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Cue the Beat! is the name of the West End BIZ's newest mural at 551 Sargent Ave., which is painted in a pop-art style.

New Mural brightens West End streetscape

BY JENNIFER MCFEE

SPECIAL TO CANSTAR

WEST END

A new piece of public art is adding another bright splash of colour to the West End.

On July 3, the West End BIZ unveiled its eye-catching Cue the Beat! mural at 551 Sargent Ave.

Executive director Gloria Cardwell-Hoeppner explained that this mural is a little different than most since it's not painted on the side of a building.

"We did something a little more creative. We took an old fence and built a wall on it," she said. "Otherwise, it was just a blank parking lot. We wanted to add some colour and interest to it."

The Infantino family at X-Cues donated and sponsored the space for the mural. Other project sponsors include Take Pride Winnipeg! and Dulux Paint.

University student artists Antoinette Baquiran and Rachel Goossen designed and painted the mural as part of the West End

BIZ's mural mentorship program.

Cue the Beat! mural was created in a '60s pop art style, which features geometric and abstract shapes along with minimalist forms.

"It's one of my favourite styles. It highlights the colour and creativity of that era," Cardwell-Hoeppner said. "It also pays homage to the fact that it's their 50th anniversary at X-Cues."

The mural depicts images of the café, formerly known as Enzo's, which was a gathering place for Winnipeg's newcomer community. The design also includes musical instruments from around the world, including Ethiopia, the Philippines, Iceland, Italy and Syria. In total, the West End is home to more than 100 murals.

"When you look at this particular mural, you see how colourful it is and you can pick up the musical elements in it."

In addition to creating a second mural, Baquiran and Goossen will be working on an initiative called Shutter Art, which will transform business windows into artistic creations.



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