

Interactive mural project intended to encourage creativity & tourism while highlighting history of Niagara County



Shown is another mural design. (Courtesy of Carnegie Art Center)

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✓ Artist: Sal Anello (Canvas Crashers)

Mural is not complete yet, but will be soon.

•Town of Hartland, Hartland Town Park

✓ Artist: Mark Weld (Weld Signs)

Mural is complete. All are welcome to visit and color it in.

•Town of Pendleton, Uncle G's Ice Cream

✓ Artist: Robin Damiano (Damiano Arts)

Mural is complete. All are welcome to visit and color it in.

•Village of Lewiston, Artpark concessions building

✓ Artist: Dayna Hazlett (DaynaFX)

Mural is complete. All are welcome to visit and color it in.

•Town of Wilson, Brownie's Custard Stand

✓ Artist: Nikki Milley (NikkiM-Designs)

Mural is complete. All are welcome to visit and color it in.

•City of Niagara Falls, Aquarium of Niagara

✓ Artist: Amira Moore

Mural is complete. All are welcome to visit and color it in.

•Town of Somerset/Village of Barker, David Barker Park

✓ Artist: Nin Bogue (Bogue Art Studios)

Mural is not complete yet, but will be soon.

•Designer of all of the murals:

✓ Matt Duquette – Motherland Studio in Lockport

Weber said he hopes this interactive mural project will encourage creativity and tourism while highlighting the history of Niagara County.

The artwork on each mural represents its location, with the name of the town, city or village, as well as historical and iconic images highlighting the best reasons to visit that community.

"I conceived of the idea, and what I wanted to do was unite the county with a trail," Weber said. "Making the murals 'color-by-number' adds an interactive component and allows the community to be involved."

Each mural will be accompanied by a plaque containing more information about the project, including a brief history of the town and GPS coordinates of each mural location so visitors can easily find each mural in the various towns and color them in with chalk. The plaques will also provide a key to assist children and adults as they "color by number" with chalk.

Organizers said, "This new public art initiative will allow the community to not only view but also participate in the arts in a safe environment. This interactive mural initiative is free and accessible for anyone who would like to partake."

Weber said the murals will "feature different aspects of each community that residents can be

proud of and visitors can learn more about." For example, a fire hydrant will be on the Lockport mural, because fire hydrants were invented in Lockport.

"We are thrilled to be the site for the mural celebration and exhibition," said Brown, owner of Project 308 Gallery. "This type of interactive art project is a perfect way to unite the county, showcase the amazing artists who live here, and make the arts accessible for all."

The group exhibition at the Project 308 Gallery featuring artwork by all 12 of the participating artists will be on view from May 6 to June 11. The gallery will be open 3-7 p.m. Wednesdays, and by appointment.

Weber and Brown said they hope the group exhibition at the gallery will shed light on the interactive mural trail and encourage folks to visit each mural. The public can learn more about each artist on the interactive mural's Facebook page.

This project is funded by the New York State Decentralization grant facilitated by Arts Services Inc. and the Grigg Lewis Foundation.

Questions from the public about this project can be emailed to niceinfo@niagaracountyentertainment.com. "Like" "Niagara County By The Numbers: An Interactive Mural Trail" on Facebook for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/interactivemural>.



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NCCC Film & Animation Festival returns to campus

Niagara County Community College's 2022 Film & Animation Festival will take place in-person from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 7, at the school's Sanborn campus, located at 3111 Saunders Settlement Road. The festival, which features a number of fun and informative activities, is open to the public. Admission is free.

The event brings together filmmakers, animators, actors and enthusiasts from across Western New York and beyond. Topping the festival is an international film competition, which presents \$200

awards for best film in a variety of categories including: drama, comedy, animation, documentary, music video, horror and experimental. More than \$1,600 in prizes are handed out, including three special "716" awards that are presented to the best Western New York high school student film, best college student film, and best overall film selected by attendees at the festival.

The NCCC festival includes continuous screenings of finalists' films, displays, exhibits and workshops.

This year's featured keynote speaker is Debbie Rochon, legendary horror movie actor, writer, producer and director, best known for her intense, off-kilter roles in "Tromeo and Juliet," "Hellblock 13" and "American Nightmare." Rochon also will offer a free workshop at the festival titled "Horror Acting 101 - Don't Be Scared!"

The NCCC Film & Animation Festival's "WNY Filmmaker of the Year" award will be presented this year to director, writer, producer and actor Sam Qualiana of Lockport.

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