



STAGE 2 SHORTLISTED PROPOSAL

Title: **Earthed Utility**
 Artist: **Sean Procyk and Maximillian Johnson**



Artist Concept Statement

EARTHED UTILITY

Reflection launches the viewers thoughts instantly and immersivity into the immaterial history of energy and its future.

The Electric City Public Art Project reflects the complex social, environmental and physical impact that alternating current (AC) hydroelectric power (invented by Nikola Tesla and brought to the city by the five Johns) continues to have on Hamilton. AC power has had a tremendous impact on Hamilton's manufacturing sector, immigration and population growth, and environmental conditions as well as Hamilton's reputation as an "Ambitious City". But it also leaves us with electronic debris – the refuse of industry and fascinating objects of curiosity. encouraging us to dig deeper while developing this public art proposal. We wanted to highlight the historical presence of the salmon within the current conservation framework.

Our proposed artwork titled "Earthed Utility" sets out to explore the human relationship with electricity and the insulators that keep us safe and grounded. It has two main elements: mirror polished insulators that sit on a granular quartz base. We present the notion of a conductor as public space, and people as particles (electrons). The waterfront trail accelerates the migrating people as they momentarily escape from the city to revitalize their dreams. The park space node is a place of rest to reflect and contemplate along the re-naturalizing hydro corridor. Four scaled, animated, and mirror polished insulators are placed throughout the site to invite passersby into the node for a moment of rest and contemplation.

Earthed Utility takes a historic and recognizable component that was significant in the early distribution of AC current. With its elegant form and inherent electromagnetic properties, the glass insulator made the transmission of hydroelectricity possible by isolating the high voltage from structural infrastructure. This innovative design uses reflective surfaces to multiply the viewers and their surroundings. The multiplicity of reflections speaks to the diversity that can be found in a city built upon immigration and the varying perspectives / experiences brought. Seeing themselves inside safe and protective insulators attracts an invisible hug. At the same time the reflections of the surrounding trees, grasses, beaches, and other insulators are witnessed by the viewer as they pause along their journey. The passerby may also be inspired by the caricatured insulators, their lucid awakening from dreams of future energy sources (hydro, solar, wind, geo, bio, nuclear). And perhaps some resistivity, dielectric, and relative permittivity or more naturally a sense of resilience, responsibility, obligation, and balance. Certainly, an innovation of the past, transparency and invisibility in the present, and responsibility in the future will come to mind.

The form of the insulator may spur a material memory of glass, porcelain, or mica; but the reflection launches the viewers thoughts instantly and immersivity into the immaterial history of energy and its future. The application of the mirrored surface resists these interpretations of the objects to draw new interpretations.



Etching Detail Concept



Site Section



HAMILTON THE ELECTRIC CITY PUBLIC ART

Earthed Utility by Sean Procyk and Maximillian Johnson

Rendering



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