



Children Reading a book (Photo Adobe Stock/ Pressmaster)

Board Adds 174 New Preschool for All Seats Increased Spots Across 13 Locations

The Board of County Commissioners today approved a budget modification to fund 174 new preschool seats and 13 locations to the Preschool for All program beginning next year. The addition of 174 seats will increase the total number of preschool spots from 2,070 at the start of the 2024-25 school year to 2,244.

Under the mid-year expansion, five current providers will expand to new locations. The program is also adding seven new providers, including one with two locations. The new locations will be added to the Preschool for All family application in November and children will start in January 2025.

This decision marks a shift in how the program manages growth. Previously, new preschool seats were added on an annual basis. The new approach, allowing for mid-year expansions, will enable the Preschool & Early Learning Division to be more nimble as it progresses towards achieving universal preschool by 2030.

There are currently more than 2,000 Preschool for All students who receive free early childhood education at over 120 locations across Multnomah County. The

program is on track to reach the County's goal to provide free preschool to all 3- and 4-year-olds in Multnomah County, a seat for every student who wants one by 2030.

The program also successfully supported over 250 early educators with professional development and higher education opportunities this year, trained more than 60 career coaches in early childhood education, recruited 74 providers into the program and funded several millions of dollars in investments in new facilities.

Today's vote authorizes the use of \$3.9M from the program's contingency funds to cover the costs associated with these new seats, including start-up expenses, transportation, and funds to stabilize infant and toddler care.

"For each of the more than 2,000 families with a preschool seat this year, Preschool for All is their chance to start on a path of early learning we know will make a huge difference in the years to come," said Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson. "Building a program that works well for families takes a nimble, collaborative approach to growth. We promised voters we'd achieve universal preschool access in 2030 and these additional seats will help us stay on track to achieve this milestone."

Portland-Based Artist Selected for NFL Replay Program

Initiative Spotlights Diverse Artists

Portland-based artist Julian V.L. Gaines will be included in the National Football League Artist Replay program for 2024, reimagined to spotlight BIPOC and emerging artists throughout the season and culminating in an exclusive gallery during Art Basel. Inspired by the world of football, he has created a one-of-a-kind piece that will be on display at Miami Art Week. Originally from Chicago, Julian V.L. Gaines now lives and works in Portland, Oregon. He received his BFA in Drawing and Painting from Northern Michigan University in 2015. Gaines collaborated with Nike to create the collection "Game Worn". As part of the sneaker release, he led a week-long workshop that included art classes at Chicago's South Shore Cultural Center. Gaines has received editorials from Northern Magazine, HYPEBEAST, and The New York Times. In December 2020, his artwork was featured on the cover of New York Magazine. His work has been exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions, and is in notable private, public, and corporate collections, including NIKE, Beaverton, OR; Portland Art Museum and SoHo House, Portland, OR.

Established to amplify diverse voices, the Artist Replay program connects the NFL's rich culture with the broader arts community. Renowned photographer Cam Kirk will curate five artists, in-



Julian V.L. Gaines (Photo Courtesy of NFL.com)

cluding Gaines, inspired by the world of football, as they each design and create one-of-a-kind pieces that will be on display at Miami Art Week. Beginning in September and going throughout the season, the NFL will spotlight these five artists in content that gives an in-depth look at their artistic journeys, the creative process in their chosen mediums and the inspiration behind their Artist Replay pieces. Each profile video will set the stage for a special gallery event during Art Basel in Miami, where their designs will be displayed, providing a unique glimpse into the cultural impact of football through art.

"The goal is always to create platforms for diverse artists to shine, and where their work can resonate with people around the world," said Cam Kirk, photographer, program

curator, and founder of Cam Kirk Studios. "By amplifying their art, we're not only elevating their voices but also deepening the connection between the game and its fans."

Kirk, known for his work with prominent hip-hop artists like Megan Thee Stallion, Migos, Future and 21 Savage, brings a unique perspective to the program, further connecting the worlds of sports and culture.

"NFL Artist Replay blends the worlds of art and football, and with Cam's artistic expertise and guidance, this program will bring to life talented artist interpretations of the sport," said Eddie Capobianco, vice president of influencer marketing at the NFL. "Being able to feature their pieces in all different mediums at Art Basel is a huge opportunity to authentically connect with football fans and art lovers on a whole new level."

As part of the program, the five selected artists will join Kirk in Miami in December to showcase their work at the NFL's Art Basel gallery event. The artist selection includes Cristina Martinez (Seattle, WA), Julian Gaines (Portland, OR), Sophia Yeshi (Brooklyn, NY), Murjoni Merriweather (Temple Hills, MD), and Mike Ham (New York, NY).

Since its inception, the Artist Replay program has been a platform for diverse artistic expressions and this season promises to build on the initiative, bringing even more voices and stories to the forefront.

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