



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Amy Burger
314-265-1372, amy@amyburger.com

**PUBLIC MURAL PROJECT, 'THE WALLS OFF WASHINGTON,' SET FOR
OCTOBER DEBUT IN GRAND CENTER ARTS DISTRICT**

*20 murals by local, national and international artists featured in the
latest art initiative from The Kranzberg Arts Foundation*

ST. LOUIS, September 6, 2022 — [The Kranzberg Arts Foundation](#) (KAF) is set to debut its latest art initiative with '**The Walls Off Washington**' — a destination for everyone to experience outdoor art through an eclectic mix of world-class murals over the span of a few, walkable city blocks in the Grand Center Arts District. The installation currently features 20 thought-provoking murals by renowned local, national and international artists painted on (and off) walls between Josephine Baker Boulevard and N. Leonard Ave. and behind KAF venues Sophie's Artists Lounge and High Low. The Walls Off Washington will officially open for public viewing on **Friday, October 7** as part of The Grand Center Arts District's First Fridays.

"Big murals—giant works covering entire façades—demonstrate the unique power and meaning of art larger than life with messages embedded into the mortar," said Gina Grafos, Director and Chief Curator of Visual & Literary Art for the Kranzberg Arts Foundation. "We are thrilled to present the art of various artists, focusing on the works of local and internationally renowned stars. Bringing the inside out and the outside in, let's access inspiration, have some fun, and bounce off the Walls."

KAF first introduced the Mural Initiative in 2019 with [Remix Uno](#) from Mexico City in partnership with Paul Artspace Residency. Throughout 2021, the Foundation sprung into action, adding six murals to its footprint on the 3300 block of Washington Ave., working with local artists through groups like Painted Black STL and Paint Louis, as well as international visiting artists to develop a framework and solidify its vision for the Mural Initiative.

“The value of murals is unique as a means of expressive, accessible and direct communication, especially in the City of St. Louis,” said Chris Hansen, Executive Director of the Kranzberg Arts Foundation. “We will continue these projects as a dedicated program to serve artists and the community, emphasizing engagement with public spaces within the Grand Center Arts District and our venues.”

Artists currently featured in ‘*The Walls Off Washington*’ include:

- [Nina Chanel Abney](#)
- [Derrick Adams](#)
- [Cbabi Bayoc](#)
- [Burlesque](#)
- [C215](#)
- Phil Jarvis for the Shirley Bradley Leflore Foundation
- [Liz Markus](#)
- [Hayveyah McGowan](#)
- [Norm4eva](#)
- [Pl@stic](#)
- [Remix Uno](#)
- [Carlos Rolón](#)
- [Kenny Scharf](#)
- [Simiya Sudduth](#)
- TASK
- Tukeone
- UMSL Mural Class (Professor Phil Robinson)
- [José Luis Vargas](#)
- [Wendy White](#)
- [Carlos Zamora \(CARTEL\)](#)

As an interior extension of *The Walls off Washington*, [Sophie's Artist Lounge and Gallery](#) is proud to present *Off the Walls*. The murals included in the few, walkable blocks outside of the gallery broaden to include indoor murals and other large-scale works created by artists with local, national and international acclaim including:

- Bang
- [Pl@stic](#)
- [Pia Rene](#)
- Dan Ricketts
- [Brock Seals](#)
- [Carlos Zamora \(CARTEL\)](#)
- [Hugo Zelada-Romero](#)

“I am very grateful that I was included in *The Walls Off Washington* project. The Foundation asked me to speak to the area’s history in my design. I chose to create a fictitious portrait of a past resident of the neighborhood before gentrification. I think it is great that they were conscious of mixing local with nationally recognized artists,” said artist Cbabi Bayoc.

‘*The Walls Off Washington*’ will eventually expand to include even more murals across a four-block area. For more information and artist bios, visit wallsstl.com.

About Kranzberg Arts Foundation

The Kranzberg Arts Foundation is committed to providing the essential infrastructure necessary for the arts to thrive in the St. Louis community. Through the development of performing arts venues, visual arts galleries, free music programs, and work spaces for non-profit arts organizations, the Foundation creates opportunities for and nurtures the growth of artists, while working with emerging and leading arts organizations to engage with St. Louis’s diverse community in ways that are relevant, inclusive, and inspiring. For more information, visit www.kranzbergartsfoundation.org.

###