



For Immediate Release
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The Boardman Arts Park: Project Freedom

The Boardman Arts Park, Where Community and Creativity Meet

The Boardman Arts Park invites the community at large to participate in a unique art installation THIS SUNDAY, June 27th, 2021 from 10:00 AM -2:00 PM.

Created on a repurposed trampoline and positioned in the heart of Delaware at the Boardman Arts Park, *Project Freedom* will be a colorful and meaningful piece to attract, educate, comfort and inspire the community at large. From afar, onlookers will see a mosaic butterfly created with a multitude of bright and neutral colors. Close up, it will become evident that tucked within this image are two fists breaking free from the chains which bind them. The neutral colors representing many different skin tones are to represent that people of every ethnicity deserve freedom and should not be property of another.

Miranda Lytle, Boardman Arts Park board member, envisioned this collaborative community effort, and Ohio artist Brooke Ripley was commissioned to bring her vision to life. Says Lytle: "Through my work with anti-trafficking efforts I have come to understand that human trafficking, sex trafficking and subjugation affects people of all ages, races, genders, ethnicities, and affluence. Enslavement isn't just a crime of the past. It continues today; in different forms and in many communities - even our own. The butterfly has often been a symbol of freedom and beauty, people are drawn to its colors. Those who are enslaved yearn for the beauty of freedom. Brooke captured my vision of how two wrists, linked by shackles that are breaking away, abstractly resembles a butterfly."

Brooke Ripley is a recent graduate of the Columbus College of Art and Design whose public work centers on the intersection of social change and art. Her gallery work encompasses theories of consciousness and the impact of memory on perception. She is an advocate for sustainability and a current MFA candidate at Ohio University.

Project Freedom, sponsored by the Ohio Arts Council will be painted and erected by volunteers from within the community. Anyone can drop-by the park on Sunday, June 27th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM to paint a portion of the artwork and take part in this collaborative project. No artistic skills are needed, and supplies will be provided. The event is free.

The Boardman Arts Park is located at 154 W William St, Delaware, OH 43015.