



*The Best of Oregon*

## CITY of BEAVERTON

### NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 6, 2016**

### **CITY OF BEAVERTON DISPLAYS ACRYLIC PAINTINGS BY YOUNG ARTIST EVAN KENNEDY**

**BEAVERTON, Ore.** –The City of Beaverton’s arts program will showcase acrylic paintings by young artist Evan Kennedy this April on the fourth floor of The Beaverton Building, 12725 SW Millikan Way. Members of the public can view works during office hours, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A public art reception will be held on Wednesday, April 13 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served, and guests can meet the artist while viewing his work. All artwork included is for sale.

Evan Patrick Kennedy is a 14-year-old artist. Evan’s physical disabilities have severely limited his ability to access the world. Evan has an undiagnosed neuromuscular disorder. He is not able to stand, sit independently, walk, or speak without the assistance of technology, and needs to be helped with all of his activities of daily living. He uses a wheelchair for mobility and various augmentative devices to help him communicate.

Since the age of two, Evan has enjoyed expressing himself almost as if he is talking in colors, creating brightly colored paintings using watercolor and acrylic paints. Much of Evan’s inspiration for his paintings comes from nature. He is also inspired by other artists and his dreams. His choice of color and the images that end up on the canvas are otherworldly—he clearly travels somewhere in his imagination that most of us do not or cannot go.

Evan is the youngest artist ever to have a solo show through the Beaverton arts program’s revolving displays.

“Evan’s body of work is so impressive and moving,” said Elaine Worden, arts program coordinator. “We are honored to display his talent here at The Beaverton Building.”

All proceeds from the sale of Evan’s art will benefit the fundraising effort to pay for treatment that will give him a chance to walk independently. Private donations can be made directly to Give Evan a Chance to Walk at [www.gofundme.com/evan-kennedy](http://www.gofundme.com/evan-kennedy).

#### **OTHER LOCATIONS: Display Schedule Varies**

The Beaverton Arts Commission also has revolving art exhibits at Cedar Hills Recreation Center (11640 SW Park Way), Progress Ridge New Seasons (14805 SW Barrows Road), Bogza Coffee (12600 SW Crescent St., #100), and the Artisan Salon (4430 SW Lombard Avenue). For more information, contact Kourtnee Buechner at 503-526-2376 or [kbuechner@BeavertonOregon.gov](mailto:kbuechner@BeavertonOregon.gov).

#### **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](http://www.BeavertonOregon.gov). Also follow Beaverton on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton](http://www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton), or Twitter at [www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton](http://www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton).

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**Caption 1:** “My Blue Period” by young artist Evan Kennedy. Kennedy’s work is featured at The Beaverton Building this month. The 14-year-old acrylic painter has an undiagnosed neuromuscular disorder that affects his ability to walk, stand, or speak. (Photo/City of Beaverton)



**Caption 2:** Evan Kennedy is the youngest artist ever to be featured in the City of Beaverton's revolving art displays. A public art reception exhibiting his work will be held on Wednesday, April 13 at 5:30 p.m. at The Beaverton Building. His work is also available for viewing throughout the month of April. *(Photo/City of Beaverton)*