

“Under the Prairie Sky”

Collaborative Sculpture (2011-2012)

This project engaged a noted Calgary metallic sculptor to work with the school’s children and created an evocative piece of public art on the school site. The sculpture celebrates the natural features of the short-grass prairie on which King George school was founded in 1912, as one of Calgary’s original sandstone schools. The sculpture is based on the theme “Under the Prairie Sky” that has been developed throughout the years to guide exciting and authentic learning projects at the school. Geoff Sandhurst, a Calgary metal sculptor, led a dynamic collaborative design process with the students and gave them the opportunity to learn about and experience telling the area’s story through metallic materials. Geoff

and parent volunteers led the students in individually texturizing the small metal plates that form an integral part of the resulting sculpture the kids have also helped design. The sculpture is now the gateway to the playground and other features of the school grounds.

The design evokes the rich texture of prairie ecology and includes a bison rubbing against an erratic boulder, a [red tailed hawk](#), a [weasel](#), a [sulphur chrysalis butterfly](#), a trembling aspen bowing under the pressure of a [Chinook wind](#) and a symbol of [native spirituality](#).

Artist’s process [August 2011](#) [October 2011](#) [December 2011](#)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE LAND

