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## Sturgeon Mural / Belfast Harbor Walk

**Passagassawakeag:** from the Eastern Abenaki " Spearing sturgeon by torchlight " The place name for Belfast was spoken by the Wabanaki for thousands of years prior to European colonization in Maine.

Swanville artist David Hurley plans to paint a 34 foot mural with a giant sturgeon and two smaller ones surrounded by water and shafts of light on a building 100 feet from the Harbor Walk in Belfast. LED lights installed under the deck will illuminate the mural each evening with green blue, and purple colors. A display panel along the harbor walk will include scientific as well as cultural information about this amazing prehistoric fish that can still be found in Maine rivers. Sturgeon are over 200 million years old and survived 2 mass extinctions and can live to be 150 years old. The Wabanaki would fish for sturgeon when they came to the area now known as Belfast. The mural will be painted on panels which will then be attached to the wall.

David Hurley is a well known local artist and muralist. Waterfall Arts is the fiscal sponsor for the project so that any donations are tax deductible as they are a 501(3) (C) non profit organization. Hurley's proposal has the support of Our Town Belfast , the Chamber of Commerce ,and Parks and Recreation of Belfast. The building where the mural will be installed is in a prominent location that will be seen by visitors and residents walking along the harbor. The display panel will also include the names of local businesses that have supported the mural project. The mural will create a lot of interest and curiosity about these amazing creatures and will also include a link to Wabanaki history so that people can discover more about the heritage of the native people who have lived in Maine for thousands of years.

Hurley is raising all the funds for the project by enlisting community support from local businesses and citizens. Paul Naron , the building owner is covering the cost of LED lights and installation. The total cost of the project is 10,000 dollars and will include a presentation by James Francis, the cultural historian for the Penobscot Nation. This will be the largest piece of Public art on the Belfast waterfront and will be seen by thousands of people each year who are enjoying walking along the harbor. It will generate publicity in newspapers as well as broadcast media coverage. Hurley is planning a night time unveiling of the mural in July of 2023.

Hurley asking for your support for this exciting mural proposal that will be enjoyed for many years to come. Any support will be greatly appreciated and make it possible for the mural project to move forward. If you have any questions please email or call.

Thank you,

David Hurley