



City of Placentia Press Release

For Immediate Release

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LARGE-SCALE FREEWAY MURAL COMPLETED IN PLACENTIA AS PART OF THE CALTRANS CLEAN CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE

PLACENTIA, CA – Southern California artist Alejandro Poli Jr., also known as “Man One,” recently completed a large-scale freeway mural in the City of Placentia. This public art project was fully funded by the Caltrans Clean California Initiative – a \$1.1 billion, multi-year, statewide effort led by Caltrans to clean up and beautify roadsides and public spaces. Also, as a part of this initiative, a sculpture by artist Cliff Garten will be installed at the southbound 57 freeway off-ramps at Orangethorpe Avenue.

Man One’s mural was selected by a panel of art experts convened by Arts Orange County, the nonprofit countywide arts council and county-designated local arts agency, to produce murals for the SR-57 underpass at West Crowther Avenue. This underpass serves as a gateway to the City’s Transit Oriented Development/Packinghouse District. Man One’s “Good People Under our Sun and Moon” mural design creates a bold and colorful design that will help drive both foot and car traffic to the neighborhood.

The moon side of the underpass uses the colors pink and purple and features an abstract outline of a woman sleeping and dreaming. The sun side hosts shades of blue with a splash of yellow where a man is crouching and holding up the weight of the world.

Caltrans officials previously contacted the City about the Clean California Initiative to be considered as one of the first California cities to receive funding. They asked if the City was interested in participating in the program, which is committed to road and neighborhood beautification projects throughout the state, hiring more crews, holding clean-up events, and supporting public art pieces.

“The City was excited about the opportunity to add public art to the area to create a significant presence as it’s one of the main entrances to our TOD Packinghouse District, which is a newly renovated neighborhood featuring a mixture of housing, office space, retail, and transit in a walking-friendly community,” said City Administrator Damien R. Arrula. “We are impressed with the work done by Man One and look forward to the additional public art sculptures planned for this fall.”

“These public art projects greatly benefit the City as they will beautify the area, and hopefully, the vibrant colors and eye-catching imagery in the murals will draw more people into Placentia,” said Placentia Mayor Ward Smith. “I am grateful to Caltrans for their partnership with the City and commitment to beautifying our communities. I’m also thankful to Arts Orange County for their thoroughness in picking the best artist and sculptor for these pieces to represent our City.”

“I was honored to have been selected to create these two landmark murals for the City of Placentia. At almost 11,000 sq ft, it is my largest mural commission to date. I hope it brings many years of pride and excitement to the current and future residents of the city,” said artist Man One. “Working with such consummate professionals from the city, county, and state levels was a pleasure. They made this entire process operate smoothly. Finally, I wanted to thank my team of painters and assistants who toughed it out through the cold and the rain and did the back-straining work to get this done on time and on budget.”

The sculpture, by artist Cliff Garten, will be installed at the southbound 57 freeway off-ramps at Orangethorpe Avenue and is expected to begin construction sometime this fall. For more information on the Clean California Initiative, please visit www.dot.ca.gov/D12CleanCA.

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