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8.23.2022

## My Homecourt 2022 Designed by Artist Lois Harada; Basketball Court at Davis Park Opens Sept. 20, 2022

### MEDIA CONTACT:

Elizabeth Corkery  
Communications Associate  
Providence College Galleries /  
My HomeCourt  
pcgalleries@providence.edu  
info@myhomecourt.org

PUBLIC LAUNCH EVENT WITH MAYOR ELORZA  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 4:30 – 6PM

At a public launch, non-profit My HomeCourt [MHC] and Providence College Galleries [PCG], in collaboration with Providence Parks, will unveil a newly refurbished and designed public basketball court at Davis Park in the city's Smith Hill. The basketball court will feature a court mural designed by Providence-based artist Lois Harada.

Lois Harada (b.1988) is a printmaker bridging fine art and commercial printing in Providence. Her artwork utilizes commercial production techniques and equipment to create printed editions that are meant to be affordable and accessible to a wide audience. Harada's projects are often political and employ the power of text to navigate histories, interrogate ideas, and frame responses to issues. Some of her most potent work centers on political issues past and present, ranging from banners that explore local current issues to historical injustices, such as the long-term internment of Japanese Americans during the Second World War.

PCG commissioned Harada to create the large-scale court mural artwork. Kate McNamara, who works as both a curator for PCG and executive director of MHC, curated the artwork with technical assistance provided by PCG design and communications associate Elizabeth Corkery.

McNamara explains that she "invited Harada to design the artwork for this year's My Homecourt project because of the artist's use of text and language in compelling and powerful visual motifs. This court mural commission presents a unique opportunity for the artist to create on a larger scale than ever before with inspiration from a distinct and diverse neighborhood."

Harada says of the court, "the basketball court is a place to form new relationships through play, further strengthening the communities that use the court and park."



Lois Harada *LET'S PLAY*, 2022.  
Courtesy of the artist.

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

Providence College Galleries—  
Hunt-Cavanagh Gallery at  
Hunt-Cavanagh Hall  
—Reilly Gallery at  
the Smith Center for the Arts

Providence College  
Public Entrance:  
212 Huxley Avenue Providence,  
RI, 02918

Open Hours (During Exhibitions)  
Mon–Sat, 11am–6pm



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As she developed the court mural design over several months, Harada remained true to her overall body of artwork. LET'S PLAY, combines bold text in multiple languages on a bright yellow field, each an invitation to join and play. The text painted on the court looks like letter-pressed type, reminiscent of that in early newspapers and print advertising. Yellow numbers surround the edges of the court in a vibrant pink field, referencing points and scoring. Combining this with inspiration drawn from communities surrounding Davis Park, Harada's mural design expresses the multi-faceted cultures through language of the folks who use the court as well as the unique message of the commissioned artist.

The artist and organizers of My HomeCourt welcome public participation. Community members and groups who would like to join in the fun at the public launch should contact MHC by email at [info@myhomecourt.org](mailto:info@myhomecourt.org). Providence College students, staff, and faculty should contact PCG by email at [pcgalleries@providence.edu](mailto:pcgalleries@providence.edu).

For in-progress photos of the mural design development and court construction, email [info@myhomecourt.org](mailto:info@myhomecourt.org) or check out My HomeCourt on Instagram: [@my\\_homecourt](https://www.instagram.com/my_homecourt) and [@pcgalleries](https://www.instagram.com/pcgalleries).

#### **ABOUT LOIS HARADA**

Lois Harada is an artist and printmaker working in Providence. She studied printmaking at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) and settled in Rhode Island after graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2010. She works at DWRI Letterpress, a commercial letterpress printshop where she also prints her own work. Harada has exhibited her work across the United States and internationally. Her work is included in private collections as well as the RISD Museum. Her practice is bolstered by residencies and she recently completed a residency at Anderson Ranch in Colorado in the spring of 2022. She recently finished a seven year term on the board of New Urban Arts, a nationally recognized free, arts drop-in program and a term as a city commissioner on the Art in City Life Commission serving the city of Providence.

**[Read more about the artist at myhomecourt.org](https://myhomecourt.org)**

#### **ABOUT MY HOMECOURT**

My HomeCourt [MHC] is a non-profit organization with the mission to foster community engagement through the revitalization of basketball courts and city parks facilitated by cutting-edge contemporary art. In collaboration with Providence College Galleries, Providence Parks, and various local and international partners, MHC invites internationally-recognized contemporary artists to transform tired courts and turn blank surfaces into colorful, living works of art. MHC came from the idea that we all have our own homecourt; it is the place to play ball, build friendships, find safety and refuge from the chaos beyond the park fences. We believe that revitalizing basketball courts empowers the very people who utilize them. The renewed courts become public artworks that inspire the community, neighborhood, and city alike.

**[For more information about MHC, visit myhomecourt.org.](https://myhomecourt.org)**



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## ABOUT PROVIDENCE COLLEGE GALLERIES

Providence College Galleries [PCG] is the only visual art institution in the state of Rhode Island committed entirely to presenting the art and artists of our time. With its international collection of contemporary art, dynamic exhibitions, and multidisciplinary academic and public programs, PCG showcases contemporary art to affirm and advance aesthetic appreciation, freedom of expression, global diversity, and creative community as hallmarks of a liberal arts education. PCG is free and open to the public.

**For more information about PCG, visit [pcgalleries.providence.edu](http://pcgalleries.providence.edu).**

## ORGANIZERS & SUPPORTERS

With support from Providence Parks, MHC manages the My HomeCourt projects every year. J.H. Lynch and Sons, Scotts Corporation, and JG Coffey Company refurbished this year's court site. PCG commissions, curates, and oversees the production of the artwork each year. Elevated Thought painted the court mural. Nova Sports USA custom-tinted the paint. Photography provided by Off the Ground Drone Services and Kevin Reilly.

Lead funding and organizational support provided by MHC, PCG, Providence Parks, and The Robbins de Beaumont Foundation. Additional support provided by The Flanagan Family Fund, Friends of Friar Basketball, and Pete & Theresa Peterson. Funding provided in part by a grant from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, through the Rhode Island Culture, Humanities, and Arts Recovery Grant (RI CHARG) program. This program was made possible thanks to the National Endowment for the Arts, via funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

**Are you or your organization interested in sponsoring My HomeCourt now or in the future?  
Please get in touch!**

