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**MY HOMECOURT 2020 DESIGNED BY ARTIST ANDREA BERGART;
NEW OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURT AT
CRANSTON STREET PARK OPENS SEPTEMBER 17TH
PUBLIC LAUNCH EVENT WITH MAYOR ELORZA:
9/17, 4:00 – 6PM**



Images: The nearly completed My HomeCourt 2020 by Andrea Bergart at newly constructed court next to Cranston Street Park.

Photo Credit: Off the Ground Drone Services, August 21, 2020.

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PROVIDENCE, RI—

At a public launch, non-profit My HomeCourt [MHC] and Providence College Galleries [PC-G], in collaboration with Providence Parks, will unveil a newly constructed outdoor public basketball court at Cranston Street Park on the city's West side. The basketball court will feature a court mural by renowned artist Andrea Bergart.

In early 2019, MHC, Providence Parks, Providence Housing Authority, City Councilor Mary Kay Harris, and Armory Management Company (on behalf of Pearl Street Lofts) agreed to build a basketball court from the ground up to match a recently refurbished playground at the Cranston Street Park. Building on its success refurbishing outdoor courts at two other Providence Parks locations, MHC worked with various local vendors and partners to construct the new court.

"This project is a beautiful example of the ways we are equitably and creatively investing in our community spaces," said Mayor Jorge O. Elorza. "The creation of this new basketball court is one of over 80 projects that will be completed thanks to the dedication of our Providence Parks Department. I would also like to thank Providence College Galleries and My HomeCourt for another successful collaboration and recognize Andrea Bergart for breathing new life into this space for our entire community to enjoy."

PC-G commissioned Bergart to create the large-scale court mural artwork. Kate McNamara, who works as both curator-at-large for PC-G and executive director of MHC, curated the artwork with technical assistance provided by PC-G design and communications associate Elizabeth Corkery.

McNamara explains that she "invited Bergart to design the artwork for this year's My Homecourt project because the artist has for years brought basketball and cutting-edge art together."

In addition to referencing various sources like non-Western textiles and urban fashion, Bergart's past artworks, ranging from hand-painted textiles to painted cement trucks, prominently feature basketball culture and imagery. She has also found inspiration from her involvement in the Downtown Girls Basketball league and fashion community—the artist's line of handbags crafted from basketballs and solar-prints celebrate visual traditions of the WNBA and NBA.

"I think this project [fit] me perfectly, because basketball and art are two of my passions, and I want to combine elements of each into a visceral experience," Bergart says. "In the past, I have brought aspects of basketball into my artwork, and now I can bring my artwork to the court. I also love bringing art experiences to unexpected places."

As she developed the court mural design over several months, Bergart remained true to her overall body of artwork. She used "the female form and abstract painting language" to communicate the experience of what both artists and athletes call "being in the flow." Combining this with inspiration drawn from communities surrounding Cranston Street Park, Bergart's mural design expresses the multi-faceted cultures and styles of the folks who use the court as well as the unique message of the commissioned artist.

LAUNCH EVENT

Attendance will be limited to 125 people. Please register for this event at: <http://bit.ly/mhc-2020>

- > Face coverings will be required at all times.
- > Hand sanitizer and contact tracing will be provided.

For in-progress photos of the mural design development and court construction, email info@myhomecourt.org or check out My HomeCourt on Instagram: [@my_homecourt](https://www.instagram.com/my_homecourt) and [@pcgalleries](https://www.instagram.com/pcgalleries).

ABOUT ANDREA BERGART

Andrea Bergart exhibits internationally and is the recipient of numerous awards, including a Fulbright Fellowship in Ghana, where she researched the bead and textile industries, and has participated in artist residency programs in Senegal and Kenya. Most recently, she received a US embassy grant to travel to the United Arab Emirates.

Read more about the artist at myhomecourt.org.

ABOUT PROVIDENCE COLLEGE GALLERIES

Providence College Galleries [PC-G] is the only visual art institution in the state of Rhode Island committed entirely to presenting the art and artists of our time. With its international collection of contemporary art, dynamic exhibitions, and multidisciplinary academic and public programs, PC-G showcases contemporary art to affirm and advance aesthetic appreciation, freedom of expression, global diversity, and creative community as hallmarks of a liberal arts education. PC-G is free and open to the public.

For more information about PC-G, visit pcgalleries.providence.edu.

ABOUT MY HOMECOURT

My HomeCourt [MHC] is a non-profit organization with the mission to foster community engagement through the revitalization of basketball courts and city parks facilitated by cutting-edge contemporary art. In collaboration with Providence College Galleries, Providence Parks, and various local and international partners, MHC invites internationally-recognized contemporary artists to transform tired courts and turn blank surfaces into colorful, living works of art. MHC came from the idea that we all have our own homecourt; it is the place to play ball, build friendships, find safety and refuge from the chaos beyond the park fences. We believe that revitalizing basketball courts empowers the very people who utilize them. The renewed courts become public artworks that inspire the community, neighborhood, and city alike.

For more information about MHC, visit myhomecourt.org.

ORGANIZERS & SUPPORTERS

With support from Providence Parks, MHC manages the My HomeCourt projects every year. J.H. Lynch and Sons, Scotts Corporation, and JG Coffey Company produced this year's court site. PC-G commissions, curates, and oversees the production of the artwork each year. Providence Painted Signs painted the court mural. Nova Sports USA custom-tinted the paint. Photography provided by Off the Ground Drone Services and Kevin Reilly.

Lead funding and organizational support provided by MHC, PC-G, Providence Parks, Providence City Councilor Mary Kay Harris, Armory Management Company, and an appropriation from the City of Providence. Additional support provided by M&T Bank Charitable Foundation, Centreville Bank, The Revolver Fund, The Flanagan Family Fund, The Desert of Maine Fund, Friends of Friar Basketball, and Pete & Theresa Peterson. Promotional media sponsorship provided by Concentric Health Experience. This project was also selected for a grant from RISCA.

Are you or your organization interested in sponsoring My HomeCourt now or in the future? Please get in touch!