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New Color Through Chaos mural in Rogers Park completed as part of Vision Clark Street Master Plan

*New banners and streetscape improvements also planned
for North Clark Street corridor*

CHICAGO (September 29, 2020)—The nonprofit **Rogers Park Business Alliance** (RPBA) is pleased to announce several project updates from its [Vision Clark Street Master Plan](#), including the completion of a new mural at Clark Street and Greenleaf Avenue, new street banners to be installed in October, and streetscape improvements initially recommended in the plan and managed by the Chicago Department of Transportation.

“Clark Street is a critical artery running through the center of our community, home to many entrepreneurs and small businesses who bring energy and talent to Rogers Park,” said RPBA Executive Director Sandi Price. “Our Vision Clark Street plan supports development and enhances public spaces. We’re excited to continue these placemaking efforts with an inspiring new mural, street banners to celebrate the vibrancy of the Clark Street corridor, and new streetscape improvements in partnership with the Chicago Department of Transportation.”

The new mural, titled **Color Through Chaos** and located outside Honeybear Cafe (7036 N. Clark Street), was created by Chicago artists **CJ Williams** and **Kristianna Jacques**.

“The mural speaks to the current state we are living in, in regard to racial injustice and the world’s uncertainty around COVID-19,” said artists CJ Williams and Kristianna Jacques. “We wanted to do a piece that portrayed working together through this difficult time to create something beautiful and uplifting. We wanted to give the people of Rogers Park and Chicago something to gaze upon in hopes of bringing more peace, positivity and inspiration. *Color Through Chaos* serves as a reminder to not give up hope, and that there is an amazing amount of resiliency within community.”

Also contributing to beautification efforts along the North Clark Street corridor in Rogers Park, **new street banners** will be installed on Clark Street from Howard Street to Devon Avenue next month, designed using the new Clark Street brand, another deliverable of the **Vision Clark Street Master Plan**.

Based on initial recommendations in the **Vision Clark Street Master Plan** and recent public meetings, the **Chicago Department of Transportation** has proposed the three following **streetscape**

improvements along North Clark Street near Devon Avenue, Chase Avenue and Farwell Avenue. Meetings with community stakeholders will continue through next year, with construction projected to start in 2021 and continue through 2023. Proposed streetscape and infrastructure improvements include:

- Clark Street and Devon Avenue area: New sidewalks, upgraded LED lighting, reduced pedestrian crossing distances where possible, raised median with plantings on Clark Street, reconfigured intersection and pedestrian walkways surrounding the CTA bus terminal at Clark and Arthur, and new landscaping and pedestrian infrastructure along Arthur from Clark to Ashland.
- Clark Street and Chase Avenue area: decorative Vision Clark Street branding on the pavement at the intersection, new pedestrian signage and crosswalks to improve safety, and bump-outs along each corner of the intersection.
- Clark Street and Farwell Avenue area: Bump-outs have been approved for each corner of the intersection.

Rogers Park Business Alliance worked alongside local businesses and residents for more than a year to develop its key **Vision Clark Street Master Plan** recommendations. The multi-year strategic plan for the North Clark Street business corridor from Devon Avenue to Howard Street includes placemaking efforts such as new landscaping, storefront improvements, and the addition of vibrant public art. A full copy of the **Vision Clark Street Master Plan** is available for download at rpba.org/planning-for-the-future. In addition to Vision Clark Street, RPBA has led numerous Rogers Park strategic planning efforts in its 26-year history, including development guides for commercial corridors along Morse Avenue, Howard Street, Western Avenue and Sheridan Road.

Artist Bios

CJ Williams is a Chicago born educator, professional breakdancer, and artist, who has been performing, competing, and teaching for nearly two decades. He has traveled throughout the United States and abroad to places such as Germany, Holland, Mexico, and Poland to showcase his talents. CJ is a graduate (BA) of Northeastern Illinois University, with a focus on Physical Education and Community Health, and has taught P.E., fitness, and Hip-Hop arts classes throughout the Chicagoland area, both formally and informally, for many years and counting. He hopes to continue to uplift communities and inspire youth through art and breakdancing. CJ is currently a Program Coordinator at CircEsteem, a well-respected non-profit organization based out of Chicago's Uptown neighborhood.

Kristianna Jacques is a painter, muralist, jewelry designer, and mixed media artist based in Rogers Park. She draws on her experience as a social worker and sexuality educator to create vibrant and detail-rich work that celebrates all bodies and the diversity of human experience. Her influences include street art, movement and dance, public demonstration, community building, collage, as well as organic textures & patterns. She is often making art, but when she's not, Kristi is zipping through the city on rollerblades or hanging out with her corgi mix, Simon, and big orange cat, Gunther. Kristi is a resident artist at Fly Club Chicago. In 2020 she took part in the soft launch of The Undercooked Rice Collective and graduated from University of Michigan's Sexual Health Certificate Program.

About Rogers Park Business Alliance

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's programs include the GROW/PROGRESANDO entrepreneurial training program, the Illinois Small Business Development Center at RPBA, annual Best of Rogers Park awards, Chalk Howard Street and Taste of Clark Street festivals, and the Glenwood Sunday Market farmers market. For more information, visit RPBA.org.

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