



THE ROGERS FOUNDATION REVEALS WALL OF UNDERSTANDING MURAL

Large-scale artwork on The Rogers Foundation building designed to promote and encourage empathy, acceptance, and kindness

LAS VEGAS, NV – In an ongoing effort to help alleviate fears and uncertainty among students and families in Southern Nevada created by the new President’s potential threats to civil rights, The Rogers Foundation reveals a large-scale mural designed to encourage forward-looking understanding and acceptance.

Encompassing the entire west-facing wall of The Rogers Foundation building on 9th Street in downtown Las Vegas, the Wall of Understanding, created by Core Academy Artist-In-Residence Michael Dodson, is a boldly-colorful, visual work of art for the community.

“Our Core Academy student scholars are scared, as are many students and families throughout the community,” said Beverly Rogers, Chairman of the Board of The Rogers Foundation. “Our ongoing mission is to transform lives through education and arts. Given that our programs support some of Southern Nevada’s most vulnerable students, making a bold statement in support of them is of paramount importance.”

Rogers continued, “We have also boldly asked that all K-12 and post-secondary education campuses in Southern Nevada to publicly declare that their campuses will be sanctuaries and safe spaces. The request is bold, this mural is bold and we are proudly all about being bold.”

Central to the acrylic-gloss, spray paint piece is a melding of the brain and heart, surrounded by red roses in bloom. Green dendrites further punctuate the purple background of the visually-compelling piece. Titled “Conscious Gateway,” the freehand mural took Dodson about three weeks to complete and is the largest painting he has created to date.

“I really wanted to create something positive and calming to combat some of the negative and anxious feelings that I, along with the students, were experiencing,” explained Dodson. “I have always been fascinated with the brain and when you think about what The Rogers Foundation and what Core Academy each do, it seemed natural to combine the brain and heart – sort of visually representing education, logic and reason as well as nurturing, compassion and growth.”

The Las Vegas native chose colors that make him feel good in hopes that those who see the work of art also feel a calming, positive vibe.

The mural is publicly visible and can be viewed best from 9th Street and Garces Avenue. It will remain on display indefinitely.

About The Rogers Foundation

The Rogers Foundation is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization based in Las Vegas, Nevada. Founded in 2013 by James E. and Beverly Rogers, The Rogers Foundation awards scholarships to individual students in Southern Nevada and grants to educational institutions, artists and organizations that support the arts in Southern Nevada. The Rogers Foundation also powers two local organizations: Core Academy and Educate Nevada Now. For more information, follow on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, or visit www.therogers.foundation.