

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2023 Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival returns Sept. 14-16

2023 muralist line-up announced. Annual community celebration returns this fall with more murals, community engagement, artist-led activities and tours in the Creative Enterprise Zone.

May 30, 2023
St. Paul, Minn. —

The Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival returns in 2023 with new outdoor murals and three days of family-friendly events and programs on September 14, 15 & 16 in the Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ) district in the South Saint Anthony Park / Raymond-University neighborhood of Saint Paul.

THE FESTIVAL:

The festival is free and open to the public.

Six new Chroma Zone murals will be created by four local and two national muralists starting in June and leading up to artist-led and community focused events and programs Sept. 14-16, 2023.

Since 2019, Chroma Zone has been adding outdoor public murals to reflect the creativity happening in the Zone; present a more welcoming and inclusive narrative; and foster connection in a fast growing mixed-use commercial and residential neighborhood in Saint Paul.

Muralists are given walls and the freedom to explore themes and imagery that is meaningful to them. For local Saudi-American artist and 2023 Chroma Zone muralist Hend Al-Masour, public art draws on her skills as a painter, printmaker and illustrator, to present her Arabic and Islamic influenced work at a much greater scale, with greater visibility and access. "A mural to me expresses a desire to affirm my belonging. I want to say: 'I exist here; therefore, I belong here,' and to say it out loud."

Chroma Zone advances representation in public art by prioritizing artists of color, Indigenous and Native artists, Queer and Womxn muralists. Since 2019, Chroma Zone has produced 43 murals in the Zone; 82% by local artists, 80% by BIPOC artists, and 50% by Womxn.

The festival is produced by the Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ), a city-recognized district and place based nonprofit with a mission to attract and support creative people and businesses, like NewStudio Architecture & Gallery, owned by Sean Wagner and Melissa Martyr of White Bear Lake, and located at 2303 Wycliff St. "Our company moved to the Creative Enterprise Zone because of its mission to attract and support creative work and workers. That mission is aligned with who we are as a creative company." remarked Melissa. "We're excited to again participate in Chroma Zone as a sponsor and as a host of the pop-up show in our gallery. We invest in the festival because it makes our community welcoming and promotes well-being and belonging here. It also makes the CEZ an important destination for people to work, play, and live."

2023 MURALISTS //

This year's Chroma Zone muralists are from Minnesota, Chicago and Detroit, and were chosen in consultation with the Festival's founding partner and creative consultant Forecast Public Art, a national public arts leader for over 40 years and a creative business in the Zone. All festival artists are compensated for their time and artistry by the CEZ and retain creative control.

2023 Chroma Zone muralists are:

- Hend Al-Mansour (St. Paul) hendalmansour.com
- Leslie Barlow (Minneapolis) lesliebarlowartist.com
- Philipo Dyauli (Minneapolis) philipodyauli.com
- Sydney James (Detroit) sydneyjames.com
- Max Sansing (Chicago) maxsansing.com
- Wes Winship (Minneapolis) [@wzzwnshp](https://www.instagram.com/wzzwnshp)

Up to four additional murals will be created by 2023 Guest muralists:

- Michael Engebretson with Interact Gallery (St. Paul) Gallery.interactcenterarts.org
- Forrest Wozniak (Minneapolis) [@forrestwozniak](https://www.instagram.com/forrestwozniak)
- Reggie LeFore (Twin Cities) [@ral86](https://www.instagram.com/ral86)
- Votan Henriquez (Los Angeles) [@votanik](https://www.instagram.com/votanik) (delayed from 2022)

Muralist profiles are listed below. Mural site locations and schedules are listed (subject to change) on the Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival website at chromazone.net.

2023 FESTIVITIES //

Three days of festival programs and events will be held Sept. 14-16, 2023 at a variety of locations in the Creative Enterprise Zone district in Saint Paul. All events are free and open to all ages.

2023 Programs and events include:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 // POP-UP EXHIBIT @ NewStudio Gallery //

Details for the 2023 Chroma Zone "POP-UP Exhibit" :

- Featuring works of art by select 2023 muralists and Chroma Zone alumni
- Includes adjacent gallery exhibit with Chroma Zone alum Rock "Cyfi" Martinez ('21)
- On-view four days only (Thursday-Sunday) during the Chroma Zone festival
- Opening reception on Thursday, 9/14 from 6-8 p.m.
- Light refreshments provided by the Naughty Greek and Bang Brewing
- Artwork list and pricing forthcoming (watch website for details)

NewStudio Gallery is located at 2303 Wycliff St, Saint Paul.

FRIDAY, SEPT 15 // ARTIST TALK & ON-SITE ACTIVITIES @ Vandalia Tower //

Details for the 2023 Chroma Zone “Artist Talk & On-site Activities”:

- Panel discussion with select 2023 Chroma Zone artists [@SPNN studio](#) from 6:30-8 p.m.
- Pre-show Artist Meet-and-Greet @ Lake Monster Brewing 5-6 p.m.
- Makers Market, live painting, music, and vendor display @ Lake Monster Brewing 5-8 p.m.
- Panel moderated by local muralist Zamara Cuyun [@zamaracuyunart](#)
- Food and beverage by [Lake Monster Brewing Co](#) and [King Coil Distillery](#)

SPNN, Lake Monster Brewing & Vandalia Tower are located at 550 Vandalia St., Saint Paul.

SATURDAY, SEPT 16 // MURAL TOURS & LIVE PAINTING @ DCBC's Blocktoberfest //

Details for the 2023 Chroma Zone “Mural Tours and Live Painting”:

- Blocktoberfest live music, food trucks, and bev provided by [Dual Citizen Brewing Co.](#)
- Chroma Zone bus tours of new 2023 murals departing on the hour from Noon-5 p.m.
- Featuring the iconic [Can Can Wonderland](#) Mini Putt Putt bus
- Chroma Zone live painting by Reggie LeFlore [@RAL86](#) from Noon-5 p.m.
- Chroma Zone makers market and hands-on art activity by [Wet Paint](#)
- Musical line-up featuring local and national artists “To Be Announced”
- Blocktoberfest runs Noon to 11 p.m. in the rear parking lot of the DCBC and C&E Lofts

Dual Citizen Brewing Co. and Blocktoberfest are located at 725 Raymond Ave, Saint Paul.

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Chroma Zone will be posting mural production schedule updates and additional event information to its website and social media.

More information at: www.chromazone.net and www.creativeenterprisezone.org

2023 Artist bios pasted below and online [here](#). Images [here](#).

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MEDIA CONTACT:

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Creativeenterprisezone.org and chromazone.net

ABOUT:

Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival is produced and located within the Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ) of St. Paul. The Creative Enterprise Zone is a city-recognized district and non-profit organization dedicated to attracting and supporting creative people and businesses to #MakeItHere. CEZ is committed to enhancing public spaces and art to advance creative, cultural, and economic development through collaboration and connectivity. The Mural Festival adds to

the neighborhood's long-term beauty, economic viability, safety, and walkability while supporting artists and entrepreneurs, and sparking creative economic activity.

SUPPORT FOR CHROMA ZONE:

The 2023 Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival is made possible with the generous support of The Wycliff, Mark At Work, Midway Mile Industrial Campus, Butler Family Community Foundation, Dual Citizen Brewing Company, Bootstrappers.mn, Wet Paint, NewStudio Architecture & Gallery, The Mason apartments, Vandalia Tower, Paster Properties, Equipt Contractor Supply, Terra Firma Building and Remodeling, and Urbanworks Architecture.

In-kind partners include Can Can Wonderland, SPNN, The Naughty Greek, Bang Brewing, Dogwood Coffee, Montana Paint, Hotel Celeste, Lake Monster Brewing and Urban Growler Brewing. Videography by VENN Media Production

The font Proxima Nova, used for this press release, was created by American font designer Mark Simonson, a longtime sponsor of Chroma Zone and St. Anthony Park resident [@marksimonson](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA:

FB: Chromazonefest

FB: Creative Enterprise Zone

Instagram: @chromazonefest

Instagram: @cezmsp #cezmsp #MakeltHere

CHROMA ZONE MURAL FEST 2023 : ARTIST BIOS

Hend Al-Mansour (Saint Paul)

hendalmansour.com

Hend Al-Mansour's artwork reflects the female culture of her hometown of Hofuf, Saudi Arabia. She holds a degree in medicine from Cairo, Egypt, as well as Master of Fine Arts and Master of Art History degrees from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and the University of St. Thomas, respectively. Al-Mansour's work is inspired by Islamic art and addresses gender politics in Arab communities. She creates screen prints featuring stylized figures, Arabic calligraphy, and Sadou and henna designs, and builds shrine-like installations using printed fabric. Recently, she has begun creating digital images and animations.

Leslie Barlow (Minneapolis)

lesliebarlowartist.com

Leslie Barlow is a visual artist, educator, and cultural worker from Minneapolis, MN. Barlow believes art and art making is both healing and liberatory, through the power of representation, witnessing and storytelling. Barlow earned her BFA in 2011 from the University of Wisconsin-Stout and her MFA in 2016 from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. In addition to her studio practice, Barlow has taught at the University of Minnesota, Metro State University, and Carleton College. Barlow also supports emerging artists at Public Functionary as Director of PF Studios, is a part of the Creatives After Curfew mural collective, and is a 7-year volunteer for the

organization MidWest Mixed. Leslie Barlow is represented by Bockley Gallery.

Philipo Dyauli (Minneapolis)

philipodyauli.com

Philipo Dyauli is a self-taught painter, muralist and illustrator from Tanzania, currently based in Minneapolis. As a painter, he uses color and scale to illustrate the importance of people over material objects to create a unique form of storytelling, and transform personal experiences into life-size paintings.

Sydney James (Detroit)

sydneyjames.com

Detroit-bred and based Interdisciplinary Artist and 2017 Kresge Fellow Sydney G. James earned her BFA at the College for Creative Studies in 2001 and began her career as an Art Director in advertising. Sydney headed to Los Angeles in 2004, to expand her career as a visual artist in the film and television industry and earned her master's degree in secondary education. Returning to Detroit in 2011, Sydney has become one of the leading creative voices in southeast Michigan. Primarily known for large murals, Sydney's work explores themes of the racial and gender positioning of the black woman in America as "last" or "least among others" in society. Her portraits and murals seek to reposition this narrative of the black woman's visibility and importance bringing them to the forefront of the conversation. Sydney is a co-founder of the biannual BLKOUT Walls street mural festival which debuted in Detroit in 2021.

Max Sansing (Chicago)

<https://www.instagram.com/maxsansing/>

Max Sansing is a Chicago-based fine artist and one of the city's most prolific and talented muralists. His distinct aesthetic fuses the color-drenched dynamism of street art with the technical elegance of photorealism. Born and raised on the South Side by two artistic parents, Sansing discovered his passion and creative gift at an early age. During his youth he was involved with several graffiti crews and taught himself oil painting before completing formal training at the American Academy of Art. In addition to his studio practice, Sansing is frequently commissioned to create large-scale murals and experiential installations across the country. He is deeply committed to supporting his Chicago community and is involved with numerous youth programs that expand arts opportunities in underserved areas. His work has been featured in gallery shows and special events in Chicago, New York, and Miami among others.

Wes Winship (Minneapolis)

[@wzzwnshp](https://www.instagram.com/wzzwnshp)

Wes Winship is a muralist, fine artist, and printmaker with storied roots in graffiti and street art. Co-founder of internationally-known design and screen print collective, Burlesque of North America, Wes is a successful entrepreneur who has built a creative legacy in the Twin Cities and beyond over the past 15 years. He's also founder of fine art off-shoot, Burlesque Public Works, which produces large-scale paintings, murals, and site-specific installations, often collaborating with businesses, major sporting events, and music festivals. On his process, Wes says, "Making stuff is my entire existence. My career consists of having an idea, figuring out how to do it, making that idea a reality and stumbling on the next idea in the process."

Michael Engebretson with Interact Gallery

[@Interactgallery](#)

Michael Engebretson's kaleidoscopic drawings, paintings, and sculptures map a future existence beyond Earth, where inhabitants travel through galaxies by spaceship and live on distant moons. An avid autism advocate, Engebretson would like viewers of his work to understand how, as he says, "the autistic mind operates." He describes the way that his brain works as "just like a cyborg: part human, and part machine," and he hopes that his work will help people to understand the vitality of neurodiversity. "Minds, minds can coexist," he says. "Can can coexist with other people, with everybody. Isn't that awesome?"

Votan Henriquez

[@votanik](#)

Founder of NSRGNTS and known for their powerful city murals, Votan Henriquez (Maya/Nahua) is a multifaceted street artist based out of LA and Albuquerque. Votan grew up amidst the birth of Los Angeles street art which involved tagging, graffiti and wheatpasting to create powerful statements in community spaces. Votan has traveled around the world, participating in mural festivals in South America, Artist in Residence in Dubai, and Hip Hop graffiti tours in the U.S. and Europe. In addition to his work with NSRGNTS, Votan plans to further expand his creative endeavors to include an upcoming podcast and documentary with his wife Leah Lewis.

Reggie LeFore

[@ral86](#)

Reggie LeFlore is a visual artist who creates to praise individual and collective stories through human portraiture. LeFlore's inspirations are drawn from the concepts and philosophies of Street Art culture and Illustration - using aerosol, acrylic paint and various graphic design techniques to construct pieces in varying styles, scales and surfaces. He uses visual arts to amplify both his surrounding environments and the narratives contained within them. LeFlore's visual arts style and identity grew from the wonder and excitement he felt from first seeing murals and illustrations as a child. These works of art influenced him to learn various graphic design and illustrative techniques commonly seen in the comic books, animations and pop culture elements of the 90s and early 2000s.

Forrest Wozniak

[@forrestwozniak](#)

Forrest Wozniak was born and raised in South Minneapolis. He has a background in construction and restoration. Forrest is a local sign painter, and has been painting large historic and iconic outdoor signs and advertisements around the Twin Cities for the past 20 years. Forrest paints both clients' designs and his own.