

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

**ART @ WORK UNVEILS A BRAND-NEW PUBLIC MURAL
THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, AT 6:00 P.M.**

The **Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA)** announces the completion of a new community mural at 4300 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21212. The unveiling celebration will be held at Restoration Gardens II, 4201 York Road, this Thursday, August 5, 2021 from 6:00–8:00 p.m. This new mural was created as part of BOPA’s Art @ Work program by the Govans Guardians team. Lead Artist Iandry Randriamandroso and Artist Intern Desiree Thaniel mentored Youth Apprentices Kiyann Reid, Antoine Padonou, Janya Edwards, Sherrill Richardson, Amelia Henry, Nukieah Brooks, and Kashae White to implement the mural, titled “Together Govans.”

The mural art design features clasped hands to represent togetherness and care for each other, and an Adinkra symbol, Odo Nnyew Fie Kwan, from the Republic of Ghana in Africa. The Adinkra symbol, Odo Nnyew Fie Kwan means, “Love does not lose its way home.” Those who are led by love always end up in the right place. A heart design centered in the mural symbolizes the love that the community shares with each other. A vibrant color palette was used to increase visibility and draw attention to the artwork.

Art@Work is produced by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts in partnership with YouthWorks and Loyola University of Maryland - York Road Initiative, and supported by the Department of Planning - INSPIRE Program, the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, City Steps Youth Housing Services, the Mayor’s Office of Human Services, and The French Companies.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Art @ Work is a six-week mural artist apprenticeship program for Baltimore City youth enrolled in the city’s YouthWorks program. Young people ages 14–21 were hired to work under lead teaching artists to create highly visible, community-approved murals in local neighborhoods.

The goal of Art @ Work is to introduce youth to career opportunities in the arts, offer gainful employment in a positive learning environment and to provide youth with the tools to express themselves through the arts, all while beautifying their community.

For the 2021 season, Art @ Work staff provided mentorship and training to a group of 10 young adults enrolled in YouthWorks to develop and implement an exterior wall mural. Lead

artists will worked collaboratively with the youth apprentices to canvass the community, develop designs, presented design proposals to the public, and implemented approved designs as exterior wall mural artworks. The program followed three core phases:

- **Community Engagement** — The team canvassed neighborhood residents, business owners, community leaders, and young people to gather inspiration and buy-in for the mural design.
- **Design Presentations** — The team developed professional PowerPoint presentations for a town hall meeting to show community stakeholders their process, concepts, and proposed designs. Following presentations, teams opened the floor for questions and feedback on their designs.
- **Creating the Murals** — After the mural design was approved by community stakeholders, the artist apprentices worked alongside professional artists to create their murals. Paintbrushes, tarps, and tiles became tools for transforming barren walls into beacons of hope and pride.

Learn more about Baltimore Mural Program by visiting www.promotionandarts.org and following BOPA on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, @promoandarts.

The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which serves as Baltimore City's arts council, events center, and film office. By providing funding and support to artists, arts programs, and organizations across the city, and by producing large-scale events such as Artscape, Baltimore Book Festival, and Light City, BOPA's goal is to make Baltimore a more vibrant and creative city.

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