



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Art Outside the Box! Pioneer Square Residents' Council installs Phase II of Indigenous Art! The Pioneer Square Residents' Council continues with Phase II of their public art project in spite of pandemic

Seattle WA, August 5, 2020 – *Art Outside the Box!*: Our First Community, a collaboration with the <u>Chief Seattle Club</u>, began in 2018 and has resulted in a Phase II of the project set to culminate next week! A total of eleven gray Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) signal boxes will be adorned with Indigenous art from the phased project.

Artwork was submitted through an open call to enrolled tribal member artists of Coast Salish tribes in late 2018. As Coast Salish tribes were the original inhabitants of the area, the neighborhood group believed the first public art project should honor this historic neighborhood's beginnings. A distinguished panel of Native American art and design professionals and cultural leaders made the selections with one Pioneer Square resident and business representative rounding out the jury.

Pioneer Square Residents' Council President, Tija Petrovich states, "I am proud of this public art project and grateful to the Chief Seattle Club for their guidance in bringing "Our First Community" themed art boxes into Pioneer Square."

Pamela Vaughn, a management leader at the Chief Seattle Club give insight into Native art in Seattle. "Most of Seattle's Native art can only be seen in museums or private collections. Well meaning, but often misrepresented public Native art are the norm, so this project is a unique opportunity to highlight the work of Seattle's first people."

As Pioneer Square continues to grow and evolve, it is important to remember Pioneer Square is located on Indigenous lands of the Duwamish people. The eleven signal boxes embellished with these exceptional works of art will stand as a reminder to those currently inhabiting this historic neighborhood.

The five boxes in Phase II were completely funded by the Pioneer Square Residents' Council donations. The remaining box in Phase I was partly funded by the <u>Business Improvement Area</u> of <u>The Alliance for Pioneer Square</u> and we are appreciative of their support again this year for the project.

"I am thankful to all those who donated to the Pioneer Square Residents' Council. Without those donations, we could never have undertaken such a large art project for the community," Petrovich adds. Art Outside the Box!: Our First Community Phase II has been implemented as a collaboration with the Alliance for Pioneer Square and thankful for the strength and expertise this collaboration brought to the project. Project Contact: Suzanne Morlock, suzanne@suzannemorlock.com or 307-413-1262

PIONEER SQUARE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA



