



PRESS RELEASE

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PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND MY HOMECOURT COLLABORATION PRODUCES A REVITALIZED BASKETBALL COURT AT MANTON HEIGHTS

The Providence Housing Authority (PHA) in collaboration with the Providence non-profit **My HomeCourt** have teamed up to revitalize a basketball court at the PHA's Manton Heights public housing community. This community is comprised of 330 apartments and is home to over 800 Providence residents.

Through this project, a once distressed basketball court has been transformed into a vibrant living canvas that embodies the spirit of this community and aims to inspire basketball players of all ages. Like every My HomeCourt project, the Manton Heights court uniquely merges sports and art, establishing a lively, safe gathering space for both youth and families.

The court's artwork, designed by Providence artist Alyssa Barnes, is inspired by the work of American poet and essayist Ross Gay and his work *The Book of Delights*, particularly the essay entitled *Flower in the Curb*. This essay addresses the themes of memory, love, presence, the persistence of friendship and paying attention to life as it unfolds. The PHA and My HomeCourt are grateful for the input of Manton Heights youth and adult residents who participated in planning sessions and conveyed community values and hopes that informed the design of this project.

"Revitalizing a basketball court is not only about the design. It's about creating beautiful places for kids to play, to dream, to build friendships, and to experience what it means to be a team," said Pete Peterson, Co-Founder and President of the Board of My HomeCourt. **"We're grateful**

to partner with PHA on this project. This court belongs to the Manton Heights community, and we hope it becomes a place they're proud to call their HomeCourt."

PHA Board of Commissioners member and Manton Heights resident Lonzie Doggett remarked, **"This new basketball court beautifies our community, provides our young people with a much-needed recreational resource, and will be a source of neighborhood pride for many years to come."**

This \$167,230 project was funded by the PHA's federal HUD Capital Grant Program and a generous Neighborhood Improvement Fund (NIF) grant from the City of Providence. The project included re-surfacing the court, replacing fencing and hoops, and installation of the durable artwork mural coating.

PHA Executive Director Melissa Sanzaro noted that, **"The PHA has been following the work of MyHomeCourt and has long anticipated the opportunity to collaborate with them to align our visions. This partnership united our residents and the selected artist to breathe life into vibrant artwork for all to enjoy at the Manton Heights court. The PHA is grateful for the City's support and investment of NIF funds to make the project possible, for My HomeCourt's commitment to community, for the talented artist, Alyssa Barnes, and for our residents who always step up to highlight their resiliency and beauty."**

The PHA and My HomeCourt will celebrate the opening of this revitalized community resource with a ribbon cutting ceremony on **Tuesday, September 15, at the basketball court on Salmon Street from 3:45 – 5:00.** Speakers will include Providence Mayor Brett Smiley, Providence Ward 6 City Councilor Miguel Sanchez, and My HomeCourt Co-Founder and Board President Pete Petersen.



