

# COLLECTING AND DISPLAYING ART MADE BY TORONTO STUDENTS

## THE SAFFRON PATH

Students and teachers from K12 schools are invited to contribute their art, poetry, verse, composition and music this semester for digital projection around the City of Toronto. Your art will also be visible through VR/AR experiences within the art installation known as the **Saffron Path**, scheduled for exhibition this May 2022 in Toronto. On Saffron illuminated streets, sidewalks and buildings across the city, your art will be featured for the world to see and experience.

## ARTMAKING THEMES FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS

Should teachers of art, music, English/French language and literature, design or computer graphics wish to involve their students in **Saffron Path** artmaking, there are two specific themes you may consider using. While I've left open the possibility that teachers following semester 1 or 2 OSSD curriculum may hesitate to alter their unit to accommodate **Saffron Path** artmaking (submitting such art is perfectly fine, by the way), others may wish to consider these two possible themes for directing class units:

- a. **Theme A - Art for a New World:** while in the midst of a pandemic, it may be heartening for students to dream of a world without the disease, and free of other elements we would wish away. In that sense, dreaming itself can be a theme used for artmaking. What kind of world, digital or real, might students imagine and choose to render artfully if given the opportunity? How might students picture a world, or some small corner of a world, redrawn (redesigned) to their exact specifications? How might that world sound if put to music? If sung? How might poetry, prose or dramatic verse be conceived to reflect the new world they envision? These arts, in digital format (pictures, PDFs, music files, video, gifs, etc.) can be submitted for presentation along the **Saffron Path**.
- b. **Theme B -** Much has recently been said about the coming "**Metaverse**," a world in which the digital and the physical merge, and each of us can build elements of this world and share it with others. How does one build a metaverse? Answer: one universe at a time. I invite students to begin building their own universes along the **Saffron Path**. The only limitation is their imagination. The only imperative is that they share it with others along the **Saffron Path**.

## THE DIGITAL WATERFRONT ON THE SAFFRON PATH

Student artwork from up to 50 TDSB and TCDSB schools will be mixed with that of university-based and professional artists along the Toronto Waterfront, with work experienced virtually through augmented reality-enabled handheld devices and in physical form. Art constructed according to either theme above will make engaging digital display along the Toronto Waterfront, as student artwork will be designed for augmented reality display through handheld devices and by other means.

## **OTHER DESTINATIONS ON THE SAFFRON PATH**

In addition to the Toronto Waterfront, six other sites around the city will become destinations on the **Saffron Path**, each featuring a mix of art, music and poetry from both students and professionals. Student art will also be displayed upon at least two schools as digitally projected shows, one school each from the TCDSB and the TDSB systems. Other schools may also be chosen as sites depending on the level of interest across the city. (See **MAKING YOUR SCHOOL A SAFFRON PATH SITE**..... below.)

## **COLLECTING WORK ONCE COMPLETED**

All work to be submitted for **Saffron Path** should be uploaded to a specially designated google drive file for your school. If you are the only teacher from your school whose class(es) are making contributions, write directly to me at the contact below to arrange for a digital transfer of art. If you are one of several teachers, we can work together to ensure that a single file folder is developed into which art from your school can be deposited.

## **MAKING YOUR SCHOOL A SAFFRON PATH SITE FOR DIGITAL PROJECTION**

We are open to widening the number of schools acting as sites for digital projections in May and June. If you are interested in your school being a projection site, please be in contact through the email address below and we can discuss the possibilities.

## **CONTACTING SAFFRON PATH STAFF**

Should any teacher or student wish to contact **Saffron Path** staff to ask a question or to seek additional guidance, please feel free to contact [kelvin@saffronpath.ca](mailto:kelvin@saffronpath.ca).