

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Illuminated Spaces* Highlights Downtown Fairburn as a Rising Public Art Destination**

City of Fairburn and Dashboard challenge the notion of having to travel to major cities to see public art

FAIRBURN, GA – Today, the City of Fairburn in partnership with Dashboard announce *Illuminated Spaces* – an innovative public art series showcasing the heart of downtown Fairburn as a vibrant destination for site-specific art and light installations by emerging local and national artists. Kicking off this summer, the series will go beyond traditional art exhibitions by intentionally integrating the city’s infrastructure and vacant spaces into art activations that harmoniously blend environment, artistry, and light to create dialogue, inspire reflection, and ignite the imagination.

Although the City of Fairburn has historically been underrepresented in conversations about major art hubs, *Illuminated Spaces* challenges that narrative by positioning public art at the forefront of their award-winning revitalization plan for downtown, supporting emerging artists, and seamlessly integrating artwork into the city’s fabric to reshape the way citizens and visitors alike perceive and experience their surroundings. The first iteration of *Illuminated Spaces* will be unveiled for the community and press on **Aug 5, 2023** at 2 PM.

"Creating a thriving downtown is essential to our community," **said City of Fairburn Mayor, Mario B. Avery.** "Filling vacant spaces with art is a great way of showcasing the character of our historic community," **said Tony M. Phillips, City of Fairburn’s City Administrator.** "Illuminated Spaces showcases the best in our cultural diversity, while also promoting business opportunity and bringing life to dormant spaces," **added Sylvia Abernathy, City of Fairburn’s Economic Development Director.**

For the inaugural iteration of the *Illuminated Spaces* series, football legend and hometown hero, Eric Berry, has entrusted the vacant Fairburn Antique Mall to become the canvas for two 20’ window-front installations by artist Roberto Rafael Navarrete. Navarrete is known for transmuting physical space by deconstructing and knotting his materials to explore transformations of the body and mind as it heals from systemic trauma. Titled *Portals*, the installation will merge Navarrete and Berry’s shared mission of healing to transform the historic space through an ingenious combination of paper cloth, wood, and mesmerizing

light, designed to transport viewers between worlds, and provide an opportunity for restoration and community reflection on the past, present, and future of the City of Fairburn.

“Adversity is inevitable,” **said building-owner, Eric Berry**, “However, the ability to overcome is intrinsically present and definitely accessible. What better way to convey this message than sharing Roberto’s artistic expression of *Portals*. Using the transparency of my store front windows, he’s here to remind us that peace, joy & understanding are just beyond the horizon of discomfort, anxiety & fear. Observe this vacant space — as it transforms and transitions into a national staple. Connect with this vacant space — and be reminded of your own capabilities to overcome. Understand the vacant spaces you possess within — and illuminate them with pure intentions and a positive spirit. Clarity will be sure to follow.”

“In creating *Portals* for the City of Fairburn, I was extremely touched by the support and total faith they had in me and the work that I do as an artist,” **said artist, Roberto Rafael Navarrete**, “I have always felt an enormous responsibility to utilize my talent, voice, and experience through my artwork as I strive to express positivity while refusing to keep any part of my Queer Latinx identity closeted. I believe that artists create between worlds, these *Portals*. We tap into creative energy that we viscerally feel and then imbue our work with that energy. I am completely honored to create *Portals* for the city of Fairburn and to express my gratitude for the inclusive space they have created for the artist community and all communities here in Georgia.”

Illuminated Spaces is an ongoing series, and will continue to roll out through 2024 with a rotating lineup of artists and artworks in unexpected places, to be announced.

Fairburn Illuminated Spaces: Roberto Rafael Navarrete Viewing Details

Where: Fairburn Antique Mall
Window-front viewing
10 NW Broad Street
Fairburn, GA 30213

When: On view August 5 - September 10, 2023.
Free and open to the public.

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The City of Fairburn is dedicated to setting and achieving goals for the City and its neighborhoods that restore the Fairburn government's integrity, professionalism, and respect across all municipal operations, customer service, and stakeholder relationships throughout the region. The City also focuses on promoting a sense of pride for residents and businesses and creating a family atmosphere that promotes morale, teamwork, positivity, and excellence that will ultimately make a mark in this region. The City of Fairburn is "*Situating to Succeed!*" For more information about the City of Fairburn, visit fairburn.com



Dashboard is a creative non-profit that produces transformative arts experiences in public spaces. For more information about Dashboard, visit dashboard.us