

# SAN JUAN ISLANDER

<https://sanjuanislander.com/news-articles/government-news/town-of-friday-harbor/32980/progress-on-blair-ave-mural>

08/10/2021

## Blair Ave Mural in Friday Harbor from start to finish



Two artists, Josh Fisher (right) and Cory Bennett (left), spent four days painting a 235-foot mural on a wall on Blair Avenue in Friday Harbor. The mural "A Living Island" is now part of the Town of Friday Harbor's public art joining The Fin, the sculpture of Ed Warbass and his dog sitting on a bench, The Poet Garden and the mural in Sunken Park, "Witness the Beauty."



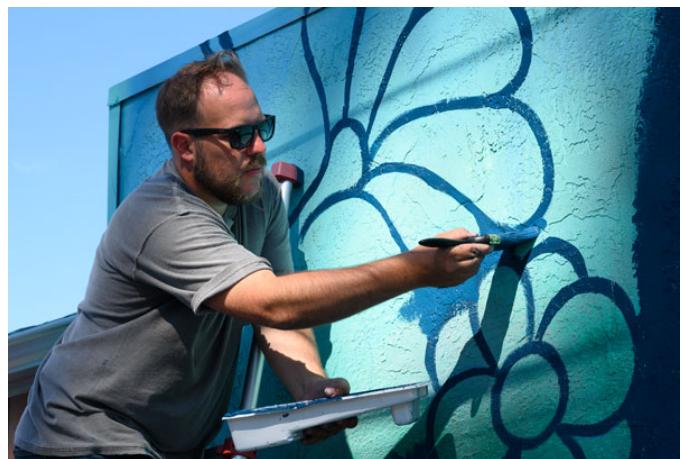
**The two photos posted above show the wall at the end of Day 1 and Day 4.**

The Poulsbo artists designed the mural as a tribute to the smaller flora and fauna of our San Juan Island ecosystem through a fusion of abstract art, fine drawing, and street-inspired techniques. They described their goal as a unique, enduring, and joyful piece.

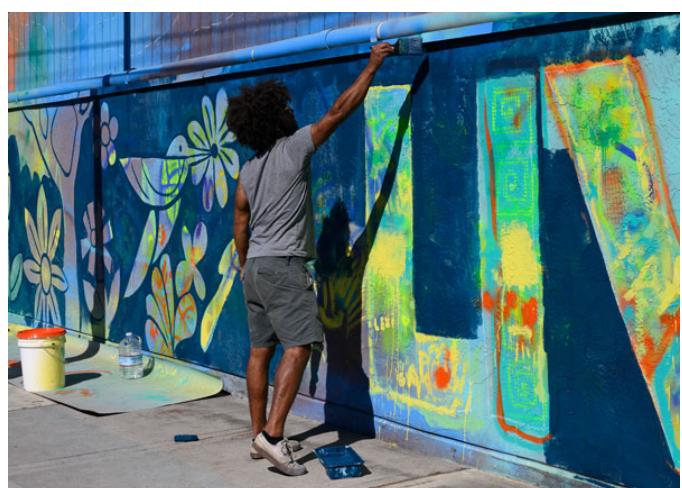
The results of the first two days of painting caused a bit of unease among residents as it was difficult to imagine what the final mural would look like.



**Island children helped out on August 3, 2021 painting on more background and leaving their names.**



**On August 4, the design started to come alive.  
The weather cooperated and the painting  
continued through Thursday, August 5, 2021.**





The mural selection process included a review by an Art Selection Panel (ASP) of commissioners, artists, and neighbors of the proposed mural site. Panel members reviewed 11 proposals submitted by artists from San Juan County, the Puget Sound, and Colorado. The final selection was discussed at FHAC and Town Council meetings earlier this year.

The ASP and FHAC expressed appreciation for the experience and skill of all of the artists and for the degree of research and careful thought that went into each of their concepts.

“Public input was critical to our art selection process,” said Arts Commissioner Lynn Weber/Roochvarg, adding, “The commission wants the selection and installation of our projects to be an exciting and memorable process for the community.”

This is the second major mural project commissioned by the FHAC which was formed in 2015 to advise the Town Council on the cultivation, selection, acquisition, and placement of public art. The mural “Witness the Beauty,” installed in Sunken Park in 2016, is scheduled to be retouched by the original artist, Jake Wagoner, later this month. ~

