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## **Local artists create mural for location of Downtown Greenwood fire**

### **Outpouring of support continues for community affected by arson**

SEATTLE – December 10, 2009 – Artists from Seattle Mural Art, an affiliate of Greenwood’s Bherd Studios, are creating an 89-by-8-foot mural to commemorate the businesses damaged and destroyed by the string of arsons this past summer and fall. The mural will be installed on the temporary wall along 85<sup>th</sup> Street where the Eleanor Roosevelt Building once stood. The ERB, which Taproot Theatre rented out to four businesses, was destroyed in the October 23 arson. Concerned about leaving a hole in the core of the Greenwood business district, and seeing an opportunity to facilitate more art in Greenwood, Taproot Theatre Company commissioned the mural.

“Downtown Greenwood is full of entrepreneurs who have put their all into making this such a thriving business district, full of creativity and artistry,” said Scott Nolte, Taproot Theatre’s producing artistic director. “While we’re working on a long-term plan for the property, we want to give back to our community by creating something of beauty for them, something to remind them that this is a special place to live and work.”

In the weeks after the fire, Nolte asked Taproot Theatre’s facilities manager, Marty Gordon, who is also an artist, to look into the possibility of installing a mural. Gordon immediately thought of John Osgood, owner of Bherd Studios and a co-founder of the Art Up Greenwood-Phinney Second Friday Art Walk.

Capturing Greenwood’s resilience and the assurance that the community will rebound, the mural’s centerpiece is a phoenix rising from the flames. The mural also commemorates the firefighters’ rescue of the cats at the nearby Cat City the morning of the fire, a depiction of Taproot Theatre Company, icons of the neighborhood such as the Greenwood Car Show and the art walk, and more.

The mural, being created offsite by John Osgood, Zachary Bohnenkamp and Kevin "Sensei23" Sullivan, will be installed soon.

**ABOUT TAPROOT THEATRE COMPANY**

Taproot Theatre Company is a professional, non-profit theatre company with a multi-faceted production program. Founded in 1976, Taproot Theatre serves the Pacific Northwest with Mainstage Productions, Touring Productions and Acting Studio. Taproot exists to create theatre that explores the beauty and questions of life while bringing hope to our search for meaning. Taproot Theatre Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), Theatre Puget Sound (TPS), and the Greenwood-Phinney Chamber of Commerce.

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