

FAQ - mural Project 30.1

Why is it called Project 30.1?

Because the mural site is 30.1 miles from something that happened that had an immediate, intense and important impact on the way many people are looking at and have looked at racism. That site literally became the center of the world at that moment and we are very close to where that happened. There has been an acknowledgment and change, made in more meaningful ways than many of us have seen in our lifetime. It was a moment in history that deserves recognition and commemoration. This mural is honoring this moment in time and the new commitment that people seem to have made, sparked by the moment when George Floyd was killed. It is a start toward building a better future for all.

There really does not seem to be racism in Hudson. Why create division by saying that there is?

The Project is not intended to point fingers at anyone, for anything. That is an internal reflection for all of us, personally.

Hudson is a city that is only 30.1 miles from where a world was literally burning, yet we remain insulated from a lot of the exhausting, ongoing, daily effects of racism. Project 30.1 is a reminder that people do suffer every day, and our commitment to helping fellow humans remains strong and constant.

One of the most important ideas behind the Project is that our Community extends beyond our city limits. There is definitely racism existing in the world. We are certainly part of that larger community and can help make a change for the better.

Why aren't there any Hudson artists involved?

There are. The entire project was conceived by a Hudson artist/resident. The 300 faces on and around the mural/city are being created primarily by people from Hudson. The call for artists and their stories specified BIPOC artists, as well as artists from the St. Croix River Valley. The Call for Artists resulted in 13 artists applying, 7 of whom were chosen for panels, by our curators of Project 30.1. Two of the artists are from St. Croix County and five artists are from the Twin Cities and surrounding areas. Many of these artists began creating murals as a result of the events of May 25, and all seven of them speak to different experiences and perspectives. This is invaluable in creating artwork of this nature.

Who is paying for this?

All materials are being paid for by the citizens who also own the wall/site for the mural, Hans and Joan Friese. They are committed to the strength and sustainability of Hudson.

The project was initiated and is being led by Liz Malanaphy, who is working as a volunteer on the project.

The artists are being commissioned through a generous donation from Sustain Hudson, as well as a GoFundMe set up by Hudson Inclusion Alliance. (As many of the artists often receive four or five times more for their work than we are able to pay them, we are happy to accept further donations toward that cause!)

People have said that the Black Lives Matter organization is behind the mural. Is that true?

No. Black Lives Matter as an organization is VERY engaged in SO many ways in many communities that need help and healing. They are pretty busy!

Our community here in Hudson is driving this mural, understanding that if we are not part of a solution, we are part of the problem. And we certainly do believe that Black Lives Matter, but we have not collaborated with that specific organization.

The artists definitely have affiliations with many different community groups in their own neighborhoods and cities, and that may inform their work, but we are looking for their stories, which bring our mural authenticity and depth.

It is the hope that Project 30.1 will allow diverse populations, citizens and particularly children to see themselves and their perspectives in our community.

What do you mean by diversity?

The definition is “the state of being diverse; variety” and “a range of different things”. The concept of diversity and the importance of it can be clearly seen in nature. If the natural world does not have a diverse range of life, it cannot sustain itself, nor be sustained. A simple example of that in our community is our experience with tree varieties that are attacked by an invasive species or pest. Soon they are all gone.

Naturally diverse places are the richest places on our planet.

In terms of diversity in humanity, we see many different ways this is manifested. Racial diversity, socioeconomic diversity, geographic diversity are a few that we experience. We experience these in everyday life, and are shining a light on them through the concept and design of Project 30.1. The key to equality and sustainability of a people or a community or an environment is symbiosis. That is to say, things work together, and are not divided but instead made stronger for their differences and different contributions.

These ideals are integral to the vision of Project 30.1.