

January 19, 2022

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## **Sangamon County awards contracts for large public murals at new Transportation Hub**

*Accepts recommendations from mural advisory committee*

The Sangamon County board recently accepted an advisory committee's recommendation and approved contracts for artists to proceed with two very large murals that will be located at the new Springfield-Sangamon County Transportation Hub in downtown Springfield.

In the Spring of 2021, the county appointed a community mural advisory committee to offer recommendations for artists and concepts for murals that would be installed at the Hub. The advisory includes representatives from nearby neighborhood associations, elected officials, administrators from the City of Springfield, Sangamon County and the local art community.

After reviewing 49 applications that came after a Request for Proposal (RFQ) was posted in 2021, the advisory committee selected two artists, Danielle Mastrion from New York and Jared Bader from Pennsylvania. Both artists have extensive experience in very large scale public murals. The committee selected these artists and their concepts that recognize some of the historic figures and places that are important to Sangamon County's history and the area around the transportation Hub.

"It has been a pleasure to work with our community members on these murals that will be prominent along the new rail corridor," said Angela Harris, president of Pioneer Park Homeowner's Association and a member of the advisory committee. "These murals will bridge our communities while educating and celebrating many accomplishments of individuals with in Springfield and Sangamon County. The murals will bring a sense of pride for the neighborhoods surrounding the new transportation hub."

Bader will install the mural (61.5' wide X 31.5' high) that will be visible from 11<sup>th</sup> Street and the new SMTD transfer station. His concept was to connect the mural to the specific location of the new transportation hub, illustrate the idea of public transportation throughout Springfield history that can enable all people to access work and gain upward mobility and to highlight some of the contributions of Sangamon County residents.

Mastrion will install the mural (61' wide X 47' high) on a wall that will face the railroad tracks along the 10<sup>th</sup> Street corridor and the new Amtrak station that is planned as part of the new transportation hub. Her concept includes some of the local Sangamon

County attractions such as the state capitol, Lincoln's Home and Route 66. She also features two former presidents, Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama, who had special relationships with Sangamon County. They are pictured alongside other prominent Sangamon County residents' portraits that will help educate onlookers of the historic impact of local residents throughout the years in the area of the arts, social justice, social work and medicine.

The murals are scheduled to be installed in the Fall of 2022. The budget for the installation of both murals was \$217,525.

These murals are also a step toward continuing to create a "culturally rich community" which is one of the goals outlined in the community's ["Next10" plan](#).

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For more information about the murals, [click here](#).

([https://co.sangamon.il.us/Portals/0/Departments/County%20Board/Docs/News/Mural\\_finalists\\_presentation.pdf](https://co.sangamon.il.us/Portals/0/Departments/County%20Board/Docs/News/Mural_finalists_presentation.pdf) )

Below is the concept approved for the 11<sup>th</sup> Street mural by Jared Bader.



Below is the concept approved for the 10<sup>th</sup> Street mural by Danielle Mastrion.

