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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Rogers Park artist selected for new mural celebrating diversity of neighborhood**

### **Rogers Park Business Alliance announces additional **Vision Clark Street Master Plan** updates at public open house this **Sunday, April 28****

CHICAGO (April 22, 2019)—The nonprofit **Rogers Park Business Alliance** (RPBA) is pleased to announce local artist **Molly Costello** as the recipient of its commission to create a new mural at 6978 N. Clark Street this summer. The mural project is part of RPBA's **Vision Clark Street Master Plan**, a multi-year strategic plan for the Clark Street business corridor spanning Devon Avenue to Howard Street, which includes placemaking efforts such as new landscaping, storefront improvements and the addition of vibrant public art.

Costello's mural will illustrate the eclectic, authentic and inclusive aspects of the multicultural Clark Street commercial corridor, as well as the vivid colors and designs that make up the recently unveiled **Clark Street brand**—another deliverable of the **Vision Clark Street** plan that will be used by RPBA and local businesses in the months and years to come.

Additional master plan updates will be presented and discussed at a public **Vision Clark Street Open House** this **Sunday, April 28** from 2-4 p.m. at 7056 N. Clark Street. Snacks will be provided, and community members are invited to join RPBA crews working on implementing the plan.

"Clark Street is home to many entrepreneurs and small businesses who bring energy and talent to Rogers Park," says RPBA Executive Director **Sandi Price**. "Through our Vision Clark Street plan, we're working to strengthen development and create a sense of arrival and place. Our new Clark Street branding will be unveiled throughout the corridor with Molly's creative mural and in the design of future street banners, walkways, planter boxes and street signage."

A full copy of the **Vision Clark Street Master Plan** is available for download at [rpba.org/planning-for-the-future](http://rpba.org/planning-for-the-future). Additional plan recommendations moving forward include:

- RPBA is developing and hosting a public placemaking event at Clark Street and Greenleaf Avenue this August; details will be announced soon.
- RPBA is collaborating on next steps to improve infrastructure and landscaping of the CTA turnaround plaza at Clark Street and Arthur Avenue; the Chicago Department of Transportation is expected to announce an RFP process in the coming months.

- RPBA is working in partnership with the Rogers Park West Ridge Historical Society to identify funding for future historical signage and plaques throughout the neighborhood.

**Molly Costello** is a food grower and community-minded artist based out of Rogers Park. Through her work she explores concepts of connectedness; with our whole selves, each other, our communities, the natural world, and the divine of the universe at large. Everything is interrelated. Having spent many years working on programing about sustainability and community solutions to global issues, Molly's art is also reflective of the themes she encountered in that work, including community, struggle, healing, brokenness, resilience and love.

**Rogers Park Business Alliance** (RPBA) is a nonprofit organization that has served Chicago's diverse Rogers Park neighborhood for more than 25 years. RPBA works to cultivate and sustain a thriving economic environment in Rogers Park, serving businesses and residents with a variety of public events and business initiatives. RPBA programs include the GROW entrepreneurial training program, the Glenwood Sunday Farmers Market and Taste of Clark Street. For more information, visit [RPBA.org](http://RPBA.org).

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