



## ***HENIINIINI’ - THERE IS SNOW ON THE GROUND***

*A visual story of water and recreation.*

### ***Editorial Backgrounder and Fact Sheet – November 2023***

**What:** Winter Park is completing and unveiling a [new public art installation](#) designed to bring greater awareness to guests, employees, and our community alike that the snow on the ground brings us much more than perfect turns and powder days. Snow is a vital lifeforce that when it melts into waterways in the spring, it feeds essential ecosystems, habitats, and communities for hundreds of miles downstream.

While Winter Park Resort recognizes our inherent [connection to the snow on the ground](#), the land, and the water, we are not the original people to embrace this idea. Native and Indigenous people stewarded this place long before there was ever a mountain resort designed for fun and recreation. Today with gratitude, Winter Park knows we are all in service of a larger call from [Indigenous perspectives](#) that empower us to build more reciprocal relationships with the mountain.

**Title:** Heniiniini’ – Arapaho to English translation: “*There Is Snow On The Ground*”

**Brief Historical Context:** [Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute Native Nations](#) all originally inhabited many parts of Colorado, including the Fraser River Valley where Winter Park Resort now sits. Later, European settlers moved to the Fraser River Valley, establishing homes and settlements in the 1820s. The Moffat Tunnel that bores through the Continental Divide, connecting the Front Range to Winter Park, was completed in 1927, and Winter Park Resort first opened its slopes in 1940.

**Components:**

- [Large-format art piece](#): currently permanently installed at the top of the Gondola at Sunspot
- [Snow stake](#): currently permanently installed mid-mountain on Mary Jane in the same place as the previous snow stake
- [On-mountain trail signs in Eagle Wind](#): in-process; signs will be designed, built and permanently installed during the 2023/24 winter season
- [On-mountain historical trail markers](#): in-process; markers will be designed, built and permanently installed during the 2023/24 winter season and into the 2024 summer season

All components are scheduled to be installed and completed by the start of the 2024/25 winter season.

### **Materials, dimensions, and fabrication:**

- **Large-format piece:** fabricated, layered, coated and treated aluminum sheets; finished piece will be approximately 10' wide, by 6' tall; the word "Heniiiniini" is carved into one of the sheets and is the center of the piece; outlines of Longs Peak, Mount Blue Sky, Byers Peak, and Parry Peak make up each metal layer; the base will house a flower bed basin of sorts and will incorporate acrylic patterns, lodge poles, and gabions for support; in the spring and summer, snowmelt will feed a small garden of indigenous plants.
- **Snow stake:** fabricated, layered, coated and treated aluminum sheets with incorporated acrylic and poured resin components to help prevent ice build-up; finished piece is the same footprint as the previous snow stake at approximately 2' wide, by 2 ½' feet tall.
- **On-mountain trail signs:** using the same materials as all other on-mountain trail signs, the Eagle Wind signage will showcase patterns and designs from Native and Indigenous artists; our partner, NativesOutdoors, is working with an Arapaho linguist to compile a list of Native names pertaining to Winter Park terrain, flora, and fauna; new trail signs will accompany current signs to show past and present names.
- **Historical trail markers:** design, materials, and Native and Indigenous historical information will accompany existing trail markers; the content on the current markers will not change; new markers will be designed to complement what's already there.

**Partners and Artists:** Winter Park Resort has partnered with Native and Indigenous skiers Connor Ryan, and Dr. Len Necefer, both with NativesOutdoors, for nearly four years. Connor and Len have advised and guided Winter Park and its teams to strengthen and deepen our understanding of our inherent connections to the land, water, and our communities present and past. Heniiiniini' is a direct reflection of our relationship with Connor, Len, NativesOutdoors, and other Native and Indigenous collaborators.

- **Connor Ryan** | Lakota, professional skier, filmmaker, and Winter Park ambassador
- **Dr. Len Necefer** | Diné / Navajo / CEO and founder NativesOutdoors
- **Isaiah Branch Boyle** | Mestizo / creative director NativesOutdoors
- **Jordan Ann Craig** | Tesuque Pueblo / Diné / Southern Ute / artist
- **Vernan Kee** | Diné / Navajo / visual art director NativesOutdoors
- **Dr. S. Neyooxet Greymorning** | Arapaho / professor at the University of Montana
- **Jade Begay** | Diné & Tesuque Pueblo / filmmaker & director of policy and advocacy at NDN Collective
- **Dylan McLaughlin** | Diné / Navajo / sound and video artist and educator

### **About Winter Park Resort**

Winter Park Resort, Colorado's quintessential mountain and ski resort, is located less than 70 miles from the city of Denver. Flanked by the dramatic Continental Divide, the resort is defined by its pure natural environment, and its unique Colorado adventure culture. During the winter, Winter Park receives some of the state's most consistent snowfall across its 3000+ acres of world-class terrain, and has been voted USA Today's #1 Ski Resort in North America multiple years. During summer, the resort is home to renowned Trestle bike park, and has numerous times been named as Colorado's Top Adventure Town. For more information, visit [www.winterparkresort.com](http://www.winterparkresort.com).

### **Media Contact:**

Jen Miller

[jmiller@winterparkresort.com](mailto:jmiller@winterparkresort.com)

303-638-9626

