



New Community Mural Honors the Hands That Feed Our Region

A new public mural is transforming the exterior of the AWARE Food Bank into a vibrant tribute to the people who help feed our communities.

Spanning 18 feet high and 64 feet wide, the mural celebrates the vital role farm workers play in growing and harvesting the fresh foods that nourish families across the region and beyond. More than a work of art, the mural is a powerful statement of community pride, dignity, and gratitude for the agricultural workers whose dedication sustains one of the region's most important industries. As a community with deep agricultural roots, Woodburn recognizes the lasting contributions of farm worker families and the essential role they play in shaping the community's identity, economy, and way of life.

The mural is being created by artist Li Tie, a Chinese American artist who has called Southwest Portland home for more than 22 years. Tie's artistic journey began while he was an art student working as a mural project assistant. Since then, he has become widely known for his ability to create striking lifelike paintings that capture the unique spirit and personality of his subjects.

According to Tie, his artwork is "about people and for the people." Throughout his career, he has dedicated himself to mastering the skills needed to create realistic portraits that reflect the cultural backgrounds, experiences, and ways of life of the individuals he paints. His own journey



has fostered a deep interest in immigrant histories, diverse cultures, and the natural world—interests that are reflected in his work.

As the mural takes shape, it will become more than a landmark. It will serve as a lasting reminder of the hardworking individuals and families who have helped build Woodburn's rich agricultural heritage and continue to play an essential role in our community today.

**The mural is funded in part by the City of Woodburn's Public Art and Mural Committee.*

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