



Community Gift of Encouragement and Hope Through Creativity

FEB 19, 2021 AT 09:41 AM BY WGNS

(Murfreesboro, TN) – A group of 21 local artists gave a creative gift to our community to encourage a better 2021 through a pop-up mural at the Walnut House in Murfreesboro, TN (116 N Walnut St). The temporary mural was organized by artist and Rutherford Arts Alliance board member, Ginny Togrye. Ricki Martini from the Walnut House facilitated and handled the logistics of hanging the 36” x 46” panels in a collage format. All the panels included words or images of hope to form a cohesive work of art adding to the many recent murals in our community.

“It has been such a difficult year for everyone, and we thought, as creatives, we could offer hope for 2021 through art,” commented Ginny Togrye. “Artists can be such introverts, and I was trying to think of a way to look outside of our own selves and offer hope for the community,” She added. Walnut House, a local event venue and supporter of the arts in our town, was a natural choice of location. David Cavallin, owner, Walnut House, said “we have so many talented artists, musicians and makers in our community, and we’re excited to help showcase their creations!” Walnut House is located at 116 N Walnut St and information can be found at www.walnutthousemurfreesboro.com.

Walnut House General Manager Ricky Martini told, WGNS, “The mural will be hung on the outside south wall of the Walnut House in early March, and can be seen from West Main Street and on Walnut as well.”

Lisa Browning, with Cultural Arts Murfreesboro, who is also a contributing artist described her panel, “a metaphor on the importance of reflecting back the beauty that appears before us every day in creative ways. A heart of thankfulness in the process can be hope-filled and multiplied when we express it back by using many avenues of the arts. A collaborative project is a strong example of a creative community coming together and in a flourish of good will, hope and compassion for its residents.” Local fine artist Ray Kleinlein said, “I’m happy to participate in any project that showcases local art talent.” For his panel he recalled, “I decided to use white paint only to give it a simple graphic feel and make it easier to see at a distance.” Portrait artist Lisa Sims also shared, “It was such a privilege and great fun participating in this gift to our community in the form of a pop-up mural. Art speaks where words are unable to explain. Creativity has been an ever-present hope and source of encouragement to me all my days! I hope this act of love from 20 fellow artists is received by the community of Rutherford County with as much enthusiasm and hope with each panel created. This is pure joy! Thanks RAA for making these projects come to life.” Ray and Lisa are co-chairs of the Visual Arts interest group with the Rutherford Arts Alliance.

Participating artists include Jarvis Barr, Abby Reish, Heather McCormick, Susan Gulley, Carol Berning, Ginny Togrye, Becky Phelps, Ray Kleinlein, Lisa Sims, Lisa Browning, Diane Stockard, Lisa Lewis Jackson, Joy McCrary, Ashley Buchanon, Meagan Arms, Reba Gilpin, Kelly Rae Huber, Crystal O’Neil, Brittany Goodson, Ryan Frizzell, Barbara and Lee Hodges.