

Our 'Viking Heritage' is Mural of the Year

submitted by Martha Helgerson

The stunning signature work of art that envelopes two sides of the SCC has been named the 2021 Mural of the Year, as awarded by the Murals of Winnipeg based on votes by its panel of 32 independent judges.

"Viking Spirit," as beautifully rendered by Charles Johnston, was deemed the best mural of 43 "new walls" recently assessed in the city. The mural takes the viewer on a "journey" led by five Nordic swans and a Viking to the cornerstone shot of a midsummer maypole with dancers, before merging into more images depicting the heritage of our five countries. It was the seventh time that Johnston, based in Selkirk, has been named the year's best muralist.



L to R: Martha Helgerson, June Repo, Barb Nault, Charlie Johnston, Sonja Lundstrom, Helle Wilson, Signy Thorsteinson



Sonja Lundstrom holding the award, with Charlie Johnston (artist) and Tom Ethans (Take Pride Winnipeg).

At a luncheon at the Centre on June 22, Murals of Winnipeg's Bob Buchanan presented awards to Johnston and also to **Sonja Lundstrom**, who chaired the Centre's Heritage Mural Committee comprised of **June Repo, Barb Nault, Helle Wilson, Signy Thorsteinson, and Martha Helgerson**. The committee worked two years on the mural, securing funding and gaining consensus, before hosting its official unveiling last summer. The award plaque is expected to be installed in the SCC foyer.