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Laurier to open new art exhibition space on Brantford campus

BRANTFORD – Art enthusiasts will have a new exhibition space to visit when Wilfrid Laurier University's Brantford campus opens the Yellow Brick Wall (YBW) at 97 Dalhousie Street on Monday, Feb. 3 at 4 p.m.

The art advisory committee at Laurier will curate the exhibition space annually. Designed to foster appreciation and enjoyment of Canadian art, the new venue will celebrate visual creativity in a space that encourages dialogue, and reflects the diversity and culture in the community. The YBW adds to a growing list of venues in Brantford, including Glenhyrst, The Station and the Brantford Arts Block, that feature the work of visual artists.

"We are so incredibly pleased to be able to have an exhibition space like the Yellow Brick Wall right on campus for our students, staff, faculty and the community to enjoy," said Kathryn Carter, inter-faculty associate dean: academic coordination and chair of the art advisory committee. "We have been able to work with local artists and have some terrific pieces all over campus, and this gives us a dedicated space to showcase art and engage the cultural community on campus."

The first exhibition will feature local artist Elizabeth Gosse, and her *It's Your City* project. The project stemmed from Gosse's desire to collaborate with the Brantford community in a creative process where individuals of all ages could express something about the city in which they live. It was completed in 2010 during the Find Your Spirit Festival in Harmony Square.

"In the world of art, it is imperative for the artist to embody the art with their message, feelings and thoughts," said Gosse. "Each piece from *It's Your City* has been created by citizens expressing their connections to community and to their city."

Gosse uses paint and multimedia to create engaging pieces of work, and believes that art is an extension of who people are and what they are thinking. Works from her *It's Your City* collection have been collaboratively completed and displayed in Guelph, Markham, Toronto, Mississauga, Kitchener-Waterloo and Hamilton. She is a member and publicity coordinator for the Women's Art Association of Hamilton. She currently lives in Brantford.

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