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## **The City of White Plains Joins ArtsWestchester to Celebrate the Completion of New Public Art Installation in the City's Downtown**

*Vibrant Public Art Project Designed and Installed by Bronx Street Artist  
"Wane One" Commemorates 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ArtsWestchester Building*

**WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (May 14, 2018)** – White Plains Mayor Tom Roach and ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam today joined the community to celebrate the completion of a new street mural on Mamaroneck and Martine Avenues. The public art project, created by well-known street artist Wayne "Wane One" Peterkin and made possible by ArtsWestchester and the City of White Plains, commemorates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arts council building.

"The public art piece serves as a colorful welcome mat inviting residents and visitors to White Plains and into ArtsWestchester's gallery, as well as our nine-story building filled with artist studios and creative businesses," Langsam said.

Marked by a ribbon cutting, today's ceremony officially unveiled the 1,650-square foot street art installation that spans across the street entrance of ArtsWestchester. Named "Brighter Colors Better Life," the mural is a visual composition of deconstructed geometric shapes created by a harmonious buildup of oversized 2D prisms of vibrant colors and hues. The alternating shapes and colors side by side creates a unique and interesting aesthetic.

Wane One explains, "'Brighter Colors Better Life' is inspired by ArtsWestchester's enduring presence in Westchester County." He continued, "The secret to longevity is adaptability and transformation. The arts adapt and transform, and they endure. My design pays tribute to the dynamism of downtown White Plains, while the shifting colors are a nod to the transformative powers of the arts as embodied by ArtsWestchester."

According to Wane One, this mural was designed in a technique that produces a kaleidoscopic effect for viewers as they engage with interesting lines, shapes and colors.

The neatly crafted and abstracted designs are painted behind the larger shapes, pushing them to the foreground and popping the brighter color shapes off the background. When looking at the mural from street view, it appears that the abstracted shapes are floating in space as the grey primer will seamlessly blend the mural with the surrounding buildings and environment.

"ArtsWestchester has been a great champion of utilizing art to enliven our public spaces," said White Plains Mayor Tom Roach. "We are so pleased to have been able to work with them on this project – a first of its kind for White Plains. These kinds of projects generate excitement, spark conversation, and force us all to think about and view our city in a different light. We hope this leads to other collaborative opportunities with ArtsWestchester as we continue to work to make downtown White Plains an engaging, vibrant place."

The installation of the street mural comes two months after ArtsWestchester put its name on its building. The organization added two signs on the building façade that now better designates it as the cultural destination that it has become. A former Peoples National Bank & Trust building, ArtsWestchester acquired 31 Mamaroneck Avenue in 1998, and since then, has been hard at work restoring and creatively adapting the use of the nine-story cultural treasure into an arts incubator and multi-use arts center, while preserving the landmark building.

To continue the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary building celebration, ArtsWestchester will host "Arts 'Birthday' Bash" on Thursday, May 17 at 6:00 p.m. The event, which will feature food, fun and contemporary art, will offer guests delicious cuisine and cocktails from more than 30 prestigious restaurants, as well as the opportunity to meet well-known artists in their open studios throughout the historic building. A Family ArtsBash event will take place on the following Saturday, where kids can partake in a variety of hands-on art activities and artist-led workshops.

Family ArtsBash also features an opportunity for families to explore the artwork featured in *The ArtsWestchester Triennial* exhibit, which showcases the vanguard of the region's arts community. A snapshot of "what's now" and "what's new" in contemporary visual art throughout the Hudson Valley region, the exhibit runs through July 28. This once-every-three-years art exhibition will become a mainstay of ArtsWestchester's exhibition programming.

For more information, visit [artswestchester.org/artswestchester-2018-triennial](http://artswestchester.org/artswestchester-2018-triennial)

### **About ArtsWestchester**

For more than 50 years ArtsWestchester has been the community's connection to the arts. Founded in 1965 it is the largest private not-for-profit arts council in New York State. Its mission is to provide leadership vision and support to ensure the availability accessibility and diversity of the arts. ArtsWestchester provides programs and services that enrich the lives of everyone in Westchester County. ArtsWestchester helps fund concerts exhibitions and plays through grants; brings artists into schools and community centers; advocates for the arts; and builds audiences

through diverse marketing initiatives. In 1998 ArtsWestchester purchased the nine-story neo-classical bank building at 31 Mamaroneck Avenue which has since been transformed into a multi-use resource for artists, cultural organizations and the community. A two-story gallery is located on the first floor of ArtsWestchester's historic building on Mamaroneck Avenue.

### **About Wane One**

Born in the United Kingdom's West London, Wane is of West Indian descent and lived in England and Grenada until he was 7 years old. In 1978, Wane's parents brought their two sons to the U.S. and moved to New York City's North Bronx. The elevated tracks soon caught Wane's eye and he slowly became obsessed with watching and admiring the many great graffiti writers of the late 70's and early 80's. In 1983, Wane became "Wane One" when he painted his first train. This was the beginning of a lifelong love for graffiti and the culture that surrounded it. Subway cars and train walls were his favorite canvases. He had an unquenchable thirst for painting his pieces onto these metal surfaces, thus transforming them into mobile works of art. Other writers knew his style was significant and a bond was quickly established with many serious subway painters. In 1988, Wane started experimenting and exploring other mediums, such as painting with acrylic on canvas, denim jackets and jeans. He then began airbrushing onto t-shirts, which became popular in his neighborhood and gave Wane his first taste of being an entrepreneur. Wane was also one of the first writers to make the transition into graphic design and has designed logos for hip-hop groups like Gangstarr, Jeru the Damager and Group Home. He later spent 7 years designing for Sean John Menswear and continues to work with other fashion brands on collaborations such as Reebok and Nike. Presently, Wane divides his time between painting, running his company Writers Bench, and traveling around the world.