

## Hartford Paints Mural for Asylum Hill

After a great deal of struggle and way more red tape than any one imagined, Asylum Hill will soon become the 10<sup>th</sup> Neighborhood in Hartford to have a mural from the Hartford Paint The City program that was one of the Hartford Decides 2015 -16 winners.

The requirement that the mural be on Public Property was challenging, and took some time to determine. While Hartford High School was the original site selected, the details were never really agreed upon.

Meanwhile the Artist selection began, and in the end 5 artists were approved to offer their ideas for the mural. In the end, Georges Annan Kingsley's creation received the most votes and was selected in November of 2017. Work was postponed until the spring, and was actually scheduled for March of this year when it became apparent that the final location had not been agreed upon.



In the end, it became evident that Hartford Public High School was not in a position to move forward with the project and so an alternate site needed to be found. Very soon after, a great location at the newly renovated West Middle Community School was identified and in a matter of days it was approved by Principal Lynn Estey.

After hearing Georges' explanation of all of the elements in the design and their connection to Asylum Hill and Hartford, Lynn asked one favor "when it's all done would you be willing to come to the school and tell the students and their parents what you just told me?" Georges happily agreed.

It's also quite fitting that this mural should be across the street from the 2016 mural painted on the rear of The 224 EcoSpace. It was designed by Tao LaBossiere, also an Asylum Hill resident, and was sponsored by the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence. The 6<sup>th</sup> Principle of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "Nonviolence believes that the universe is on the side of justice" was the inspiration for it.

Together they will give people an extra reason to go down Niles Street and one more thing for us to be proud of.

As soon as the date for the painting is decided, we'll post it on [Asylumhill.org](http://Asylumhill.org) and also the Facebook page Asylum Hill Living