

Body Mind Spirit

Artist - Blake Williams

Body Mind Spirit is a public artwork integrated into the Southland Leisure Centre located at 2000 Southland Drive SW.

The artist has installed a series of text and photo based ceramic tiles in the main hall of Southland Leisure Centre. The intent of the public art piece is to capture the spirit of the Centre by reflecting the activities that take place there, and its position as a wellness and gathering place for the communities it serves.



The layering of imagery and glazes creates, with the incorporation of a multitude of small details and textures, create a sense of movement and rhythm, reflecting the spirit of the facility's users. The images are representative of wellness, accessibility, participation and recreation and celebrate the cultural diversity of the surrounding communities.

The red strip of fused glass that runs through the piece as a metaphorical river, together with the 30+ translations of 'welcome' and the symbolic use of hands, reflects the universal concepts of interconnectivity, respect and acceptance.

The Artist

Blake Williams is an artist whose work explores aspects of both human aspiration and inspiration within the framework of the urban environment. In his words he focuses on "the relationships between our constructed world, both physical and metaphorical" – elements of which visitors will see reflected in the artwork installed at Southland Leisure Centre.

A Vancouver based artist/designer, Williams studied at Vancouver's Emily Carr College of Art and Design and Langara College. Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, he produced gallery-oriented pieces of a photographic and sculptural nature. More recently, his focus has been the realm of public art – a successful move as evidenced by his being awarded the Spectrum International Award.

The Project

- The artist was selected through an open call process with a submission deadline of 9 November 2007.
- The artist budget was \$65,000.
- The project was a collaborative initiative by the Public Art Program and the Department of Recreation.
- The capital project which provided the funding was Renovation and Facility Enhancement.
- Body Mind Spirit was completed in April 2009.