

PRESS RELEASE

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December 1, 2022

Ribbon Cutting for Downtown Lockport Murals and Storywalk®

LOCKPORT, IL - The City of Lockport, White Oak Library District, and the Lockport Summer Art Series Committee will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the completion of the Storywalk® and the newly updated Downtown murals.

Together with the City of Lockport, the White Oak Library District has brought a Storywalk® to Central Square located at 222 E. 9th Street. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT, and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson. StoryWalk® is now present in all 50 states and 14 countries.

"We are so excited to bring this Storywalk to Lockport! Activities that get kids reading and also promote family time are hugely important. I am sure our residents will enjoy this for many years to come," said Scott Pointon, Director of White Oak Library District.

The StoryWalk® blends the enjoyment of family-friendly reading with the advantages of being active outdoors. Around Central Square, pages of a children's book are set in holders. As visitors stroll around, they come across page after page, and after a short stroll, they have read an entire story. The White Oak Library aims to replace the book four times per year and will update its website with the title of the book that is currently displayed. The current book on display is *Little Elliot, Fall Friends* by Mike Curato.

"We are thrilled to have the interactive Storywalk as part of our Historic Downtown and our local library. We look forward to families, community members, and visitors enjoying this project for years to come," said Wendy Streit, Chair of the Lockport Summer Arts Committee.

The Summer Art Series is pleased to announce the unveiling of two new murals in the Historic Downtown, sponsored by Bettenhausen Automotive and Homer Tree Service. The Summer Art Series Committee is appreciative of their support of the arts and their assistance in the community's beautification. Mayor Steve Streit, a graduate of the Art Institute of Chicago and owner of Oh! Design Group, designed the murals.

The official ribbon cutting ceremony is set for **December 10, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.** at 222 E. 9th Street (west parking lot). The ribbon cutting is open to the public. Refreshments will be served following the ribbon cutting at Central Square in the Gymnasium located at 222 E. 9th Street.

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