



Press Release

Date: Aug 26, 2021

## Outdoor Mural Festival D.C. Walls To Add New Life to NoMa Sept 8-18, 2021

*Formerly POW! WOW!, the Popular International Mural Festival Returns Under a New Banner*

(Washington, D.C.) Returning to DC's NoMa neighborhood for the sixth consecutive year, the international mural festival formerly known as POW! WOW! will convene 17 local, national and international artists for a 10-day live installation and celebration under its new name, D.C. Walls. The 10-day outdoor festival takes place September 8 - 18 throughout NoMa.

"We're thrilled to be back live in NoMa again this year to deliver the same amazing caliber of work under our new name, D.C. Walls," says D.C. Walls Founder, Curator and Director Kelly Towles. "While our former name was inspired by colorful, action-packed comics as well as a reference to celebratory gatherings in the festival's native Hawai'i, out of that context the name contributed to some confusion and concern over issues of appropriation. So we've updated our name to D.C. Walls to more accurately reflect our values and keep the focus on the amazing artists who work hard to beautify our nation's capital city."

"There's a reason NoMa has earned the reputation as the 'mural capital of DC,' and that reason is Kelly Towles and his successful live mural festival," says Maura Brophy, President & CEO of the NoMa Business Improvement District. "Kelly and the fellow artists he recruits have delivered more than 80 original works of art to NoMa since the festival first launched in 2016. We encourage everyone to come to NoMa to watch this year's artists as they work, and discover fresh murals along with existing creations that enliven our streets, walls and buildings."

D.C. Walls 2021 featured artists are a combination of returning veterans, and new creatives:

Clarence James - PVMT84, @pvmt84

Cris Zuniga, @cris.zng

Immanuel Ahiabile, @immanuelahiabile

Red Swan, @redswanwalls

Sarah Jane Jamison, @sarahjanejamison

Jeremiah Edwards, @Jeremiahsketchbook

Kimchi Juice, @Kimchi.juice

Kelly Towles, @kellytowles

Katherine Campagna, @nokittenheels

Laurel YS, @squid.licker

Hoxxoh, @hoxxoh

Jack Soren, @jacksoren

Blake Jones, @Blake\_Jones

Meaghan Toohey, @meaghantooheystudio

Baghead, @baghead

Muro One, @MurOne

Ledania, @LEDANIA



New, original works by these talented artists will splash across walls in the NoMa neighborhood in Washington, D.C., and join the 80+ produced by the festival over the years. Each year, NoMa property owners agree to allow their walls to be commandeered for the festival, giving over creative control to the artists. The ephemeral and collaborative nature of the process, and the freedom of the artists to work beyond the dictates and constraints of commissioned work, add a special dimension to D.C. Walls. In some instances, walls have been used more than once, and participating artists understand that the murals they create might stay up for years or only a few months, as sites can include buildings that will be demolished. The 900 feet of WMATA wall next to the Metropolitan Branch Trail north of New York Avenue NE is covered with fresh murals each year, a result of the festival's partnership with the transportation agency as part of WMATA's Art in Transit program.

More information about this year's festival, artists, and events may be found at [www.dc-walls.com](http://www.dc-walls.com). D.C. Walls 2021 is presented in partnership with the NoMa Business Improvement District and sponsored by Foulger-Pratt, JBG Smith, WMATA and Hilton Garden Inn/U.S. Capitol. Video available [here](#).

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