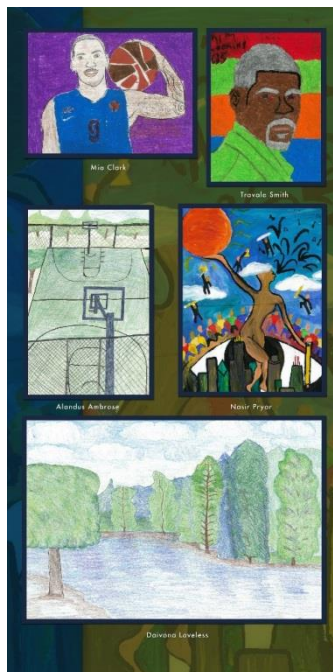


SOPHY

— HYDE PARK —

## Student Art Work to be Featured in Outdoor Exhibition in Chicago's Hyde Park Neighborhood Through Community Partnership Project



Hyde Park Chicago, IL, March, 7 2018 - [SOPHY Hyde Park](#), the new 98-room boutique hotel currently under construction in Chicago's historic Hyde Park neighborhood, is on schedule to open in summer 2018. While the building phase is in progress, SOPHY has partnered with Hyde Park Academy High School on a cultural project to enhance the site, engage the neighborhood and establish a community dialogue leading up to the hotel's opening.

Later this month, a colorful exterior mural will be installed as an outdoor gallery in front of the hotel site, located at 53<sup>rd</sup> Street and Dorchester Avenue. The mural will serve as a fixed exhibition wall that will remain on view throughout the construction phase. It will feature 60 original works of art by Hyde Park Academy High School art students, individually created to celebrate the Hyde Park community and express the inspiring intellectual, artistic and cultural innovations that are part of Hyde Park's rich history.

“The SOPHY Hotel Mural Project has been a valuable opportunity for the students of the Hyde Park Academy to creatively express their vision in these art works and to share them publicly with the community as an outdoor installation” says Antonio Ross, Principal of the Hyde Park Academy. “It will be the views, aspirations and innovations of this generation that shape the future of Hyde Park and we’re proud that they are able to participate in this groundbreaking moment.”

Spearheaded by Trinal, Inc., a Chicago-based diversity and inclusion consulting company, the Mural Project was facilitated by Alicia Garcia-Abner, President of Trinal.

“I’m proud to have been given the opportunity by the Olympia Companies and Smart Hotels to assist the Hyde Park Academy High School in developing a platform where their students could express themselves through art for the Mural Project,” says Garcia-Abner. “In many instances, teens are better able to express themselves and view their community via the medium of art rather than verbally. This opportunity has provided a vehicle where these students learned that their ideas and contributions are important and taken seriously. By providing this vehicle for these students, the Olympia Companies and Smart Hotels have also demonstrated they are committed to supporting positive demonstrations of creativity on the Southside as well as other Chicagoland neighborhoods.”

In a neighborhood in the midst of a dynamic revitalization, SOPHY’s community engagement and support is central to the hotel’s mission. SOPHY is firmly rooted in the history of Hyde Park, which is famed as the site of the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition and home to both the University of Chicago campus and the Museum of Science and Industry. It is also close to the site of the future Barack Obama Presidential Library. The partnership with Hyde Park Academy High School is a community project that is particularly exciting for Anthony Beach, the General Manager of SOPHY, a former Hyde Park resident and an alumnus of the Academy.

**Media Opportunity:** The murals will be unveiled on Monday March 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am at the Hyde Park Academy, prior to installation in front of the SOPHY hotel. Credentialed press and photographers are welcome to attend. RSVP to Gayle Conran, [gconran@conranpr.com](mailto:gconran@conranpr.com) All attendees must be pre-registered.

### ***About Hyde Park Academy***

*Founded in 1863 as a single room housed in a local grammar school, Hyde Park High School underwent several reincarnations before relocating to its current building at 6220 South Stony Island Avenue in 1914. In 1976, Hyde Park became a magnet school and a Career Academy. Since 1996, the school has been known as Hyde Park Academy, with a focus on college readiness and career preparation. In 2001, Hyde Park Academy became an authorized International Baccalaureate World School, offering the world's most rigorous college preparatory curriculum through its Middle Years (as of 2004) and Diploma programs. The school is located across from the future Obama Presidential Center in Hyde Park.*

**About SOPHY Hyde Park**

*The 98- room hotel currently under construction in Chicago's historic Hyde Park neighborhood. Developed by The Olympia Companies and SMART Hotels, and managed by Olympia Hotel Management, SOPHY is near the site of the future Barack Obama Presidential Library, the University of Chicago and the University of Chicago Medical Center. SOPHY is a member of the Preferred Hotels & Resorts Lifestyle Collection. [www.SOPHYhotel.com](http://www.SOPHYhotel.com)*

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