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Artists from Denver’s Sister City in Chennai, India Join Local Muralists for July Installation in RiNo Art District

RiNo Art District and Denver Sister Cities International collaborate to bring artists from Chennai, India marking the 40th anniversary of Denver and Chennai as sister cities.

DENVER – (July 18, 2024) [RiNo Art District](#), a 501(c)(6) nonprofit arts organization dedicated to fostering a welcoming, creative community where a diversity of artists, residents and businesses thrive, in partnership with [Denver Sister Cities International](#), today announced a collaboration between Chennai, India and Denver for a Mural Artist Exchange, celebrating four decades of friendship and cooperation between Denver and Chennai as sister cities.

On July 18, Chennai artist [A-Kill](#) and Denver artists [Koco Collab](#) will unveil the result of their mural installation in [The Alley](#), adjacent to [Noble Riot](#) off of 27th Street between Larimer and Walnut Streets. The mural is designed to reflect both the vibrant street culture of Chennai and the natural beauty of Colorado. The mural features Pookkari (a woman who sells flowers), representing Chennai's vibrant street life, surrounded by plumeria flowers, coastal elements, and traditional patterns. Denver's influence appears with trees and a moon, symbolizing universal connectivity. This artwork beautifully merges Chennai's everyday culture with Denver's natural beauty.

"Art can be such a powerful tool for education and understanding," said Alye Sharp, Executive Director of RiNo Art District. "It challenges us to see things from another's perspective and eliminate the perceived boundaries between people. We're so proud to be supporting this piece as part of RiNo's Public Art Program."

The Mural was installed this week in conjunction with the [Denver Taste of India Festival](#). Additionally, an artist Q&A will take place to discuss the collaboration and cultural exchanges between Chennai and Denver. The panel is open to the public and will take place Thursday, July 18, 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at The Alley in front of the mural.

"Citizen diplomacy has always been a bright light in challenging times," said Sacha Francois Heppell, Executive Director of Denver Sister Cities International. "Together with RiNo Art District, we look forward to raising awareness for the many ways everyday people can promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation."

In 2022, the RiNo Mural Program featured a collaboration between local muralists and artists from Brest, France. Brest artists [Wen2](#) (Gwendal Huet) and [Worm](#) (Eddy Barclém) and students from L'Université de Bretagne Occidentale (UBO) installed a mural at 32nd and Blake in the Five Points neighborhood alongside local artists [Anna Charney](#) and [Mike Graves](#).



For more information on how to view the mural and attend the panel later this month, follow RiNo Art District on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

About RiNo Art District: RiNo Art District is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit grassroots organization dedicated to fostering a welcoming, creative community where a diversity of artists, residents and businesses thrive. The district is inclusive of five historical neighborhoods: Globeville-Elyria-Swansea, Five Points and Cole. Over the last decade, RiNo Art District has helped form both a Business Improvement District (BID) and General Improvement District (GID) and a community arts educational nonprofit (Keep RiNo Wild) to support the local community. Together, the RiNo Art District family of organizations fund and support the Denver community through advocacy, infrastructure improvements, artist support, community programming, business support, and events. To learn more, please visit rinoartdistrict.org and follow on Facebook and Instagram at @rinoartdistrict and Twitter at @rinoart.

About Denver Sister Cities International: Denver Sister Cities International (DSCI) is a local nonprofit organization that promotes peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation with cultural, educational, business, and economic endeavors. DSCI manages and administers all activities with 13 unique Sister and Friendship Cities around the world, cultivating close business, economic, educational, and social ties with municipal governments and citizens alike. President Eisenhower introduced the idea of sister cities in 1956 in the wake of WWII to support “citizen diplomacy”, due in part to the success of the Denver-Brest Sisterhood. Cities may become sisters due to business, cultural, geographic, educational, or personal ties.

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