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Support Needed to Fund Public Art Honoring Police Service Dogs

Washougal, WA - Another piece of public art for Washougal is around the corner, and the community is being asked to help make it happen. Joyce Lindsay, Washougal City Councilor and Washougal Arts and Culture Alliance Member, is spearheading the fundraising campaign to bring a life sized bronze dog sculpture of a Belgian Malinois to the growing collection of Washougal public art. The piece, FOREVER FAITHFUL, by prominent bronze sculptor Susan Bahary, is planned for installation outside the Washougal Police Department at 1320 A Street, Washougal.

"Most people associate a German Shephard Dog with police service, but the Belgian Malinois is actually much more common in that role. This sculpture will stand as a tribute to the extraordinary service dogs that support our police force, regardless of breed," said Lindsay. According to Lindsay, just \$2,500 is needed to bring FOREVER FAITHFUL to Washougal. "This is an exciting opportunity for our community to bring another outstanding work of art to our city to enjoy. We are so close!" A significant portion of the funds have been raised by private donors. "We appreciate the commitment to public art in Washougal." Lindsay's goal is to have the funds raised by March 31st, with installation planned for this summer.

"It is exciting for us to welcome the work of such a renowned artist," said Lindsay. Bahary is internationally acclaimed for her inspiring sculptures honoring the animal/human bond and service animals. Mastering both form and emotion in her subjects, her sculptures have captured hearts worldwide. The original casting of this sculpture is part of the Enduring Valor Monument at Cedar Hill Pet Cemetery in Texas.

Reflection Plaza's bronze SEAMAN dog sculpture, depicting the Newfoundland that accompanied Lewis and Clark on their expedition, is an example of the community coming together to make public art happen in the recent past. "SEAMAN was purchased in 2014 thanks to the contributions of community members. It was truly a community effort," Lindsay said. Lindsay hopes the community will enjoy FOREVER FAITHFUL as much as they enjoy SEAMAN. "It is rewarding to watch passersby interact with SEAMAN," she said. "Kids pet him and sit on him, people pose for photos with him, and he even gets decorated for holidays. That type of pride and fun is what we want to also achieve with this newest art project."

For more information and to donate, contact Lindsay at 206-963-0434, or joycelindsay61@hotmail.com. Tax deductible donations can also be made online to the Parks Foundation at www.parksfoundation.us/special-projects/community-projects. More details about the installation date will be on the Washougal Arts and Culture Alliance website at www.WashougalArts.org as it is available.

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