

Tipp City Public Library Unveils Mural During Pandemic

by Katie Clevenger, Tipp City Public Library

How It All Began

The Tipp City Public Library's Director, Lisa Santucci, had an idea of a mural that began as a sketch on a napkin years ago. The mural project was always in the back of her mind, but other projects took precedence for the library. Then the pandemic hit worldwide—that's when Santucci decided it was time to bring her idea to life and offer the community beauty and excitement to these uncertain times. With the TCPL's location in historic downtown Tipp City, Santucci envisioned the artwork to be something that drew people to the downtown historic district and offered enjoyment to the residents and visitors of the quaint town. Santucci's purpose of the artwork was to be a photo destination—a place for people to stop and snap a pic while visiting the shops and restaurants in the area. The concept of the art was to have a book with words pouring out that were submitted by the community. Over 70 words were received, and TCPL was able to select 10 words to include in the final artwork to be painted on the exterior wall. To begin installation on the mural, Santucci hired local muralist, Atalie Gagnet, and they worked together to collaborate on the final artwork that would eventually be the mural painted on the exterior wall of the library.

The Process

Once hired, muralist Atalie Gagnet began preparations in August for the large art installation. Gagnet had the lift delivered and assembled a small team of painters to begin the painting process. Many locals stopped to watch in awe of the process or found entertainment by watching history made happen while dining at the Coldwater Café, which shares the alley with the library.

The Funding

The large art installation on the exterior wall of the Tipp City Public Library has been partially community funded. The TCPL greatly appreciates all funding, and the project would not be made possible without the generous support of community members and organizations. All supporters of this project receive their name/organization acknowledged near the mural on the exterior wall of the library. Maintenance continues indefinitely on the mural, and the library will continue to accept donations through 2021. If interested in learning more about supporting this project, contact the TCPL's Director, Lisa Santucci, at (937) 667-3826 or director@tippcitylibrary.org.

The Artist

Atalie Gagnet, at Tipp City graduate of 2001, began her mural, logo and signage business in 2003. She has had the privilege of working locally and internationally, managing and installing outdoor murals of up to 7,000 sq. ft. for Architectural Digest for Art Basel Miami, Graniti, Sicily, Rockford, Illinois, Cincinnati, and all over Dayton, Ohio. Some of her work can be found at www.ataliegagnet.com and on Instagram at [@nocatsinamerica](https://www.instagram.com/nocatsinamerica).



The Finished Artwork

Once muralist, Atalie Gagnet, and her team of painters finished the artwork, a final sealant was coated on the wall to preserve the art. Residents and visitors of the community are seen enjoying the mural and taking photos. The Tipp City Public Library enjoys seeing people finding joy in the art and appreciates being tagged on social media posts if a pic is taken of the mural. Tag the library on Instagram @tippcitylibrary and on Facebook @TippCityPublicLibrary. You can also tag the muralist on Instagram @nocatsinamerica and on Facebook @AtalieGagnet. To learn more about the mural and see pictures of the process, visit <https://tippcitylibrary.org/mural/>.

