



## Media Alert

**Wednesday, June 2, 2021**

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**The Glass City River Wall — A Community Arts Project — Officially Kicks Off**

*Painting to Begin First Week of June*

**What:** The Glass City River Wall officially kicks off this week, as the base coat of paint will start being applied to the ADM grain facility, spanning 170,000 feet across 28 silos. When the mural is completed, it will be the largest mural in the country.

**Who:** The artist, Gabe Gault, will bring the design and vision to life in partnership with lead painter and crew chief, Zak Warmann, owner of Detroit Sign Painters, and his seven-person team. Four members of the team are local Toledo artists, including Chris Rodriguez, Dean Davis, Yusuf Lateef and Connor Degnan. Ohio artist, Eric Henn, renowned for his work on large-scale murals and conical surfaces, will be joining as a consultant on the project in July.

**Where:** The facility, which ADM has agreed to offer as a canvas for the purpose of this community-focused initiative, is visible from Interstate 75, the Maumee River and Toledo's downtown. The Ohio Department of Transportation estimates that, on average, 82,365 vehicles pass the site daily. The site of the ADM silos on the Maumee River was first recognized for its value by the Native Americans and The Maumee continues to be one of the driving forces of Toledo's economic prosperity.

**When:** The painting begins this week with an anticipated completion date of August 2021, in advance of the 2021 Solheim Cup.

**The Approved Composition:** Gabe Gault's composition was recently approved by ADM and The Toledo Arts Commission. However, the approved composition should be considered a blueprint for what will ultimately be the final mural artwork. It will share the same composition and color palette but may not have the specific details or exact placement since the mural is being executed on a non-flat surface.

The intention of the design is to offer a glimpse of an origin story, which honors the first farmers and economic developers of the region, and to provide an inspirational image for the present and future of Toledo.

Symbolically, the mural's images convey a message of hope and prosperity, which speaks to ADM's philanthropic nature and, more importantly, delivers a bright and positive message to our city.

The sunflower, a dominant theme, is a powerful symbol representing good fortune, faith and adoration (the sunflower follows the sun). The sunflowers feature a mix of flower heads, both large-faced varieties and the wild Sunchoke variety, which were harvested by the Miami tribe and currently grow wild alongside the silos.

Mr. Gault is best known as an artist for his portrait work. The three largest silos will each feature a portrait. Together, they will form a triptych. All three subjects are of native American descent, as the first farmers of this region were, in fact, women and children of the native American tribes. It is also meant to represent the past, present and future through the depiction of a mother, child and grandmother.

**Educational Program:** A collaboration with educational professionals and local organizations is underway to create an inclusive educational curriculum for Toledo students. It will create an opportunity for students to be a part of this monumental project that aims to enhance quality of life and economic development for all Toledoans.

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