

FAF Artists Beautify Detroit

Farmington Art Foundation (FAF) artists – Jan Corrigan, Cathy Szumlinski, Lisa Barrette, Ann Carlson and Ann Cleary – celebrated the installation of their large, 8 ft x 8 ft, mural painting installation (titled “The D Tree”) on Grand River Avenue in Detroit along The Grand River Creative Corridor (GRCC) on Saturday, November 23.

About 50 friends, relatives and guests joined them at the GRCC Gallery for cider and donuts and munchies in the beautifully decorated gallery. Jan Hall, FAF president, presented Mike Corrigan with a certificate of recognition and thanked him for lending his company’s warehouse for the artists to create their painting and also for hauling the heavy, big boards to the warehouse and returning them to the GRCC when finished. Marv Szumlinski joined Mike in hauling tables, chairs and decorations for the Gallery event. It couldn’t have been done without the helpful “muscle” work of these guys!

Linda Shewbridge secured the Farmington Press & Guide photographer and reporter to take photos and talk with the artists about the mural.

Derek Weaver, the principal and managing director of 4731 Group, spoke to the guests about the GRCC and his passion for fixing up a small part of Detroit with art from artists all over the world. Derek thanked the FAF artists for taking on such a big project that helped with his mission.

Some brave guests endured the cold weather and walked over to the outside art park on Grand River to view “The D Tree” in all it’s glory.

Cathy Szumlinski made a large copy of the painting on canvas and placed it on a pedestal for guests to view. Many preferred viewing the copy inside the warm Gallery, with a hot cup of coffee in hand. Cathy also presented each artist with a print copy of the painting.

Unfortunately, the artist exhibit that had been planned for the gallery, on November 23, cancelled, so Derek asked FAF artists to hang their work on the bare Gallery walls. What a great opportunity and the guests appreciated the art exhibit, too.

Derek Weaver plans to write a follow up article for Crain’s Detroit Business weekly in the near future. So check the publication.

This was a wonderful opportunity presented to FAF artists to create a large painting to help beautify a small part of Detroit. Publicity received from the painting and the celebration event will benefit the FAF by drawing attention to the opportunities FAF members receive and hopefully motivate other artists to join the organization, increasing membership.

Written by Ann Cleary