

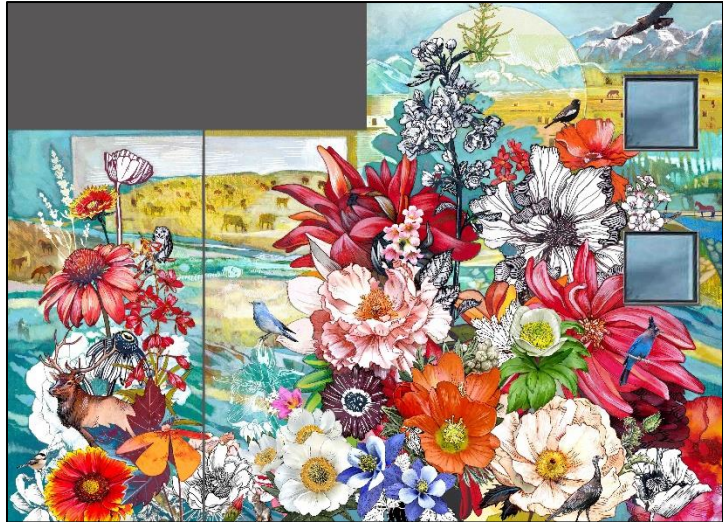


For Immediate Release | February 3, 2025

Ridgway to move forward with mural on Artspace Ridgway Space to Create Building

Ridgway, CO – The Town of Ridgway is thrilled to announce an exciting new addition to its cultural landscape: a vibrant mural by professional muralist Yulia Avgustinovich. This public art piece, set to adorn the southeast corner walls of the Artspace Ridgway Space to Create Building, reflects the town's unique history, natural beauty, and creative spirit.

Avgustinovich, whose work transforms spaces and fosters community connections, spent six years in Colorado and drew inspiration from Ridgway's rich heritage and stunning surroundings. The mural features a dynamic composition of blooming flowers—symbolizing hope and renewal—alongside depictions of grazing cattle and horses as well as local wildlife, such as wild turkeys, elk, and an eagle soaring above.



Avgustinovich describes the mural this way, “The primary theme of the mural is the symbolism of blooming flowers—representing hope, renewal, and the vibrancy of life. Flowers such as peonies, dahlias, blue Columbine flowers, White Crested Prickly poppy, Cutleaf Anemone, Echinocereus, Globe flower, Spreading Dogbane, Cowboy's delight reflect the beauty and seasonal life found in Ridgway's gardens and natural environment. These floral elements are interwoven with local livestock like grazing cattle and horses, along with wild turkeys, elk, a playful bunny, and an eagle soaring above. The mural's collage-like style brings these pieces together into a cohesive and harmonious composition that tells a story of nature's resilience and the deep connection between the land and its people.”

The artist's design was selected through a rigorous and competitive process, following a formal Request for Proposals seeking submissions from experienced artists both local and nationwide. Through the proposal requirements, interested artists were asked to submit a rough draft of the intended artwork. An ad hoc committee was assembled, made up of local artists and Town and Artspace representatives. The committee collectively and collaboratively reviewed all 17 submitted proposals and interviewed the final candidates. Ultimately, the committee was unanimously impressed with Yulia's proposal, the artistic quality of her previous work and her demonstrated success executing murals of similar size and scope across Colorado and beyond.

Throughout the process, the committee was focused on having a final selection with strong visual impact, representing the rich natural beauty that surrounds and encompasses the Town of Ridgway. Subsequent



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to the committee's selection, Artspace and the Ridgway Town Council gave their thumbs up to proceed with Avgustinovich's design.

This project is funded with a grant from the Department of Local Affairs/Colorado Main Street Program via the Town of Ridgway's FUSE Creative Main Street Program, and a grant from the Western Colorado Community Foundation: Dave and Mary Wood Fund. It will be the largest public art installation in Ouray County. Painting is scheduled to begin approximately May 25, 2025, with an anticipated completion by mid-June 2025.

There will be opportunities for residents to participate in painting the mural with Yulia between May 28th and May 31st. A celebration is being planned for June 13th. The community is invited to celebrate this creative milestone, which will serve as a lasting testament to Ridgway's shared values and vibrant spirit.

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