Presented by Wells Park Neighborhood Association & 516 ARTS in partnership with The City of Albuquerque Public Art & Urban Enhancement Program

The Wells Park Rail Corridor Mural Project is a neighborhood initiative intended to beautify and improve the Rail Runner corridor between Mountain Road and Interstate 40, to support local artists and encourage youth participation in the arts. At present, the rail corridor is the very visible “entrance” and “exit” to Downtown Albuquerque by the Rail Runner’s over 117,000 riders per month and the large national audience of Amtrak trains. The murals enhance both the image of the area and the experience of the rail passengers. The project includes seven separate murals by lead artists or artist teams assisted by apprentices from local youth organizations.

2013 murals feature Native American artists for Place/Displaced, a series about cultural identity

1 Jamison “Chas” Banks
Banks’ mural, titled Inland Empire: A Suspended Animation, references the Louisiana Purchase, the largest land acquisition in the history of the United States and the dreams of imperial power symbolized by Napoleon. Banks says, “Glory, grandeur, occupation, defeat and exile, these are the commonalities of New World domination.”

2 Frank Buffalo Hyde
Buffalo Hyde says his mural, titled Patternation, is, “an investigation of pattern as tradition, pattern as generations and the breaking of patterns where we find hope. Symbols are the vocabulary we communicate with non verbally. I believe we are all hard wired to understand them.”

2012 murals explore the intersection of art, science and technology for ISEA2012

3 David Leigh
This mural, Mirrored Robots, touches on ideas of camouflage, self-recognition and adaptive mimicry as they relate to machines, conveying the understanding that technology infiltrates life to such a degree that it becomes necessary for survival and identity.

4 John McClendon
These bee images, appearing in multiple sites, were created to bring attention to the plight of the honey bee. The growing demand for food, the use of pesticides and other environmental concerns, and the decreasing populations of honey bees create concern for the future of humanity without insects to pollinate our food supply.

5 Larry Bob Phillips
Sister pieces Trance Dance and Dualities, while being primarily hand-made, are conceived in the face of sweeping and inspiring changes wrought by the technological revolution. From sonor to vector graphics, these images use techniques and formalisms that are mathematical in essence.

6 Nanibah Chacon
She Taught Us to Weave reexamines tools of sustenance and communication in a complex age of technology. A low-powered radio transmitter emits the Navajo phrase “Hozho naahaslii” on station 96.9. “Hozho” encompasses the intrinsic value of living beautifully.

7 Nettrice Gaskins & Laurie Marion
Augmented Reality for Open Spaces (AROS) is a mix of mathematics, philosophy, technology and street art. This tech-interactive mural, which examines cosmic themes of life and death, allows passengers on the Rail Runner with mobile devices to download a free browser that, when used to view the mural, reveals augmented reality components, viewable from devices using the Argon AR Web Browser, available online at http://argon.gatech.edu.

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The 2013 murals were created in conjunction with the exhibitions at 516 ARTS, Air, Land, Seed and Octopus Dreams, focusing on contemporary Native American artists. The 2012 murals were created in conjunction with ISEA2012 Albuquerque: Machine Wilderness, the 18th International Symposium on Electronic Art hosted by 516 ARTS.

The Wells Park Rail Corridor Mural Project
View the murals from passenger trains north of Mountain Road and 1st Street on the west side of the tracks, north of Downtown Albuquerque.
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