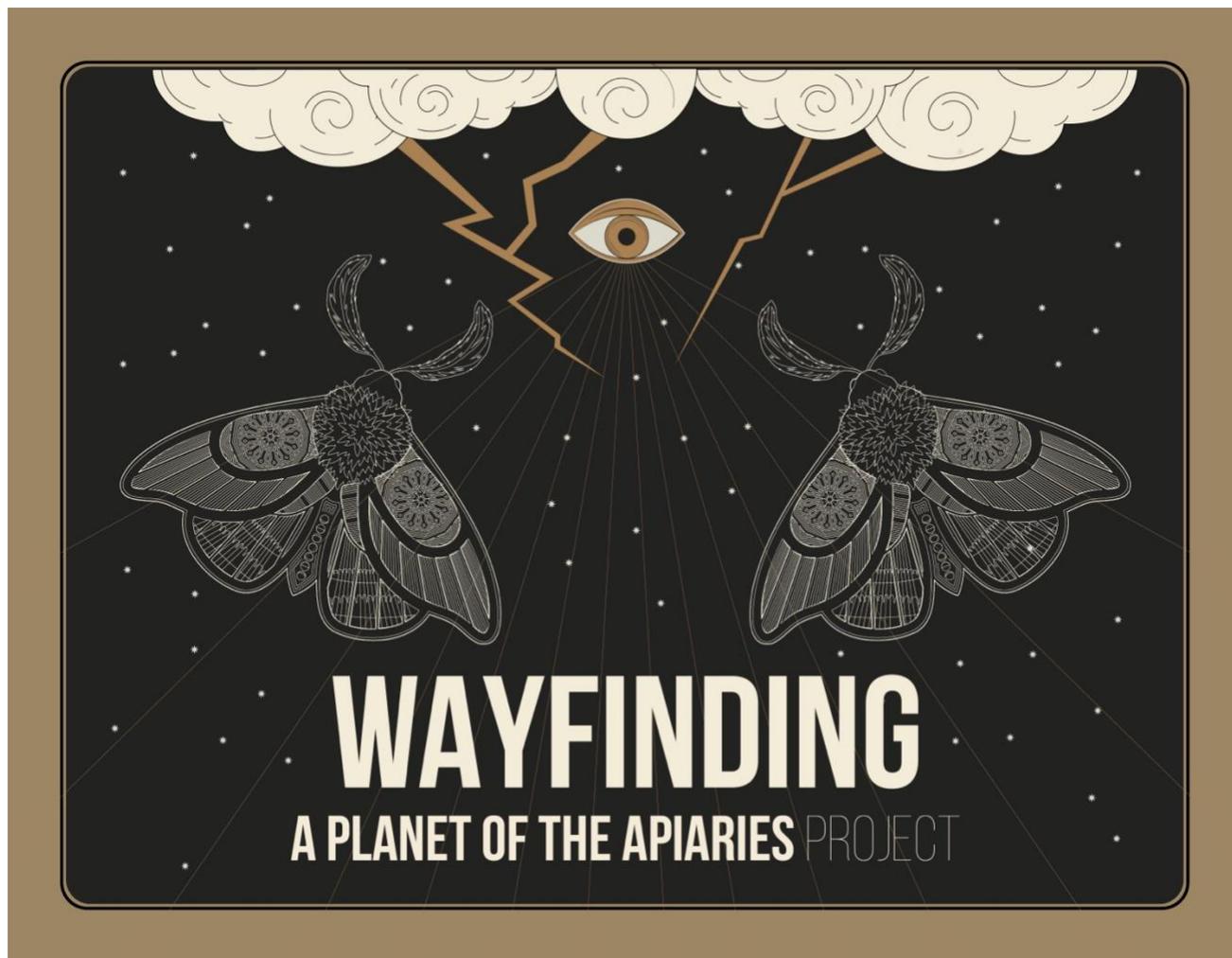


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Premiere of WAYFINDING at the 6th Annual Lights On Stratford Winter Festival with New 'Local Artist Spotlight' Series

Stratford's Josh Bean will be the first local artist highlighted in the series



WAYFINDING poster image courtesy of Josh Bean and Planet of the Apiaries

Stratford, Ontario, November 6, 2025 – Now entering its 6th year, the multi award-winning [Lights On Stratford](#) annual winter festival by [Destination Stratford](#) launches on December 12th and will once again transform Stratford's heritage downtown and park system with luminous art and interactive light installations over the course of six weekends in the darkest and coldest part of the year.

The Lights On Stratford 2025/26 theme is **RADIANCE**. Officially defined as a “*type of glowing: either from a light source like the sun or a healthy, beaming person,*” event organizers extend the concept of radiance to reflect a community that comes together on a winter's night to celebrate art and light.

In addition to the recently announced premieres of CHRONOHARP in Market Square and BIRDS OF A FEATHER on Tom Patterson Island, Lights On Stratford is excited to announce a new Local Artist Spotlight series hosted at the Destination Stratford Welcome Centre.

“An important part of our vision for Lights On Stratford is to celebrate our community’s creativity as well as to elevate and support light artists within Canada,” said Zac Gribble, Executive Director, Destination Stratford. *“We are thrilled to launch the Local Artist Spotlight series this winter that will highlight local artist Josh Bean with the premiere of WAYFINDING.”*



Artist Josh Bean constructing the interactive moon component of WAYFINDING. Photo courtesy of Josh Bean

WAYFINDING is an immersive installation about moving through darkness—not as something to fear, but as an opportunity for reflection. Inspired by the quiet lives of moths, and the power of the moon, it reflects on the ways we grow and change.

Moths aren't simply drawn to light; they're guided by it. They evolved to navigate by the moon, keeping its glow over their backs to stay oriented in the dark. Artificial lights disrupt this ancient instinct, pulling them off course. Yet the moon remains their compass.



Detail of the moth component of WAYFINDING. Photo courtesy of Josh Bean

That quiet persistence—the instinct to trust, adapt, and continue—mirrors the moon's own cycle of renewal, and the resilience found in those who navigate profound change, illness, and disability.

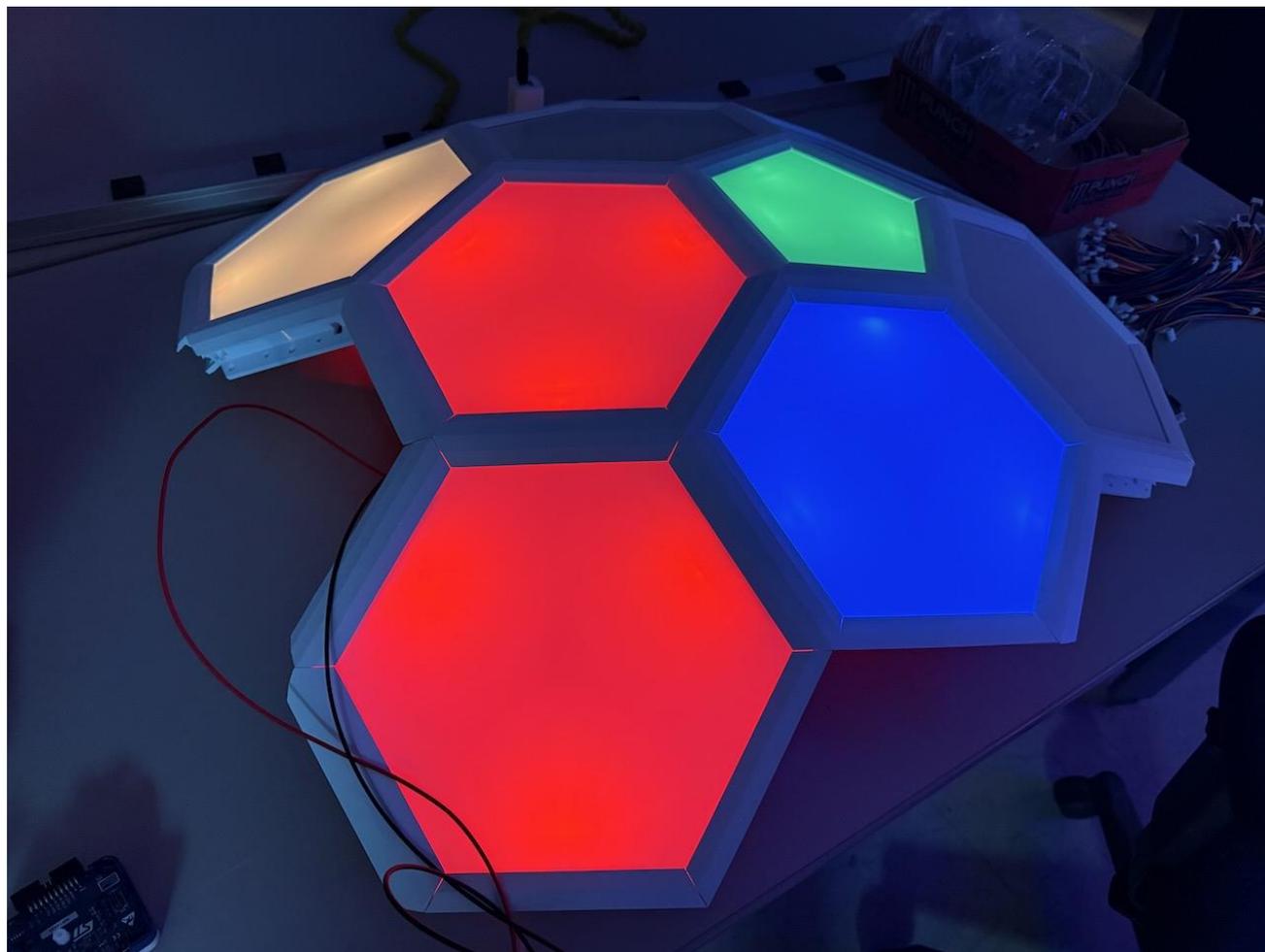
Together, the moth and the moon are symbols of intuition, transformation, and renewal—one a seeker, the other a steady guide. Across spiritual traditions—from astrology to tarot—they appear as companions in the journey through darkness and into rebirth.

At its heart, WAYFINDING is about metamorphosis. Like the moth and the moon, we don't evolve by avoiding darkness; we are forever transformed by how we move through it.

This installation brings that journey to life through light, motion, and material. It recreates the feeling of navigating by the light of the moon, just like the moth evolved to do.

Created by Planet of the Apiaries, an artist collective exploring the intersections of nature, symbolism, and lived experience, WAYFINDING invites a deeper kinship with the humble moth, the moon, and the world around you.

“Having WAYFINDING debut here in Stratford carries a special kind of weight,” said Josh Bean, Stratford-based artist and member of the Planet of the Apiaries artist collective. *“I moved here five years ago, just before becoming severely ill with Long COVID, and for a long time my world was very small. This piece marks my return to creativity and to community—under the same winter lights I once only watched from afar. It’s not just a sculpture; it’s a symbol of renewal, and of finding my way back into the world.”*



Testing the interactive moon panels of WAYFINDING. Photo courtesy of Josh Bean



Destination Stratford
47 Downie Street, Stratford, ON N5A 1W7
P: 519-271-5140 T: 1-800-561-7926
hello@visitstratford.ca

At the centre of WAYFINDING are two celestial companions — a wooden moth and its luminous moon.

The moth rests on a wooden base, its body capable of slowly turning (270°) and tilting (45°) in graceful arcs as though searching for its guiding light.

The moon, faceted with ninety-two geometric cells, glows softly in response to touch. Eighty of these can be awakened by the audience, each one holding light, sound, and motion within its surface.

Through touch alone, visitors shift between modes of play and expression — changing colours, pressing to reveal hidden hues, creating music, guiding the moth's movements, or watching as the pair drift together through cycles of light and stillness.

Like its namesake, WAYFINDING is both instrument and compass — a quiet dialogue between seeker and guide, between human gesture and the rhythms of nature. More details can be found at planetoftheapiaries.ca.

"This piece began as a small idea—a single moth—something I could do myself," said Bean. "I work out of a makerspace in Kitchener called Kwartzlab. And it's a really collaborative space. What started as sketches and late-night conversations became a full collaboration between artists, engineers, and friends. As a disabled artist I'm still quite limited in what I can do physically. So I rely heavily on the other members of the collective to complete a project like this. It's a reflection of what happens when people share curiosity and creativity freely—how collective making can turn an idea into something more."

Prepare to be mesmerized this winter when interactive displays will light up nightly Thursday through Sunday from 5-10pm. The 6th annual Lights On Stratford is free to the public and set to launch on December 12th, 2025 until January 18th, 2026. Visit lightsonstratford.ca for more details, upcoming announcements and sponsorship opportunities. And in the interim, be sure to check out the recently released [5 YEARS OF LIGHTS ON STRATFORD](#) video.

Lights On Stratford is made possible through the support of its partners and the generosity of its community sponsors. It is financially assisted by Experience Ontario as well as Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, programs of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming. Opportunities are still available for organizations wishing to be part of this season's festival and connect with thousands of visitors. To learn more about sponsorship, please visit lightsonstratford.ca/sponsor or contact sponsor@lightsonstratford.ca.

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For more information, please email hello@visitstratford.ca.