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**ARTPALMBEACH LECTURE SERIES CELEBRATES THE MURAL ARTS OF
PHILADELPHIA**

“Mural Arts of Philadelphia: Creative Economic Catalysts” ArtPalmBeach Collector Lecture Series will host a presentation by Caitlin Butler on the history of “Mural Arts” program and How Philadelphia became the ‘City of Murals’, the largest outdoor gallery in the world

Founded in 1984 by artist Jane Golden, Founder & Executive Director as part of the anti-graffiti network which the city enacted to engage people in creating public art in public places in an attempt to redirect energies into constructive in public art places. One of the most successful programs in the US for the last forty years it generated dialogues, empowered communities and began an economic revitalization of city.

The lecture will expand on how Golden reached out to graffiti writers and redirected their expressive energies into constructive, meaningful public art projects. This powerful form of community engagement has, for the last 30 years, provided a powerful tool with which to build relationships, generate dialogue, empower communities, and spark economic revitalization.

Mural Arts Program has expanded to include Art Education; Porch Light, a collaboration with Philadelphia’s Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability; and Restorative Justice, where adjudicated, inmates, and parolees apply art to make positive contributions to the community. An average of 12,000 people take tours the largest outdoor art gallery in the world each year. The city of Philadelphia has earned international recognition as the “City of Murals”.

Mural Art’s mission, “we believe that art ignites change”, has changed lives, connected neighbors, and empowered youth. To perpetuate the mission’s legacy, Golden has co-authored two Murals of Philadelphia books, and co-edited a third one titled, “Mural Arts”.

The local West Palm Beach Canvas Project, the creative vision of gallerist Nicole Henry, Nicole Henry Fine Art, is supported by the West Palm Beach Downtown Development Authority and private enterprise. This growing public art program and

imitative is poised to make West Palm Beach one of the key public art cities in the country, is certain to look to the Philadelphia project as a perfect model and mentor.

IBI Group; a globally integrated architecture, planning, engineering, and technology firm – conducted a public art survey to create a master plan for the West Palm Beach Canvas Public Art Project. The survey concluded the West Palm Beach Canvas Art in Public Places program should beautify the city through timeless, beautiful, and meaningful sculptures, gardens, and murals. Parks, downtown, the waterfront, and entrances to the city should serve as the exhibiting halls for these innovative works of art. The works should inspire creativity, support local artists, instill pride, and attract and entertain locals and tourists.

The murals, reflecting the area's many cultures and lifestyles and strongly demonstrating ethnic visual tradition that includes non-western cultures, are spread out throughout the Palm Beaches presents. The West Palm Beach community fully recognizes that the amazing works of African American, Caribbean, and South American artists enhance pride in the community through public art as a valuable service.

Ms. Butler's presentation is a must-attend for anyone who wishes to learn first-hand the incredible power of art and the creative process to unite, heal, and bring forth progress and economic prosperity to communities. When people from all walks of life embark on a shared mission to inform, educate, and provide opportunities for those less fortunate, it leads to both economic success and elevating creative and cultural experiences of the lives of the community.

Please Visit: <http://nextlevelfairs.com/artpalmbeach/mural-arts-philadelphia/>

For full schedule, additional information, and to purchase tickets please visit www.nextlevelfairs.com/artpalmbeach

Next Level Fairs is the parent company for ArtPalmBeach, Art Boca Raton fair March 15-19, 2017 in the Research Park on the campus of Florida Atlantic University www.nextlevelfairs.com/artbocaraton and Art Concept Miami, December 5-9,2017. Next Level Fairs curates sophisticated, event driven fairs attracting global attendance, supported by an international marketing and branding strategy in coordination with local museums, collectors and galleries. www.nextlevelfairs.com.

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Editor's Note: Hi-res images available upon request.