

NEWS RELEASE

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Mural Bridges Police-Youth Relationships

A mural strengthen relationships between high school students and police is now on display at Portland International Airport.

Students from two high schools in Vancouver, Washington today joined Muralist Rodolfo Serna and Port of Portland Police for the dedication of the mural they created together. Participants were MEChA club students from Fort Vancouver High School, and Adelante students from Hudson's Bay High School.

Called, "The Protectors," the student-inspired mural helped police connect with youth in a creative way while also showcasing student art. The project introduced students and law enforcement officers, and also let students learn about careers at the Port of Portland. students in other communities in future projects.



“This project was a great opportunity for our officers to build relationships with youth in our community, and to show these students that we are invested in their future success,” said Lt. Scott Creager, who led the project for Port Police. “The mural is a great daily reminder to our officers that these young people see them as protectors and leaders.”

The mural illustrates a history of protectors including a Native American figure; Harriet Tubman, a leader of the Underground Railroad; Paul Cephas Howell, the first African American police detective in Utah; and Lola Greene Baldwin, the first female police officer in Oregon. The figures are placed in a natural landscape that transitions into a cityscape with depictions of modern-day police. The mural was inspired in part by a project last year involving students from Fort Vancouver High School and Vancouver Police Department. Port Police hope to also involve students in other communities in future projects.

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