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DC Celebrates NEW Artists at DC's Go-Go Corner

By Christen Hill



There's a brand new Go-Go mural at the District's "Go-Go music corner" at 7th and Florida Avenue, NW. The new mural, which abuts the CVS parking lot and The Shay apartment building, is directly across from the building where Go-Go music plays daily. The mural, painted by local artist Kali Crosby, features a young boy on percussion. It is a throwback to Go-Go's early roots, when local youth would beat out a Go-Go rhythm on empty 5-gallon plastic jugs. Crosby's mural is the first of three distinct works of art to be featured on the wall. Another section is currently being painted by frequent MuralsDC artist Aniekan Udofia, whose work is sponsored, in part, by Shaw Mainstreets.

"We close out our 14th season of MuralsDC in the midst of 202Creates with a fitting mural – an installation that uplifts DC culture and DC creatives," said Mayor Bowser. "The message at 7th and Florida couldn't be clearer – you can't and won't mute DC. Go-Go is DC and DC is Go-Go."

Two years ago, the Go-Go music that boomed from the front of 1915 7th Street halted after complaints from some in the community. This sparked an instantaneous response from community activists and a pop-up Go-Go concert at 14th and U Streets NW, which drew thousands of Go-Go fans. "Don't Mute DC" activists Ron Moten, Natalie Hopkinson, author of *Go-Go Live: The Musical Life and Death of Chocolate City* and a member of the city's arts commission, spoke about how

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where the 'Don't Mute DC' Go-Go movement began."

important art is to the movement. Donald Campbell who has deejayed the "Go-Go Corner" for 26 years, also attended.

"It has been over a year since legislation declared Go-Go the official music of DC and I'm happy to see that it continues to be celebrated," said Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure Lucinda Babers. "I'm particularly excited that DPW's MuralsDC program unveiled the mural on this corner at the heart of Go-Go culture and

"This mural is one of nearly a dozen MuralsDC projects in Wards 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8 this year," said DPW Director Davis, "When all three sections of the wall are complete, it will be an 80-foot-long tribute to DC culture that will celebrate parts of our history and provide a glimpse into our future."



"This season has been a true celebration of the DC spirit," said CAH Executive Director Heran Sereke-Brhan. "We kicked it off with a mural in support of the natural and protective hair styles worn by so many in our community and are closing out with a celebration of our music. There is a common thread of embracing our roots—literally and figuratively—throughout all of our 2021 murals."

Artists for the 2021 season were asked to touch on themes that reflected DC pride, social justice, statehood, and/or gender/racial equality. Their mural locations are as follows:

WARD	LOCATION	ARTIST	STATUS
1	1900 7th Street NW (CVS Parking Lot) 3 murals at this location	Kaliq Crosby	1 of 2 Complete
		Aniekan Udofia	In Progress
2	1564 Wisconsin Avenue NW	Victor Quiñonez	In Progress
5	1564 Okie Street NE	Federico Frum	In Progress
5	2725 Bladensburg Road NE	Justin Nethercut	Complete
6		Hannah Atallah	Complete
		Shani Shih	Complete

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	801 Virginia Avenue SE 3 murals at this location		
		Daniel Barojas	Complete
6	800 D Street SW, L'Enfant Plaza	A.L. Grimes	Complete
	2004 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue SE (PNC Parking Lot)		Complete
8		Candice Taylor	