

## Unite the Heights Art Cycle Route

Sharon Yin, 2021 Summer Community Engagement Associate

A new artist-painted cycle route and three artist-painted crosswalks are currently being planned for Crescent Heights and Renfrew! The Art Cycle Route is a series of artist painted bikes that runs along 8th Avenue, stretching from 2nd St NW all the way to 6th St NE. The three nature-themed crosswalks will be on 8th Avenue at Centre Street, Edmonton Trail, and 6th St NE. This exciting and colourful project has been coined a pilot project in Calgary, and if successful, other neighbourhoods will be able to do something similar.

The project is part of a multi-stakeholder initiative called Unite the Heights ([unitetheheights.ca](http://unitetheheights.ca)) which advocates for improvements to pedestrian, cycling, and mobility-friendly infrastructure between Mayland Heights through to Crescent Heights. This Art Cycle Route implementation is just the beginning. The hope is to raise awareness for and improve the non-vehicular transportation options along 8th Avenue.

The Art Cycle Route aims to increase safety, beauty, engagement, and connection not only within Crescent Heights, but also with our neighbouring community of Renfrew. This is a collaborative project between the Crescent Heights and Renfrew Community Associations and is funded by the Federation of Calgary Communities' Activate YYC grant, and the Calgary Parking Authority Sponsorship.

The artist behind this spectacular work of art and wonderful splash of colour to the community, is artist Yiting Hui. She is an artist and illustrator based in Calgary with a master's degree in architecture from McGill University. As a visual artist, it is Yiting's "passion to use visual arts to tell a story," and to reveal "the magic of the ordinary". Her art ignites our imaginations, as she paints to "enhance the vibrancy of the city" with her artwork. Specifically, with this new Art Cycle Route, Yiting's goal is to "bring some colour and whimsy to the neighbourhoods" and to "make the residents smile". In this mural, she emphasizes the representation of nature in her work. Her three painted crosswalks are a reminder to us all to "pay attention to our surrounding: listen to the leaves swing, the grass grow, the mountains sing, and the stars twinkle". Additionally, the adorable animals on bikes are a symbol for "how the animals share Alberta with us and how they inspire us to embrace the nature".

By the time you read this article, we expect that some paint has met the pavement and that many in the community have already helped out with painting. Painting is planned for into September so if you are interested in getting involved, please contact [sandra@crescentheightsyyc.ca](mailto:sandra@crescentheightsyyc.ca).



Art Cycle Route artist, Yiting Hui.



Designs of animals on bikes, painted along the bike route along 8th Ave.