

HUE COLLABORATIVE AND THE PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CENTER MURAL PROJECT SUMMARY

While commissioning the People's Community Center Mural, the predominantly black community identified that there was only one artist of color on the Tacoma Mural Artist Roster. With guidance from local artists and organizers Christopher Paul Jordan and Kenji Stoll, and in collaboration with the City of Tacoma's Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality, two training programs were developed to provide specific opportunities and create a stronger pipeline for artists of color: Hue Collaborative and Eastside Training Cohort. Through these programs, 20 artists of color participated in hands-on training coupled with paid opportunities to create permanent and temporary artworks for the People's and Eastside Community Centers. These artists are now competitive for more commissions within the region.



Image: Artists from the PCC training cohort practice mural techniques.

The *Malcolm X Center Mural* was painted September 2016-June 2017 on the south facing wall of Peoples Community Center, in Tacoma's Hilltop Neighborhood. A cohort of emerging artists of color were directly invited to participate in the project. The artists were assembled from recommendations submitted by the People's Community Center Steering Committee, artists of color on the City of Tacoma's Mural Assistant Artist Roster, and artists Christopher Paul Jordan had been in contact with in his work as a community organizer and youth advocate. The cohort became known as HUE Collaborative, a team of 11 artists of color including Tiffany Hammonds, Byron Deshaun White, Jorge Garcia, Whitney Brady, Matamatanonofu Porter, Saiyare Refaei, Desmond Burnett, Denis Maina, Soroa Lear, and Byron Ellison. Following the training sessions, HUE Collaborative, under the leadership of Christopher Paul Jordan, designed and painted a community-responsive permanent public mural for the

exterior of People's Community Center. The mural design was developed after months of community interviews and research. The artists drew imagery from family photographs from neighbors surrounding the center, as well as photographs of the Hilltop Neighborhood from the Northwest Room Archive at the Tacoma Public Library. All team members were paid an attendance-based stipend of up to \$250 for their participation in the training program, an additional stipend for their design work, and \$20/hour for their time implementing the mural.

These public art projects were part of a capital improvement project at People's Community Center and were managed by the City of Tacoma's Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality, in partnership with Metro Parks Tacoma. The completed mural are part of the City of Tacoma's Municipal Art Collection.

Mural location - South and east side of People's Community Center, S. 17th & Martin Luther King Jr. Way

Before:



After:





Image above: People's Community Center Steering Committee



Image above: Mural dedication, summer 2017



Image above: Panorama photo of finished mural.



Image above: Mural with specific features identified.