



**LA CROSSE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

# La Crosse Public Library Banner Project 2021

Beginning in 2018, the La Crosse Public Library began its Banner Project, using the outside of the Main Library to hang banners depicting inclusion and libraries.



This was followed in 2019 with the Record Award Banner Art Contest. Funded by former City of La Crosse Arts Board member Dick Record, this contest featured entries from artists in the community. Juried by the Arts Board, the contest winner was Mai Chao Duddeck and her work "Roots". In April of 2019, this work was installed as a banner on the southern side of the building.



The southern side of the library contains space for two more large banners and it is the library's intent to continue this project and, in time, rotate in new art about inclusion and diversity by local artists in that space.

The La Crosse Public Library is commissioning a work by local artist and college student, Breckin Sargeant (see below for image and artist statement) with the plan for the banner to be hung this summer (2021) concurrent with a public artist reception. The La Crosse Public Library has funds in the Banner Arts Project budget for the reproduction and installation of the banner as well as payment to the artist of \$1000. The La Crosse Public Library is respectfully requesting that the City of La Crosse Arts Board contribute \$250 towards compensating the artist in honor of its earlier involvement in the project, and a show of support for the installation of public art on a City of La Crosse building.

### **Artist Statement:**

My name is Breckin Sargeant (she/her/hers). I'm currently a sophomore at UW La Crosse studying psychology, ethnic and racial studies, and social justice. Art has been my passion since I was little and has evolved with me along with my interests and values. As an artist activist with a passion for social justice, I spend a lot of my time trying to fix the problems I see in our world. I like to use art to remind myself, and others, of the beauty in the world. This good sometimes gets lost or overshadowed by the bad, and I like to bring it to light again.

### **About the Work:**

This piece is about reminding us about the beauty and positivity of blackness. Blackness is so much more than the oppression and racism we face. I want people to remember this when they see this piece. Despite all of the obstacles, people of color persevere and shine bright.

