

Asylum Hill Then & Now



The above image is a portion of what you see if you look up “224 Farmington Ave” on Google maps. It was taken just over a year ago, which makes what you see below all the more dramatic. The mural that now covers the entire front of the 224 EcoSpace building is the work of Tao LaBossiere, artist, muralist and resident of ArtSpace in Asylum Hill. Tao and his wife and partner Amy worked with Rev. Shelly Best, to make this vibrant community space more present to the thousands of vehicles that go by each Day. Because it is set back from the street more than 100 yards, with parking for the neighboring apartment building in front, it is challenging to get noticed. Together they brainstormed a plan. Amy thought of the quote attributed to Gandhi, “Be the change you want to see in the world” that fit well with the mission of The 224 EcoSpace. The idea of changing “be” to “Bee” came rather quickly as did the association of a hive of activity as an apt metaphor. Then Tao began to visualize the color possibilities of the purple flowers combined with the golden hues of honey and the honeycomb. Creating the bees out of metal came as a solution to the texture of the wall with the horizontal grooves 2 inches deep. The bees needed to be flat. Putting them on metal and mounting them at varying distances proud of the building allowed for shadows and added sculpture to the mural. This is truly something for us to be Thankful for.

