



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Brookfield, IL Oct 27, 2025

Brookfield Shops to Unveil New Artwork on Oct. 31 *Nine new original works of art to be displayed in Shops courtyard as part of Placemaking Grant initiative*

- WHAT:** Nine new original works of art created by six different artists will be unveiled publicly, signaling the next phase in the [Brookfield Shops at Progress Park](#), the Village's small business incubator program in the Eight Corners Business District. This event celebrates community and creativity with a mini art gallery, light refreshments, local shopping and more.
- WHEN:** **Friday, October 31, 2025**
12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Compassion Factory Art Gallery & Studio
9210 Broadway Ave. (next door to the Brookfield Shops)
Brookfield, IL 60513
- WHY:** The Village of Brookfield, in partnership with the Brookfield Theater Corp., has received a \$195,000 placemaking grant from **Cook County Arts**, an initiative of the **Cook County Bureau of Economic Development** made possible with American Rescue Plan Act funds. Cook County, teaming up with the **Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)**, is investing \$2 million in community-led arts projects to boost the quality of life for its suburban residents.
- The Village is using the grant funding to transform the Brookfield Shops courtyard into a dynamic space designed to support all local artists, entrepreneurs and community events. The new art panels are a key element for furthering the Shops' goal of creating a vibrant, thriving space where residents connect and engage.
- WHO:** [Brookfield Shops at Progress Park](#) is a **retail incubator program** launched by the Village of Brookfield in June 2025 to support emerging small businesses. Six entrepreneurs were selected earlier this year through a "**Shark Tank**"-style **pitch competition** judged by a panel of local leaders.

Courtyard Art Selection Process

Community art is vital for the Village of Brookfield, serving as a powerful medium for connection and expression. Visual art, such as the pieces to be displayed at the Brookfield Shops, transforms public spaces into dynamic canvases that reflect the town's unique character and collective identity. These installations become landmarks, fostering a sense of pride and belonging among residents and attracting visitors to our vibrant community.

The nine works of art by six artists were selected by an art review panel comprised of local leaders.

Featured Artists

- **Haylie Skripac** – Haylie studied art in college at Bethel University and graduated in May 2025 with a Liberal Arts degree. Haylie wants her pieces to make people feel as good as she did when creating them.
- **Joanna White** – Joanna is a local artist with 20+ years of experience in the Fine Art and Theatre world. She currently teaches Scenic Art at The Theatre School at DePaul University. She has completed several murals in various neighborhoods in Chicago as well as Elgin.
- **Katie Carpenter** – Katie is an artist living in Ohio whose work blends realism with a cartoon-like whimsy. Her goal is simply that viewers leave with a smile.
- **Mary Beth Zwolfer** – Mary Beth is a retired professional interior decorator living in Palos Heights. She has dabbled in watercolors and pen and ink drawings for fun, but she is working on learning to create in acrylics since her work for the Brookfield Shops will be hanging outside.
- **Vicki Perry** – Vicki is a Brookfield-based artist and maker. The unique crafts and mixed media work she produces is eco-conscious. The humor in her work stems from her forever muse, her late mother. In composing hand-painted signage and ornaments, she creates accessible treasures.
- **Vivian Piña** – Vivian is an illustrator and a lifelong resident of Brookfield. Much of her creativity has been fueled by her background in classical dance, and she finds great inspiration from artist Mary Blair. Her work strives to show the beauty of diversity and celebrate our differences.

About the Brookfield Shops

The Brookfield Shops at Progress Park is an innovative retail incubator program created for local entrepreneurs, business owners and artisans. The Brookfield Shops draw inspiration from the success of similar programs in neighboring communities, adapting this proven model to create exciting opportunities for local entrepreneurs. By bringing this program to Brookfield, we're providing a platform for small businesses to thrive, fostering creativity and strengthening our local economy in a way that's both fun and supportive for our community.

About the Village of Brookfield

The Village of Brookfield, Illinois, is a vibrant, family-friendly village located just 13 miles west of downtown Chicago. Known for its welcoming neighborhoods, historic charm, and the world-renowned Brookfield Zoo, the Village offers a unique blend of small-town warmth and urban convenience. With a strong sense of community, excellent schools, and easy access to Metra rail service, Brookfield is an ideal place to live, work, and visit. The Village is committed to thoughtful development, supporting local businesses, and enhancing quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Libby Popovic, Community Development Director
 Village of Brookfield
 708-485-1113
lpopovic@brookfieldil.gov