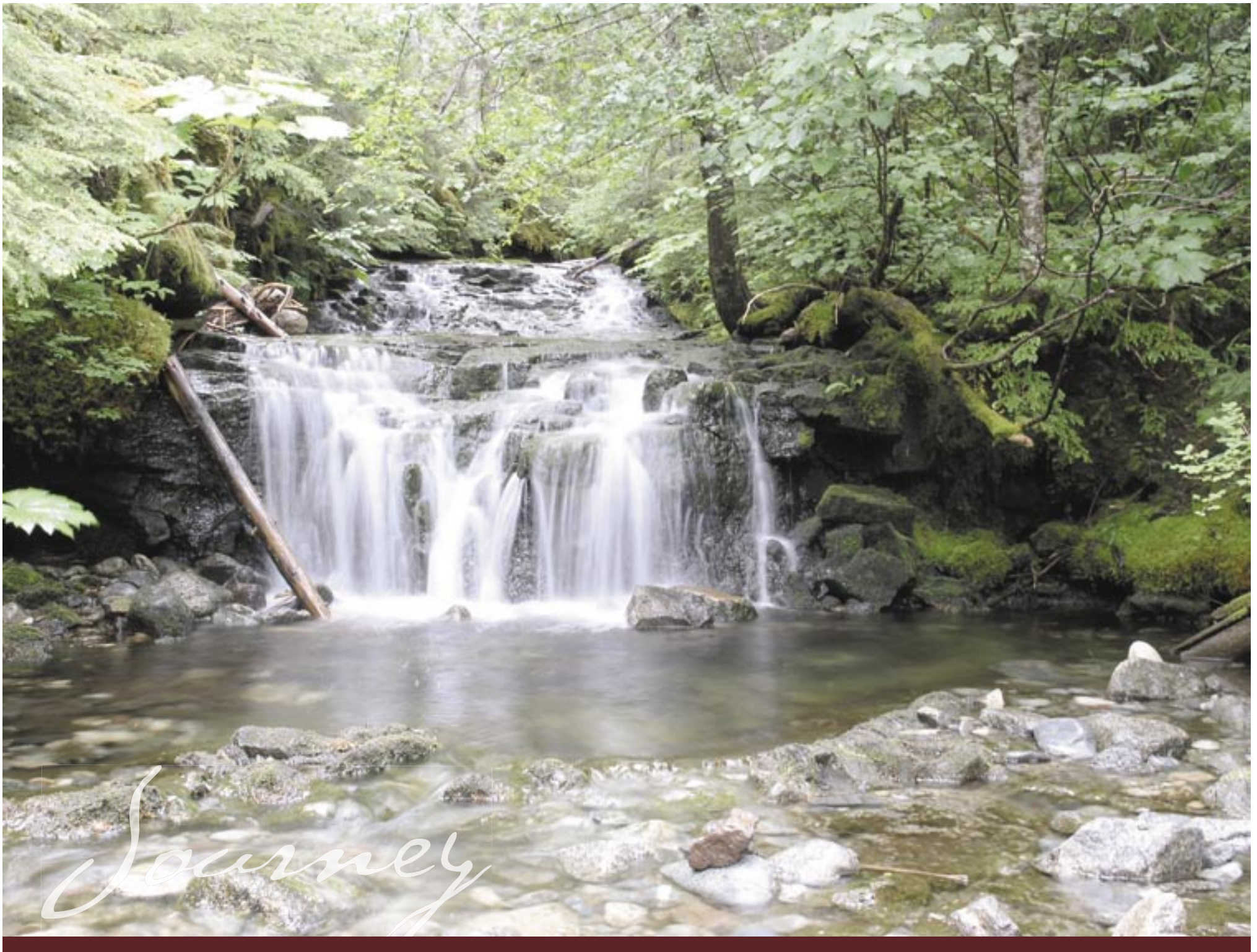


Spo7ez

SKWXWÚ7MESH LIL'WAT7UL
CULTURAL CÉNTRE





Journey

The Spo7ez Cultural Society

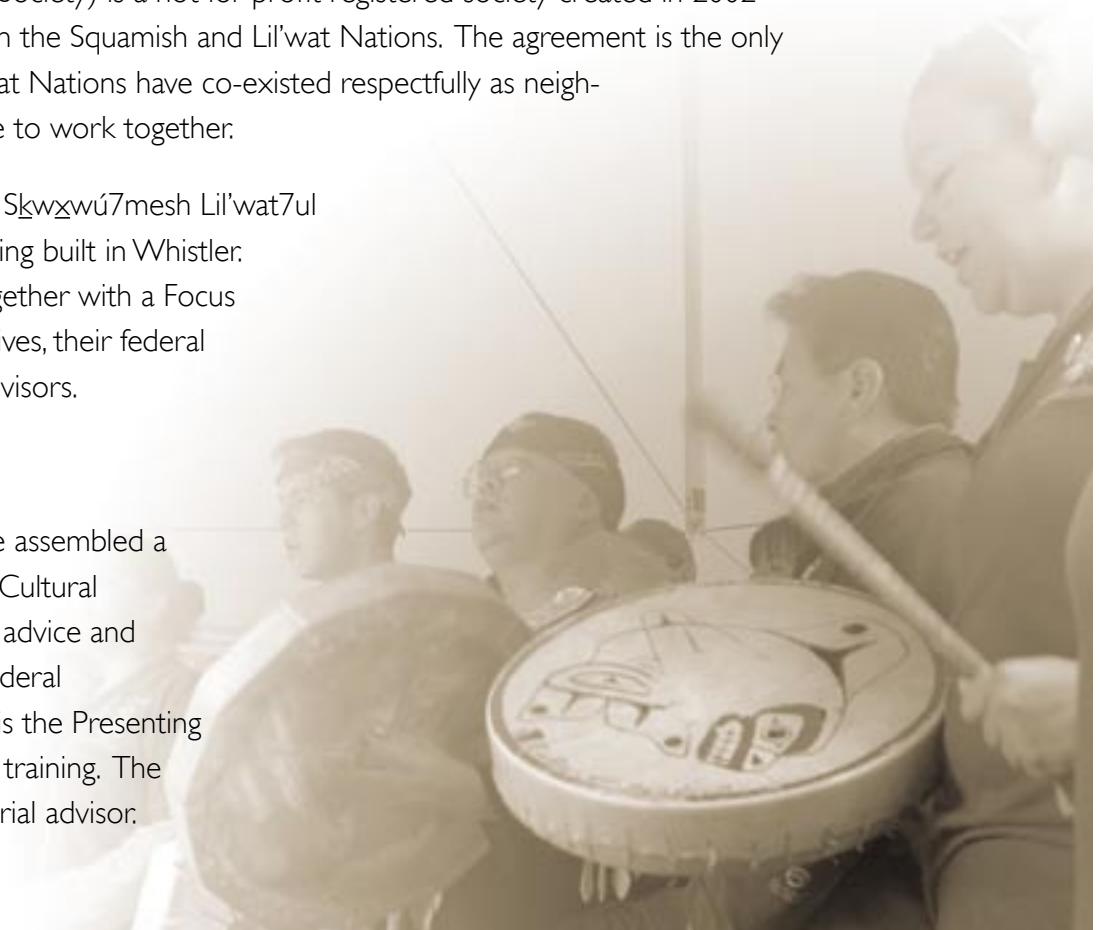
Spo7ez (pronounced Spø-ez) honours the history the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations have shared for thousands of years. It immortalizes the area at Rubble Creek at the base of Garibaldi Mountain, approximately 16 kilometers south of Whistler where the Squamish and Lil'wat people shared a village. Thousands of years ago, this village was buried by a rock slide by the eruption of the Garibaldi Mountain volcano and/or earthquake.

The Spo7ez Cultural Centre and Community Society (Spo7ez Society) is a not for profit registered society created in 2002 following the signing of an historic protocol agreement between the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations. The agreement is the only one of its kind in Canada. It affirms that the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations have co-existed respectfully as neighbours since time immemorial and embodies our Nations desire to work together.

The Spo7ez Society was created to operate our jointly-owned Skwxwú7mesh Lil'wat7ul Cultural Centre, a world-class authentic cultural centre now being built in Whistler. Spo7ez has been managing the development of the project together with a Focus Group comprised of Squamish and Lil'wat Nations representatives, their federal and provincial government partners, and a team of technical advisors.

PARTNERS

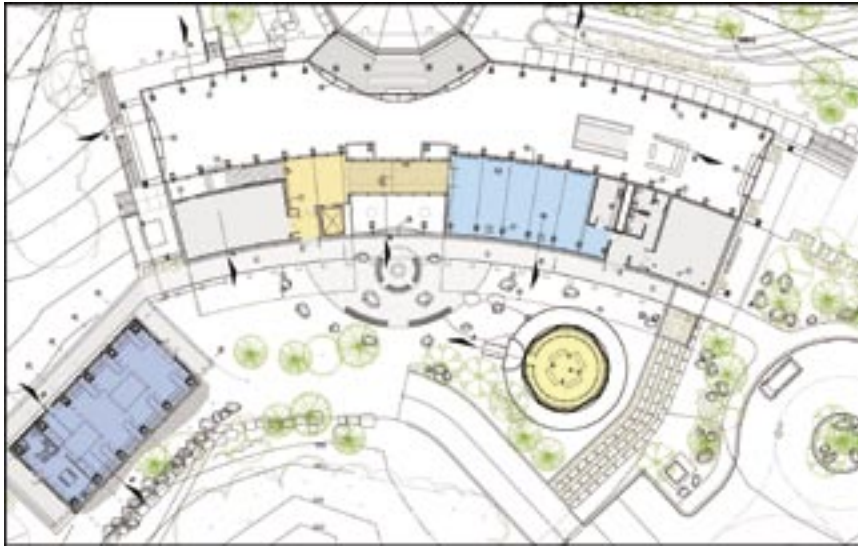
The Spo7ez Society and the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations have assembled a strong team of partners to bring the Skwxwú7mesh Lil'wat7ul Cultural Centre from dream to reality. Government partners providing advice and financial support include the BC Provincial Government, the Federal Government and Resort Municipality of Whistler. Bell Canada is the Presenting Partner. Capilano College has collaborated to provide tourism training. The Museum of Anthropology is acting as the exhibition and curatorial advisor.





Community

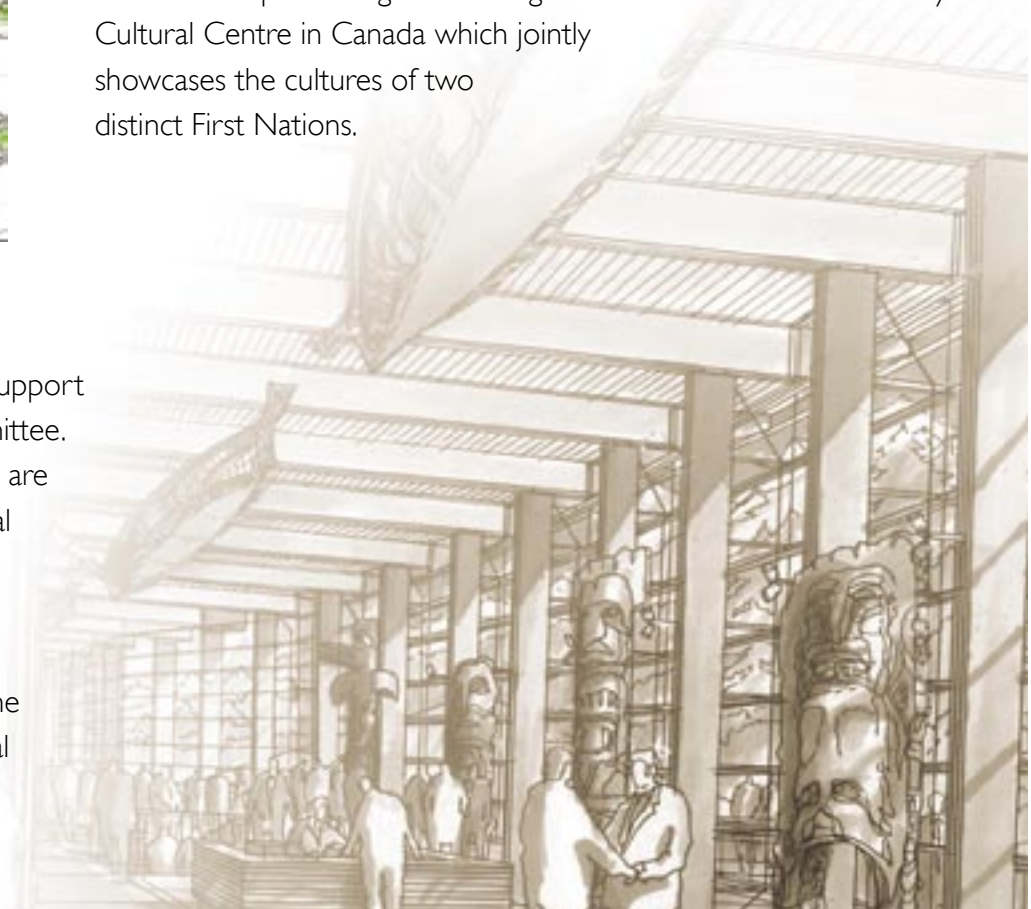
The cultural centre



SKWXWÚ7MESH LIL'WAT7UL

The Skwxwú7mesh Lil'wat7ul Cultural Centre is a world-class authentic cultural centre which will showcase the history, creative works and cultures of the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations. It is scheduled to open in the spring of 2007. The project embodies the spirit of partnership between the two Nations around their shared values about preserving and sharing traditional cultures. It is the only Cultural Centre in Canada which jointly showcases the cultures of two distinct First Nations.

The Cultural Centre is a Shared Legacy project and has the strong support of the Vancouver 2010 Olympics and Paralympics Organizing Committee. Whistler is host to two million visitors each year, about half of which are from Canada and the remainder from the US and other international destinations. The travel industry has responded enthusiastically to the Skwxwú7mesh Lil'wat7ul Cultural Centre. The Cultural Centre responds to a much needed cultural tourism product for Whistler, one that will showcase First Nations culture in a dramatic setting. The opportunity for visitors to view the commissioned art in the Cultural Centre's Great Hall provides a high profile location.





Culture

The excitement

The Cultural Centre will be a three-story, 30,400 square foot complex consisting of three buildings: the Cultural Centre main building, a traditional Squamish Longhouse and a Traditional Lil'wat Eshkin (pit house). The Cultural Centre will offer a variety of visitor experiences and services including:

- Cultural experience combining theatrical performance and demonstrations
- Gift shop
- Traditional West Coast Cuisine Restaurant
- Eco-tour booking centre for guided Squamish and Lil'wat cultural and heritage experiences
- Arts and crafts demonstration area featuring local aboriginal artists;
- Unique Aboriginal tourism information centre for Squamish and Lil'wat
- Art commissioning sales office operated from the Centre

PROGRAMS

The Art Commissioning program is unique in Canada, designed not just to produce First Nations art but just as importantly to enhance the Squamish and Lil'wat programs for cultural development. Many of the artistic traditions have not been practiced for several generations and knowledge of these resides with the elders. The Art Commissioning program provides an ideal opportunity to bring back these traditions. More programs will serve to enrich the communities: an art demonstration program that provides community participants with the opportunity to learn traditional techniques in carving and weaving; an apprenticeship program which assigns young artists to work with master artists on commissions; and a documentation program – to photograph and video artworks in process





Heritage

The Community

SALISH WEAVING

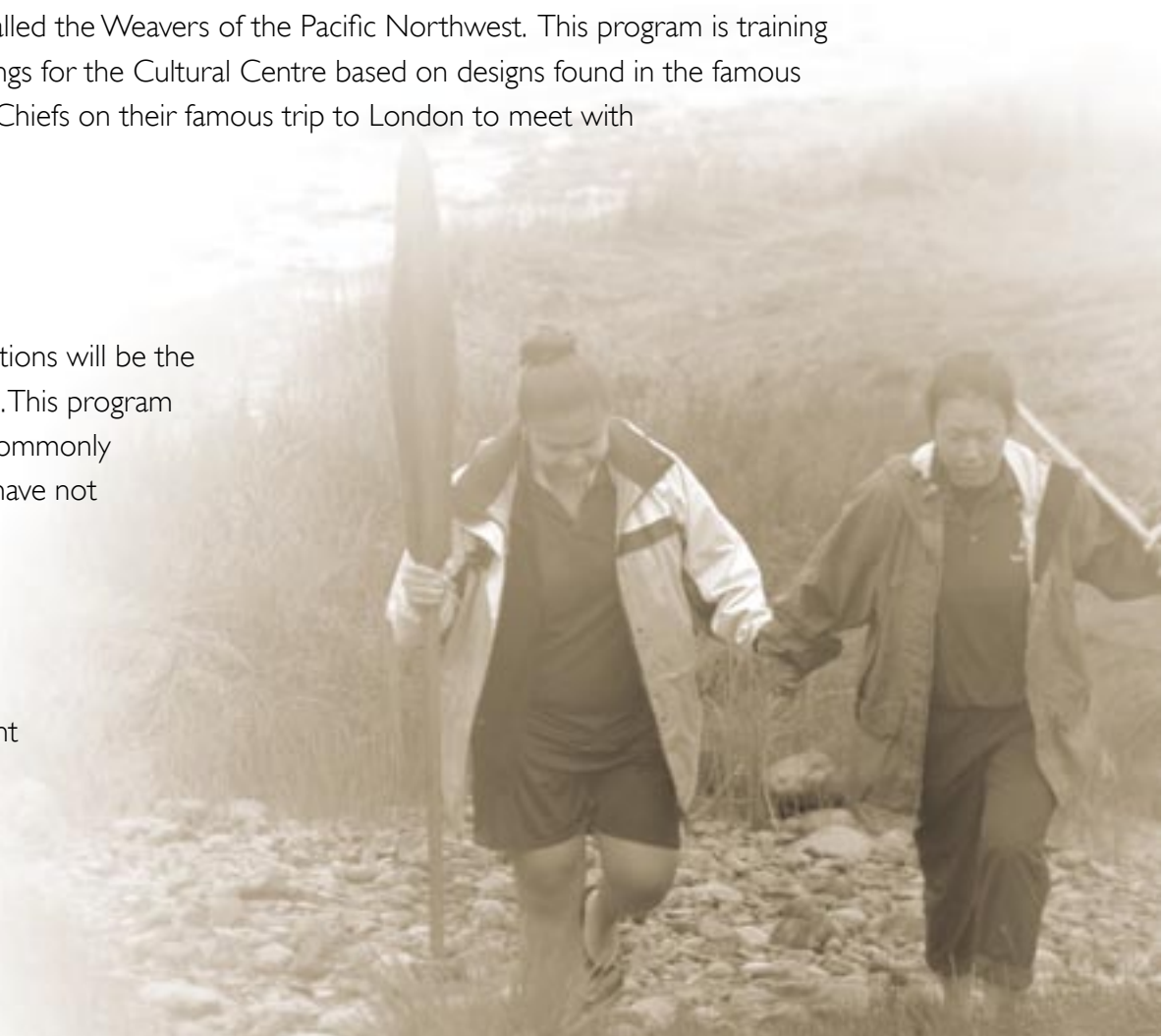
Northwest Coast indigenous people were historically called the Weavers of the Pacific Northwest. This program is training a new generation of Salish weavers to create wall hangings for the Cultural Centre based on designs found in the famous blankets worn by Chief Joe Capilano and ten other BC Chiefs on their famous trip to London to meet with the King of England in 1906.

HERITAGE CANOE CARVING

The great canoe culture of the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations will be the main theme of the Cultural Centre's majestic Great Hall. This program is training youth apprentices in carving techniques not commonly used today to create a number of canoes in styles that have not been created in the community for several generations.

CEDAR BASKET WEAVING

The Lil'wat First Nation has been weaving cedar baskets for thousands of years. This program is reviving an ancient cultural tradition that was falling apart at the seams, and in danger of being lost altogether.





PREPARING THE FOUNDATION

The Spo7ez Society and the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations have been working to prepare the foundation of knowledge and skills needed to support the Cultural Centre for many years.

- 2001: Silversmith Artisan Training** Squamish Nation members with the desire to expand their abilities in the arts and crafts fields and to be able to market their work for it in a positive way received business and tourism training along with hands-on silversmith training.
- 2002: Watchman Project** Team of Squamish Nation members was assembled to monitor remote regions of the traditional territory
- 2003: Guardian Project** Employed youth to manage and maintain several campsites across the traditional territory
- 2004 - 2005: Capilano College First Nation Tourism Diploma Program** 15 youth graduated from the Capilano College First Nations Tourism Management Coop Diploma Program in 2005
- 2004: The Squamish Nation Trust Archaeological Project** Employed four Squamish Nation members to survey and excavate archaeological sites in the northern sections of Squamish Nation Territory
- 2004 - present: Aboriginal Youth Ambassador Project** Ambassador projects have provided youth with the opportunity to interact with visitors.
- 2005: Salish Weaving Artisan Training** 20 Squamish students are trained in the techniques foundational to Salish weaving, a highly prized traditional art form that is in danger of disappearing and which will be featured in the Cultural Centre.
- 2005: Artist Demonstration Program** To promote the Cultural Centre and help youth gain skills, the Ambassador Project is conducting artist cultural demonstration projects on Grouse Mountain and at the Squamish Adventure Centre.
- 2005: Heritage Canoe Carving Project:** Launched to develop the skills needed to create the canoes that will be featured in the Cultural Centre's Great Hall.



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