

Newly restored murals from the Mile of Murals. Courtesy of Rogers Park Business Alliance.

For immediate release

Mural restoration photos avilable here >>

Press Contacts: Louise Yingduo Liu / Elizabeth Neukirch 312.961.9290 / louise@silvermangroupchicago.com

Rogers Park's newly restored Mile of Murals featured in Chicago Architecture Center walking tours

Vibrant mural series spans 14,000 square feet along the CTA Red Line, with monthly tours starting May 14 and continuing through October 8, 2022

CHICAGO (May 2, 2022)—The nonprofit **Rogers Park Business Alliance** (RPBA) is pleased to announce that its <u>Mile of Murals</u> has been recently restored with bold imagery and vibrant colors, totaling more than **14,000 square feet** and consisting of **14 murals** along the CTA Red Line stops in Rogers Park. The Mile of Murals is now featured on the newly expanded <u>monthly walking tours</u> from **Chicago Architecture Center**, <u>beginning on Saturday</u>, <u>May 14</u>, and continuing through October 8, 2022.

Launched in 2007, Rogers Park's **Mile of Murals** is an ongoing mural series promoting and celebrating the artistic identity that is central to the neighborhood's rich culture. Over the past 14 years, the Mile of Murals has commissioned 14 large-scale works. The new tour honors the artists who have contributed to the Mile of Murals and discusses the social and community concerns explored in the artworks spanning concrete embankments, viaducts and overpasses surrounding the CTA tracks along Glenwood Avenue.

Recent restoration of the Mile of Murals

In 2021, RPBA hired Chicago-based artist, **GAPE ONE** (Henry Gonzalez) to clean, repair and add anti-graffiti coating to all the murals in the Mile of Murals, which had endured damage over the past 14 years. This year, the restoration efforts continue by focusing on *The Movement and Stillness* mural located on the east side of Glenwood Avenue between Lund and Greenleaf Avenues, originally designed and painted by Peter Hurley and Scott Bullock in 2014. RPBA is currently working with Hurley to restore and paint the damaged concrete mural surface with a fresh take on the theme *Chicago Music*, celebrating Chicago musicians who have been integral to the music industry. The mural is expected to be completed by August 2022.

The Mile of Murals is a multi-year community-based public art initiative sponsored by the nonprofit Rogers Park Business Alliance and the Clark/Morse/Glenwood Special Service Area #24, intended to support, promote and beautify the far north side of the city. The project features well-known mural artists such as Reuben Aguire, Jeff Zimmermann, Bruno Big, and more. The project began in 2007, with the intention to nurture, promote, and celebrate the arts-centered identity of Rogers Park. Over the last 14 years, the Mile of Murals has commissioned 14 beautiful large-scale works, consisting of

five block-long pieces, seven viaducts, and one overpass: totaling over 14,000 sq feet of painted walls. The ultimate goal of The Mile of Murals is to create 19 large-scale murals, spanning 10 block-long walls, seven viaduct walls, and two overpasses, totaling over 14,000 square feet of painted walls along the CTA Red Line embankment walls from Estes Ave. to Pratt Blvd. For more information, visit mileofmurals.com.

Chicago Architecture Center walking tours

Chicago Architecture Center's (CAC) 90-minute walking tours of the Mile of Murals take place on Saturdays at 1 p.m., on May 14, June 4, July 16, August 13, September 10, and October 8, starting at the corner of Glenwood Avenue and Morse Avenue, on the east side of the CTA Red Line Morse station. The tour will help visitors discover the history of Rogers Park, which predates the founding of the City of Chicago, and learn about how it grew to become one of the city's most diverse communities today. Tickets are \$30 for the general public, with discounts for CAC members. Tour tickets also include free admission to CAC within 7 days of the tour. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.architecture.org/tours.

Rogers Park Business Alliance (RPBA) is a nonprofit organization that has served Chicago's diverse Rogers Park neighborhood for 29 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/PROGRESANDO entrepreneurial training program, the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Rogers Park Business Alliance, annual Best of Rogers Park awards, Chalk Howard Street Festival, Taste of Clark Street Crawl, and the Glenwood Sunday Market farmers market. For more information, visit RPBA.org.

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