

Press Release – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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“Bangin’ on the Bayou”

Memphis, TN – Local artist John Golightly is offering the public an opportunity to help in the creation of public art. He is hosting four blacksmithing workshops for residents of the Normal Station neighborhood to contribute to the hand-crafted fence he is installing along Black Bayou, parallel to Goodman Street between Park and Douglass in the Normal Station Neighborhood.

Golightly calls his workshops “Bangin’ on the Bayou” and says it will give neighbors the opportunity to play a major part in enhancing their community, and will give them the chance to become a blacksmith for a day. As part of the fence along Black Bayou, five scenic panels that were designed by Golightly will be constructed by the residents of the Normal Station neighborhood. Under expert supervision they will learn how to forge steel using a hammer and anvil just like blacksmiths have done for over four thousand years. They will also get to hot stamp their name into the work they’ve done, and will be able to show it off for years to come.

Class dates are April 19, April 26, May 3, and May 10. Anyone who is interested in participating can contact the UrbanArt Commission at 901.525.0880.

Golightly was selected to create the fence to coincide with an engineering project by the City of Memphis. The 550-foot long fence is completely hand-crafted by Golightly and volunteers from the Normal Station Neighborhood, where the project will be installed in May. The project is paid for by the City of Memphis Percent-for-Art Program, which is administered by the UrbanArt Commission.

The mission of the UrbanArt Commission is to create a dynamic, vibrant, nurturing community through art and design. The UAC is funded in part by the City of Memphis, Greater Memphis Arts Council, Tennessee Arts Commission and the Hyde Foundation.

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