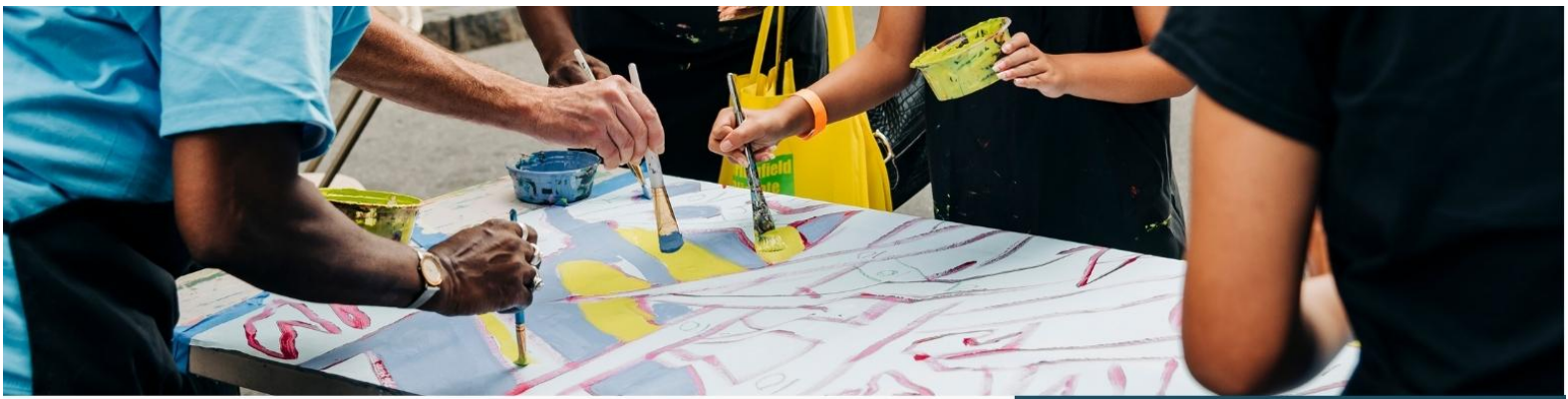


**COMMON
WEALTH
MURALS**

GUIDE TO THE SPRINGFIELD MURALS



WWW.COMMONWEALTHMURALS.ORG



Engaging the community in the creation of a work of public art builds relationships, helps strengthen the ties that bind people together, connects people to their shared spaces and what happens in that space. It allows communities to publicly and permanently proclaim, reclaim or rewrite the narratives of themselves. It cultivates pride, and intentional visions of what the future could hold. Through collaborative mural creation, people experience working together to create something beautiful. This powerful experience opens them up to the possibilities of what else they can achieve as a community.

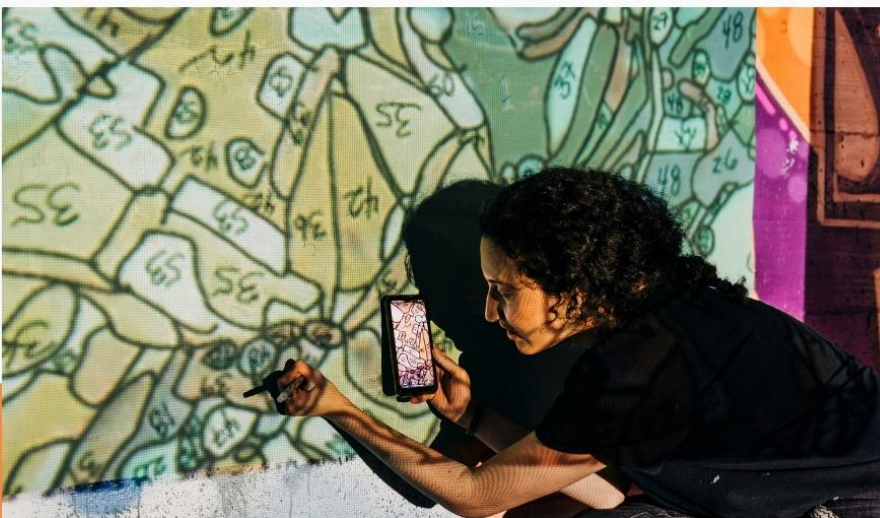
We use the GoodSpace Method, developed by GoodSpace Murals, to create community-engaged murals. Please check out their amazing work at www.goodspacemurals.com

DESIGN

After establishing guidelines and objectives with the project coordinators, we engage community stakeholders in structured activities and conversations to gather their ideas for themes and imagery to be considered for the mural design. The activities are structured to be fun and to encourage individual expression, a sense of belonging, safety and dialogue between participants. The muralist uses the identified theme and imagery to guide their design process.

PREPARING THE MURAL FOR COMMUNITY PAINTING

Once the design is finalized, we turn it into a color-coded outline. The outline is projected onto large sheets of mural fabric. Every number corresponds to a color.



Making Community Engaged Murals





COMMUNITY PAINTING

Then we bring the panels to community gathering spaces for paint parties. Paint parties can happen anywhere - in classrooms, parks, community centers, festivals - and everyone can join. No experience is necessary and all ages and abilities can participate.

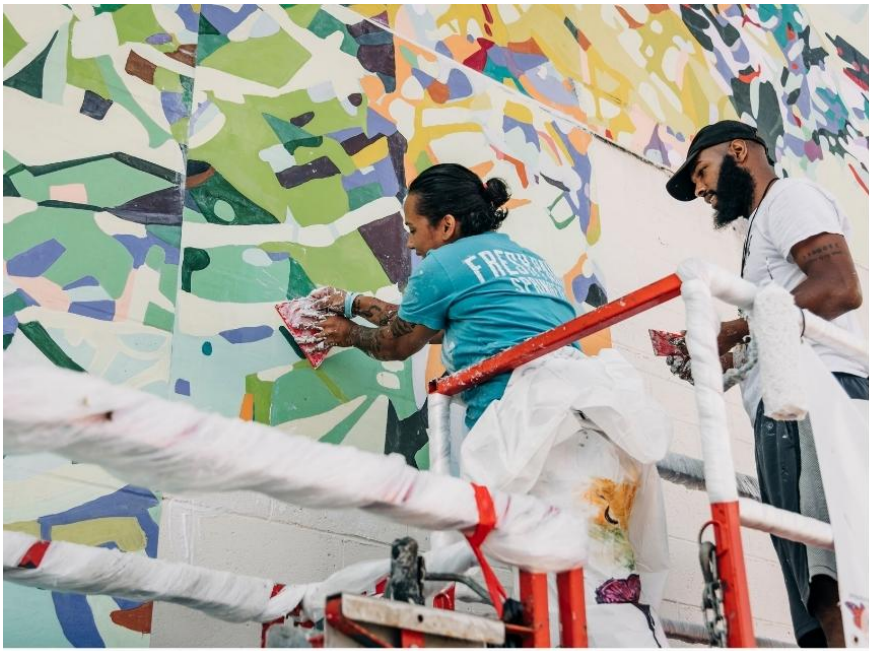
When the wall is easily accessible, sometimes we create a color-coded outline on the wall and the community paints directly on the wall.

Either way, paint parties promote a common sense of ownership of the artwork, enhance pride in place, and provide a space to build friendships and connections between community members.




Making Community Engaged Murals





Making Community Engaged Murals



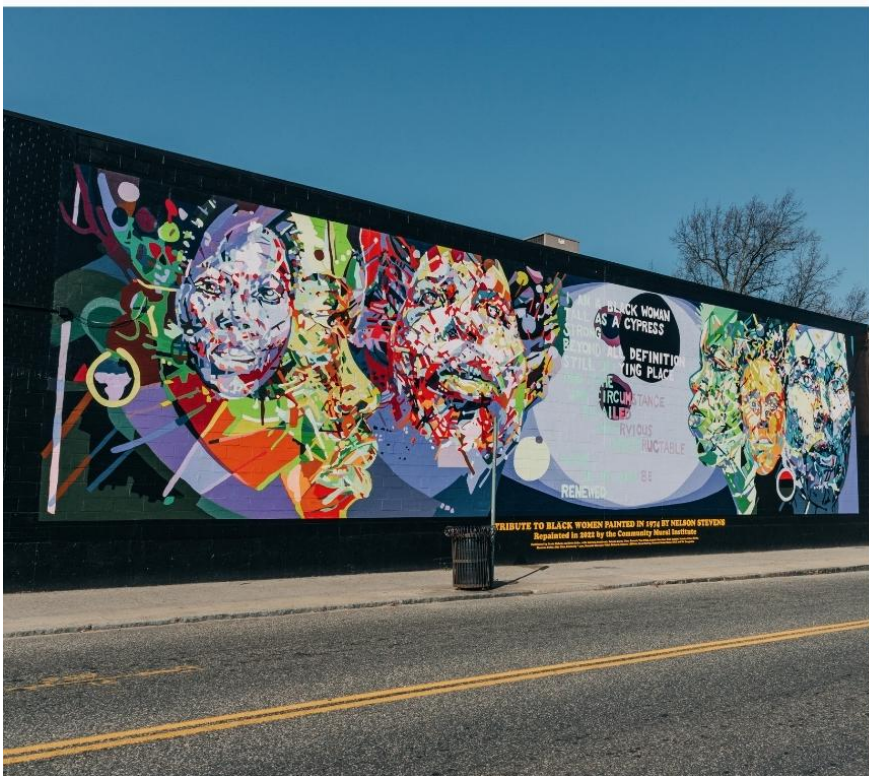
COMMON
WEALTH
MURALS

DETAIL PAINTING AND INSTALLATION

After community painting, the muralist takes the panels back to their studio for the technical painting and detail work.

Once the painting of the panels is complete, the muralist glues them on the wall in a process very similar to installing wallpaper. After the panels are adhered to the wall, the muralist touches up the panels and seams, and then seals the mural with a clear acrylic varnish to ensure a seamless, high-quality, long-lasting work of art.

Murals created using this technique last longer than murals painted directly on the wall, and once the mural is finished, it looks as if it was painted directly on the wall.





NORTH END



BE THE BRIDGE

COMMUNITY MURAL INSTITUTE MASTER CLASS WITH GOODSPACE MURALS, 2023

"Be the Bridge" is a mural honoring the late Jafet Robles as well as the Connecticut River Valley YouthBuild. According to Joesiah Gonzalez, Director of NNCC Youth Services and member of the Springfield School Committee, "This mural is a tremendous opportunity to celebrate the young people of YouthBuild and the importance of both reaching out to help others and to take hold of the hands that are extended to you. By partnering with Common Wealth Murals we were able to involve the students, family, and the neighborhood in the painting of this mural which we hope will inspire others for many years to come."

Jafet Robles was a North End resident who was murdered in 2017. Maria Elena Letona, the executive director of Neighbor to Neighbor at the time of Jafet's murder, wrote "Jafet was our Springfield Chapter lead organizer. More than that, Jafet was the heart of N2N's organizing work. He was fierce, fearless and relentless in his work to end mass incarceration. He had a deep, passionate love for Puerto Rico, her people and her independence. He quickly would become curious, find out on his own, and readily embrace the struggles of all people, keenly understanding that all our struggles are connected deep at the roots. His love for his work was only surpassed by his love for his people. He fought for your liberation, for my liberation, for the liberation of us all. Jafet challenged us all to think deeply and intentionally about our legacy: "What do you want to be remembered for?"

The mural was designed by GoodSpace Murals and painted by 6 local artists participating in a Community Mural Institute Master Class. Jafet's family and friends, and hundreds of North End residents helped to paint the mural. The Community Mural Institute is co-facilitated by GoodSpace and Common Wealth Murals and trains artists in community-engaged mural making.

This mural was painted using the GoodSpace Method of community engaged mural making. Learn more about GoodSpace Murals [here](#).

IG: @community.mural.institute @goodspacemurals



NORTH END

197 Plainfield Street
Springfield, MA



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Persevere

MURALESLIAN, BILBAO SPAIN, 2022

Pictured in the mural are two YouthBuild students, Iggy and Rahim and two YouthBuild instructors. Youth Build offers a second chance for youth and young adults to finish their high school education and learn a trade while earning a stipend and on-the-job training. Youth Build students worked with Lian to choose the word “Persevere,” shown as a tattoo on Iggy’s arm, as the theme of for mural about their work in the program.

“My artwork takes a critical view of social, political and cultural issues while celebrating struggle and mutual aid. Having engaged subjects as diverse as the refugee crisis, prisoner aid and feminist solidarity, my murals utilize familiar visual images, arranging them into new conceptually layered murals. The goal of my artwork is to be part of the public sphere, promote public discourse and make the community’s voice heard.

I grew up in East Bridgewater, MA and I have been living in Spain for 20 years. The message of this mural is resilience, personal responsibility and community leading to a better future.” - muraleslian

North End
4 Birnie Ave
Springfield, MA





SENSORIAL FRAGMENTATION

Colectivo Morivivi, 2022

Santurce, Puerto Rico

NORTH END

200 Birnie Ave
Springfield, MA

“Colectivo Morivivi is an all-women artistic collective that has been producing public art and activism since 2013. The change we seek to generate is a social one, promoting community organizing as the most important value and one that really leads to the prosperity of a people. It is our contribution to an increasingly difficult world, with challenges that we have to deal with collectively, with activism, in every sense of the word.

Gerena school families helped to paint this mural, which builds on the idea of learning through the senses, and the imagery represents the act of exploration through the 5 senses. From left to right, it's hearing, touch, sight, and smell. We incorporated the butterflies and the hummingbirds to connect with the “Learning Inside Out,” painted on the other entrance to Gerena.” - Colectivo Morivivi. This mural was partially painted using the GoodSpace Method of community-engaged mural making. Learn more about GoodSpace Murals [here](#).

IG: @colectivo_morivivi



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BIRDS OF A FEATHER

JUSTIN SUAREZ, 2023

“My artistic voice is born from a deep love of wildlife, fostered at an early age by my mother, who had a Doctorate in animal behavior. As an adult, I have continued to nurture this connection to nature through the hands-on work I do with birds of prey and other animals at Wild Wings Inc. Building personal relationships with these wild species has informed both my work and my life beyond anything I could have envisioned in my youth. By depicting these natural species on a larger-than-life scale, my hope is for the viewer to be able to appreciate these species in a new way, and explore their own connection to the natural world. I believe that awareness is foundational in all work toward conservation, and thus view work such as mine as integral to the protection of vital habitats and ecosystems.”

The 5 birds Justin painted for Gerena Elementary School are the Puerto Rican Owl, Spindalis, Kingfisher, Amazon Parrot, and Puerto Rican Tody. Justin is the co-founder of Roc Paint Division, the City of Rochester’s Youth Mural Arts Program. Roc Paint Division’s mission is to beautify the city through mural arts while providing employment and training opportunities for developing young artists.

IG: @aerosolkingdom



NORTH END

200 Birnie Ave
Springfield, MA



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LEARNING INSIDE OUT

DESIGNED BY GOODSPACE MURALS
PAINTED BY GABRIELA SEPULVEDA, MELISSA PANDINA & CREW, 2022

This mural was designed from input from the students of Gerena Elementary and the Conservatory of the Arts and designed by Greta McLain of GoodSpace Murals. It was painted by a team of local artists trained through the Community Mural Institute, with the help of more than 100 Gerena families and neighbors.

With 20 years of mural making experience, Greta uses muralism to explore the ways that art can bring communities together, the power of visual language to activate voice, and the potential of art as a vehicle for hands-on organizing and educating. She has created over 60 murals in and around Minnesota, Tennessee, Ohio, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Cuba, Argentina, Mexico, and France. Greta lives in Guanajuato, MX but runs GSM out of Minneapolis, MN, and travels around the country/world muraling and teaching wherever community art can be activated as a tool for positive community engagement.

This mural was painted using the GoodSpace Method of community-engaged mural making. Learn more about GoodSpace Murals [here](#).

IG: @goodspacemurals @community.mural.institute



NORTH END

Linda's Park
3065 Main Street
Springfield, MA



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THE NORTH END

Vincent Ballentine, 2023

Brooklyn, NY

NORTH END

2645 Main Street
Springfield, MA

Vincent Ballentine is a multi-disciplined visual artist who has worked across the US and internationally and has been commissioned to create work for the NCAA, MTV, BET, and festivals such as Wall Therapy, O-positive and Meeting of Styles in Germany. In 2020 he represented the US State Department in Ethiopia as an ambassador for hip hop. He also earned an Emmy for his performance in MLB Network's "Fall Colors," where a time-lapse recording of himself painting creates the backdrop for post animations.

This mural celebrates the North End neighborhood and the life of Miguel Gonzalez. Mr. Gonzalez lived a few blocks from here for most of his life. He was a performer, singer, and ambassador of traditional Puerto Rican music with his group, Asi Canta La Montaña, both in Puerto Rico and in the United States. Mr. Gonzalez was named "Pico de Oro" by Don Luis Miranda (the original Pico de Oro) and Luis Morales Ramos, who gave him such a nickname after seeing him in a troubadour competition. Mr. Gonzalez was awarded the key to the City of Cidra, Puerto Rico, and the key to the City of Springfield and was Grand Marshall of Springfield's Puerto Rican Day Parade. He is fondly remembered and sorely missed by many people in this neighborhood and beyond.

IG: @vballentine99



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REMEMBERING BEN RAMOS

Roc Blackblock, 2023

Barcelona Spain

NORTH END

2180 Main Street
Springfield, MA

Roc BlackBlock is from Barcelona Spain and has been painting murals across Europe and Latin America for 20 years. This is his first mural in the US. His work focuses on social movements and new ways of understanding public space within communities and a city. He has created several public art collaborations with the European Observatory on Memories, including “Mural in remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust” and “Past and present of a strike. 100th anniversary of La Canadencia”.

This mural honors North End resident Ben Ramos. Mr. Ramos was Springfield's first Latino Police and Fire Commissioner, and helped found many organizations dedicated to serving the Puerto Rican community in Springfield. He also mentored and helped many Latino people run for elected office. In this neighborhood, he was also known for helping people build lives and community in ways that didn't draw public attention. He opened a neighborhood grocery store that sold vegetables, fruits and other products from Puerto Rico. Families who had recently moved to Springfield from Puerto Rico were able to purchase food on credit, and for many of them, he never made them pay. He also organized activities like domino tournaments for people in the neighborhood to connect with each other and build new community connections.

IG: @rocblackblock



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Semillas de la Diaspora

BETSY CASAÑAS, 2023

“Working with Live Well Springfield, I knew that the mural was going to have a theme that focused on environmental justice but I was surprised to learn from residents that Springfield has among the highest rates of asthma in the country. I chose this particular image of Brendalis Cepeda, a member of Bomba de Aqui because in the traditional folkloric music of Puerto Rican Bomba, the person holding the maraca is the one who decides the tempo that others will follow - the person leading a group. On the maraca is an image of Atabey, a Taino indigenous symbol for fertility or mother earth. Surrounding her are several plants that were part of a study run by NASA to purify the air with plants. She represents the many women who are the first step in changing the impact that the environment has had on Springfield by empowering folks with small attainable goals that can transform the environment for generations to come.” Betsy Casañas

Several hundred people helped to paint this mural during the Springfield Jazz and Roots Festival.

The Live Well Springfield Climate Justice Initiative is a community group dedicated to raising awareness about the impact of climate change on Springfield's health and quality of life. The Coalition is organized by the Public Health Institute of WMass, and partners with Wayfinders, Arise for Social Justice, Neighbor 2 Neighbor, and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The coalition hopes to continue climate justice awareness by advocating for policies that could increase health, impact climate change, and address racial equity in Springfield. This mural was partially painted using the GoodSpace Method of community-engaged mural making. Learn more about GoodSpace Murals [here](#).

IG: @bzcasanas



North End

470 Chestnut Street
Springfield, MA



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METRO CENTER



SPRINGFIELD SANCTUARY

Ryan Murray, 2019

Springfield, MA

Metro Center

Inside Union Station
Springfield, MA

"Stencils, like other forms of street art, demand attention and tackle challenging subjects. In my work, I explore abandoned buildings, streets, and the underrepresentation of mental health in African-American communities. I aim to spark important conversations and uncover hidden beauty. However, for this Union Station mural, I focused on Springfield's role in the Underground Railroad. It's crucial to preserve the city's history amidst ongoing urban development. Springfield historically provided refuge and actively resisted the Fugitive Slave Act. Sadly, much of this history has been destroyed or neglected. By highlighting forgotten figures like Primus Mason and questioning the commemoration of William Pynchon, we aim to shed light on our shared past and guide our future." - Ryan Murray

Ryan is an artist and muralist based in Springfield and a graduate of the Community Mural Institute. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Carnegie Mellon University in 2014 and has since been dedicated to addressing the stigma surrounding mental health issues in the Black community through his artwork. Ryan's impactful contributions have been recognized, as he is a recipient of grants from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and Mass Cultural Council, further supporting his important work.

IG: @rywandojones.



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Metro Center

1695 Main Street
Springfield, MA



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These Colors Don't Run

MURALES LIAN, BILBAO SPAIN, 2023

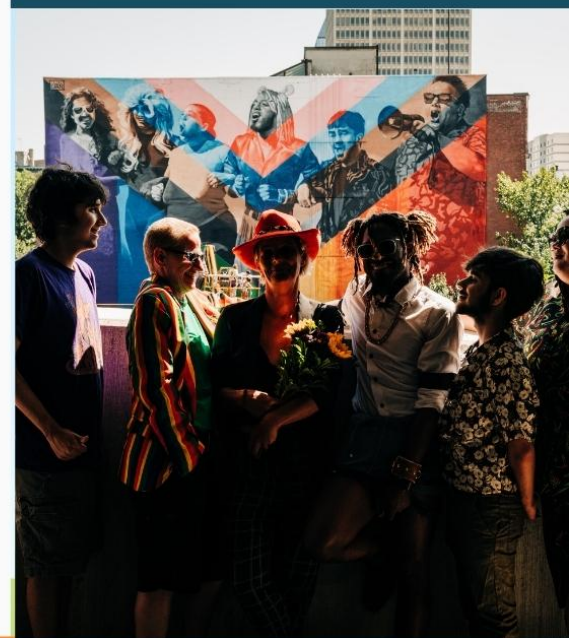
Lian has been working as a public artist in Europe for over 20 years. Her mural "Rederas" painted in the Basque region of Northern Spain was voted 3rd best mural in the world in 2022.

This is the largest Pride mural in New England (at least). "The focus of this mural is the members of Out Now, and their work to create connection, solidarity and advocacy for queer youth & allies." said Lian.

Out Now is a youth-led, adult-advised, queer youth organization that works to promote harm reduction, self-determination, and community building through anti-oppression organizing. In 2021 and 2022, Out Now partnered with Commonwealth Murals (CWM) to create 2 small murals about queer youth's power, resilience, and ability to dream of a brighter future for themselves and everyone in and around our community.

The mural is based on a photograph by Isabella Dell'olio

IG: muraleslian





Out Now Students Speak

BY MIMI DITKOFF, BROOKLYN NY, 2021

This mural was designed and painted in collaboration with members of Out Now, inspired by their participation in the Students Speak project. Students Speak is a project organized by the Education Law Clinic of Harvard Law School dedicated to school improvement through learning from students' own experiences about how to create better schools. Out Now, based in Springfield, is a 22 and under, youth led, adult advised, queer youth organization that works to promote harm reduction, self-determination, and community building through anti-oppression organizing.

The mural was painted by Mimi Ditkoff, in collaboration with members of Out Now. Mimi is a graduate of the Community Mural Institute.

This mural was painted using the GoodSpace Method of community-engaged mural making. Learn more about GoodSpace Murals [here](#).

IG: @m0mi_art



Metro Center

1716 Main Street
Springfield, MA



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THEY LEAVE EVEN IF THEY DON'T WANT TO

Colectivo Morivivi, 2019

Santurce, PR

Metro Center

2 Taylor &
9 Hampden Street
Springfield, MA

Colectivo Morivivi is a group of women muralists based in Santurce, Puerto Rico. They are known for creating collaborative murals with community groups that address social justice, the human condition, and Puerto Rican identity. Their work extends beyond Puerto Rico, with murals in Springfield, Holyoke, New York, Buffalo, Chicago, China, and Tasmania.

These two interconnected murals are titled "Ellos se van con el éxodo aunque no se quieren ir / They leave, even if they don't want to." The mural on Taylor Street imagines the view and thoughts of someone looking out the window of a plane leaving Puerto Rico. The mural on Hampden Street shows a scene of a Puerto Rican family making a new home for themselves here in Western Mass, surrounded by things that connect them to their past on the island.

IG: @colectivo_morivivi



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SPLASH STASH, 2021

New York, NY

Metro Center

228 Worthington St
Springfield, MA

Stash, a renowned figure in urban design and street art, has made significant contributions to the field for over 30 years. His murals are celebrated worldwide, and his work can be found in galleries across the United States. Stash's talent extends beyond painting, as he is also recognized for street photography and design collaborations with notable brands like Nike, Burton, Medicom Toy, and A Bathing Ape.

Born in Long Island, New York in 1967, Stash emerged as a legend in New York's street art scene, particularly in the East Village graffiti movement of the early 1980s. At just 17 years old, he showcased his first canvases alongside influential pop art figures Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat. Unlike his peers who transitioned to Pop Art, Stash remained dedicated to subway art, continuing to work on trains until 1987. He played a crucial role in popularizing and legitimizing graffiti, ultimately leading to its public acceptance. Notably, Stash became the first non-athlete to collaborate professionally with Nike, designing street-art-inspired clothing.

In 2021, Stash created this seemingly simple yet meaningful exploration of color which also pays homage to graffiti, an art form created by urban youth in the late 1970s and early 1980s, which has now spread worldwide and become integrated into urban design, music, and graphic design. This mural was partially painted using the GoodSpace Method of community-engaged mural making. Learn more about GoodSpace Murals [here](#).

IG: mr_stash



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THE ARTIST

Jeff Henriquez, 2021

Brooklyn, NY

Metro Center

232 Worthington St
Springfield, MA

Jeff Henriquez is a New York City-based artist specializing in photorealistic painting. Jeff gained recognition in the gallery scene through his large-scale monochrome portraits depicting the homeless and displaced. Over the past 20 years, Jeff has been actively painting murals across NYC, Massachusetts, and the country.

The Artist features a young Black girl dressed as a European aristocrat, assuming the role of a painter in front of a canvas, referencing the history of European fine art. Notably, the girl holds a spray can, symbolizing street art, and has incorporated spray-painted lettering on her canvas, prominently displaying the word "Worthy." Jeff's intention with this piece is to provoke contemplation on the lack of inclusivity in fine art throughout history, as well as asserting that American-born art and street art are equally deserving of recognition as fine art. Jeff's design also aims to amplify and integrate the message of the BLM mural created in 2020 by 16 local artists. Jeff's composition communicates that their efforts and the underlying message are also worthy. This mural was partially painted using the GoodSpace Method of community-engaged mural making. Learn more about GoodSpace Murals [here](#).

IG: @jeffhenriquezart



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GEOUTOPIA

Kim Carlino, 2019

Northampton, MA

Metro Center

Stearns Square
Springfield, MA

Kim describes herself as an interventionist, mining the space between painting and drawing. She explores the evolutionary nature of mark-making and relationships between color, geometry, line, and form. Her work playfully employs shifts of scale and illusion in hopes of finding balance and unity in disparate elements. Kim's work is represented in several galleries, and she has done public murals across MA and New York City.

"I work with geometric abstraction and improvisation. I wanted to do something like this in Springfield because I wanted to bring a sense of color, vibrancy, and playfulness. This mural is one big riff on itself. I start from one place and then all the other elements develop in relation to the one before. When I have been painting, everybody wants to come up to me and talk to me about their experience with art and creativity, and that's exactly what this mural is about. It's a celebration of imagination. And I think that's the power of an abstract mural - it can become different things to each person." - Kim Carlino

IG: @kimcarlinoart



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Victory

ANDRAE & PRIYA GREEN, SPRINGFIELD MA

Victory features two pageant girls. Usually, only one person wins a pageant, but in this case, they have both won and hold hands in their moment of shared victory.

Priya Nadkarni-Green and Andrae Green are married painters with backgrounds in studio fine art. They normally work on canvases but had the opportunity to create a mural for the festival in Springfield. Living in the city and raising their children here, they wanted to create an image of hope. Andrae Green has an MFA in Painting and his works have been exhibited internationally. Priya Nadkarni Green holds an MFA in Painting and has exhibited nationally.

IG: @andraegreenestudios
IG: @ummpriya



Metro Center

24 Taylor Street
Springfield, MA



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HOPE IS WELCOME HERE

Wane One, 2019

Bronx, NY

Metro Center

755 Worthington St
Springfield, MA

Wane One has been an active and progressive participant in the NYC graffiti community for almost 40 years, since 1983 when he was 13. Wane has painted more than 40 public murals in New York City, numerous other cities in the US, and Germany, Sweden, Canada, South Africa, Australia, Denmark, France, Norway, and China. His work has been shown in more than 20 solo and group gallery exhibits around the world, and he is featured in 30 books and numerous magazines.

This mural was designed and painted in collaboration with residents at the Friends of the Homeless Shelter. FOH provides meals and temporary housing to more than 1,200 people each year, and helps shelter guests find work and permanent homes, navigate state and federal assistance programs, access behavioral and mental health supports, and address other obstacles to sustainable independence. They provide three community meals 365 days a year to anyone needing food, serving over 150,000 meals a year. The Worthington Street campus also includes 110 low-income housing units.

IG: @waneonecod



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HOME HERE / EN CASA

GoodSpace Murals, 2019

Minneapolis, MN & Guanajuato Mexico

Metro Center

75 Dwight Street
Springfield, MA

Home, Here / En Casa was created by GoodSpace Murals and more than residents and neighbors of this apartment complex. "The mural is based on community conversations that we had with residents in the Chestnut Towers community room. We also had a photo shoot of the residents so we could incorporate them into the design. From those conversations, we got the sense of how much of a home this place is, more so than just an apartment complex, or Section 8 housing, or downtown housing. This is a community that takes care of each other. And since so many of the residents are Puerto Rican, an important theme is their pride in being Puerto Rican." - Greta McLain

Greta McLain is the Artistic Director of GoodSpace and has over 15 years of mural making experience focused on exploring the ways that art can bring communities together, the power of visual language to activate voice, and the potential of art as a vehicle for hands-on organizing and educating. She traveled to South America and Europe to study new and traditional techniques and has created community murals across the US and in Argentina, Mexico, Cuba, and France. This mural was painted using the GoodSpace Method of community-engaged mural making. Learn more about GoodSpace Murals [here](#).

IG: @goodspacemurals



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TRAVIS BEST

Damien Mitchell, 2019

New York, NY

Metro Center

159 State Street
Springfield, MA

This mural pays tribute to NBA player Travis Best, who grew up, and continues to live, in Springfield MA. Damien created this mural based on photographs he took of Travis Best, a Springfield native and current resident who played for many years in the NBA.

Damien is originally from Australia but now resides in Brooklyn. He started his street art career focused on stencil art, and this aesthetic continues to influence his larger-scale free-hand work. Damien has painted murals across the US, Latin America, Europe, and Australia. "It's been awesome to paint this mural here. While I have been painting this mural, it became a place for people to meet each other and develop connections and a sense of common understanding." - Damien Mitchell

IG: @damien__mitchell



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Howard Drew

ERIC OKDEH, PHILIDELPHIA 2021

Eric Okdeh, a muralist based in Philadelphia, has been creating public art since 1998. After earning his BFA in painting from Tyler School of Art, Eric dedicated himself to socially engaged public art. His multimedia projects tackle challenging subjects like gambling, addiction, mass incarceration, and destigmatizing mental illness. Eric has completed over 150 public art commissions across the northeastern United States, as well as murals in Hawaii, Spain, Jordan, and Norway. His work has been featured in seven books on public art.

This mural celebrates the remarkable life of Springfield's own Howard Drew. In 1912, Howard Drew was the first person given the title of "World's Fastest Human." He competed in the 1912 US Olympic Track Team. He served in WWI and then pursued higher education at UCLA, graduating from law school. In 1920, he became a practicing attorney in Connecticut, one of only four black lawyers in the state at the time. Drew made history as Connecticut's first black judge and served on the local draft board during World War II. He met Booker T. Washington and was featured on the cover of the July 1915 edition of the NAACP's Crisis magazine. Drew consistently made headlines, setting numerous world records in athletics, excelling in various sports, and achieving remarkable success in his career and scholarship. This mural was partially painted using the GoodSpace Method of community-engaged mural making. Learn more about GoodSpace Murals [here](#).

IG: okdehmurals

Metro Center

85 Harrison Street
Springfield, MA



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Beast in the Paint

BY WANE ONE, 2019

Wane One is known for his bold color schemes and abstract designs which draw from classic graffiti styles. In this piece, he pays tribute to Springfield as the birthplace of basketball.

Wane has painted over 40 public murals in New York City, numerous other cities in the US, and Germany, Sweden, Canada, South Africa, Australia, Denmark, France, Norway, and China. His work has been shown in more than 20 solo and group gallery exhibits around the world, and he is featured in 30 books and numerous magazines.

Wane painted Beast in the Paint, using this basketball term to pay tribute to Springfield as the birthplace of basketball and to pay tribute to graffiti artists who gave birth to the styles and techniques of graffiti which are now practiced all over the world. He was also the lead artist of the Say Their Names mural, and painted a mural at the FOH Homeless Shelter on Worthington called Hope is Welcome Here, painted with shelter guests, and a mural for the MLK Charter School which he painted with Nero.

IG: @waneonecod

Metro Center

1782 E Columbus Ave
Springfield, MA



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DR. SEUSS IN SPRINGFIELD

John Simpson, 2019

Holyoke, MA

Metro Center

4 State Street
Springfield, MA

Holyoke artist John Simpson painted a mural in honor of Springfield's own Theodore Geisel, widely known as Dr. Seuss. Susan Riano, a Springfield artist, assisted John with the mural. John's intention was to showcase Springfield's influence on Dr. Seuss's inspiration. The mural also features the Fairfield Street House where Dr. Seuss grew up, located next to Forest Park. References to the Howard Street Armory and Loring Street are depicted, relating to Dr. Seuss's works. Furthermore, Dr. Seuss's grandparents' bakery near Main and Howard Street, situated across from a gas plant, possibly sparked his consciousness about pollution and the environment.

John, an art professor at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, has collaborated with the City of Springfield, Quadrangle Museums, and Symphony Hall on various art displays. He painted all of the wall murals in the Dr. Seuss Museum and several additional murals in Springfield

IG: @johnsimpsonart



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FLOWERS NERO, 2019

New York, NY

Metro Center

2 Spring Street
Springfield, MA

"It's great working on street, and it's always a challenge. You're going to run into some pretty interesting people and you'll have stories to tell for the rest of your life. I love doing flowers, and I thought to myself that in this neighborhood, flowers would bring some tranquil, positive vibes. I just wanted to do something that was easy on the eyes and make people smile." - Nero

With over 24 years of experience, Nero is a self-taught artist who delved into graffiti culture as a pre-teen in New York. Inspired by the city's vibrant murals, Nero's passion for exploring his own artistic talents began. He has been painting walls since 1994 and working as a tattoo artist since 2006. Nero has also painted the Beloved Community and Say Their Names murals at the MLK Family Services Center in Mason Square, and a mural at the MLK Social Justice School. as a tattoo artist since 2006. Nero has also painted the Beloved Community and Say Their Names murals at the MLK Family Services Center in Mason Square, and a mural at the MLK Social Justice School.

IG: @uncle_ro.

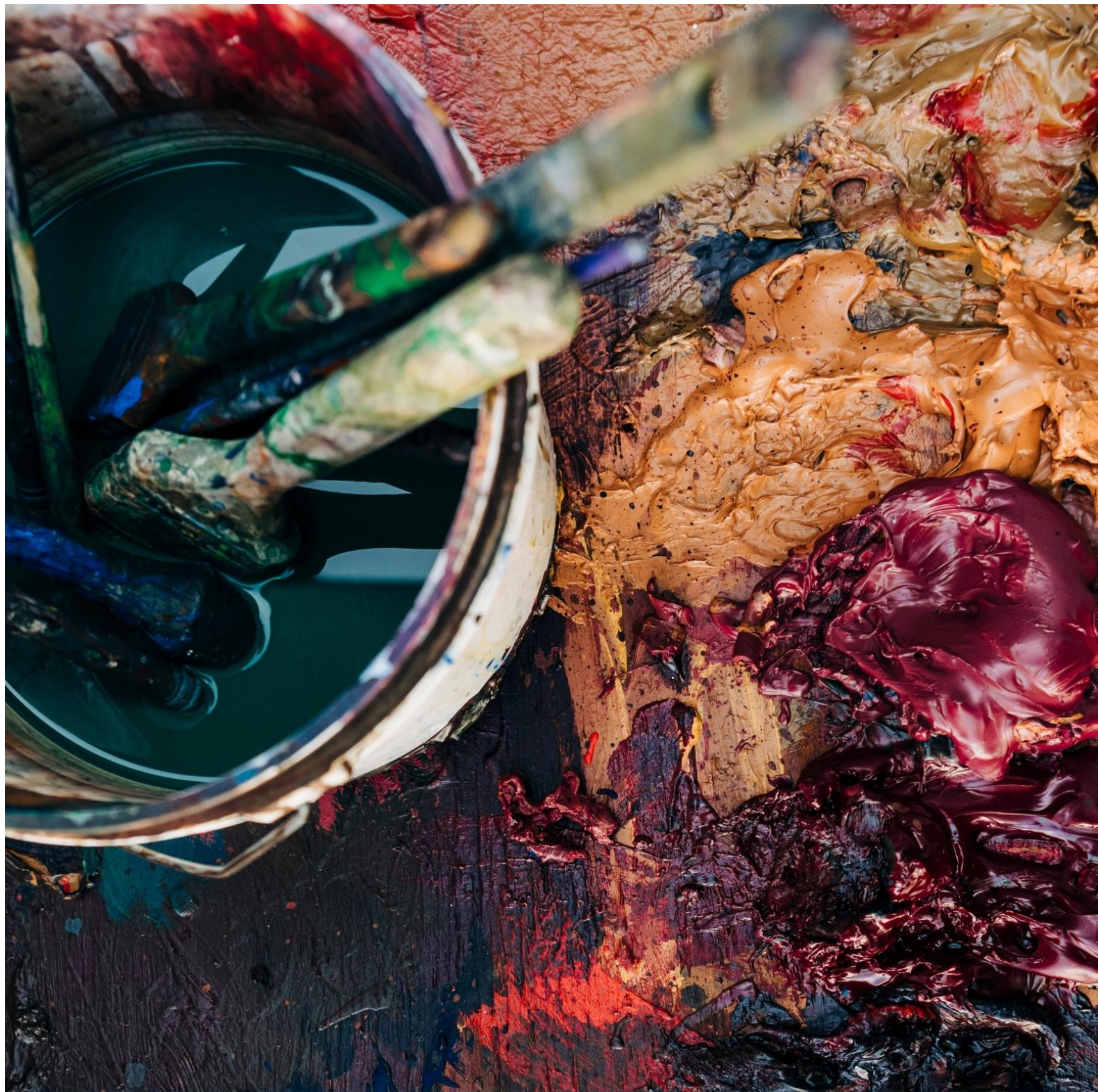


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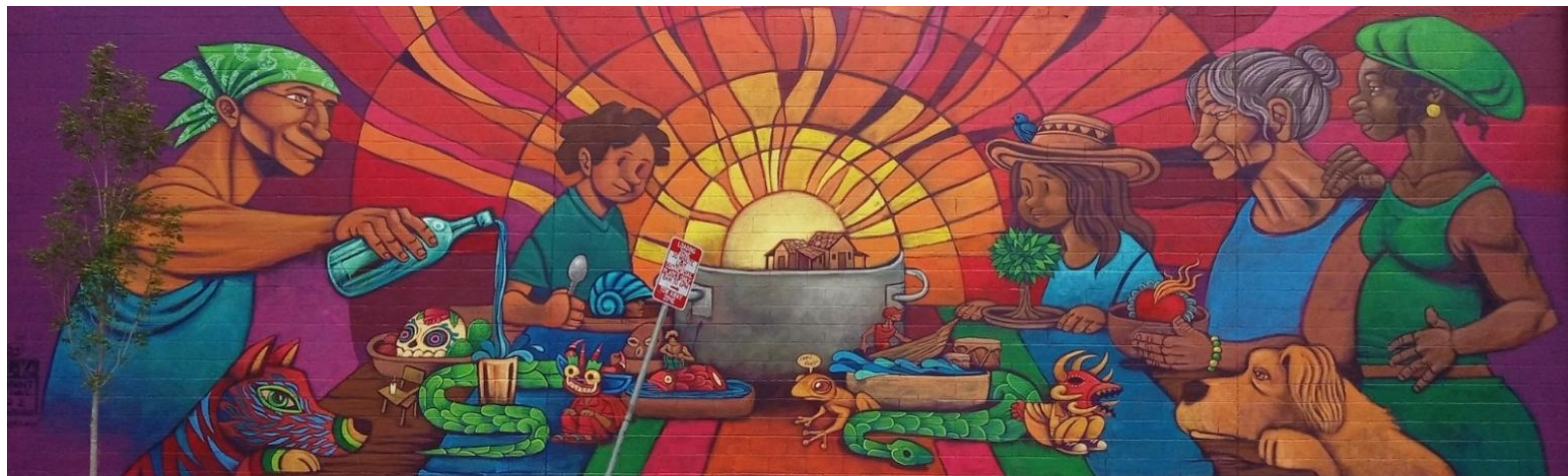
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MASON SQUARE



THE MAGICAL SANCOCHO

Pablo Kalaka, 2022

Chile & Minneapolis

Mason Square

38 Sherman Street
Springfield, MA

“Five people of different ages, genders, and skin colors come together to celebrate what I call the “magical sancocho”. Sancocho is a wonderful soup common in Latin America with a number of flavors and ingredients that occur simultaneously in great harmony despite its diversity. It is an apt metaphor for Latin America. It is magical in the sense of magical realism, a mainly literary and very Latin American genre that explains reality without forgetting that our countries and continents are marked by a magical vision that continues to explain reality in all its truth. I envision these characters as migrants, and instead of potatoes and meat coming out of the stew pot, it is the sun of their places of origin and the neighborhoods from which they came. What they have on their table are their memories, the beloved things that define them as people and that are in their present even though they no longer have it with them. - the sea, fish, the vegetation, a coqui, the infinite colors of the Caribbean and South America, music, etc.” – Pablo Kalaka

Pablo Kalaka is a painter, muralist, and illustrator. His murals can be seen in Argentina, Venezuela, Colombia, Chile, Peru, Cuba, Mexico, France, Germany, Spain, and the US.

IG: @pablokalaka



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RUTH E. CARTER

Concept and art direction by Ruth E. Carter
Illustration and design by Salem Beiruti

2023

Mason Square

55 Catharine Street
Springfield, MA

This mural honors the legacy and achievements of Springfield's own iconic costume designer, author, and two-time Oscar Award winner Ruth E. Carter. The mural depicts Ms. Carter as a young woman learning and studying in Springfield, and portraits of her and her star on Hollywood Boulevard. It also showcases some of the many costumes she designed for iconic films including Black Panther, Coming to America, Do the Right Thing, Malcolm X, Selma, and more.

At the mural unveiling, Ms. Carter shared, "I'm proud to make history on behalf of Springfield and bring history back to the city with this beautiful mural! My family and friends in Springfield helped me become an artist. And to see that young artist's story on display in this mural, born here, that young girl who worked so hard to make her dreams come true - this brings tears to my eyes. It's amazing to see. This mural will inspire another person from Springfield to pursue their dream in the same way."

IG: @therealruthecarter



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TRIBUTE TO BLACK WOMEN

Nelson Stevens, 1974
Recreated by the Community Mural Institute, 2022
Springfield MA

Mason Square

790 State Street,
Catharine St Side
Springfield, MA

This mural was originally painted in 1974 by the late Springfield resident Nelson Stevens and was recreated by the Community Mural Institute (CMI), with support from a NEFA Public Art for Spatial Justice grant.

In 2022, during 2 community paint parties and hundreds of studio hours, the CMI artists and over 300 Springfield residents carefully laid down the 95 colors of paint contained in this mural and the Wall of Black Music. Many of the people who helped paint had known Mr. Stevens, and their work was done as a labor of love, an opportunity to grieve, and a commitment to honor this incredible man by ensuring his work would be permanently returned to the community.

In 1975, Mr. Stevens said “Recognizing that the least we can do is to leave our communities more beautiful than we found them, we have decided to do more... Some call them murals, others large paintings; but all know them as force fields activated in the service of our liberation.” This mural was partially using the GoodSpace Method of community-engaged mural making. Learn more about GoodSpace Murals [here](#).

IG: @community.mural.institute



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Wall of Black Music

NELSON STEVENS, WITH HIS STUDENT CLYDE SANTANA, 1974
RECREATED BY THE COMMUNITY MURAL INSTITUTE, 2022

The Wall of Black Music was originally painted by Nelson Stevens in 1974, in collaboration with Clyde Santana, a student of Mr. Steven's at the time. It was recreated by the Community Mural Institute in 2022 with support from a NEFA Public Art for Spatial Justice grant and the assistance of hundreds of people who came to pay tribute to Mr. Stevens.

In the 1970s, Springfield was home to the only collection of murals designed in the AfriCOBRA aesthetic, created under the direction of an AfriCOBRA member, Nelson Stevens.

After Mr. Stevens's passing, Mr. Santana worked with the Community Mural Institute to assist in finalizing the color palette, and sharing with the mural team the neighborhood vibe when the murals were first painted, the color theory they used, their techniques for mixing colors, the music they were listening to, and the people they met while painting. This mural was painted using the GoodSpace Method of community-engaged mural making. Learn more about GoodSpace Murals [here](#).

IG: @community.mural.institute



Mason Square

1 Montrose Street
Springfield, MA



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The Beloved Community

BY NERO AND SOULS NYC 2021

Nero and Souls NYC celebrate the concept of the "Beloved Community," a term coined by philosopher-theologian Josiah Royce in the early 20th century. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. popularized and gave deeper meaning to the term, envisioning it as an attainable goal through nonviolence. In the Beloved Community, poverty, hunger, and homelessness are unacceptable, as international standards of decency prevail. Racism, discrimination, bigotry, and prejudice are replaced by inclusive sisterhood and brotherhood. International conflicts are resolved peacefully, through reconciliation rather than military power. Love, trust, peace with justice triumph over fear, hatred, war, and military conflicts. This mural was partially painted using the GoodSpace Method of community-engaged mural making. Learn more about GoodSpace Murals [here](#).

NERO: Nero's passion for exploring his own artistic talents began as a pre-teen in New York when he was inspired by the city's vibrant street art. He began painting walls in 1994 and working as a tattoo artist in 2006. In Springfield, he painted Flowers in 2019, collaborated on the Say Their Names mural in 2020 and a mural for the MLK Social Justice Charter School in 2021. IG: @uncle_ro

SOULS NYC: Born and raised in the South Bronx, Souls NYC mentors youth and leads art workshops in NYC. A dedicated spray paint artist, Souls integrates spray paint methods and history into his murals. IG: @soulsnyc

Mason Square

3 Rutland Street
Springfield, MA



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SAY THEIR NAMES

Wane One, Nero & Souls NYC

Bronx NY and Springfield MA, 2020

Mason Square

3 Rutland Street
Springfield, MA

Say Their Names includes the names of the more than 60 unarmed People of Color who had been unarmed at the time they were killed by police in the 12 months prior to the painting of this mural (from June 1, 2019, to May 31, 2020). The mural also includes the names of Springfield residents killed by police. The names and demographics of those killed, as well as the circumstances of their death, were drawn from the research by [Mapping Police Deaths](#).

The mural was painted by Wane One, Nero, and SoulsNYC in the wake of the murder of George Floyd. Wane One splits his time between Springfield and the Bronx, and has painted murals around the world for the last 30 years. His work is featured in over 30 books and he has designed for leading brands including Nike, Reebok, New Balance, and RYU. This is one of 4 murals Nero has painted in Springfield, and one of two murals Souls NYC has painted in Springfield.

IG: @waneonecod @uncle_ro @soulsnyc



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Preacher Man

GOODSPACE MURALS & COMMUNITY MURAL INSTITUTE, 2020

This mural honors Randolph H. Lester, a beloved Springfield man, known to residents in Mason Square as “Preacher Man.” The mural was designed by GoodSpace Murals for the Community Mural Institute. 3 Springfield artists, Frankie Borrero, Emma Mesa-Melendez and Martin Johnson were trained in polytab mural installation and mural painting during the installation.

Randolph H. Lester was a well-known community member who was fondly nicknamed Preacher Man. Mr. Lester passed away in 2017. There are many stories of Preacher Man, and in this neighborhood people say, “If you’re from here, you know who Preacher Man is.”

The Community Mural Institute (CMI) is an intensive training for artists and emerging muralists to learn techniques for community-engaged mural creation. The CMI includes classroom instruction and hands-on training, networking with established muralists, and supplemental training opportunities for the participants. The CMI builds a community’s capacity to create murals in a cost-efficient way and creates a sustainable way to meaningfully engage the community in the design and painting of the murals. This mural was painted using the GoodSpace Method of community-engaged mural making. Learn more about GoodSpace Murals [here](#).

IG: @community.mural.institute @goodspacemurals

Mason Square

Corner of Reed and
State Streets
Springfield, MA



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GARDENING THE COMMUNITY

Ryan Murray, 2021

Springfield, MA

Mason Square

1106 State Street
Springfield, MA

Ryan created this mural to celebrate Gardening The Community, a food justice organization engaged in youth development, urban agriculture, and sustainable living to build healthy and equitable communities. GTC operates a training program created for youth from around the Mason Square neighborhood and beyond to grow fruits and vegetables on vacant and abandoned lots. Youth receive a stipend and are taught principles of urban sustainable living and urban agriculture. The food that is grown is sold at the Walnut Street Community Farm Store, the Mason Square Farmers Market, local restaurants, and bodegas. Youth also bring food home to their families. To encourage a more sustainable lifestyle, all produce is delivered to market and stores with bikes and heavy-duty bike trailers to reduce our carbon footprint and build healthy lifestyle choices.

Ryan received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Carnegie Mellon University in 2014 and is currently located in Springfield, Massachusetts, where he does freelance graphic design and paints overused vinyl records. He is a graduate of the Community Mural Institute and engaged dozens of neighborhood residents in the painting of this mural. This mural was partially painted using the GoodSpace Method of community-engaged mural making. Learn more about GoodSpace Murals [here](#).

IG: @rywandojones



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WALL OF FAME

WMass Portrait Artists, 2021 - 2024

Mason Square

827 State Street
Springfield, MA

The Wall of Fame celebrates the pioneering men and women, past and present, from this neighborhood, Mason Square. The honorees have been selected by a committee of residents and leaders of the Mason Square Community, and the portraits are painted by WMass portrait painters. Each year through 2024, new portraits will be added to the wall.

Honored on the wall, from left to right, are:

- Ronn Johnson by David Jackson
- Jay Griffin by Joy D Houlder
- George Williams by Carmen Oyola Callender
- Ruth Loving by Carmen Oyola Callender
- Helen Coulter Harris by Nayana LaFond
- Henry Thomas by Susan Riano
- LaJuana Hood by Joy D Houlder
- Jeanne Bass Lotta by Elizabeth Stone
- Ray Jordan by Robert Bruce Masla
- Robert Jackson by Elizabeth Stone
- Rebecca Johnson by Elizabeth Stone
- Henry Twiggs by Nayana LaFond
- Ida Flynn by Susan Riano
- Bud Williams by Robert Bruce Masla
- Ben Swan by Robert Bruce Masla
- Sam Bolden by Joy D Houlder



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OUR STORY

Betsy Casañas, 2021

Philadelphia & Puerto Rico

Mason Square

Mason Sq. Library

765 State St

Springfield, MA

Betsy Casañas is a visual and public artist, an educator, a community activist, and an organizer. She is the director of A Seed on Diamond Gallery and founder of Semilla Arts Initiative. Betsy has 24 years of experience in the arts and has created over 40 murals worldwide.

“As a Latina artist who has been working in communities of color around the world, I understand the importance of the people in these communities to see themselves reflected in the artwork and in the leaders of their communities. We have been depicted in a negative light on social media, news, and television as second-class citizens who should be feared. I believe it is our obligation as artists to reflect the times we are living in, and to highlight the people’s stories and change the narrative that has been created for us. By normalizing and humanizing our collective stories we create communities that are more tolerant.”

This mural, on the side of the library, was painted with the help of Springfield residents and library patrons. This mural was partially painted using the GoodSpace Method of community-engaged mural making. Learn more about GoodSpace Murals [here](#).

IG: @bzcasanas



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Heritage

BY DON AND PAUL BLANTON, 1968
REPAINTED BY KIAYANI DOUGLAS, 2021

In 1968, when civil rights protests were occurring across the country, including in Springfield, brothers Don and Paul Blanton made their way through the crowds and National Guard to a storefront in the center of Winchester Square and asked if they could paint a mural. They wanted to make a positive contribution to the activism and struggle for equal rights, so they painted a mural to express pride in African-American culture and heritage. By 2021 the mural was in extreme disrepair.

WMass artist Kiayani Douglas, with the support of Don Blanton, and dozens of neighborhood residents repainted the mural in 2021, ensuring its celebrated place in the community for another 50 years.

Kiayani Douglas is an interdisciplinary portrait artist who uses ceramics, painting, drawing, and installation to curate conversations rooted in race, history, and privilege. In addition to creating this art, she teaches ceramics and studio art to high school-aged students.

This mural was partially painted using the GoodSpace Method of community-engaged mural making. Learn more about GoodSpace Murals [here](#).

Mason Square

727 State Street
Springfield, MA



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Laundry Time Pool Party

GABRIELA SEPULVEDA, SPRINGFIELD MA, 2022

The 3rd-grade class of DeBerry Elementary School helped to paint this playful mural on a neighborhood laundromat. The mural imagines a water park made from washers and dryers, run by animals.

Gabriela Sepulveda is originally from San Juan, Puerto Rico, and now lives in Springfield. She creates works that resonate with the stories of diverse lives, transcending barriers and fostering unity. With a degree from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a Masters from Atlantic University College, Gabriela's artistic style is influenced by a range of sources, including Moebius, Camilla d'Errico, Pop Surrealism, Science Fiction, and Comics. Her interest in storytelling brings depth to each creation, transporting observers to imaginative realms where emotions and intellect intertwine. Among her accomplishments, Gabriela earned "The People's Choice" honor at The D'amour Museum of Fine Arts Community Gallery, a testament to her ability to create deep connections through her portraiture. She is a graduate of the Community Mural Institute and has collaborated on murals alongside respected artists such as Gretta McClain and Pablo Kalaka.

This mural was painted using the GoodSpace Method of community-engaged mural making. Learn more about GoodSpace Murals [here](#).

IG: @theivorybunny

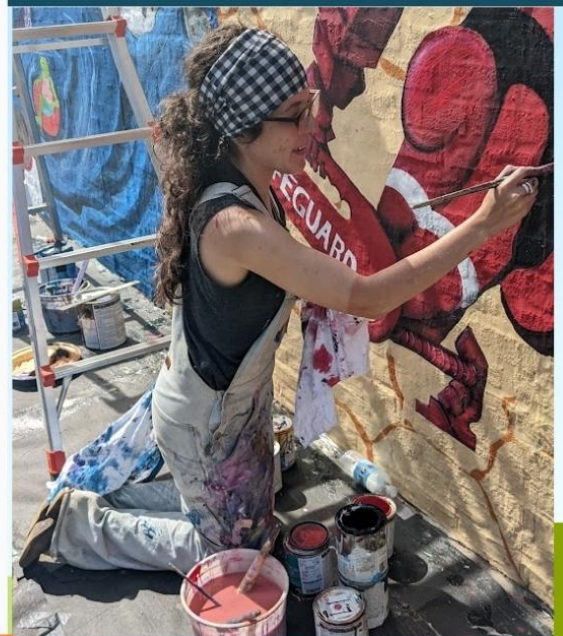
Mason Square

169 Hancock Street
Springfield, MA



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SOUTH END



GROW

WANE ONE, 2022

New York, NY

South End

595 Main Street
Springfield, MA

Wane One has been an active and progressive participant in the NYC graffiti community for 36 years, since 1983 when he was 13. As early as 1988, Wane expanded his work to other media and surfaces, including acrylic and airbrush on canvas and clothing and graphic design. Wane has designed for legendary hip-hop groups and artists like Gangstarr, Jeru the Damager and Group Home and well-known brands such as Nike, Reebok, New Balance and RYU.

In 1991 Wane One painted his first commissioned mural. Since that time, Wane has painted over 40 public murals in New York City, numerous other cities in the US, and Germany, Sweden, Canada, South Africa, Australia, Denmark, France, Norway, and China. His work has been shown in more than 20 solo and group gallery exhibits around the world, and he is featured in 30 books and numerous magazines.

IG: waneonecod



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THE STORY

ARCY, 2022

New Haven, CT

South End

883 Main Street
Springfield, MA

The Story celebrates the neighborhood's Italian Heritage, and cafes as a gathering place for communities. The man on the far left is telling a story, four men listen intently, and the man on the far right is taking a nap. The men second and third from the left are the grandfathers of the family that has owned and run La Fiorentina for 3 generations. That portion of the mural was painted with dozens of neighborhood residents.

Known for his paint-splashed style of large-scale street art, ARCY has been defining his unique style for over a decade. In 2015, ARCY crossed North America with a live painting mural tour, where he took his skills on the road, spray painting 8' x 12' live event murals in front of thousands of onlookers in many of the largest cities across the nation. Since then, ARCY has created hundreds of live murals and permanent large-scale works throughout North America, Australia, and Europe. ARCY has created work for The Smithsonian Institute, Major League Baseball, America's National Parks Service, and is currently developing a collaborative body of work for The Walt Disney Company as a Disney Fine Artist.

IG: @arcyart



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