

ELGIN
HISTORY
MUSEUM

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'Making Space' Announces Project Partners

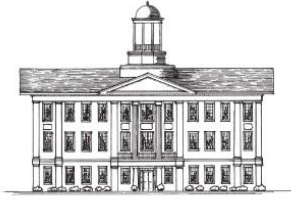
Elgin, IL- The Elgin Social Justice Collective announces Dr. Rise Jones of Elgin as facilitator for the project. The documentary team will be led by Nicholas Richard-Thompson as creative director working with Digital Alliance Productions in Aurora.

“Making Space: a mural and documentary project” was announced in late 2020 under the leadership of the Elgin Social Justice Collective. Now, after having received sponsorships from the Elgin Cultural Arts Commission, the Elgin Human Relations Commission, Side Street Studio Arts, and the Downtown Neighborhood Association as well as a grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health in partnership with The Chicago Community Trust, the project is ready to move forward thanks to the assistance of fiscal sponsor and partner, the Elgin History Museum.

The project has 4 components: a permanent mural based on the board-ups that adorned the downtown during the summer of 2020, a documentary about the historic summer of 2020 and the project itself, a new scholarship program, and a Juneteenth partnership. In addition to overseeing these 4 components, the Elgin Social Justice Initiative is building space for community conversations about race, the arts, community leadership, and activism. The goal is to engage established and emerging artists, community organizers, and service partners in reflective dialogue that both fosters expression and encourages action across generation and experience.

In addition to the Making Space community conversations, a DIY component will be made available to encourage community members to hold their own “Making Space” conversations. These conversations will be led by the project’s Facilitator, Dr. Rise’ Jones of Elgin. **“I am excited about the opportunity to co-create and share spaces for community members to not only reflect but also to consider important ways that they can contribute their voices and gifts, individually and collectively, in continuing to build an art-fully, beautiful Elgin,”** said Dr. Jones.

The project’s documentary will be led by creative director, Nicholas Richard-Thompson, Communications Coordinator for the City of Aurora. When speaking about his intention for this project, Nicholas noted, **“I believe the city of Elgin is creating something significant here by documenting a historic moment and allowing a space for community to be built. As an organizer and filmmaker, I joined this project because these are the stories I desire to tell. A community in action, capturing the movements that shape us and the issues that plague us. Storytelling is an indispensable tool in the enduring fight for just and equitable communities -- and the world. Art and storytelling have always been liberatory practices**



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and disciplines, and I strive to carry that tradition in all of my work. I intend to observe, capture, and weave together a candid, vulnerable, and captivating story.”

Kenneth Stevenson and Andrew Bennett with their production house, Digital Alliance will serve as Executive Producers along with the Elgin Social Justice Collective. **“The efforts by the Elgin community to create these murals resonated with us. We had been researching over the summer and had discussed with the director-- Nick Thompson-- ways in which we might bring attention to the protests during the spring/summer of 2020. We are glad he told us about this artistic phenomenon. It felt like an inviting moment for us to come forward and show our love for our Black brothers and sisters,”** said Kenneth Stevenson & Andrew Bennett, Executive Producers of the documentary.

The documentary filming will begin soon with select interviews and site visits. The public is invited to submit any photos or videos of the protests that took place in Elgin during the summer of 2020 for possible inclusion in the documentary. To submit your content, please visit: <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/cY9eb8SU7b>.

The Elgin Social Justice Collective, a group of community volunteers, that came together to identify and develop a project that would address questions that arose during protests of this past summer.

Keep up to date and find out how you can support the project by liking and following us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/ElginMakingSpace](https://www.facebook.com/ElginMakingSpace) or checking the webpage (<https://elginhistory.org/making-space/>) for updates. For more information about the project as well as sponsorship information, contact Amanda Harris at makingspace@elginhistory.org.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

Elgin History Museum is located at 360 Park Street in Elgin's historic Gifford Park Neighborhood. The museum is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 am until 4 pm. Visitors can explore local Elgin history through two floors of interactive exhibits, including topics like the Elgin National Watch Company, Elgin Road Races, and Elgin manufacturing.

Website: <https://elginhistory.org/museum-moments/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqFtxziwfnBD0i0sZEj2KNQ>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ElginILHistoryMuseum>