



MEDIA ADVISORY

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local artist recognized for mural at future downtown development site

(Barrie, ON) The corner of Bayfield Street and Sophia Street will be the future home of affordable housing units, but while this project is being built, the hoarding wall has been a canvas for local artist Leandra Almeida. The City of Barrie in partnership with Coral Housing Group and the Barrie Public Art Committee commissioned Almeida to paint a mural capturing the excitement and vision for the City's growth.

Photo Opportunity: Media are invited to join Leandra Almeida, City staff, representatives from Coral Housing Group and the Barrie Public Art Committee for a photo opportunity on **Wednesday, October 23 at 3 p.m.** at the corner of Bayfield Street and Sophia Street.

"Murals help build a shared sense of community and belonging," said Karen Dubeau, Director of Creative Economy at the City of Barrie. "Our hope is that this art will inspire our community and generate excitement for the future."

The work is the result of the Public Art Committee's support for community-engaged art, with the goal of ensuring that art is accessible to everyone. The opportunity to leverage the temporary construction hoarding to feature a young local artist in the early stages of building her career, is a win-win for her and for the community. "We hope that other developers might consider similar programs as new construction begins", said Dubeau.

"This work is an exploration of the city," said Leandra Almeida, local artist. My piece focuses on the changing state of structures evolving and growing as time goes by. I could not depict this city without making its people the subject matter, because Barrie is more than its buildings and roads—it's what we make it!"

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