

# Brentwood Community News

## Local artist DESIGNS mural

Brentwood is home to several artists, and one of the most colourful of these is Lettering Artist and Illustrator, Kirsten Horel. If you've ever chatted on the street with a neighbour wearing red high-top sneakers and a big smile, you've met Kirsten. From a cozy studio looking into her backyard, she produces book covers, magazine illustrations, greeting cards and "artsy" business cards. Most recently, she was convinced to try her hand at mural painting at Nose Hill Library, and it was there that we had the chance to chat with Kirsten as the mural took shape.

When asked if she studied art formally at school, Kirsten tells us, "I took anthropology and some art here and there and picked up some courses at ACAD (Alberta College of Art and Design)." After graduating, she did graphic work for a landscape architect, which is where her love of her signature "dots and lines" first took hold.

Kirsten took up lettering a few years later, after her two kids were born and joined the Bow Valley Calligraphy Guild. She remains an active member of the Guild and has participated in a number of workshops throughout her career – both as a student and an instructor.

It took nearly a year to bring Kirsten's quirky mural map of Brentwood to life. Originally submitted as a design for one of our outdoor murals, Kirsten agreed to paint the mural at the Nose Hill Library with help and support from the Brentwood Community Mural Committee. Ann Lidgren, Customer Service Manager at Nose Hill Library, loved the idea and set about getting permission from the Calgary Public Library, having the

boards installed for the mural and generally doing everything possible to accommodate and support the project. With help from a neighbour, Kirsten's funky and dynamic view of our community was painted and embellished over the course of a week.

Asked what Kirsten loves most about working as an artist, she pauses for a moment to reflect and then answers, "being in the moment. When I'm doing art, there's just nothing else." She then bursts out laughing and adds, "My poor family!"

Kirsten goes on to say that she uses her friendly art to help others decipher the world and nowhere is that more true than in her latest and most public piece of art to date. A riot of colours, dots, squiggles and quirky details, Kirsten's mural design at the Nose Hill Library shows us all the best that living in Brentwood has to offer. It is Kirsten's gift to the community that she clearly loves – the one in which she raised her kids (now young adults) and where she still lives with her husband, Doug. Thanks, Kirsten, for the colour that you bring to our neighbourhood.



*Left to right: Kirsten Horel, Cheri Macaulay, Lee Hunt, Polly Knowlton-Cockett and Ann Lidgren.*

