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JAGUARS HELP LAUNCH THE CULTURAL COUNCIL'S ARTS + CAMPAIGN

The "Kickoff" of a New Creative Economy Partnership



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – May 3, 2021 - In celebration of the NFL Draft and the Jaguars' historic selection of the first overall pick, the team joined together with the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville to commission one-of-a-kind painted and autographed footballs commemorating the occasion. Igniting the creative economy, this partnership will appeal to anyone who collects memorabilia, who is passionate about the Jaguars, enjoys art and/or wants to support innovation within our arts and culture community of greater Jacksonville.

Twenty official NFL footballs, were uniquely painted by well-known, NE Florida artists and autographed by a Jaguars player including K Josh Lambo, WR DJ Chark Jr., P Logan Cooke, OL Andrew Norwell and WR Collin Johnson, are now being auctioned off by the Jaguar Foundation until noon on May 7, 2021.

Cultural Council Board Director, Adriel Rocha, who serves as Director, Jaguars Foundation and Community Impact at The Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation, provided a unique fundraising opportunity leveraging the launching of the Cultural Council's dynamic new ARTS + campaign with the NFL Draft. Donating 20 official NFL footballs dipped in white paint to create a blank canvas for the participating artists. After a tremendous response from the Cultural Council's official call to artists, five were chosen for their individual style and talent.

"Ranging from abstract to realism, each work specifically or figuratively represents our Jaguars team and our City," said Diana Donovan, Executive Director of the Cultural

Council. “The ARTS + Sports collaborative partnership showcases Jacksonville's creative economy, igniting a merger of artists and athletes, to bring a fresh perspective to a quality of life we all share, as well as a commitment to serving our city together as a team of equity driven placemakers.”

Ted Head, an award winning artist, known for his realistic paintings, has been painting wildlife for decades. “As an artist, I’ve painted many of the zoo’s animals, including a majestic jaguar, sunning regally on a cliff. To me, nothing symbolizes our team more than these marvelous creatures painted in oils. As we move into a new and exciting phase, it’s an honor to be part of the new season. After being constrained by the limits Covid placed on us, I, and the community, are ready to see the Jaguars regain their glory...with strength, cunning, and a fighting spirit!”

The other four participating artists include: Alma Ramirez, Dustin Harewood, Tabitha Skye, and Heather Blanton. Each artist painted five footballs in their own personal style and will be compensated with a base stipend and a percentage of the purchase price of the footballs they painted. The remaining funds from the auction will go to the Cultural Council to contribute to innovation based grants, programming, events, and additional areas of cultural collaboration.

To see the footballs and learn more about the artists and the project, go to: <https://www.culturalcouncil.org/arts--sports---nfl-football-auction.html>

The direct link to the auction is: <https://www.betterunite.com/moreartculture>

Founded in 1971, the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville is a non-profit organization responsible for igniting the creative economy of our region by providing three pillars for community success. It manages and facilitates the City of Jacksonville's Cultural Service Grant Program, regranteeing \$3 million annually from the City to our community's critically needed arts and culture organizations. It facilitates the City of Jacksonville's Public Art program, known as Art in Public Places, a department project-managing the development and delivery of permanent works of public art throughout Duval County with an average total value of \$1.5 million per year. The Cultural Council also supports individual artists by offering career advancement workshops, grant writing courses, and professional networking events, as well as financial opportunities including participation in the Art in Public Places program, access to artist grants, and connection to collectors through pop-up art galleries such as the ARTSee & Shop at The Markets of Town Center. The mission of the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville is to enrich life in Northeast Florida by investing in arts and culture.

Bringing awareness and support to the incredible Arts & Culture community in Jax

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