



USI | URBAN STRATEGIES, INC.

# MEDIA ADVISORY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CITY OF ST. LOUIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, COCA, AND URBAN STRATEGIES, INC. UNVEIL PUBLIC ART PIECE IN MURPHY PARK**

*Artist Cbabi Bayoc Guided Carr Square Residents to Create Installation for Neighborhood Park*

On Saturday, September 14, a brand new piece of public art will be unveiled during a public celebration in Murphy Park in the Carr Square neighborhood of the City of St. Louis. The installation was designed and created by Carr Square residents under the direction of renowned St. Louis artist Cbabi Bayoc.

The Mayor's Chief of Staff for the City of St. Louis Steven Conway, 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderwoman Tammika Hubbard, Director of Health Fredrick L. Echols, M.D., Cbabi Bayoc, representatives from COCA and Urban Strategies, Inc. and community members and neighbors, will all be on hand for the celebration. There will also be food, community organizations with resource tables, as well as hands-on art activities for families.

Bayoc guided Carr Square residents in creating a public art piece for the neighborhood park expressing their ideas and community spirit. A group of committed residents came every Saturday during the 12-week art activation. It is a shining example of the power of the arts to build community.

The Murphy Park Public Art Project was a community engagement and creative placemaking initiative led by COCA in partnership with Urban Strategies, Inc., City of St. Louis Department of Health, and UMSL. Funding for the project was secured by The City of St. Louis through a Community Based Crime Prevention (Byrne) grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

**WHEN:** September 14, 2019, 11:00am – 1:00pm; Remarks at 11:30am

**WHERE:** Murphy Park, 1920 Cass Ave, St. Louis, MO 63106

**PHOTOS &**

**INTERVIEWS:** Speakers and special guests, along with representatives from each organization will be available for interviews upon request. Additionally, COCA can provide images of community members creating the Mural upon request. Contact Beth McClure ([bmcclure@cocastl.org](mailto:bmcclure@cocastl.org), 314.561.4868).

**ABOUT**

**THE ARTIST:** Cbabi Bayoc is a St. Louis, Missouri artist and graduate of Grambling State University. Bayoc creates art which shows his love of music and his family. In 1997 he changed his name from Clifford Miskell to Cbabi Bayoc to remind him of his purpose in life. Cbabi stands for Creative Black Artist Battling Ignorance and Bayoc for Blessed African Youth of Creativity.

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**ABOUT THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

The City of St. Louis Department of Health's vision is to make St. Louis an equitable community achieving optimal health for all. Its mission is to assure a healthy St. Louis community through quality public health services and partnerships by providing continuous protection, prevention, and promotion for the public's health.

**ABOUT URBAN STRATEGIES, INC.**

Urban Strategies, Inc. is a St. Louis-based national nonprofit with extensive experience in implementing human capital development strategies in communities that are undergoing comprehensive physical revitalization. USI supports communities while working with community partners to develop economic opportunities, cradle-to-college/career success, high quality health services and a range of comprehensive service supports. Founded in 1978, USI has been involved in neighborhood transformation efforts in more than 24 cities and more than 40 neighborhoods across the nation.

**ABOUT COCA**

Founded in 1986, COCA is the fourth largest multidisciplinary community arts center in the country and a national leader in innovative arts education. With a mission to enrich lives and build community through the arts, COCA serves 50,000 people of all ages and skill levels, from enthusiastic amateurs to emerging professionals—all taught by a faculty of distinguished arts educators. We provide meaningful arts experiences in our own studios, gallery and

theatres as well as in schools, community centers and corporate settings in order to build a vibrant St. Louis that is creative, connected and inclusive. To ensure diversity and inclusion in all of our programs we are committed to eliminating economic and social barriers to participation in the arts.

**ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS**

The University of Missouri–St. Louis (UMSL) is the largest public research university in eastern Missouri, and the third largest in the state, priding itself on creating greater access to higher education and opportunity for its nearly 17,000 diverse students. UMSL boasts more than 100,000 alumni, 73 percent of whom live and work in the St. Louis region. The university aims to be a leader in the pursuit of excellence in education, impactful research and community service. Faculty in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, ranked among the top five graduate programs in the country by U.S. News & World Report, work to fulfill this mission through teaching, high-quality research published in peer-reviewed journals and by engaging with an array of community partners, including local governments, police departments and nonprofit organizations, across the St. Louis region.