

For Immediate Release

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**South Side Event Celebrates Graffiti and Pittsburgh's Color Park
"Color Park Graffiti Jam" Features Local Artists and Free Public Paint**

Friends of the Riverfront is hosting an artist-led, community-centered, all-ages event at Color Park in the South Side neighborhood of Pittsburgh from Sept 19-21, with the main event taking place on Saturday, September 21, from 3 – 7 pm at 1 South 6th Street. Tickets are free, but registration for the event is recommended.

During the main event on Saturday:

- Free paint and sidewalk chalk will be provided to the public at the main event
- Music provided by DJ Dope Ugly
- Food and beverage trucks will be available to the public, including El Colibri's Mexican Street Food, Hummus Pittsburgh's Mediterranean Delights and Beatnik Sweet Eats'n Treats
- Official Afterparty with Cosmic Drip at the Sly Fox Brewing Co outdoor patio at the Highline 7pm-midnight

Several local graffiti artists and workshops are partnering on this event, and will be creating custom artworks during the event, including Max Gonzales, Shane Pilster, Jouirnoe Ltd., Richard III, Jerome Charles, DS Kinsel of BOOM Concepts, Brian Gonnella, Mike Schwartz of wickedpgh.com and the Urban Art Program (HCUAP). Aadam Soorma of Trace Brewing and Natalie Sweet of Brew House Association also helped to collaborate on the event.

Sponsors include BOOM Concepts, Sly Fox Brewing Company, the Traveler's Rest Hotel, Merging Media and Evolve Coaching. The new mural spaces were made possible by Frank Bryan Inc.

Color Park was created in 2017 as a partnership between Friends of the Riverfront and Pittsburgh artist Baron Batch in order to provide Pittsburgh with a place where graffiti was allowed as public artistic expression. Friends of the Riverfront, founded in 1991, is dedicated to building, maintaining, and offering events and advocacy around the 35 miles of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail and Water Trail.

Kelsey Ripper, Executive Director of Friends of the Riverfront, said that this event grew out of what was planned as an annual refresh of the space to make way for new local art.

“We are looking forward to a vibrant future for the city’s only free graffiti park, and we’re looking to these artists to help us with that vision,” she said. “By bringing their work to this space, these artists are making Color Park a recognized venue for graffiti-style arts.”

Max Gonzales, a prominent local artist and art educator and one of the driving forces behind the event, said that the Graffiti Jam heralds changes at Color Park.

“After seeing the success of the Graffiti Alley in Bloomfield, we knew that we needed to bring this kind of energy to more sites in the city,” he said, adding, “We feel that with these changes to color park, a new sense of pride and ownership will be attached to the site from the local spraycan art, graffiti, and mural scenes.”

Even more important, Gonzales said, “a proper legal graffiti space needs to be run by the community, while still having a culture of self-regulation in regards to content and quality. We feel that this event will be a perfect way to up the standards of quality and interest.”

The artists who have partnered on this event are committed to helping to maintain Color Park as a safe space for visitors and other artists, promoting a high caliber of work at the park, and promoting the rules of the park such as refraining from offensive work and respecting park boundaries.

More about Friends of the Riverfront: [Welcome to Friends of the Riverfront](#)

Resources: [Color Park | Friends of the Riverfront](#)

Event: [Color Park Graffiti Jam and Free Open Paint \(qgiv.com\)](#)

Information on artists and collaborators:

- Max Gonzales www.instagram.com/goodboygems, dowhatwelove.com
- Shane Pilster www.instagram.com/outafterdark, dowhatwelove.com
- Jouirnoe Ltd. www.instagram.com/jouirnoe
- Richard III www.instagram.com/richardthethird
- Jerome Charles www.instagram.com/chucandobetter, www.instagram.com/goodenoughsigns
- DS Kinsel of BOOM Concepts www.boomuniverse.co
- Brian Gonnella (founder of Spirit Walls) www.instagram.com/briangonnellaishoring
- Aadam Soorma of Trace Brewing www.instagram.com/clementwayeveryday, www.tracebloomfield.com
- Mike Schwartz, founder of wickedpgh.com wickedpgh.com
- Hemispheric Conversations: Urban Art Project hcuap.com
- Natalie Sweet of Brew House Association brewhousearts.org

Additional Information and Quotations from the Artists:

Jerome Charles (Chu)

Jerome Charles (he/him) artist, organizer & the vandal formerly known as "CHU". Following his arrest, Jerome turned his energy toward making art on found objects, sign painting, muraling, organizing and now is attempting to make his way as an Apprentice in the Carpenter's Union. You can follow him on Instagram @GoodEnoughSigns

Dejoir "Jouirnoe" Brown

"From Pittsburgh, Pa... growing up in the southside area of Beltzhoover South. I'm a Graphic designer and muralist that has been painting for 15 years. I've worked with Condado's Taco at multiple locations and other companies helping design their logos and branding. I love Graffiti, Street art, and Typography specializing in fine detail and shading that create depth and illusions. My goal as an artist is to spark the flame to inspiring someone else and showing them that anything is possible with practice and dedication."

Brian Gonnella

Brian Gonnella is an artist, muralist, writer and organizer based in Pittsburgh PA. In 2017, he founded Spirit Walls, one of the first annual street art events in the city, and in 2020 he was one of the co-organizers of the Clement Way Legal Wall at Trace Brewing in Bloomfield. You can follow his work @briangonnellaisboring on Instagram.

Cara Rosetti

Cara Rossetti is a Pittsburgh-based visual artist specializing in mixed media and spray paint. Her art explores themes that continue to evolve with her artistic identity, reflecting a constant engagement with both personal and communal transformation.

Juliandra Jones

Juliandra Jones is a self-taught mixed media artist, muralist, live painter, entrepreneur and educator from Las Vegas, NV. She uses vinyl, acrylic, aerosol paint, and natural elements— like crystals— in her paintings, woodcuts, sculptures, and public art projects to explore themes of social justice and self-care. Her art brings people together, elevates marginalized voices and centers happiness and joy. Her process is deeply collaborative and invites other artists, youth, community leaders and local residents to assist in the development of new work.

Bobby Redman

"My name is Robert Redman. Folks call me Bobby. I'm a multimedia artist, graffiti artist, and skateboarder from Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. I grew up in the west end, but I've lived all over the city. My

art is every piece of me. I draw inspiration from many different places. Growing up I would devour everything I could from Bill Waterson, Ennis, McFarlane; The comic book greats. An insatiable hunger for comics eventually transmuted into me wanting to create my own. That gave way to endless hours of drawing. And I've just never really stopped. Slowed down at points. But never stopped. My goal with my art is to build my own studio and use my space as a venue for other artists as well as myself."

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