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Contact: Elizabeth Gault, Charlotte Street Foundation
816.994.7730 | Elizabeth@charlottestreet.org
www.charlottestreet.org
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STREET
FOUNDATION

**New Mobank Crossroads Artboards
by Lucas Wetzel and Jillian Youngbird**

Mobank's Crossroads location at 125 Southwest Boulevard in Kansas City, Missouri debuts four new large-scale commissioned images by artist, Jillian Youngbird and writer, Lucas Wetzel as part of its ongoing Artboards series. Installed on the exterior, double-sided billboards rising above the bank, the Artboards are visible to the public all hours of the day and will remain on view for three months. For more information about Mobank's Artboards series, please visit <https://www.mobank.com/About-Us/Culture/Artboards> or www.charlottestreet.org.



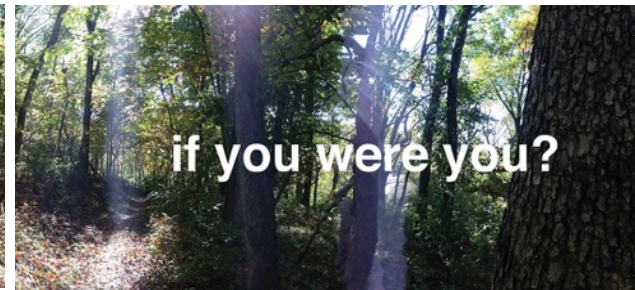
Jillian Youngbird, (left) Untitled; (right) A Bear in Kansas City, to be displayed on the west-facing billboards

The west-facing billboards display images of work by artist, Jillian Youngbird and taken from two different projects. Both pieces were made from recycled materials which Youngbird often utilizes in her work. Jillian said, "In these pieces, I wanted to use reuse [of materials], playfulness, and spontaneity to allow folks to ask questions, then weave their own stories; their own folk tales." She further explains, "the left billboard is an image taken from a public work I created from recycled materials and placed in Loose Park for passersby to experience an unexpected moment in the park."

The right billboard is from her series, "A Bear in Kansas City". Also made from recycled materials, "A Bear in Kansas City" pulls inspiration from Jillian's study of traditional Cherokee masks often used during performances and dances. Jillian explains, "After building the mask out of recycled, found, and appropriated materials like cardboard and paint samples, I wore it out in the community and "performed". These performances consisted mostly of me participating in everyday activities like waiting for the bus, looking through books at the bookstore, or having a drink at a bar. These spontaneous and non-invasive performances allowed others to engage with me how they saw fit, whether that was taking a picture, stealing the mask and wearing it themselves, or jumping a skateboard over my head as I sat in an empty parking lot."



Kansas City's Arts Provocateur
1000 W 25th Street KC MO 64108



Lucas Wetzel, What would you do if you were you?, to be displayed on the east-facing billboards

The east-facing billboards display work from writer, Lucas Wetzel. Lucas said, "For my Artboard, I wanted to present something that at first appears to be a marketing campaign until the viewer realizes it's not actually advertising anything, and instead is asking a rather personal, immediate question. It's easy to say what you would do in someone else's shoes, but what about our own? What keeps us from doing what we want to do? From being who we want to be? Are these forces external, or do they come from within? To entertain one question is to invite a host of others."

Wetzel continues, "the backdrop is a panoramic photo I took in 2016 on the Rozarks Trails, designed by community volunteers near the memorial arch in Rosedale, Kansas. It's a scenic place, but not overly dramatic — in the middle of the city, yet unseen by most. The natural beauty, light and detail are a reminder that the search for self is also reflected in our our outer environments."

The Artboards will be on display March 3rd thru June, 2017.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Lucas Wetzel is a writer and editor from Kansas City. His articles have appeared in the *Lawrence Journal-World*, *The Kansas City Star*, *The Pitch* and *KCUR.org*. In 2012, he founded *Kawsmouth.com*, a literary website featuring contributions from over 60 writers and photographers in the Midwest. From 2014 to 2016, he was a writer at the Charlotte Street Studio Residency program, taking part in gallery shows, readings and collaborative publications. He has degrees in English, Journalism and German from the University of Kansas and The University of Bonn. He currently works as an associate editor at Andrews McMeel Universal, a print and digital media company based in Kansas City.

Folklore and myth are deeply interwoven into **Jillian Youngbird's** art process as nature and identity. She uses a deep connection with nature to inform her work through deliberate and discriminatory collection of specimens. This is almost always an important part of the process of her work. Through study of the sometimes overlooked, preciousness of our natural environment, Jillian can then ascribe her personal connections to them through photography, illustration, and sculpture that shape internal and external discourses of the many facets of her identity as well as larger groups with which I feel connected.

ABOUT THE ARTBOARDS

Mobank's "Artboards" launched fall 2008, when the building's existing double-sided billboards were renovated and converted into a highly visible site for work by area artists as part of the Bank's purchase and renovation of the building to house its Crossroads Branch. Mobank's purpose for donating the Artboards to local artists isn't about sales or promotion, but is solely intended to make the creative Crossroads community in Downtown Kansas City more interesting by sharing local art. Charlotte Street Foundation administers the programming of the Artboards in collaboration with a panel of Mobank representatives.

To date, the Artboards have featured commissioned works by Kansas City artists, Lindsay Jones, Philip Bakala, Luke Rocha, Jennifer Field, Patricia Boddallo-Dibildox, Thayer Bray, Rodolfo Marron III, Sarah Hearn,

Phil Shafer, DeAnna Skedel, Charlie Mylie, Maria Ogedengbe, Heinrich Toh, Misha Kligman, Warren Rosser, Jaimie Warren, Archie Scott Gobber, Miki Baird, Elijah Gowin, Emily Sall, Grant Miller, May Tveit, Allan Winkler, Mike Sinclair, Anne Lindberg, Paul Shortt, Adolfo Martinez, Jerry Kunkel, Deanna Dikeman, Mary Wessel, Barry Anderson, Luke Firle, Jon Scott Anderson, and Derrick Briedenthal, Cory Imig, Erika Lynn Hanson, Gavin Snider, Sabrina Staires, Stephen Proski, Rachelle Gardner, Calder Kamin, Joe Bussell, Robert Hosware, Judith G. Levy, Caleb Taylor, Rie Egawa, Megan Mantia + Leone Anne Reeves, Peregrine Honig, Amy Fredman, Max Pond, Amy Kligman and David Rhoads. Artists for the Artboards are selected by Mobank from an annual call for proposals administered by Charlotte Street Foundation.

ABOUT CHARLOTTE STREET

Charlotte Street identifies the needs and fuels the evolution of an ever-changing multidisciplinary arts ecosystem, acting as its primary provocateur. Charlotte Street cultivates the contemporary, the exceptional, and the unexpected in the practice of artists working in and engaging with the Kansas City art community. Since 1997, Charlotte Street has distributed over \$1.1 million in awards and grants to artists and their innovative projects, and connected individual artists to each other and to the greater Kansas City community. For more information about Charlotte Street, its awards, programs, and initiatives, visit www.charlottestreet.org.

ABOUT MOBANK

Mobank is a banking division of BOK Financial Corporation, one of the largest bank holding companies in the United States based in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The company's stock is publicly traded on NASDAQ under the Global Select market listings (symbol: BOKF). BOK Financial's holdings include BOKF, NA, BOK Financial Securities, Inc., and The Milestone Group, Inc. BOKF, NA, operates TransFund, Cavanal Hill Investment Management, BOK Financial Asset Management, Inc., and seven banking divisions: Bank of Albuquerque, Bank of Arizona, Bank of Arkansas, Mobank, Bank of Oklahoma, Bank of Texas and Colorado State Bank and Trust. Through its subsidiaries, the company provides commercial and consumer banking, investment and trust services, mortgage origination and servicing, and an electronic funds transfer network. For more information, visit www.bokf.com.