GYM CENTER COURT

The parent and family advisory group and educators from Viewlands that informed this work, felt it was critical that a local and Indigenous artist brought that history and living representation of a land acknowledgment into the building. The District commissioned DeAnn Sackman to create the design seen at the center of the gym court.

DeAnn is enrolled in the Duwamish Tribe. She is a 5th generation great granddaughter of Chief Seattle and 4th generation great granddaughter of Princess Angeline.

The artwork tells a story of the Chief Seattle's Duwamish Nation and the land that Viewlands Elementary occupies. Our Duwamish name for this place, "kwáatәb", refers to Piper's Creek flowing into Puget Sound and the Salmon's annual return. The orcas, the juvenile Chinook salmon going out to sea, and the mature Chinook salmon returning to kwáatәb (the original Duwamish name for Piper, Venema, and Muhlendorf Creeks).

The circle with dots in the center of the design is Brilliant Red overlaid with White spheres, symbolizing the Chinook roe, the salmon eggs. The yubәč (Chinook Salmon) are a highly favored food of the orcas and important life sustaining fish to the Duwamish.

The orcas are named qaˈqalaxič in the Duwamish Nation Lushootseed dialect. Orcas were highly regarded by Puget Sound First Nations, the Duwamish prized orcas for their family organization, hunting teamwork, and their defensive tactics against marauding predators i.e. large sharks.

The red color in the design represents liq’tәd (red paint) was actually a clay that was found on river banks and from a few natural water springs. It was a sacrament used as medicine, healing ceremonies, weddings and other sacred occasions.

This pigment was a precious inter-tribal trade commodity due to the limited areas to gather the resource. The xala’sid (brilliant red) paint pigment is from a fungus that grows on hemlock trees that was gathered, dried and mixed with salmon roe. The xibәč (black) paint pigment was mixed from powdered charred wood and black earth from rich minerals in the soil.

The xʷiqʷaqt̓ (white) Known as Kaolin, and “China White”, this pigment was made from white clay dug from riverbank deposits, a rare and precious inter-tribal trade commodity.

CONNECTIONS

The Gym has large windows and exposed wood beams connecting it to the park. The old Viewlands School sign is mounted in the Gym recalling the school’s history at this location.

GRAPHIC STORYTELLING

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