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### **Newton Community Pride to Auction Off Public Art Benches**

September 15, 2022/NEWTON, MA - Newton Community Pride (NCP) is pleased to announce an online public art auction of its “Sit and Let Your Spirit Soar” art installation. These 17 decorated benches, donated by Newtonville’s Boston Chinese Evangelical Church and painted by local and regional artists, have brought months of joy, creativity and excitement to Newton’s public spaces.

Bidding opens tomorrow, September 16 and will run through 7pm on September 30. All auction proceeds will support future public art initiatives in Newton.

The one-of-a kind hand painted benches are being sold “As Is” and it is recommended to view them in person on location throughout the city. Images, locations and bidding on your favorite “Sit & Let Your Spirit Soar” benches can be found at [www.newtoncommunitypride.org](http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org). All winning bids will include NCP moving the bench to a Newton yard, or ground floor location of a Newton home or business.

"Newton Community Pride is thrilled to offer these creatively painted benches to the public for future use. The lucky auction winners take home a beautiful and functional piece of art while also supporting NCP’s future public art programs.”, stated Blair Lesser Sullivan, Executive Director, Newton Community Pride. “It’s a win-win for all!” added Lesser Sullivan.

"For the last few months these gorgeous pews have added color and beauty to our community and have lifted people’s spirits. Now we are delighted to auction them off so that they can continue to spread joy in homes and yards around Newton” said Meryl Kessler, NCP Board Member and Chair of NCP’s Public Art Committee.

Newton Community Pride is a 501c3 nonprofit organization building community for all to enjoy through arts and culture programming, public art, beautification and volunteerism. To bid on a bench or to make a donation for more public art go to [www.newtoncommunitypride.org](http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org).