



The Best of Oregon

CITY of BEAVERTON

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2016

HELLO NEIGHBOR PROJECT CELEBRATES PHOTOGRAPHY AND CONVERSATION AROUND BEAVERTON

BEAVERTON, Ore. –The City of Beaverton’s arts program last week unveiled “Hello Neighbor,” a project created by artist Julie Keefe that seeks to create identity and community investment through photography and conversation. The Hello Neighbor project introduces neighbors to each other, engages youth, and helps develop a more connected community.

The city’s arts program and Hello Neighbor, through a generous grant provided by The Nike Community Impact Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, collaborated with HomePlate Youth Services to bring photojournalism classes to the Wednesday drop-in space at Merlo Station High School. This project allowed youth to learn valuable life skills, better understand each other as well as the community members they interviewed, and explore their local community. HomePlate Youth Services is Washington County’s only drop-in center and outreach team designed to support and empower youth experiencing housing instability. The project provided opportunities for self-expression and empowerment for the youth population that HomePlate serves.

The Hello Neighbor project will be on display from March through the end of June at the following locations:

- The Beaverton Building, 12725 SW Millikan Way
- The Beaverton Activities Center, 12500 SW Allen Boulevard
- Costume Avenue (black wall), 12760 SW 1st Street
- Global Art of Dance Studios/Hula Hālau 'Ohana Holo'oko'a (south facing wall), 12570 SW Farmington Road
- The Beaverton City Library, 12375 SW Fifth Street
- The Griffith Building, 4755 SW Griffith Drive

Julie Keefe, Portland’s first creative laureate and an accomplished documentary photographer, created the now nationally renowned “Hello Neighbor” project in 2007. Keefe saw firsthand the shifting demographics from African American families to young, white transplants of her North Portland neighborhood. The purpose of “Hello Neighbor” was to start a conversation between neighbors who had lost the sense of connection and community.

Other partners and supporters of the project include HomePlate staff and volunteers, Global Art of Dance Studios/Hula Hālau 'Ohana Holo'oko'a, Self-Determination Resources, Inc., Beaverton City Library, Beaverton Activities Center, Merlo Station High School, Merlo Station Apartment Complex, The Clean Slate Group, The Wrap Agency, and Caldera.

For more information, visit www.helloneighborproject.org or www.BeavertonOregon.gov>HelloNeighbor, or search Facebook for “Hello Neighbor.”

ABOUT BEAVERTON

Beaverton is a welcoming and responsible city that enjoys one of the most diverse populations in Oregon. In 2015, Beaverton was recognized as one of the **safest cities** in the Pacific Northwest (according to CQ Press with cities more than 75,000). Recently, the city's award-winning finance department received the **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** as well as the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**. In 2012, the city was awarded the **Mayors' Climate Protection Award** from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It was named one of the **best places to raise kids** by *BusinessWeek* magazine. The city was named **one of the top 25 Suburbs for Retirement** by *Forbes.com* and **one of the 100 Best Walking Cities in America** by *Prevention* magazine. The city also received the **Recycler of the Year** award from the Association of Oregon Recyclers, named a **Tree City USA** by the Arbor Day Foundation, received a **Silver Award Bicycle Friendly Community** designation by the League of American Bicyclists, and recognized as one of the Environmental Protection Agency's **Green Power Communities**. Lastly, the city's nationally acclaimed visioning program was named **Public Involvement Project of the Year—Best Planning Project** by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Cascade Chapter and also received the prestigious **3CMA Award of Excellence**.

For more information, reminders and community news, visit www.BeavertonOregon.gov. Also follow Beaverton on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton, or Twitter at www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton.

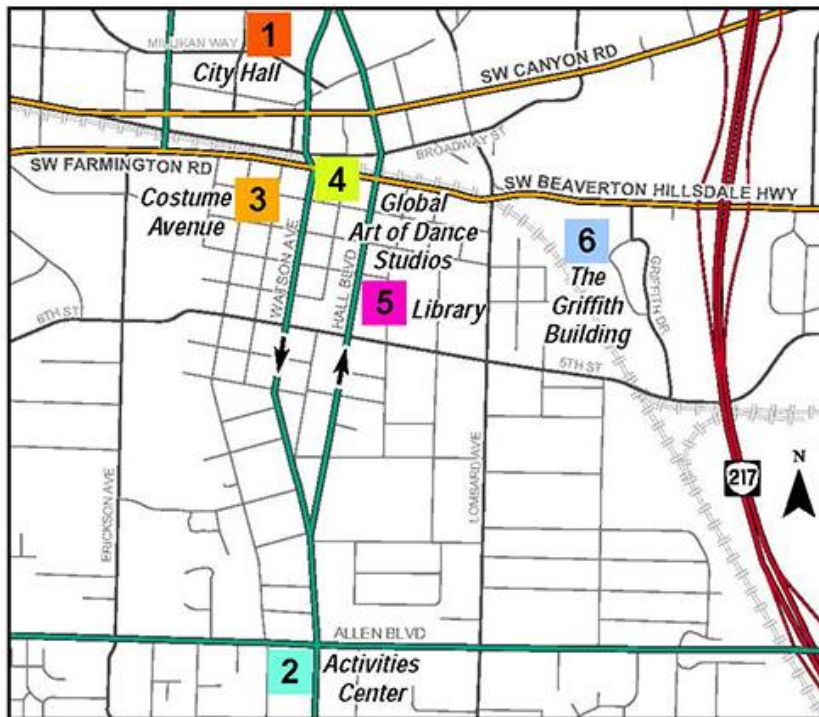
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Caption 1: The Hello Neighbor project was installed around Beaverton this week, including at the Beaverton Activities Center (pictured). The project brings neighborhoods together through photography and conversation. (Photo/City of Beaverton)



Caption 2: Photographs and interviews for the Hello Neighbor project are by local youth through HomePlate Youth Services. The project was installed around Beaverton this week. *(Photo/City of Beaverton)*



Caption 3 (map): The Hello Neighbor project is displayed on buildings around Beaverton. The collaborative project brings neighbors together through photography and conversation. *(City of Beaverton)*