

# The Social Life of Water

## *Weaving together Multiple Voices in a Public Museum Exhibition*

Authors: Angel, Jeannette<sup>1</sup>; Mettler, Christine<sup>2</sup>; Holland, Kathy<sup>3</sup>; Coble, Jordan<sup>4</sup>; Digby, Linda<sup>5</sup>; Dulic Aleksandra<sup>1</sup>; and Wagner, John<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Centre for Culture and Technology, University of British Columbia Okanagan; <sup>2</sup> WaterCycles Consulting; <sup>3</sup> Okanagan Nation Alliance; <sup>4</sup> Sncəwips Heritage Museum; <sup>5</sup> Kelowna Museums Society

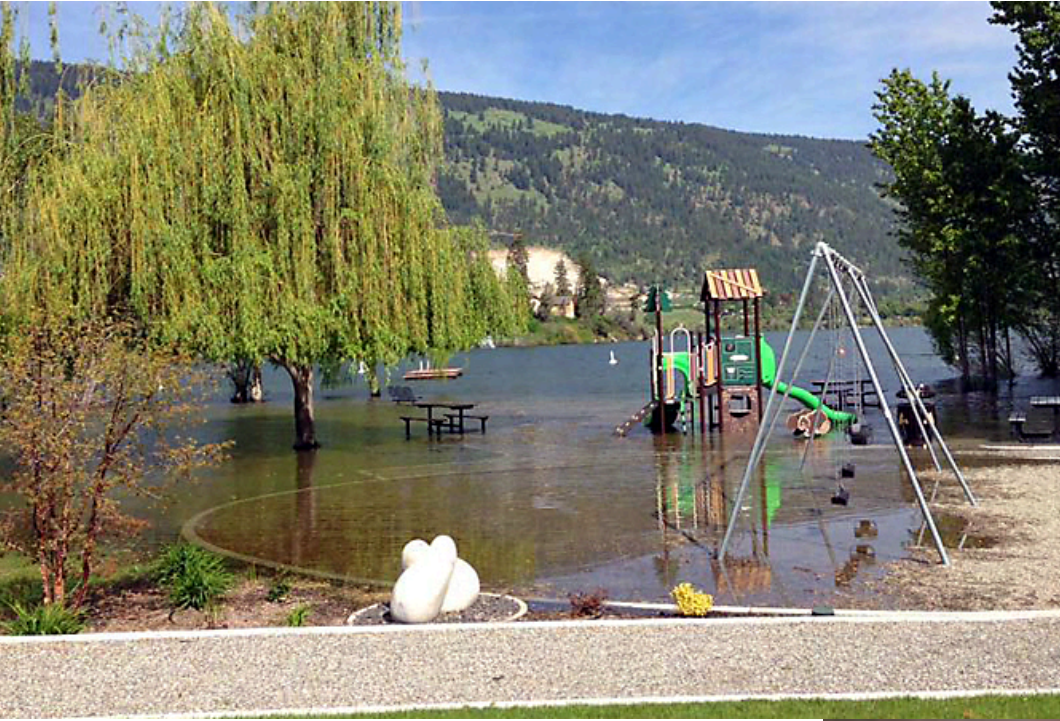
# *Human – Water Relationships*



In the Okanagan Valley



# Extreme water events





# The Social Life of Water

in the Okanagan Valley



# *Goals*

- Share our diverse communities' relationships to water and in so doing, provide a space for multiple voices and cross-cultural dialogue

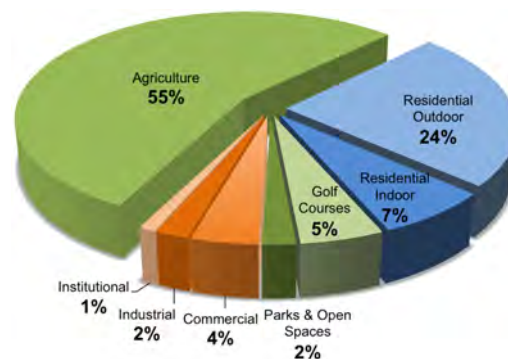
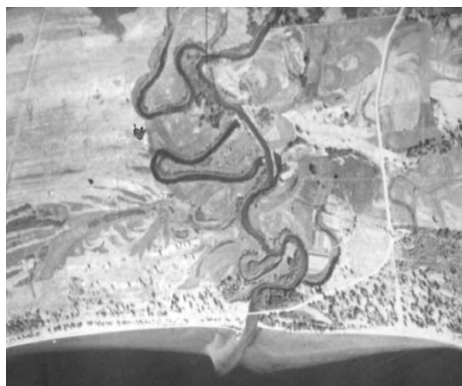
# *Goals*

- Share our diverse communities' relationships to water and in so doing, provide a space for multiple voices and cross-cultural dialogue
- Engage audiences in understanding the Okanagan watershed through appealing representations of the geography, physical science and ecology of the place

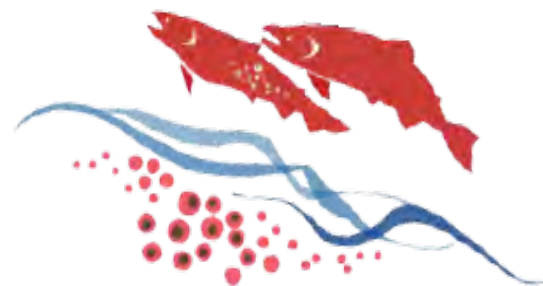
# *Goals*

- Share our diverse communities' relationships to water and in so doing, provide a space for multiple voices and cross-cultural dialogue
- Engage audiences in understanding the Okanagan watershed through appealing representations of the geography, physical science and ecology of the place
- Communicate our responsibility by bringing forward local challenges and solutions as well as inspiring reflection of possible futures

# Gathering Materials



WATER IS OUR RELATION.  
i?\_l\_yGayGat stim siwłk<sup>w</sup> i?\_ylmix<sup>w</sup>mtət.





# *Exhibition Design*



# *Multiple Voices*

- Bringing together indigenous and non-indigenous voices
- Hearing directly from people
- Weaving connections across diverse ways of knowing

# Shingle Creek

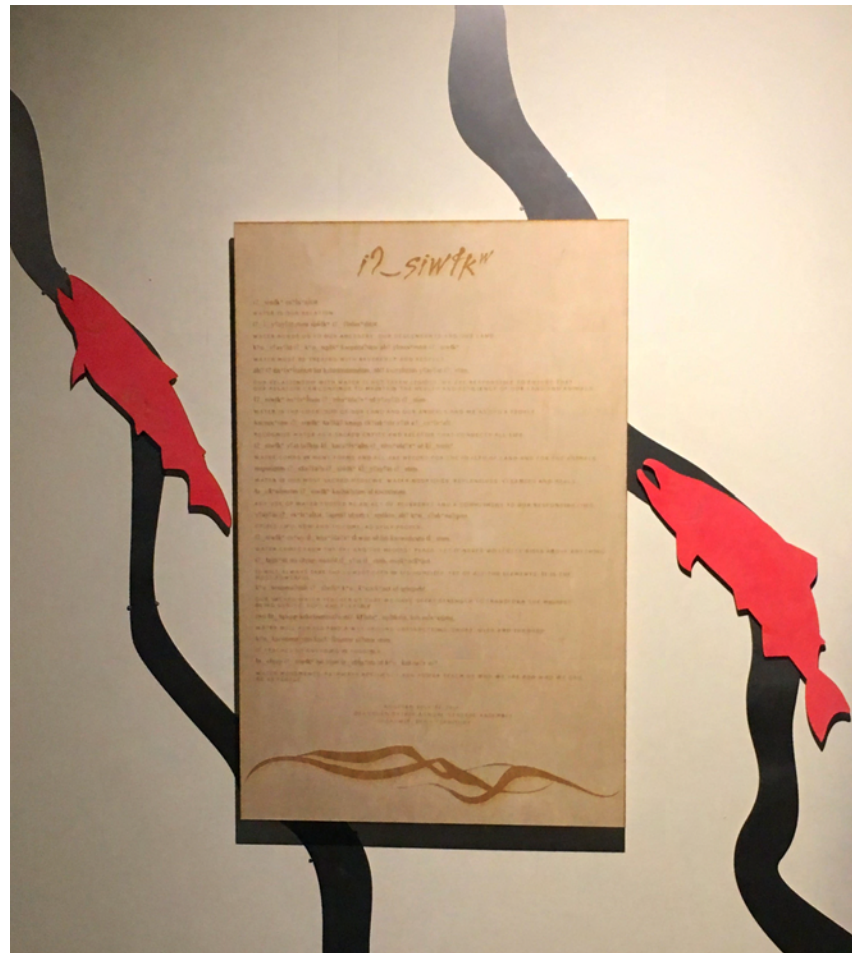




# Streams



# *Syilx Water Declaration*





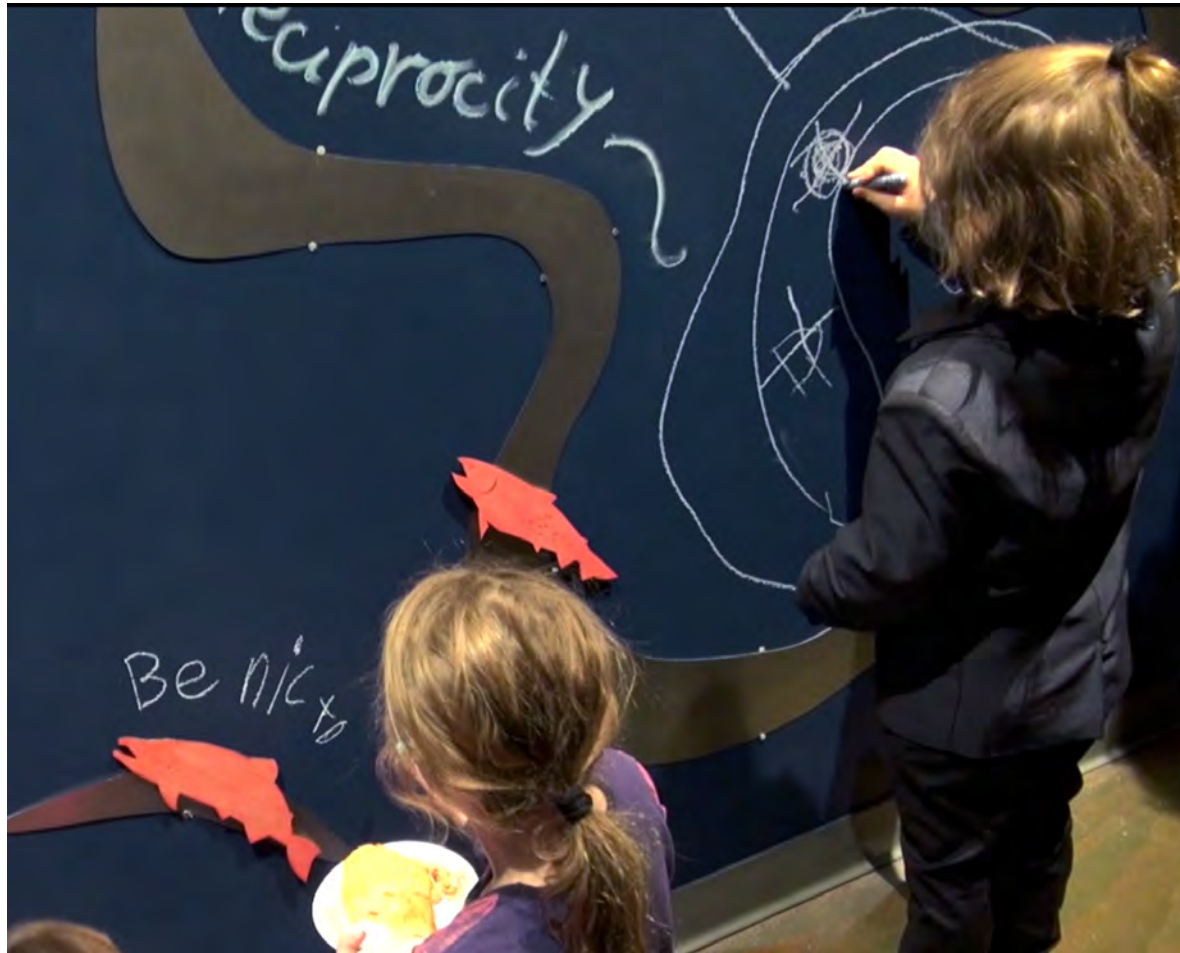
# *Cultural Practices*



# *Ecological Connectivity*



# Community Chalkboard



# Programming





# *Evaluation - Visual Matrix*





# *Results*

- Sense of care for the place
- Presence of Syilx voices
- Reinforced sense of belonging
- Renewed responsibility

# *Project Partners*



# *Funding*



Social Sciences and  
Humanities Research  
Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches  
en sciences humaines  
du Canada

Canada

**Mitacs**



Okanagan Basin  
WATER BOARD

—CENTRAL OKANAGAN—  
**FOUNDATION**  
*empowering generations to give.*



 **TELUS®**

# *Thank you*

Contact: [jeannette.angel@alumni.ubc.ca](mailto:jeannette.angel@alumni.ubc.ca)

Project website: [watersoftheokanagan.ca](http://watersoftheokanagan.ca)