



## NEWS RELEASE

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## Wheat Ridge Cultural Commission and Localworks Launch Chalk Art Program

**WHEAT RIDGE, Colo., May 29, 2020** -- The City of Wheat Ridge Cultural Commission and Localworks are collaborating on a community chalk art program beginning with the first installation that will welcome children and families to the City's summer childcare program, Sun Camp, on Monday, June 1, 2020, at the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center.

Chalk Artist Olivia McLeod will create the first chalk art installation Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31, 2020. McLeod will create a 12x12' space that resembles a fanciful forest that the children can 'enter' by lying down and having their photo taken. During the camp sessions, the children will expand the artwork by adding their own creations to the design. McLeod will also create unique social distancing markers for the campers and their parents as they wait to be checked in Monday morning.

"The funds for the project and art supplies for the campers to use during the summer (\$1,000), were provided by a generous corporate donor through a grant from the Wheat Ridge Foundation," stated Cultural Commission member Gay Porter DeNileon. "We are very excited to extend the program through the summer with additional funds from the grant which will allow the Cultural Commission to hire professional chalk artists to create works throughout the city. This program will be coordinated with Chalk the Town, Localworks' community pop-up [chalk art program](#)."

Localworks will host Chalk of the Town during the week of June 14, the week of July 12 and the week of August 9, 2020. Staff of Localworks, volunteers and Wheat Ridge businesses will create unique sidewalk chalk art in front of businesses during June, July and August. Businesses and volunteers can sign up and choose which month they'd like to participate by completing the online form <https://wearelocalworks.org/chalk-of-the-town/>. Volunteers will be provided with the chalk, tape, and a few easy templates. They can use one of the templates or create their own family-friendly design. Each month, Localworks will release a map marking the locations of the chalk art.

"Art is a way to bring our community together, especially after such a challenging few months of being isolated from one another," stated Kate Cooke, executive director of Localworks. "These projects are intended to be a fun, interactive way to make art accessible and fun."

### About The City of Wheat Ridge

The City of Wheat Ridge, located west of Denver with a population of 31,000 residents, is home to a mix of retail/commercial businesses and unique residential neighborhoods. Wheat Ridge is a vibrant community in a prime location, providing easy access to the Denver metro area and to recreation west into the mountains. The City was recently ranked Top Smallest City by the Economic Development Council of Colorado. Info about Wheat Ridge [ci.wheatridge.co.us](http://ci.wheatridge.co.us)

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