

Life in the Valley

DALLAS HAS 12 NEW WING-THEMED ART MURALS



A wings mural titled "Sapphire Divine Wings" by a middle school student named Kendra, is pictured in Dallas. PHOTOS BY MICHAELA ROMÁN / STATESMAN JOURNAL

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It's an Instagrammers dream. Many of the walls in downtown Dallas have been newly-beautified thanks to the addition of a dozen art murals.

The community "Wings" art mural project, a collaboration between the City of Dallas, Dallas Arts Association and the Dallas Downtown Association, began the fall of 2018 with an art contest.

Oregon's motto, "She Flies With Her Own Wings," inspired the project's theme.

Local artists were able to submit their wing-themed mural designs to the contest, which was divided into age-groups. The winners, who were announced in April, consisted of adults, elementary, middle and high school kids.

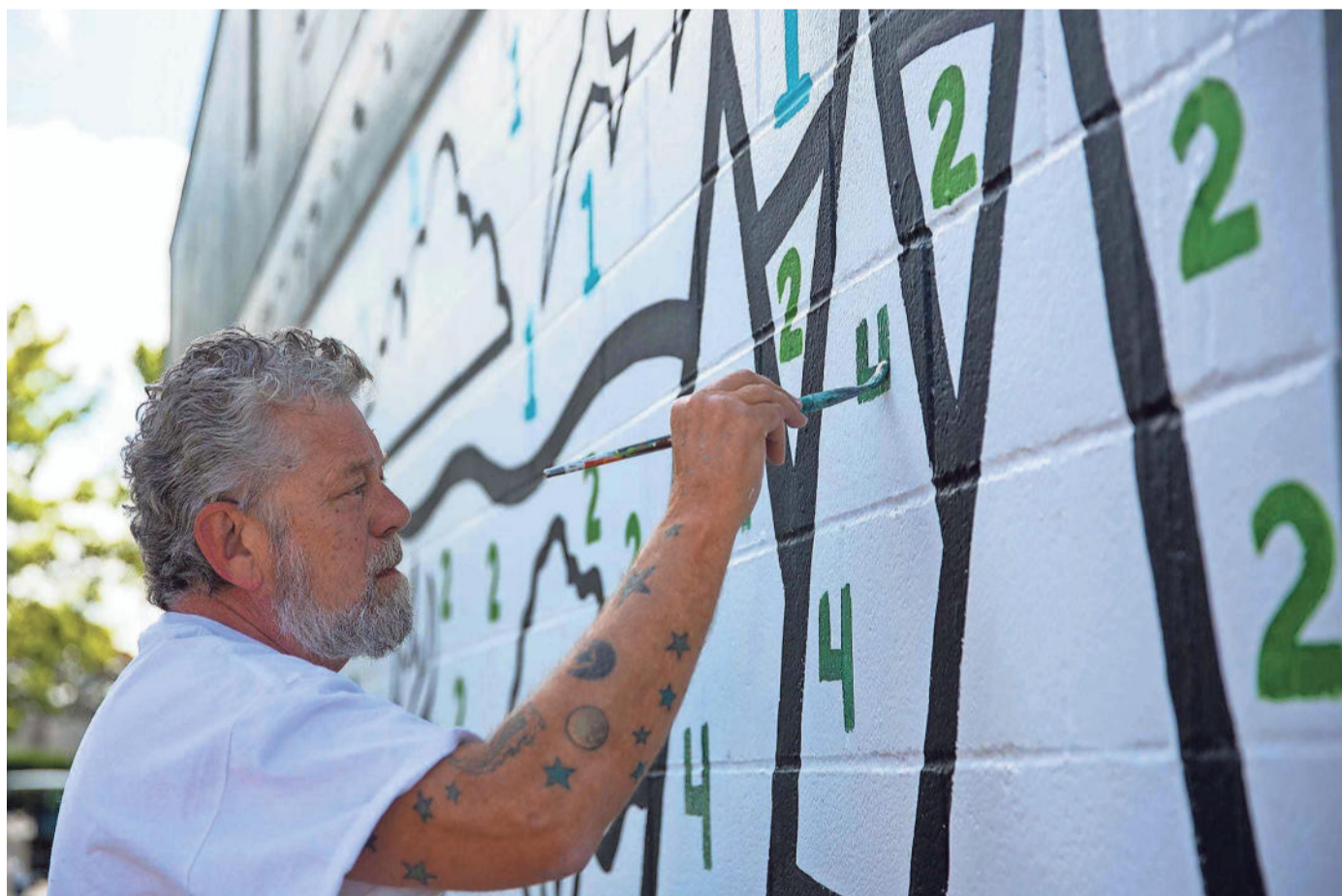
Monica Johnson, president of the downtown association, said getting people of all ages and a variety of businesses involved was important.

More than 75 submissions were received, and painting began in June.

After the 12 designs were chosen, a local muralist was brought in to hold workshops and mentor the artists on transforming their pieces to a larger scale.

AJ Foscoli, the economic development director for the City of Dallas, said they hope adding art draws people to Dallas, enhances the area and the quality of life.

Majority of the murals are located throughout an approximate five-block span of downtown. One mural is in Dal-



Artist Craig Downs works on a mural in downtown Dallas on Tuesday. The mural was made to be interacted with for this year's Krazy Days parade.

las City Park. People who post photos with the murals are encouraged to use the hashtag

"#SeeDallasSoar" on social media. Abby Luschei is the entertainment reporter for the Statesman Journal and

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A wings mural titled "Take Flight" by artist Megan Bliven is pictured in Dallas on July 23, 2019. The murals can be found around downtown Dallas as part of this years Krazy Days parade theme.



A wings mural that stretches on two sides of a building titled "Alli & Kyl (QAoA)" by a high school student named Athena is pictured in Dallas on July 23, 2019. The murals can be found around downtown Dallas as part of this years Krazy Days parade theme.