



City of Slidell

Dept. of Cultural & Public Affairs • Press Release for Immediate Release

Kim Bergeron • kbergeron@cityofslidell.org • www.slidell.la.us
P.O. Box 828, Slidell, LA 70459 • 985.646.4375 • Fax 985.646.4231

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Artist set to paint the town during Slidell's Mural Week



World-renowned artist Phil Galatas has his paint and brushes ready for the City of Slidell's upcoming Mural Week, which will be celebrated February 2 through 6 in Olde Towne Slidell.

The artist will be continuing his work on the city's inaugural mural, which is located at the corner of First and Cousin Streets, painting from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. The project will recreate a scene from the city's historic district in the early 1900s as depicted in photos obtained from the city-owned Slidell Museum.

Though the project began in November as part of the city's *Arts Evening*, complications with the mural surface caused unexpected delays. The wall was eventually resurfaced to ensure the longevity of the painting.

With his new "canvas" now ready, Galatas is eager to complete the project. Citizens are encouraged to visit the site to watch the creation of what will ultimately be part of an outdoor gallery, the ultimate goal of the city's mural committee.

Mural committee chair Jo Ann Sciacca can hardly contain her enthusiasm about the upcoming Mural Week and the plans for many more murals still to come. "This committee working as a team has made this dream come true," says the volunteer. "I definitely plan to work on this project for many years to come as I sincerely want to do something for my community that is really meaningful."

The culmination of that dream will be realized during the upcoming Mural Week celebrations.

"We received so many calls from people wanting to know when they could see the artist at work," said mural committee member Kim Bergeron, who is also director of the city's Cultural & Public Affairs office. "The Mural Week will enable them to stop by frequently and watch the work as it

progresses. Because this is a legacy to be enjoyed by generations to come, this literally is history being created right before their eyes. It's exciting.”

The city and the mural committee have made arrangements with Dish on First restaurant, which faces the mural wall, to offer special lunch seating during mural week, making it easy for residents to enjoy the artist at work. The restaurant will offer a limited number of reservations from February 2 through 6 at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m., plus additional seating will be available on a walk-in basis. Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling (985) 781-1440 or (985) 646-4375. Dish on First is located at 2142 First Street.

The project will be paid for by private donations and fundraisers, and is supported and administered in part by a grant from the St. Tammany Commission on Cultural Affairs/Department of Cultural and Governmental Affairs, St. Tammany Parish.

Sciacca and Bergeron are joined in their efforts by mural committee members Vera Maguire and the city's assistant planning director Marina Stevens. Sciacca hopes to expand the committee in the near future and welcomes additional volunteers.

For more information about Mural Week or the mural committee, contact the City of Slidell's Department of Cultural & Public Affairs at (985) 646-4375.

