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## CITE

**A Summer-Long Celebration of Skateboard Arts and Culture**

**Co-Produced by The Bentway and Build for Bokma**

**Presented by Vans**

**June 30 – August 12, 2018**

**The Bentway and Build for Bokma**, are thrilled to announce **CITE**, a summer-long celebration of skateboard arts and culture launching on June 30 and officially opening the Skate Trail for the season!

**CITE** is an art installation /skatepark featuring *Semblance*, skateable sculptures conceived and constructed by Build for Bokma, which create a 3D terrain for boarders to ride on. Opening weekend of **CITE**, June 30 – July 1, will also include DJ sets and live music performances by Beat Sampras and Peanut Butter Wolf; a marketplace featuring local skateboard retailers, as well as apparel, and lifestyle brands; film screenings, live graffiti, and ping pong; and of course skate demos, trick showcases, open skates and meet and greet with the pros.

On subsequent weekends, **CITE** will offer a variety of workshops including learn to skateboard clinics, building skate sculptures, videography, screen printing, and designing skateboards; plus a speaker series. The Skate Trail with the *Semblance* sculptures will be open and available for skateboarding every day from 10am-9pm

In July 2016, former pro-skateboarder Justin Bokma, a major inspiration to countless skateboarders in Canada and the United States, intervened in a late-night shooting downtown Toronto only to be fatally wounded for his efforts. A not-for-profit organization, Build for Bokma's goal is to create a permanent memorial DIY skatepark, along with multifunctional interactive public art structures, in the name of Justin Bokma.

**CITE** is an opportunity to advance Build for Bokma's mission, bring new audiences to The Bentway and serves as a response to Toronto's new skateboard strategy to better integrate skateparks in the future development of the city. **CITE** is co-produced by The Bentway and Build for Bokma and presented by Vans.

*"Skateboarders have often led the way to reimagining unused, industrial spaces for their soon-to-be Olympic sport! The Gardiner was a beloved skateboard destination prior the construction of The Bentway and we are very excited to be working with Build for Bokma to welcome the community back to the site,"* explained The Bentway CEO Julian Sleath (former longboarder!) *"CITE exemplifies the ethos of The Bentway; the idea that our urban infrastructure can be places for art, activity and the gathering of community."*

On display now and during **CITE** is **A FOREST OF CANOES**, a site-specific installation by Lakota Sioux artist **Dana Claxton**. The Vancouver-based artist considers the iconic role and symbolism of the canoe in Canadian, Métis, and Indigenous histories. Working with photographs sourced from the Internet and adding layers of colour and graphic treatments for a Pop Art aesthetic, a series of 16-foot tall murals are adhered to the

columnar bents supporting the Gardiner Expressway creating a forest of canoes amidst the surrounding forest of high rises. Co-commissioned with Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival.

**A full schedule of events for CITE and The Bentway will be released in the next few weeks.**

CITE is co-produced by The Bentway and Build for Bokma and presented by Vans, June 30 – August 12, 2018.

The Bentway is supported by the City of Toronto and the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund (an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport).

For more information, please visit [TheBentway.ca/CITE](http://TheBentway.ca/CITE)

Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) using @TheBentway and [YouTube](#)  
#TOBENTWAY #CITE

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### **About The Bentway**

[The Bentway](#) is a unique and innovative public space that transforms 1.75km underneath Toronto's Gardiner Expressway into a new gathering place for our city's growing population.

The Bentway knits together seven local neighbourhoods with over 70,000 residents, becoming a gateway to the waterfront, while providing access to important attractions and destinations – from Fort York National Historic Site, Ontario Place and Exhibition Place to Harbourfront Centre and the CN Tower. The Bentway offers year-round activities and events, including gardens, a skate trail, recreational amenities, public markets, public art, special exhibitions, festivals, theatre and musical performances, and more. The initial phase of The Bentway is open to the public. Stretching from Strachan Avenue in the west to just east of Bathurst Street underneath the Gardiner Expressway, this section of The Bentway is located on the lands of Fort York National Historic Site, recognized by the Government of Canada as a site of national significance.

The Bentway is maintained, operated, and programmed by The Bentway Conservancy. The project was made possible through the collaboration of a range of city-builders and experts, including the [City of Toronto](#), [Waterfront Toronto](#), Judy and Wilmot Matthews, [Ken Greenberg Consultants](#), [PUBLIC WORK](#), [Fort York National Historic Site](#), and [Artscape](#). The Bentway is a proud member of the [High Line Network](#), an international network of projects that transform underutilized infrastructure into new urban landscapes.

### **About Fort York National Historic Site**

[Fort York National Historic Site](#) is one of 10 Toronto History Museums operated by the City of Toronto. Since 1793, Fort York has been an important military location and is where Toronto was founded as an urban place. Located in the heart of downtown Toronto, this 43-acre heritage conservation district is home to Canada's largest collection of original War of 1812 buildings. Fort York offers permanent exhibits and immersive multimedia displays at the Visitor Centre, ongoing programming and events, site tours, military displays, historic cooking demonstrations, and the annual Indigenous Arts Festival. Fort York National Historic Site is also home to the first phase of The Bentway. For more information, visit <http://www.toronto.ca/fortyork>.

### **About Build for Bokma**

[Build for Bokma](#) is a not-for-profit organization located in Toronto, Ontario, their mandate is to create multifunctional skateable public structures. Their long-term goal is to develop a community-built skatepark that commemorates the life of (Canadian pro skateboarder) Justin Bokma. The group is focused on fostering a long-lasting dialog with the public and future generations of skaters by utilizing under developed spaces in an innovative and creative ways. The demand for more places to skateboard is on the rise across the country and, BFB intends to further integrate skateboarding with future developments, initiatives, and community-lead activities within the city of Toronto.

## **About Vans®**

[Vans®](#), a VF Corporation (NYSE: VFC) brand, is the original action sports footwear, apparel and accessories brand. *Vans* authentic collections are sold globally in 84 countries through a network of subsidiaries, distributors and international offices. *Vans* also owns and operates more than 600 retail locations around the world. The *Vans* brand promotes the action sports lifestyle, youth culture and creative self-expression through the support of athletes, musicians and artists and through progressive events and platforms such as the *Vans Park Series*, *Vans Triple Crown of Surfing®*, the *Vans U.S. Open of Surfing*, *Vans Pool Party*, *Vans Custom Culture*, *Vans Warped Tour®*, and *Vans*' cultural hub and international music venue, *House of Vans*.