

WHISTLER MATURE ACTION COMMUNITY LIFTing PROJECT 2021



WHAT IS LIFTing the Community?

We believe that a sense of belonging within a community is essential to its success.

The LIFTing the Community project has been created to further the conversation around the sense of belonging in Whistler and the Sea to Sky. As creatives and community builders, we invite you to join us in this adventure. We are inviting local community groups and local artists to partner with us, to share what belonging means to you.

Whether Whistler is home for a season or a lifetime, a sense of belonging benefits us all. In our ever growing and changing community, wellness, connection and a sense of home needs to be fostered, practiced, discussed and experienced by our community.

The Concept:

Bring together 15 Sea to Sky community groups and non-profits who create a sense of belonging **with** 15 local artists,

Add in 15 retired triple chairs from Whistler Blackcomb's Catskiner Chair, and

Blend with creativity, brainstorming, passion, imagination and belonging.

Outcome - A dynamic, engaging, inspiring public art project to celebrate belonging and community.

- **Each chair will be assigned to a participating host community group** – the community organizations that feed our collective body, mind and soul, teach and share, connect us to the land, and our past, present and future.
- **Each community group will be paired with a talented local artist** to dream, discuss, delight, debate, dispute and eventually define what belonging means to them.
- It will then be the **task of the artist to transform their triple chair into a public art piece** that is a visual representation of the visions and ideas offered by the community group.



ARTIST Tonnja Kopp

Tonnja is an artist who strives to provide beauty through art. Growing up in Switzerland, her experiences energized a passion for art that has flourished in her new home in Canada. She has found inspiration in the spectacular landscape and amazing wildlife in the Squamish and Whistler area. This project brings back her fond childhood memories of similar chairs ridden for skiing and displayed in gardens.



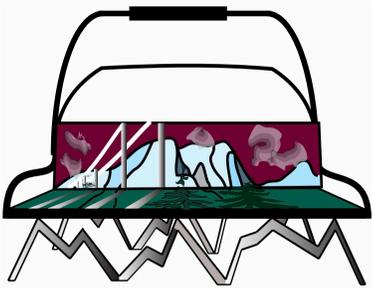
WHISTLER MATURE ACTION COMMUNITY Andrea Morton

A recently retired RN, Andrea moved to Whistler in 2019 to join her children and grandchildren. Growing up in Quebec, she first studied graphic design and later changed career to nursing. In recent years, she has worked in Colorado and California. Whistler Mature Action Community (MAC) member since early 2020, she is coordinating this project with Tonnja and Kathy White, MAC Chair.



ORIGINAL CATSKINNER CHAIR

January 28, 2021, the BEFORE photo of Tonnja's chair in the Whistler Conference Centre ready for transformation. A wooden seat and back will be attached for Tonnja's creation to come to life. Legs will also be applied, through Arts Whistler, as all the chairs will go on exhibition in public and need to be certified by a specialist.



TONNJA'S FIRST RENDERING

Following our discussion and definition of what "belonging" means to us, this is Tonnja's vision of the awesome view that chairlift riders would see while ascending Blackcomb mountain. A true connection with nature, this image reminds us that our Whistler community is where we belong! The shaped metal legs had incorporated a mountain design but they are now replaced with ones from Arts Whistler.



CATSKINNER CHAIRLIFT HISTORY 1980-2018

Blackcomb mountain opened Catskiner/Chair Four in 1980. April 22, 2018 was the last day for the iconic chairlift. It was a triple chair used to access ski runs and the Blackcomb terrain park. Being one of the older slower-speed lifts in all of Whistler Blackcomb, it was perfect for enjoying the amazing view, resting your weary legs, and cheering on friends as they passed beneath the chair. Some of us may remember this experience rather fondly. Since then, Catskiner has been replaced by a high-speed detached quad chairlift for a whole different sensation.

SCHEDULE CHANGES DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS

The initial project timeline has been delayed by Public Health Orders (PHO) for Covid-19.

On January 27-28, the chairs were transported to the Conference Centre. The artists are currently here working on their creations, to be completed by February 28. At this time, public viewing is not permitted at the Conference Centre. The Arts Whistler team is working on social media options to highlight each artist and community group.

From late May to the end of August, the chairs will be on display along Whistler's Cultural Connector to spark joy and community connection through "belonging".

In September, the chairs will be auctioned off to the public, raising funds for the participating groups to foster "belonging".

MAC updates for this project can be viewed on social media: MAC Facebook page and MAC website www.whistlermac.org

Tonnja's artwork can be viewed on her website www.tonnjavisualart.com