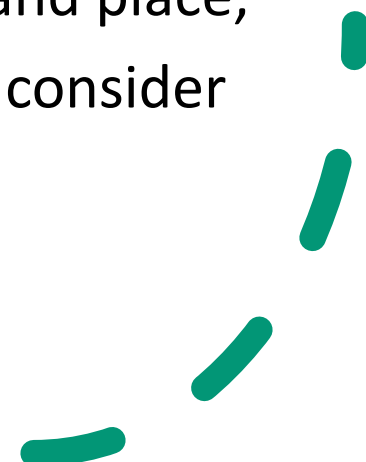


Living in Relation Exhibition

By Amber
Holmes
(Naawayaa)

BIG IDEA 1:

“In my Anishinaabe teachings, there is significance in the four directions – North, East, South, and West. These directions ground us in our relationships with all that surround us. The concept of “who we are” is relational, so to find ourselves in relation to time and place, we must shift our thinking to consider the seven directions.



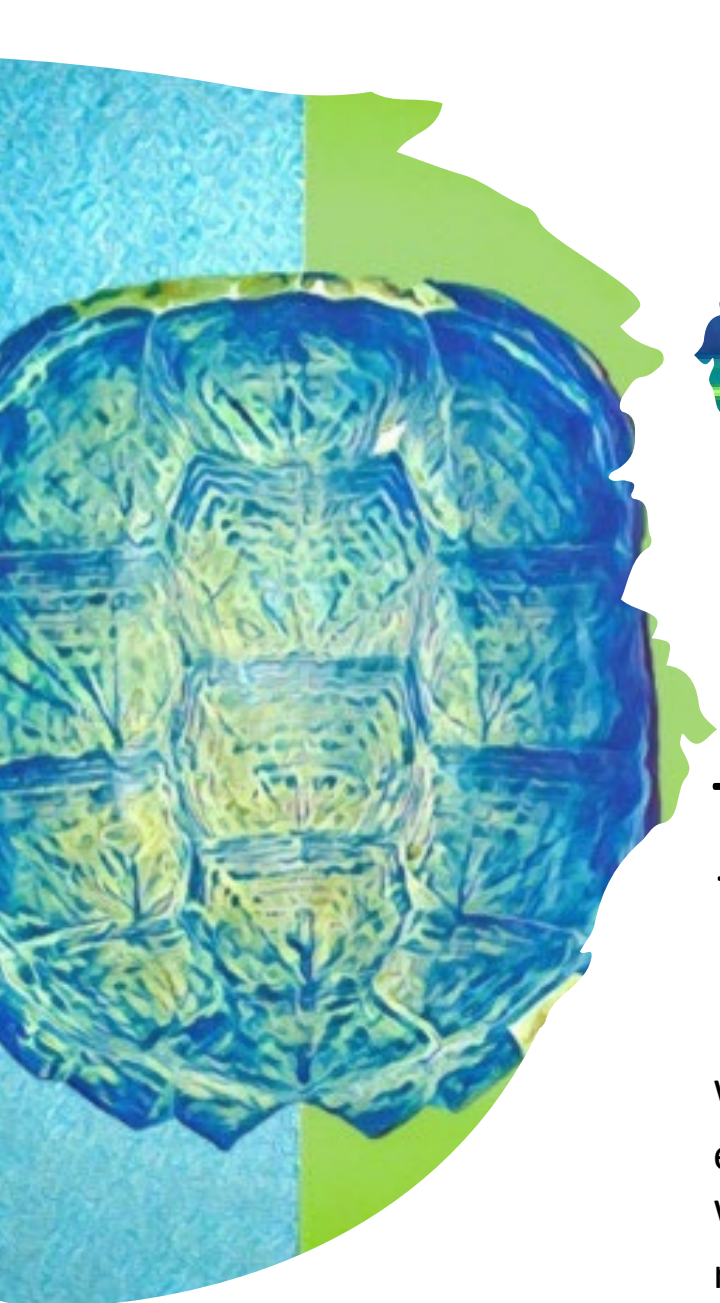


THEME 1

7 Directions

Teachings - Above

In addition to the four cardinal directions, we also look above: to the sun, the moon, and all of creation that lies above us. We hold Eagle in the highest regard, because Eagle represents our connection to creation and Spirit.



THEME 2

7 Directions Teachings - Below

We look below to the earth and the water, and everything they sustain: the plants, the animals, and us. Without these elements, we could not survive. Turtle represents the link between land and water.

THEME 3

7 Directions Teachings - Within

And we must also look within.
That involves identifying with
your spirit – this is the
essence of who you are. The
seventh direction lies within
you.



Looking Within

- The act of looking within is what situates us in the context of our surroundings and our relations. These seven directions teachings speak to concepts of place, allowing us to reflect on where our bodies are geographically located, which is often what we think of when we talk about cardinal directions.





Question?





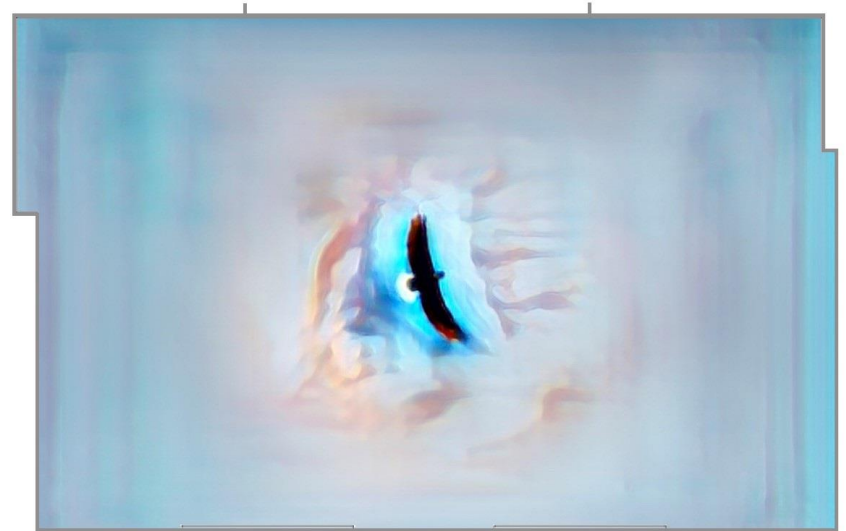
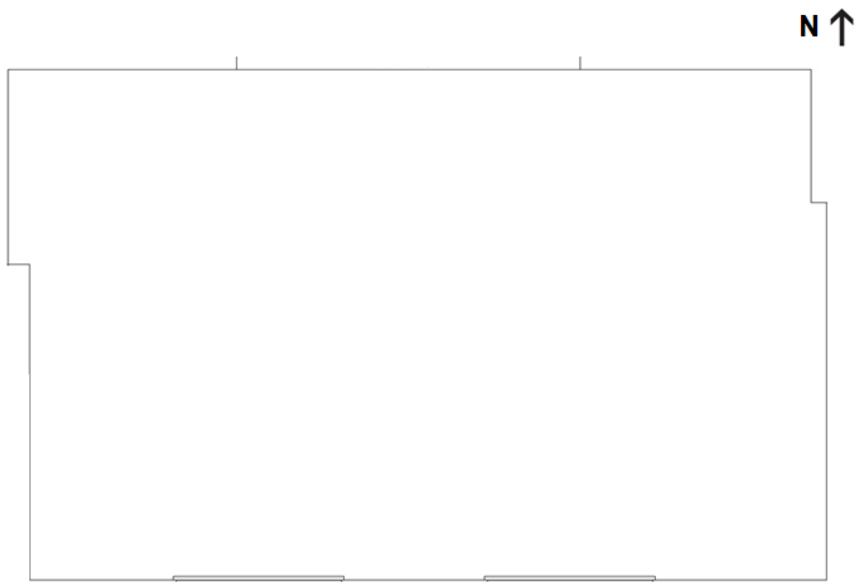
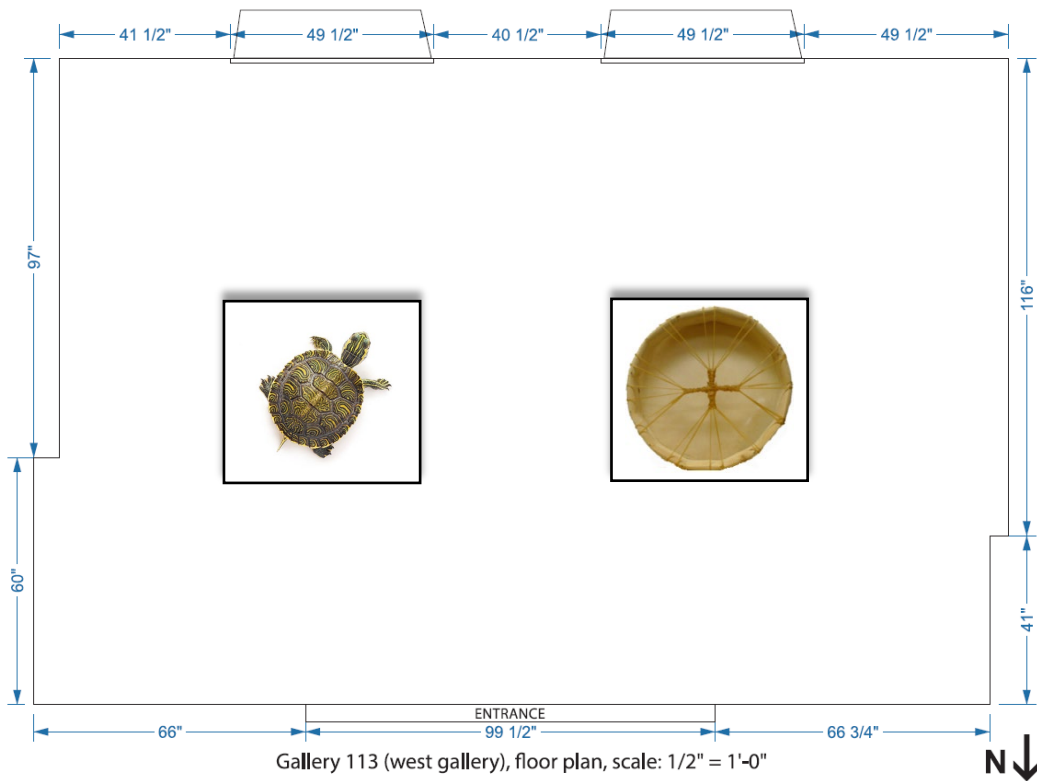
- But how often do we reflect on ourselves in relation to the Earth and all our terrestrial relations? How often do we think of ourselves in respect to the cosmos? What is our role in giving back to these vital relationships? These considerations and the culmination of our experiences in sitting with these concepts can tell us a lot about who we are and our relationships with what surround us.
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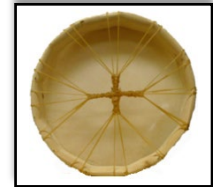
Exhibit Layouts





Moose-hide
hand drum in
display case
137 cm C
43.5 cm D

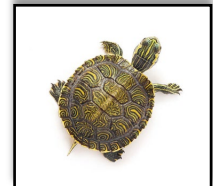
Drum stick
31 cm L
4 cm W

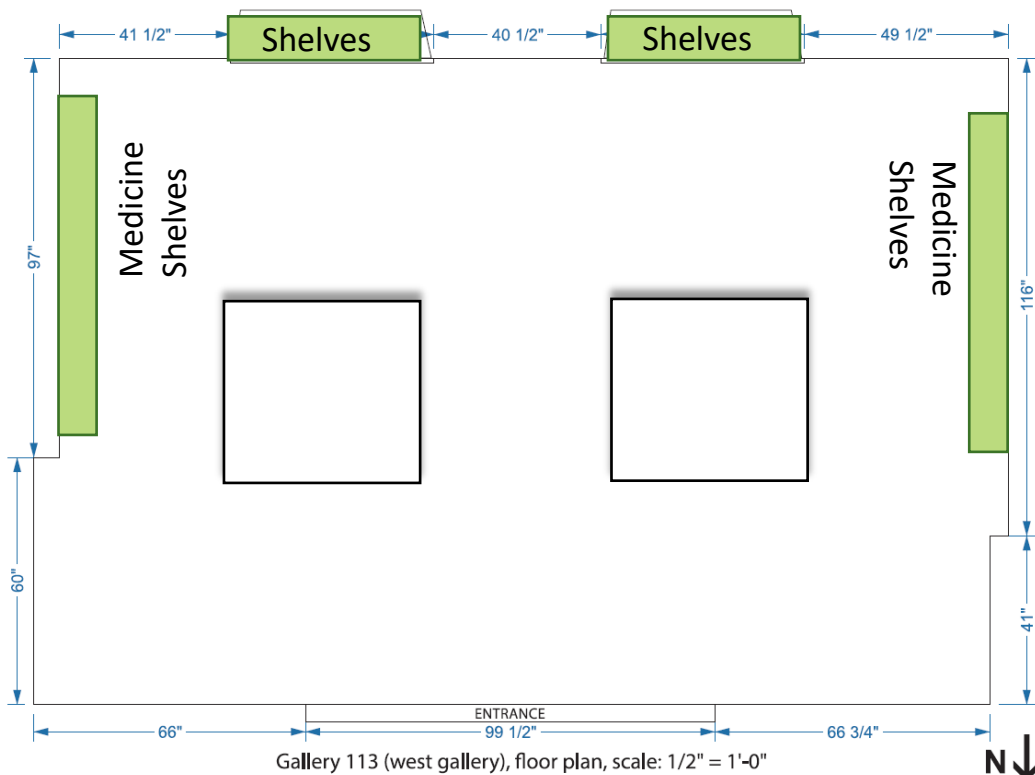


Snapping turtle
shell in display
case

24 cm L
21.5 cm W
6 cm D

Snapping turtle
claws in glass
jar: 7 cm x 3 cm





Medicines in glass jars:

EAST

Sweetflag

9 cm x

Skullcap

4 cm x

Licorice

4 cm

Cedar



Maple Water – *recorded teaching

SOUTH

Moon Water

Sweet Fern – *Joseph Youtube video

WEST

Black Cohosh

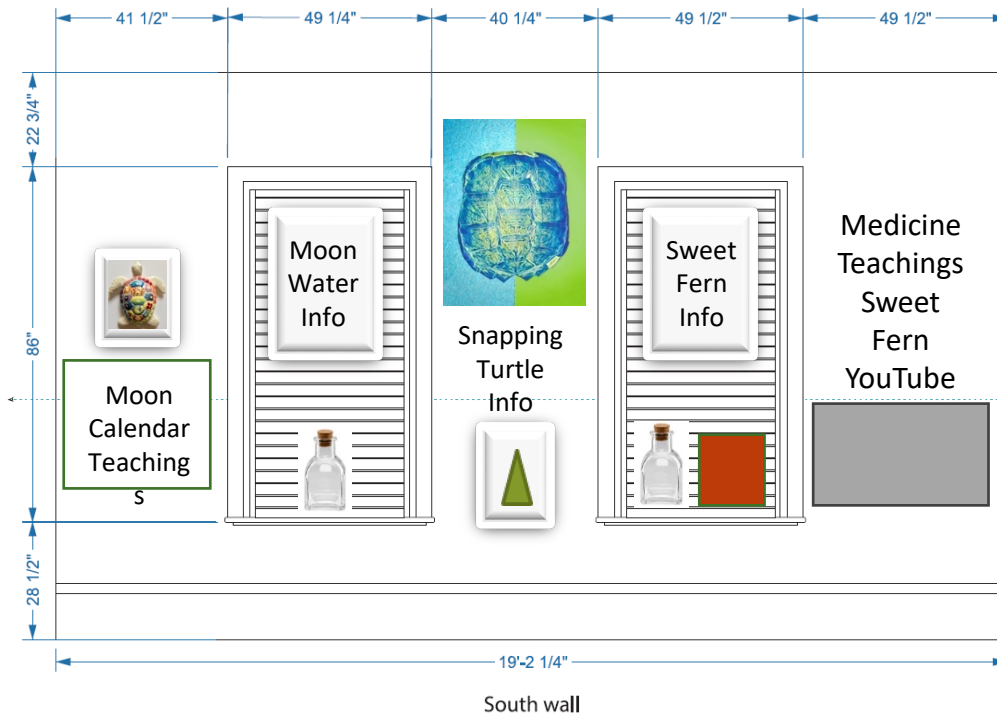
Plantains – living specimen?

Catnip

Dandelion

Bear Grease - can it be kept cold? –

*recorded teaching



Turtle shell art
– “Between
Land and
Water”



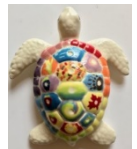
Turtle claw in
display case.
Claw hangs
from deer-skin
lanyard (can be
adjusted)



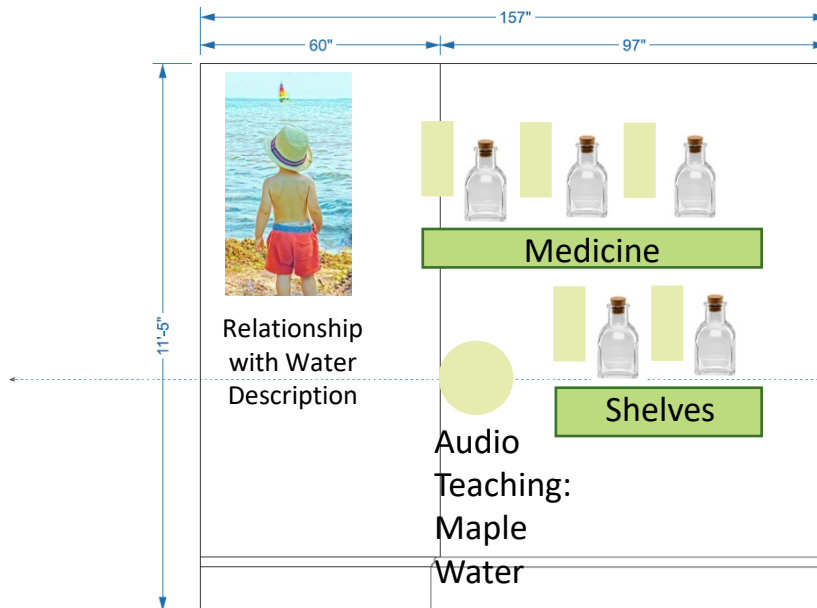
Moon water
jar (medicine)



Dry Sweet Fern in jar,
Sweet Fern Tonic Tea



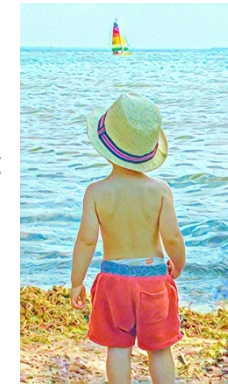
Moon
Calendar:
10.5 cm x
9 cm, hole
in back for
mounting



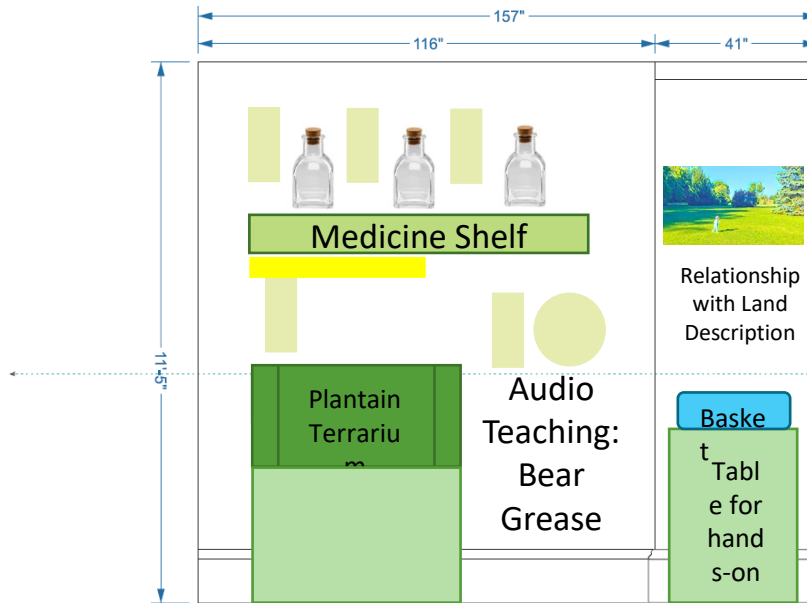
East wall

Relationship
with Water Art

MEDICINES
Sweetflag
Skullcap
Licorice
Cedar
Maple Water – *recorded
teaching

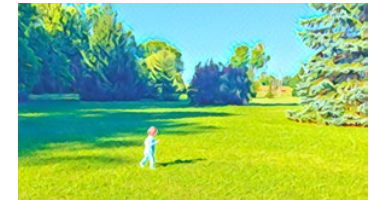


Printed
information



West wall

Relationship with Land Art



MEDICINES
 Black Cohosh
 Catnip
 Dandelion
 Bear Grease (can it be kept cold?)
 *recorded teaching

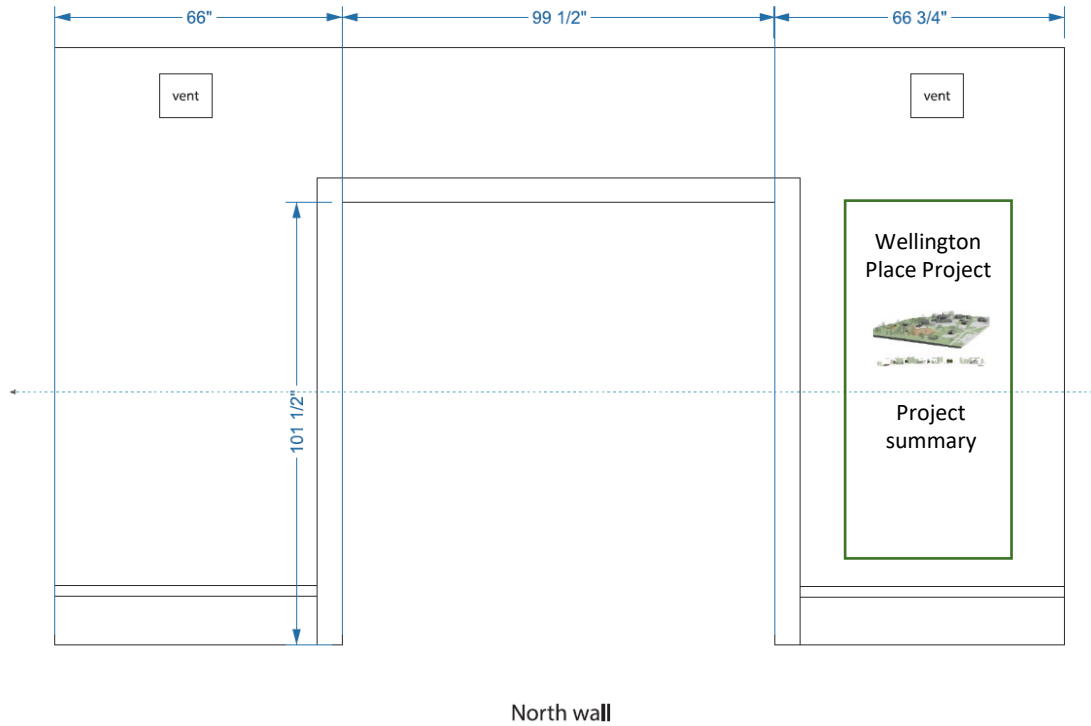
Living Plantains in terrarium (Need electrical outlet for grow light)



Printed information

Basket

Basket can contain cedar, dandelions, etc.



Current
Map



Need Updated Blueprints
from VG

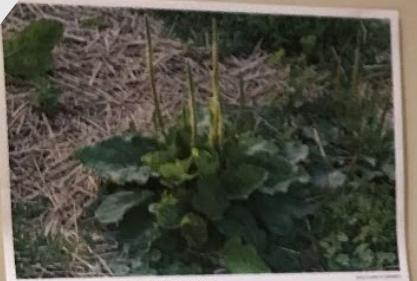


DRAFT - INTERPRETIVE PLAN

Wellington County Museum & Archives: Living in Relations

SUBJECT	COMPONENT	MESSAGE	EXPECTED VISITOR RESPONSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exhibitors Story<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is Living in Relation?• Who is Amber Holmes (Naawaya)?• Why is it important?• Anishinaabe Teachings – Relationship with land<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ South – Sweet Fern▪ West – Black Cohosh▪ West – Catnip▪ West – Dandelion▪ West – Broadleaf Plantains (terrarium)• Anishinaabe Teachings – Relationship with Water<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ South-Moon Water▪ West – Sweetflag▪ West – Skullcap▪ West - Licorice▪ West – Cedar• Anishinaabe Teachings – Turtle (between land and water)• Anishinaabe Teachings – Each Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Title of the exhibit – revealed during the duration of show; Amber reveals exhibit space.- In-person teachings; and one-on-one tours from Amber Holmes.- Audio (QR Code links to video)- why is this exhibit important? What is it about?- In-person – teachings with Amber Holmes- See – authentic medicines, terrarium- Read – panels, children’s books, labels- Listen – Scan QR Codes- Touch – Cedar, Play with items from the land (building blocks), hand-puppets, I- Giving Back (water): Map - Pin a body of water you have a relationship with?- Giving Back (land) Post-it note: -Write intentions on giving back to land/water?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- What the exhibit is about?- Why is this exhibit important?- The goal of the exhibit is to be eco-friendly, using natural, reusable, and recyclable materials, whenever possible, in accordance with the Indigenous teachings represented in this space.- Supporting new forms of storytelling and expressing different ways of looking at objects and worldviews.- Understanding the important relationship people have to the land and water.- Understanding all items related to one-another- WE are ALL have a responsibility-	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- enters the exhibit from the first-floor hallway (near elevator) drawn into the space visually (WOW visual factor)- understanding and appreciation what the exhibit is about; our responsibility to the land and water; and how we can give back.- Learn from Amber Holmes – one-on-one experience/teaching that can be take back with visitor- Play and take time in space to engage with the hands-on material- Understand the importance of working with Indigenous teachers; on becoming better stewards of the land and water.- Take the time to reflect on what the land means to us and how we can reciprocate and take actions to help protect the environment.- Participate – post meaningful messages in the space





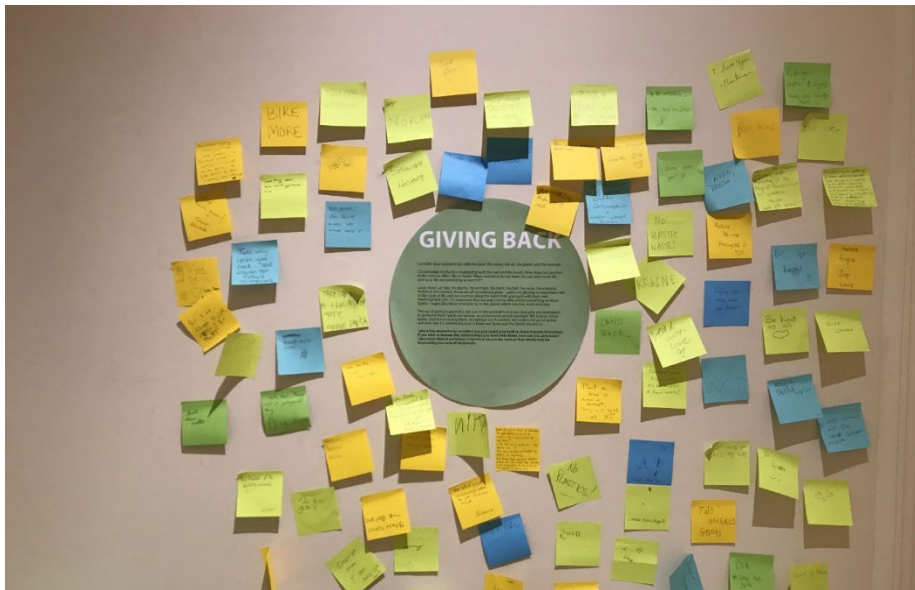
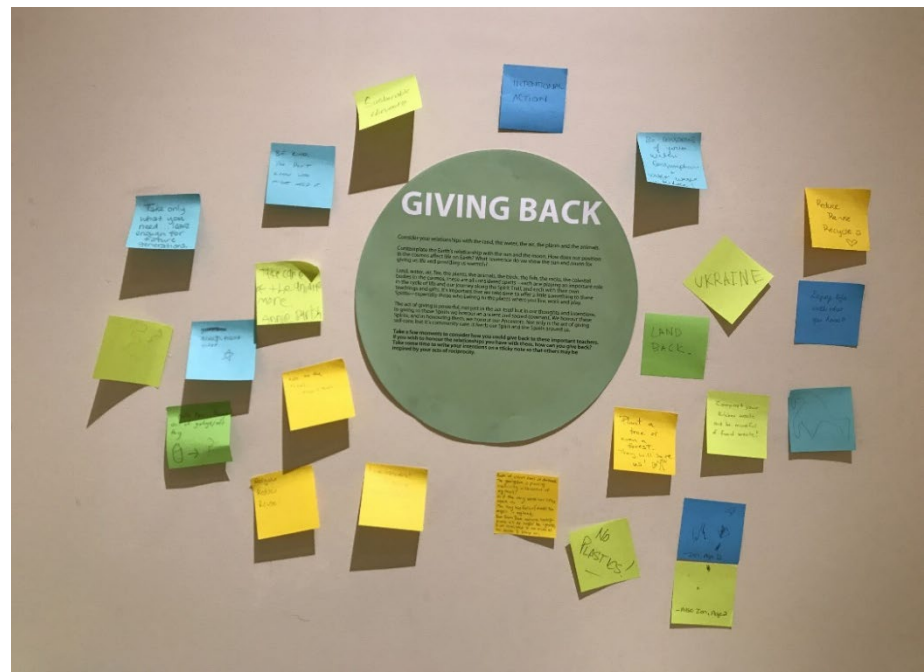
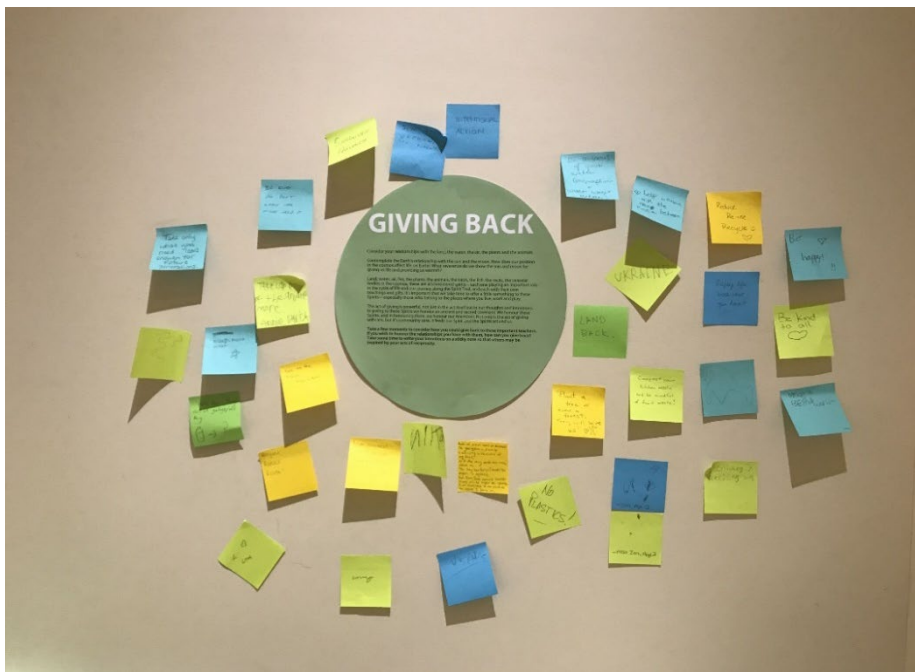
Broadleaf Plantains

Small rosette plants, green to reddish-brown with yellowish-green flowers. They are found in damp, low-lying areas, such as roadsides, ditches, and wetlands.

GIVING BACK

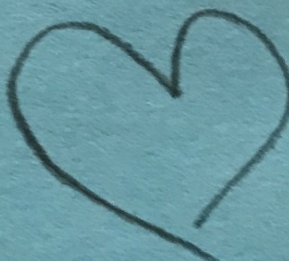
Plants are essential to life. They provide food, shelter, and oxygen. They also help to clean the air and water, and they provide a home for many animals. We can help to protect the environment by planting more plants. This is a simple way to give back to the planet.







Thank you

Earth 

from Lily





Alternate formats available upon request



^{OM} Official Mark of the Corporation of the County of Wellington