

For Immediate Release

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QUEENS ARTIST MARK SALINAS & LIC PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR “PEDESTRIAN PATTERNS MURAL” ON THOMSON AVENUE BRIDGE

Mural is One of Four New Projects Selected from NYC DOT Open Call

LONG ISLAND CITY, NY – Queens artist Mark Salinas, Founder of 7Train Murals, in connection with the Long Island City Partnership and the NYC Department of Transportation (NYC DOT), today announced plans to bring a mural titled *Pedestrian Patterns Mural* onto the Thomson Avenue Bridge between Skillman Avenue and 44th Drive in Long Island City, Queens. Salinas’ mural is one of four new projects that have been selected through the NYC DOT Community Commissions open call for installations this year. A public unveiling is slated for August 12.

“The mural’s design is inspired by sneaker sole patterns and illustrates our daily commute from bright busy days to peaceful quiet evenings,” said Salinas. “The image begins bold and colorful and then transitions, with the rise and descent of the bridge’s architecture, into a quiet and camouflaged design. It is comprised of 25 colors plus one tinted background color on 33 panels.”

“Thomson Avenue Bridge is a vital connector for thousands of LaGuardia Community College students, local workers and residents,” said Elizabeth Lusskin, President of the LIC Partnership. “We applaud the NYC DOT for making it livelier and more inviting. Mark is a true community member, and we are so excited that he will be working with teams of volunteers from the local community to paint this vibrant mural.”

“The NYC DOT Art Advisory Committee was unanimous in its support of local artist Mark Salinas’ proposal to paint a colorful mural on the bridge walls of the Thomson Avenue Bridge. The Long Island City Partnership’s sponsorship assures that the mural will be looked after,” said Assistant Commissioner of Design + Art + Wayfinding Wendy Feuer. “The mural will surely make the walk across this important pedestrian bridge in Long Island City more inviting.”

With additional support from The Citizens Committee for New York City and other neighboring organizations, including Citi, Re:Sources, Janovic Paint and Decorating Centers, LaGuardia Community College and the International High School, the mural – at 6,000 square ft. – promises to be the largest community-made mural in Queens.

Several individual and group volunteers from the local area will help paint the new mural, marking a true community effort. When complete, the mural will allow the bridge, which is visible to cars, trains, subways and pedestrians, to be a key point of the interest for LIC.

About Mark Salinas

Artist Mark Salinas lives in Queens. 7Train Murals, established in 2013, is a mural organization dedicated to beautifying vacant and vandalized public spaces in neighborhoods along the 7Train in Queens. Murals are professionally made, site-specific designs, enlisting those who live and work in the mural’s vicinity to sponsor and participate in a neighborhood networking clean-up event. All murals are 100% painted and maintained by volunteers. www.7trainmurals.com.

About the Long Island City Partnership (LICP)

Long Island City Partnership's mission is to advocate for economic development that benefits Long Island City's industrial, commercial, cultural, and residential sectors. The goal is to attract new businesses to LIC, retain those already here, welcome new residents and visitors, and promote a vibrant and authentic mixed-use community. The LIC Partnership operates the Long Island City Business Improvement District and the LIC Industrial Business Zone, among other programs. Long Island City, located directly across the East River from Midtown Manhattan, is a vibrant mixed-use community. Home to Fortune 500 companies, world-renowned arts and cultural institutions, prominent film and television studios, a large industrial base, and over 70,000 residents, Long Island City is a diverse and authentic NYC neighborhood in the borough of Queens – America's most diverse county. Learn more at www.licpartnership.org.

About the New York City Department of Transportation's Art Program

Launched in October 2008, the New York City Department of Transportation's Art Program invigorates the City's streetscapes with engaging temporary art installations. The Program partners with community-based organizations and artists to present murals, sculptures, projections, and performances on plazas, fences, barriers, bridges, and sidewalks for up to 11 months. Projects are presented within five program tracks: Arterventions, Barrier Beautification, Community Commissions, Art Display Case, and Site to Site. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/dotart

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