

New Artwork Transforms Mundane Elevators into Inviting Entrances to City Facilities

Following the warm reception of William Hernandez's *Bridge of Love* on the elevator doors on the first floor of the Hillsboro Civic Center last year, the City of Hillsboro invited artists to submit concepts for two additional sets of elevators with a goal of making our civic spaces more welcoming to our diverse community. Artists Addie Boswell and Hampton Rodriguez of Portland were each selected to create artwork reflecting our community for the elevator doors at Brookwood Library (Boswell) and the Parking Level of the Hillsboro Civic Center (Rodriguez.)

Addie Boswell at the Brookwood Library

Addie Boswell is an artist and writer specializing in murals and picture books that focus on family, community, and the creative power of children. As a visiting artist at schools, libraries, and community programs around the Northwest, she knows that creativity can empower and improve the lives of every age. According to Boswell, "There is...extraordinariness in ordinary life, and there is always a story to tell. The stories I find myself returning to are about family, shared work, growth, the seasons, and a sense of community or place."

Originally an oil painter and printmaker, she is drawn to the spirit of recycled and street art. Boswell has a strong practical bent that wants creativity to be "useful." She said, "These are the reasons I gravitate to public art and picture books, both of which make art accessible—imperative really—to everyday life. Both forms allow me to meet people of all ages and backgrounds and chase ideas through place and time." Boswell creates the characters in her work by sketching from real life, but with the Brookwood Library closed to regular operations this past year, she worked from photos of past Library visitors and events provided by staff. Her designs included Library patrons of all ages engaging in a variety of activities—playing a game, browsing the stacks, watching a dog (perhaps there for Reading to the Dogs program), listening to music, and, of course, curling up with a good book.

Boswell built a moment of discovery into her designs—and a challenge for library patrons. She visited the library to observe the elevator doors opening and closing and hid a "secret message" in her artwork that can only be seen for a moment when the doors are in motion. There is a different message on each floor, so she hopes you will take time to find them both as you explore the Library.

To see more of Boswell's work or purchase one of her children's books, go to AddieBoswell.com.

"There is...extraordinariness in ordinary life, and there is always a story to tell." — Addie Boswell

Clockwise from top left: Learn to Dream by Addie Boswell, Diversity by Hampton Rodriguez, and Read to Grow by Addie Boswell.

Hampton Rodriguez at the Hillsboro Civic Center

Growing up in the Dominican Republic, Rodriguez was influenced by the intellectual concepts of the contemporary abstract art movement in his country. After exhibiting his work internationally in Spain and Belgium, he moved to Oregon in 2002. According to Rodriguez, the influence of a new place and culture shaped his work. He said, "Since then, I became a different artist."

His work captures the cultural and ethnic diversity of our community, but also the diversity of urban and rural spaces. Rodriguez reflected, "In my recent work, I have been trying to capture the fleeting human expressions of anger and hope, desire and sadness. My work is egalitarian, surrealistic, and filled with people's mystiques. I strongly feel that an artist belongs to the place he lives."

His work, *Diversity*, is a triptych depicting musicians and

community members in a farmers' market setting, purchasing flowers and enjoying a family outing. Rodriguez's use of recycled magazines in the creation of his collages was a good fit for Hillsboro with the City's commitment to sustainability. The triptych will be installed on vinyl wrap on the doors of the three elevators on the parking level of the Civic Center. "Hampton Rodriguez's artwork will create another vibrant, welcoming entrance at the Civic Center for community members and visitors to enjoy," said City Manager Robby Hammond. "As more people are vaccinated and we resume more in-person activities and meetings in and around the Civic Center, each month, thousands of people will get to experience this exceptional work."

To learn more about the work of Rodriguez, visit HamptonRodriguez.com.

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To see the new artwork, visit the Brookwood Library at 2850 NE Brookwood Parkway, Hillsboro, OR 97124 and the Hillsboro Civic Center at 150 E Main Street, Hillsboro, OR 97123. Artwork is scheduled to be installed in June 2021.