

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### New Mural Project to Honor Fortune's Legacy in Waterbury, CT

*Community Invited to Support the Fortune Man Mural Project through Donations and Sponsorships*

**Waterbury, CT – [12/22/23]** – The Alex Breanne Corporation, in collaboration with a coalition of local partners and public art nonprofit, RiseUP for Arts, is proud to announce the launch of the Fortune Man Mural Project in Waterbury, CT. This initiative aims to create a large-scale mural to honor Fortune, an 18th-century enslaved man whose story is a significant, yet often overlooked part of Connecticut's history.

Fortune's life, while enslaved in Waterbury, and the posthumous treatment of his remains, highlight the complexities of our shared past. This project, supported by a diverse group of community partners, seeks to present his story in a way that fosters understanding, dialogue, and healing.

**Community Support:** The project team invites the Greater Waterbury community to participate in bringing this important piece of history to life. Community members can contribute through our GoFundMe campaign at <https://gofund.me/2e4ac5f5>. Additionally, businesses and foundations can become project sponsors, with levels starting at \$1,000.

This collaborative effort involves the Alex Breanne Corporation, Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, Silas Bronson Library, St. John's Episcopal Church, Riverside Cemetery, Waterbury Public Schools, NAACP Greater Waterbury Chapter, Connecticut Freedom Trail, Waterbury Arts & Tourism Commission, Waterbury Mayor's Office, and the Art & Culture Collaborative, Waterbury Region.

John Mills, Founder of Alex Breanne Corporation., states, "Fortune's story is an American story of resilience, but also of our country's history in enslavement and the sentiment of human possession that reverberated long after its demise. It provides us an opportunity for education and reverence. We intend to do this by injecting him into the landscape of the community where he lived, worked and died."

**Urgent Call for Wall Space:** In addition to seeking community support through donations and sponsorships, we are actively searching for a prominent wall in Waterbury, CT, to serve as the canvas for the Fortune Man Mural. This large-scale mural requires a significant, well-positioned wall that is accessible and visible to the public.

If you own or have rights to such a space and are interested in contributing to this meaningful project, please contact us as soon as possible. Your participation could play a crucial role in bringing this important piece of history to life and creating a lasting impact in our community. Once a suitable location is found, the mural will be situated in a prominent area in Waterbury, making it accessible for residents and visitors alike. It aims to be a focal point for education, reflection, and community engagement.

The Fortune Man Mural Project is more than an artistic endeavor; it's a step toward acknowledging and understanding our history. Your support can help make this vision a reality, contributing to a more informed and cohesive community in Waterbury.

To learn more about the project, donate, or become a sponsor, please visit the GoFundMe page or contact Matt Conway at [matt.conway@theriseupgroup.org](mailto:matt.conway@theriseupgroup.org).

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