



Contact: Maryann Ustick, City Manager
Office: (505) 863-1220
mustick@gallupnm.gov

Temporary Downtown Mural to be Painted on Coal Avenue to Celebrate Diversity and Commemorate Juneteenth

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GALLUP, NM (June 18, 2020) – The Gallup Mainstreet Arts and Cultural District (GMSACD) is working with members of the community on Friday, June 19th, for a community building initiative in Downtown Gallup in celebration of diversity and to commemorate the history of Juneteenth. Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

Coal Avenue will close at 5:30pm tomorrow (Friday) overnight for the installation of a temporary art exhibit “Disarm Racism”. This will be a block long mural painted on Coal Avenue that reinforces the national sentiments of Black Lives Matter. The mural not only includes the “Disarm Racism” message, but translates that statement into a variety of languages important to our community and its rich cultural diversity.

The mural has been designed by acclaimed Navajo painter Jerry Brown. Jerry and his team will be leading the painting efforts overnight. The street will reopen at 6:00am on Saturday morning. The overnight painting will be captured in photography and video and shared on the Gallup Mainstreet Facebook page (@gallupmainstreet) for you to share with your friends and family.

Both the street mural and the “Bring Your Own Chalk” event are temporary art installations that will remain until the end of the first week of July. The City is excited to announce that the Coal Avenue Commons construction kicks off the second week of July, impacting the block between Second and Third Streets and the walkway. This transformative construction is geared toward creating a unique and beautiful downtown block.

The City supports the community working together to create a mural that represents healing and unifying our community during this time when differences are being highlighted. Gallup is a community for everyone to feel safe and welcome. We appreciate the efforts of the Gallup Mainstreet Arts and Cultural District in pulling together this community building initiative and beautiful sendoff of Coal Avenue.

###