



Unveiling of the ‘*The Tree Colonnade, Ode to Helmut Jakob*y’ artwork in the Fishermead/Oldbrook underpass to celebrate Milton Keynes’ urban heritage on the Milton Keynes 50th Anniversary.

As part of the “*Underpasses: connecting people connecting places*” project, On The Verge will unveil the last of two new underpass artworks **on Friday 7th April at 2.30pm in the Fishermead/Oldbrook underpass** off Boycott Avenue next to the play area under Saxon Street. Free refreshments and cake will be served at the underpass, attendance is free and all are welcome.

The Tree Colonnade is a newly created artwork by RARA, a cooperative of artists and architects, as part of On the Verge’s *Underpasses – Connecting People, Connecting Places* project. The artwork is an ode to Helmut Jacoby, an illustrator who produced architectural perspectives in the early days of Milton Keynes planning. These images brought to life MKDC’s vision of a city submerged by trees. After 50 years, the real trees have grown and are now mature. The installation presents mural panels displaying drawings of those trees as a celebration of nature and infrastructure merging together.

Two interpretation panels within the underpass itself will be in permanent display. There will be an opportunity to view OTV’s two children publications: ‘*Travelling in Time*’ and ‘*MY MK*’, as well as the Heritage trail leaflets.

On The Verge worked in partnership with local residents, artists and project partners: *MK Council, The Parks Trust and the MK City Discovery Centre*, to enhance two underpasses that link the original CMK estates, with an aim to collectively create a more positive identity and instil greater pride and ownership. The Heritage Lottery Funded project has commissioned the artists’ collective RARA early on to work with local residents on the transformation of the Conniburrow/Downs Barn underpass, and now this month, the Fishermead/Oldbrook underpass.

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Notes to Editors

On the Verge and its partners MK Council, The Parks Trust MK and the MK City Discovery Centre, are delivering the yearlong 'Underpasses' project with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the MK Community Foundation and MK Council. On the Verge is a Community Interest Company.

On the Verge has been awarded an 'Our Heritage' grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the '*Underpasses connecting people, connecting places*', which have seen a series of heritage and cultural events taking place in 4 communities in Milton Keynes designed to explore its heritage and unique system of underpasses. On the Verge is working with partners and artists to deliver a series of community engagement events to uncover local history, collecting artistic responses and oral histories. Artwork for two underpasses, a heritage trails leaflet, an App and series of exhibitions and children publications is being created through the project, marking Milton Keynes' 50th Anniversary.

More details available on **Facebook**: @OnTheVergeMK

For further information images and interviews please contact:

Myriam Metcalf – Project Director, On the Verge mm@ontheverge.org.uk

On The Verge website: <http://www.ontheverge.org.uk>

The Underpasses project is supported by: The Heritage Lottery Fund, Milton Keynes Community Foundation, and Milton Keynes Council and delivered in partnership with The Parks Trust, MK City Discovery Centre, and MK Council.

