



For Immediate Release  
Contact: Meryl Kessler  
Chair, Newton Out Doors  
[outdoorsnewton@gmail.com](mailto:outdoorsnewton@gmail.com)  
617-431-3944

### **Newton Community Pride Announces Winners of Newton Out Doors Competition**

March 30, 2021/NEWTON, MA – Newton Community Pride (NCP) is proud to announce the winners of the **Newton Out Doors** design competition.

Sponsored by Newton Community Pride in partnership with the City of Newton, **Newton Out Doors** is a public art initiative to promote the walkability and economic vitality of Newton's unique village centers and the enjoyment of art in a safe, socially distanced manner. **Newton Out Doors** will involve the outdoor installation of approximately 25 recycled wooden doors decorated by local and regional artists in and around several of Newton's village centers, May through November 2021.

The winning artists are: Kit Collins, Joe Daxberger, Scott Debus, Jamaal Eversley, Raquel Fornasaro, Eric Funk, Amanda Beard Garcia, Sepi Golestani, Howie Green, Mike Grimaldi, Yenny Hdz, Grey and Leslie Held, Kate Holloway, Grace Julian-Murthy, Farzana Mohamed, Eli Portman, Julia Smithing, Sophy Tuttle, The Collab (Kate Bergeron and Jaimie Varasconi), Harun Zankel.

In addition, five student artists were selected: Zoe Lister (Newton South), Natalia Sawicka (Newton North), Chengyue Wang (Newton North), Abby Zheng (Newton South), and Shihui Zou (Newton North).

"The selection committee was incredibly impressed by the creativity and overall quality of the 65 submissions we received," said Meryl Kessler, chair of **Newton Out Doors** and board member of Newton Community Pride. "The committee had a difficult time choosing just 25 winners, but we are excited by the range of artistic visions represented by the chosen designs."

Gloria Gavis, chair of Newton Community Pride, said, "On behalf of the board of directors, we are delighted to see Meryl's idea come to life and the creative submissions chosen. Congratulations to our winners! We hope **Newton Out Doors** inspires residents to visit our village centers, engage with the colorfully created doors, and shop or dine over the next several months."

The Newton Outdoors Selection Committee included Meryl Kessler, NCP Board Member and Chair, Newton Out Doors; Claudia Fiks, Director of Development, Fuller Craft Museum, and Co-Chair, Newton Open Studios; Seana Gaherin, NCP Board Member and owner, Dunn Gaherins; Danielle Moriarity, Assistant Director, Newton Cultural Development, and Co-Chair, Medford Arts Council; Emily O'Neil, NCP Board Member and Executive Director, New Art Center; Susan Paley, Vice President of Community Relations, Village Bank; Destiny Palmer, artist, muralist, and art instructor; and Dinny Starr, NCP Board Member and Research Team, Women's Foundation of Boston.

Village Bank is **Newton Out Doors'** presenting sponsor.

Newton Community Pride is a 501c3 nonprofit building community for all to enjoy through arts and culture programming, supporting beautification projects, and promoting volunteerism. For more information, please visit [newtoncommunitypride.org](http://newtoncommunitypride.org).

###