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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEDICATION CEREMONY TO BE HELD FOR MURAL HONORING FRANK GILYARD

READING, PA. September 12, 2014: Please join us as we celebrate the dedication of a new mural on Thursday, September 18th at 6:00 PM at the corner of 3rd and Walnut Streets with a reception at PAL to follow. In homage to the 6th Ward's history as a primarily African-American community, the mural honors one of Reading's most respected African-American figures, Frank Gilyard.

Mr. Gilyard, who passed away at age 82 in 2013, was the founder and President of the Central Pennsylvania African American Museum. He spent a lifetime researching, documenting, and cataloging African American history in Berks County. He kept history alive, and it is only fitting that his legacy is kept alive for many years to come to inspire and to teach others about the history of our nation and our community.

The 6th Ward residents were involved in every step of the process, from the design to the creation of the mural. The artwork was primarily done by the students of the Mentoring and The Arts Program under the direction of Berks County artist, Jessica Alexander. The City of Reading and its partners chose to help fund Jessica Alexander's project because it met the community's desire to have artwork installed that is reflective of the 6th Ward's history, culture, and pride.

"This mural is a great visual representation of the City's admiration for one of our City's most visible leaders," commented Mayor Vaughn Spencer.

This mural has been partially funded by a grant from the NEA as part of the 6th Ward Public Art Initiative. The 6th Ward Public Art Initiative is funded by the NEA and is collaboration between The City of Reading, the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Greater Berks, and the 6th Ward Community Association.

This project has been supported by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Art works!

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