
ANNA BONFILI

August 14, 2015

Dear Carondelet Community Betterment Federation,

I learned of Carondelet's Murals on Broadway project through a very dear friend. To me, it represents the nature of the St. Louis spirit; a tight community of caring people who sincerely want to see the community thrive. St. Louis is a very special place to me. As a child growing up out west, my mother would venture across the country each summer with me and my two siblings to return to her hometown and large boisterous family. We would spend that time pouring over the city's vast and ongoing series of seemingly endless free activities. We would haggle at the Souldard farmers market, relish Gus's overly salted pretzels, spend evenings at the Muny, and wander through every art exhibit we could find.

Now I've grown up. I have traveled throughout the world, lived in and outside of St. Louis, and in the process have experienced many incredible places that make me proud in some ways and ashamed in others of St. Louis. Last year I returned to St. Louis, having decided to make this my permanent home. This past year for our community has been trying. Many problems our city has have been exposed to the world and much pain has been felt by all who live here. With the turmoil have come many opportunities for growth, and I feel that, overall, as a community we are responding to them in positive and uplifting ways.

During the protests of October 2014 many of the windows in the South Grand business district were smashed. The aftermath of the destruction evolved into an art-rehab project to uplift the community, with St. Louis artists' invited to create murals over the the boarded up windows along Grand until they could be replaced. My involvement in this project solidified within me a sense of activism to truly contribute within my community and try where possible to make St. Louis a better place for all our residence. Creating art is the skill I have to offer towards this aim, and my desire is that my life's work reflect my desire to use this skill to help people as I am able.

Contributing as an artist to the Murals on Broadway Project would be an great honor and a wonderful opportunity for me to use my skills and to serve within my community. I will pursue this project with the intense passion and creativity that it deserves.

Sincerely yours,

Anna Bonfili