

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, JUNE 20, 2019

*Congratulating Award-Winning Artist Muhammad Zaman
On his Mural at the People's Park*

WHEREAS, Muhammad Zaman is an artist, born in Bangladesh, but a resident of Buffalo, and one of the many members of our great community who emigrated to our City and who have helped lead our renaissance and made Buffalo such a dynamic place to live, work and play; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Zaman immigrated to the United States at the age of 11 in 2003 and became a citizen in 2010; and

WHEREAS, as a young man, Mr. Zaman became fascinated by languages, lettering and calligraphy of different parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, he became influenced by the artist Elseed whose art displayed unity; and

WHEREAS, having a vast interest in calligraphy, then paintings, Mr. Zaman began painting and his art started to come together through an organic accumulation of thought fragments in the three languages that inform his identity: English, the language of his adopted home; Bengali, the language of his homeland; and Arabic, the language of his religion; and

WHEREAS, as a resident artist at the Buffalo Arts Studio in the historic Tri-Main Center, Mr. Zaman has held numerous exhibits and was selected as the 2018 Open Buffalo Emerging Artist, an ongoing, annual exhibition is dedicated to an emerging artist whose work relates to and reflects the mission of Open Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, working, in both public and community-based art making, Mr. Zaman has worked with fellow artists such as Betsy Casañas on the production and installation of "Homeland, Perhaps It Is Because I Wish to See You Fly, That My Flight Continues to Be Yours", and Keir Johnston and Ernel Martinez on the "Welcome Wall"; and

WHEREAS, he has conducted a live, communal painting for World Refugee Day at LaSalle Park, Buffalo, where he encouraged participants to develop visual representations of welcome using color and calligraphy; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work as an artist, Zaman is also a community activist as a member of Common Ground Connections, part of a nationwide interfaith campaign that invited communities to local open houses to bring people together through the arts showing creativity, beauty and positivity that local Muslims contribute by introducing American Muslim neighbors as an important part of the fabric of our communities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Zaman is also active in local Muslim community groups including Crescent Village Community Center and both the Lackawanna and South Buffalo locations of Access of Western New York; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Zaman's exceptional artwork resulted in him being awarded the 2018 NYSCA DEC Individual Artist Grant to work with community members on a three-panel mural to be installed along a wooden fence in the People's Park as well as recently named "Artist of the Year" as ASI's annual Spark Awards event in May; and

WHEREAS, after years of working with canvas paintings, he has branched out to working with wall murals layering powerful messages onto seemingly borderless fields, and inspiring viewers to learn from each other; and

WHEREAS, his mural at the People's Park is being unveiled today, June 20, 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature hereby applauds and recognizes Muhammad Zamad for his exceptional achievements and superior art talents across our community that builds bridges and establishes connections across ethnicities, races and religions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body congratulates Mr. Zamad on the unveiling of his mural at People's Park today and also recognizes and thanks the Montante Family for supporting and maintaining the People's Park in Buffalo.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and signature.

Hon. April N.M Baskin
Chair of the Erie County Legislature
Erie County Legislator, 2nd District

Robert M. Graber
Clerk of the Erie County Legislator