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New Hope Community Artist's Work Featured in Permanent Liberty Mall Installation

Anita Bullard joined eight local artists in "Voices Through Brushstrokes" community art project

Loch Sheldrake, N.Y.— [New Hope Community](#) resident Anita Bullard joined eight fellow artists on Thursday, Oct. 1, to unveil a series of large-scale works as part of "Voices Through Brushstrokes" at Liberty Mall.

Hosted by the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce and presented in partnership with Grese Productions, Casa Di Longobardi and Hope's Compass, "Voices Through Brushstrokes" brought together local artists and community partners to share personal stories and perspectives through art.

Each participating artist created a 3-by-8-foot painting that was revealed during a special unveiling and ribbon-cutting ceremony. Following the event, the works became a permanent installation displayed in the upper windows of the Liberty Mall atrium.

Bullard, 61, has been creating art since she was approximately 15 years old and has been a member of New Hope Community since 2002. Through community involvement and personal enrichment, New Hope Community supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in exploring their interests, building independence and pursuing experiences that help them thrive.

For Bullard, art has long been one of those outlets.

"Art is important to me because it helps me channel my emotions," said Bullard. "This event is something I will get to keep as a special moment in my life, something to treasure forever."

Bullard spent more than 20 hours creating her piece, "Beauty Is in the Eye of the Beholder," using acrylic paint. The project marked the first time she had created a painting on such a large scale.

Throughout the process, New Hope Community Art Coordinator Laura Hertel worked alongside Bullard, offering guidance on scale and composition while helping her translate her artistic vision to the 3-by-8-foot canvas.

“Anita approached this project with tremendous focus and creativity,” said Hertel. “Creating on this scale was a new challenge, but she embraced the opportunity and remained true to her own artistic style. Seeing her work displayed as part of a permanent community installation makes this experience especially meaningful.”

The Oct. 1 unveiling followed the “Voices Through Brushstrokes” program held on Aug. 20, when the participating artists began sketching their canvases and community members gathered for an evening centered on art, music and storytelling.

[Event photos](#), courtesy of New Hope Community

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About New Hope Community:

Established in 1975, New Hope Community is a not-for-profit providing supports for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Recognized today as a leading provider in the human services field, the organization maintains a person-centered approach and actively advocates for individual choice in a person’s efforts to live, work and participate fully in his or her community. Its breadth of services includes clinical and nursing care, residential services, day programming, community habilitation, self-direction, support brokers, service navigators, education, recreation and leisure activities, a robust supported employment program, summer programs for youths, and much more.

In 2020, New Hope Community merged with Select Human Services, Inc. (SHS) of Pleasantville, NY, a not-for-profit voluntary agency providing services in Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland Counties. The combined organization provides services to more than 700 people and employs more than 1,000 staff.