In 2013, the UBC School of Social Work put out a call for submissions from Coast Salish artists for a new logo which reflected the theme of transformation, to reflect the School’s mission and vision. We also wanted to recognize the School’s location on the unceded territory of the Musqueam people and are grateful for their support in selecting the design.

The design depicts Raven transforming into a human child. All along the Coast, Raven is viewed as the most magical of beings, with the ability to shape-shift into anything at will. The most frequent form Raven takes is that of a human. Raven’s adventures create much of what we have around us; land, sea mountains, lakes, and rivers. People acquire knowledge of life and living, through the teachings associated with Raven’s adventures and misadventures. Raven inadvertently creates much knowledge by making mistakes, as well as through intentionality.

Ray Sim is a member of the Musqueam Salish Nation. He has close familial ties to the Gitksan through his grandfather, who is from the Gitankaaw Band. Ray’s first exposure to Northwest Coast Art came at age 11, when he attended art classes taught by Ron Hamilton. He received formal training from 1992 to 1994 at the Kitanmaax School in Hazelton, BC; first with Vernon Stephans and then with Ken Mowatt. Ray feels his time spent at K’san learning from these instructors is invaluable.

In 2001, Ray participated in an Advanced Design workshop given by Robert Davidson. Ray says that this educational experience helps to elevate his work to a higher level of accomplishment. He feels that all of his experiences with Northwest Coast art and artists are inspirational, and continue to enrich his life. Ray taught art at the Ha-ho-payuk School, Friendship Centre, and other schools in Port Alberni. He is an artist dedicated to his work, and continually strives to advance his understanding of Northwest Coast art.