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City of West Allis Seeks Artists for a New Corridor of Outdoor Murals
The City will sponsor up to four new painted walls in 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JUNE 10, 2020 - West Allis, WIS. –The City of West Allis today is releasing a Call for Artists to request submissions for its new summer project, a corridor of outdoor murals to be dubbed “West Allis Living Streets.” There will be four new artworks installed in various sites around the commercial corridor of West Allis, sponsored by the City’s Artscape Committee.

Walls identified for the project include the west-facing wall of a commercial building across from City Hall, the east-facing wall of the upcoming Reunion restaurant, the south-facing exterior wall of the West Allis Towne Center, and the large façade of the Lamplight building.

The Lamplight building, with its five-story expanse of wall, has been reserved for a special artist invitation to Thomas Evans of Colorado, whose artist name is DETOUR. DETOUR is a nationally-recognized African-American artist known for his vibrant portraits, as well as for his work in the Afrofuturism movement. For more information about the artist, visit IAMDETOUR.com.

The remaining three walls are included in an open Call for Artists. The call is open to all artists over the age of 18 residing in the United States.

The project is being led by Wallpapered City, the artist-led working group that implemented the “North Avenue Mural Arts District” (NoMAD) in Wauwatosa last summer, as well as Black Cat Alley, Bay View Street Canvas, and other public and commercial art projects in the Milwaukee area.

“We have wanted to do this in West Allis for years, and we could not be happier to begin this work in 2020,” said Mayor Dan Devine, a longtime supporter of strengthening arts and cultural opportunities in West Allis. “This project is going to be fantastic for our City. And this is only the beginning.”

Artists have three weeks to prepare their proposals. Responses are due June 30. Artists will be selected by an impartial jury of West Allis-based artists, residents, and City staff. Chosen artists will be contacted in mid-July.

Artists may download a copy of the Call for Artists on the Wallpapered City website at <http://wallpapered.city/blog/westallisWALS>

Tax dollars are not being used to support these projects, which have been funded by First-Ring Industrial Redevelopment Enterprises (FIRE), a regional community development entity, run through the City of West Allis’ Economic Development Department.

To learn more about Wallpapered City or artist Thomas Evans, contact Stacey Williams-Ng at Wallpapered City at Stacey@wallpapered.city or 414-477-7282. For more information about the arts in West Allis, contact Mayor Dan Devine at ddevine@westalliswi.gov.

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