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For Immediate Release

February 22, 2017

Contacts

Mindi Epstein, Owner | mindi@peacethroughyoga.com | 317.753.1266

Julie Vornholt, Artist | juliemarissa2@gmail.com

Local Artist Thinks Big!

Danville, IN – Artist and Danville resident, Julie Vornholt, has set her sights on a project to bring beauty and inspiration to South Washington Street just off the square in Danville. Since conceiving her project and receiving the required approval, she lost no time in donning a face mask and work attire to dive into a series of wall murals along the walkway between Peace through Yoga (the well-preserved red brick building at 134 S. Washington Street) and Steven-Jensen Insurance Agency (148 S. Washington Street).

Julie, a yoga enthusiast, is accustomed to walking between the two buildings to enter the yoga studio from the rear of the building. On the way to class one evening, her artist's eye gleaned the potential to create a series of large-scale paintings on the two buildings' boarded up windows - 7 in all.

Julie describes this project as an opportunity waiting just for her. The Herron School of Art graduate professes to liking "to work big." With experience designing more than 30 largescale musical sets, including *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Les Miserables*, she explains that details frequently get lost on large sets because of the distance between the stage and the audience. The window-mural project is especially appealing because it provides the opportunity to incorporate a lot of detail to draw viewers into the work as they traverse the walkway.

Julie envisions each window painted in one of the colors of the chakras. There are said to be seven chakras, which are defined as wheels of energy aligned along the spine from the "root" through the crown of the head. Each chakra is associated with a color and is thought to govern the health and well-being of particular areas of the body. Julie found a way to incorporate her love of art and the practice of yoga by creating chakra-themed wall paintings, each one bearing a portion of a mandala, the intricate circular images representing the universe that are so popular today.

Jerry Vornholt, owner of the 134 S. Washington Street building, and Mindi Epstein, owner and director of all three Peace through Yoga locations, were excited to receive Rich Jensen's blessing on the project: "Have fun! Sounds great!," he said. And great it will be.

You can follow Julie's progress by reading her blog at www.julievornholt.com. Julie is well on her way to painting what she has envisioned.

