



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Carey Powers

Email: [carey@missoulaartmuseum.org](mailto:carey@missoulaartmuseum.org)

**New Murals to Be Unveiled at the Missoula Art Museum, Adventure Cycling**  
Middle- and high-school students collaborated, designed murals during free summer program

MISSOULA, Mont., August 16, 2021

The Missoula Art Museum invites the public to view eight new murals on display Wednesday, August 25 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The murals were created by eighteen students over the course of two months during the Teen Art Project, a free program provided by the museum.

Resident teaching artist, Janaína Vieira-Marques, led the students twice a week through artmaking and discussion sessions around the concept of freedom. Participants in the program also met with exhibiting artists Jon Lodge, Sean Chandler, and Robert Harrison to discuss their creative process. The first mural, titled *Beauty in Disaster*, is currently on view in the Allez! Alley at 120 N. Higgins Avenue in downtown Missoula. The remaining eight murals will be unveiled during a special celebration in the Missoula Art Park Wednesday, August 25.

The group of students provided this collaborative statement to summarize their experience:

"Whether we originally came to [the Teen Art Project] to express and advance our creative abilities, create something for our community, or make our voices heard, we all had one primary goal: show Missoula what freedom means to the youth. Ultimately, through large group discussions, we developed three key freedoms we wanted to address: The freedom to be in nature, because we, as Montanans, feel the freest outdoors; the freedom of expression, because being our truest selves makes us feel free; and the freedom of choice, because we as a group feel that everyone has a right to choose their pathway in this life. We created nine pieces and they are tied together through color schemes, natural elements, and what the group sees as freedom. We feel that it's important for the youth to express their ideas of freedom as we will become the next generation in power. We are the future and our voices matter, so be sure to listen."

TAP is generously supported by the Adventure Cycling Association, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, the Missoula Downtown Foundation (a partner organization of the Downtown Missoula Partnership), and the Montana Arts Council.

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**About MAM:** Founded in 1975 and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums since 1987, MAM is emerging as the leading contemporary art museum in the Intermountain West. MAM is situated on the traditional, ancestral territories of the Séliš (Salish or "Flathead") and Q̓lispé (upper Kalispel or Pend d'Oreille) peoples. MAM is committed to respecting the indigenous stewards of the land it occupies. Their rich cultures are fundamental to artistic life in Montana and to the work of MAM. MAM is a fully accessible, free public museum boasting eight exhibition spaces, a library, and an education center in the heart of Missoula's historic downtown.

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335 n. pattee // missoula, mt 59802 // p: 406.728.0447 // [missoulaartmuseum.org](http://missoulaartmuseum.org)