



Artist Gina Godfrey unveils her contemporary brain sculpture *Luminescent*. JACK BOLAND/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

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## ... GINA GODFREY

### Sculpting a path to better brain health at Baycrest

JANE STEVENSON  
POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Gina Godfrey's latest art creation was a no-brainer.

The Torontonian is among 100 artists from around North America who made brain sculptures for the second annual edition of The TELUS Health Brain Project which raises awareness and money for research into brain health and aging at Baycrest Health Sciences — in Godfrey's case, for the second year in a row.

The sculptures, which include those by other Canadians of note, including skater Kurt Browning, retired CBC anchor Peter Mansbridge and Spirit of The West's John Mann, go on display around Toronto, starting July 11.

Godfrey, whose parents lived at the North York health centre into their 90s, unveiled

her sculpture called, *Luminescent* — which is destined for Nathan Phillips Square — to family and friends at her 17th-floor art gallery at Postmedia's Bloor St. offices on Wednesday afternoon.

The majority of the "brains" will be sold at auction and last year's effort raised \$1.3 million.

Godfrey, who describes her bright yellow-and-blue-with-eyes sculpture as contemporary art, says she was inspired by her nine grandchildren, ages one to 12, — eight of them girls — for her artwork.

"Some of the heroines of animation like *Finding Dory* — Dory, who had that kind of blue and yellow look — and *Avatar*, who actually had the yellow eyes and the blue body," Godfrey told Postmedia Network.

"Both heroines, both

females, and if anyone takes a look at my brain — yes, it is a female — so this was a no-brainer for me to do. *Finding Dory* was one of my favourite movies. It shows you where my brain is."

It was Godfrey's son and daughter-in-law, Noah and Erica, who founded the brain health project last year after seeing art on public display (specifically the Faberge egg hunt in New York City).

"They'll be all over the city — so check out the brains," urged Noah who addressed the gathering briefly.

Godfrey's husband, Postmedia CEO Paul Godfrey, who is also the vice-chair of Baycrest's board of directors added: "What we hope to accomplish is to make more people aware of the great problems of Alzheimer's and concussions and brain health."