



P.A.R.T.N.E.R.

Perth Amboy Redevelopment Team for Neighborhood Enterprise and Revitalization  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**LOCAL ARTIST DISPLAYS THE POWERFUL ART OF MURALS**  
***PARTNER and the City of Perth Amboy Department of Recreation***  
***collaborate to host opening reception on city's public art initiative***

**PERTH AMBOY** – March 9, 2017- The Perth Amboy Redevelopment Team for Neighborhood Enterprise and Revitalization (P.A.R.T.N.E.R.) and the City of Perth Amboy take the lead in revitalizing the arts under the Gateway Neighborhood Collaborative (GNC) initiative through the promotion and exhibit of a mural art opening at the Gallery Center for the Arts located on 339 Reade Street. The art reception “On Tour Series with Albertus Joseph,” is about a local artist that uses paint on canvas, boards, and walls to create his graphic novel style inspired works. Joseph calls himself "a sculptor that paints"... while being both a sculptor and a painter, most of his recent works have been paintings. His work varies from loose bold brush strokes with primary colors used in a layering effect to a tighter and highly detailed works all while utilizing a "from the tube" coloring process. His work seen from New York to the Netherlands, depicts the strengths of the people and beauty in the expressions and gestures of the "talent" he paints.

“Everything that I have done and everything that I am, I put into my work. I wave no flags and boast no accolades that has brought me to where I am today as a person or an artist,” said Albertus Joseph. “Formally trained but all the work is owed to some romantic ideology that I cling to with an iron grip. My mother was my first inspiration and my father was a backbone of support. An unquenchable love of life and my surroundings stems from my acceptance of what is and a need to be worthy of such remarkable and beautiful.”

P.A.R.T.N.E.R., a Wells Fargo Regional Foundation 2015 neighborhood revitalization grantee of the GNC initiative, aim to explore the strength of the Gateway Neighborhood’s cultural diversity as a way to leverage arts and culture not only as an economic engine but also as a way to bring to the neighborhood together into three overarching goals which will provide appropriate measurement indicators.

- (1) Enhance Community Organization (Neighborhood Building
- (2) Promote New Mix of Retail, Residential and other Land Uses
- (3) Encourage the Expansion and Integration of Neighborhood Assets, Facilities, and Services.

The strategy uses a community-based approach to neighborhood restoration to enhance the viability and quality of life for its residents. The five- year initiative will work with the City of Perth Amboy and other GNC partners on several beautification projects that include a community garden and eight (8) community murals in the neighborhood. “By creating sustainable opportunities for art and cultural venues to celebrate the diversity of the Gateway Neighborhood in Perth Amboy, we look to increase the mix of retail, entertainment, to define and

attract new businesses, and act as anchors for investment, employment, and revitalization,” said Douglas Dzema, Executive Director of P.A.R.T.N.E.R. The subject area is an estimated 42 square blocks located within the southeastern and central quadrants of the City of Perth Amboy.

“My overarching goal as Mayor of this City is to bring unity and improve quality of life. Art has a way of achieving that goal. Murals allow for public expression, involvement and mobilizes creativity for all ages that speaks for the entire community. By the same token, we see the benefits reflected in our local economy, vt beautifying our business area and expanding arts and culture,” said Wilda Diaz, Mayor of the City of Perth Amboy.

To be part of the initiative as a stakeholder or resident contact, Lisett Lebron, GNC Program Manager at (732) 442-0384 or email [lisett@partnernj.org](mailto:lisett@partnernj.org)

### **About Wells Fargo Regional Foundation**

Wells Fargo Regional Foundation, established in 1998, is a grant making body with the primary mission to support the revitalization of communities located in New Jersey, Delaware, and eastern Pennsylvania. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded over 78 million in grants to more than 500 nonprofit organizations. For additional information on the Foundation, please visit <https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/regional-foundation/>.

### **About the Perth Amboy Redevelopment Team for Neighborhood Enterprise & Revitalization (PARTNER)**

The Perth Amboy Redevelopment Team for Neighborhood Enterprise and Revitalization (PARTNER) is a 501 C3 non-profit organization established by the Housing Authority of the City of Perth Amboy. PARTNER is committed to creating housing services and economic opportunities for low and moderate income families and individuals. Services include, but not limited to job training, career counseling, employment opportunities, job skills, budgeting, housing counseling, and stress management. These services are offered to support individuals become economically independent.

### **About the City of Perth Amboy**

Perth Amboy, an urban community with rich cultural history and a three hundred year old maritime and industrial legacy, is an interconnection point for major highways, roadways and waterways. The City’s position at the confluence of the Raritan River, Arthur Kill, and Raritan Bay provides deep-water access to the Atlantic Ocean for national and international marine traffic. Founded in 1683 and chartered in 1718, it served as the state capital until 1790 and is home of the Royal Governor William Franklin’s Mansion. Perth Amboy, presently known for its beautiful waterfront area is located in the center of the State, midway between New York and Philadelphia. Perth Amboy comprises a land area of 4.55 square miles and has a population of 50,814 residents.

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