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SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Workforce Southwest Washington Receives Grant for Youth-Created Mural and Work-Skills Project

Vancouver, Wash. (Sep. 22, 2017) – Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW) received a \$20,000 grant from the Honorable Frank L. and Arlene G. Price Foundation to help at-risk youth in South Kelso learn work-related skills through design and creation of a community mural.

In partnership with Goodwill in Longview, Educational Service District 112 (ESD112) and Urban Artworks, five youth ages 16-18 will participate in the South Kelso Mural Academy.

The youth will be immersed in the planning process of creating public art, from scouting a wall, applying for permits, communicating with clients, ordering supplies, and conceptualizing and executing ideas. The youth will work with teaching artists and muralists to execute a large-scale piece of public art, while learning teamwork, leadership and soft skills.

“Frank Price was a retired Superior Court Judge in Cowlitz County and Arlene Price taught art at Huntington Junior High in Kelso. Their private foundation was founded on three principles health, education and historical preservation. The board of directors of the foundation believes this art project will further the education of youth desperately in need of guidance at a critical time of their lives,” said Kay Dalke-Sheadel, Executive Director of the Price Foundation.

The foundation gifted \$175,000 in Clark and Cowlitz counties in 2017.

The teens will be enrolled in the WSW-funded youth programs operated by Goodwill and ESD112 to help them obtain a high school diploma or GED. They will learn about post-secondary education and job opportunities and will participate in tours of apprenticeship training centers, career fairs and additional work experiences.

“Many young adults that we serve need a mentor and a community of support to enable them to see past their current reality—whether that is a reality based in working paycheck to paycheck, supporting their entire family or being unable to put food on the table for their children,” said Miriam Martin, Youth Initiatives Manager at Workforce Southwest Washington.

“This project will enable our youth to receive GED support and a connection to a living wage job upon completion, and the opportunity to engage with their local community and city government through the installation of public art,” continued Martin.

The program will begin in late spring or early fall 2018.

Serving businesses, job seekers and youth in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties.



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About Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW), a nonprofit organization founded in 2002, contributes to regional economic growth by providing investments and resources to improve the skills and education of the workforce in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. WSW-funded programs operated by WorkSource and community-based organizations help businesses find and hire the employees they need and provide people with the skills, education and training to find work or advance in their careers. WSW collaborates with employers, community colleges and universities, labor groups, government and economic development agencies, high schools, nonprofits and community organizations. Learn more at www.workforcesw.org.

About the Honorable Frank L. and Arlene G. Price Foundation was created to provide education, health and historical preservation to Clark and Cowlitz Counties in Washington State. Learn more at www.pricefoundation.net.

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