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KC STREETCAR & ART IN THE LOOP KICK OFF A SUMMER OF ART

KC Streetcar #802 is taken over by Local Artist Amy Kligman and turned into the “Party Car”

(Kansas City, Missouri) – First Fridays in Kansas City just got a little bit cooler.

On First Friday, June 1, the KC Streetcar Authority, along with the Art in the Loop Foundation and Amy Kligman, unveiled the Streetcar *Party Car* as the latest art installation for Art in the Loop: KC Plays.

Amy Kligman is the artist behind the vinyl wrapped streetcar known as the *Party Car*. Amy created the *Party Car* by photographing party materials such as confetti, glitter, ribbons, balloons, tissue paper, and creating a design with them for the exterior of the streetcar. *Party Car* is meant to surprise and delight the public with bright, energetic, colorful designs that incite a sense of joy and playfulness. Amy Kligman is one of the many amazing artists taking part in this year’s Art in the Loop program.

“Inspiration for the *Party Car* comes from work I’ve been doing for some time now – large scale collage installations of disposable party goods,” said Amy Kligman, Art in the Loop artist. “I liked the idea of a mobile party that people could encounter on their way to work, doing errands, or meeting a friend, that sparks conversation and positive interactions between strangers. My hope is that it’s a moment of surprise and brings a smile to folks as they get about in their day,” continued Kligman.

Bringing art such as the *Party Car*, *Celestial Heap*, and the *Stranger on the Train* to the streetcar line enhances the ridership experience for passengers while simultaneously bringing art to a new audience of people. “The KC Streetcar is more than transporting people from point A to point B. It is also about making connections to new destinations and new social experiences,” said Donna Mandelbaum, Communications Director, KC Streetcar Authority.

Riders will also see art inside streetcar #802 alongside a tribute to the legacy of [Teri Rogers](#) who recently passed away. As KC Streetcar Authority Board member and Marketing Committee Chairwoman, Teri helped shape the Streetcar experience, from the look of the vehicles to the KC Streetcar brand to the graceful and artful design of the streetcar stops. Teri Rogers, Owner/CEO of Hint, was a creative catalyst who was passionate about the Crossroads community, the Arts and the KC Streetcar, which she saw as a way to connect people from all over the City with the unique arts culture.

“The *Party Car* is the embodiment of the teamwork that the KC Streetcar and Art in the Loop have developed over the years,” said Ann Holliday, Director for Art in the Loop. “Through this teamwork we are able to not only put art on the streetcar but make the streetcar art itself,” Holliday continued.

In addition to the unveiling of the *Party Car*, First Friday started with an Art in the Loop lunchtime gallery reception at The Box Gallery in the Commerce Bank Building at 1000 Walnut. The Box Gallery exhibit, which is free, is a companion show to KC Plays, Art in the Loop’s summer program of temporary artwork, events, and performances. The exhibit is intended to provide insight into the development and creative process of the many local artists who are participating in this year’s public events and to encourage viewers to explore downtown and experience the art for themselves.

Visit the gallery for a peek at the diverse artworks taking place throughout the summer in Downtown and along the KC Streetcar route. The exhibit contains a map to all of the installations, interesting facts about the participating local artists, as well as samples of past works and will be open through August 3.

Party Car Designer, Amy Kligman, holds her BFA from Ringling College of Art & Design and has spent more than 15 years as a studio artist with an extensive record of exhibitions. Her work will be featured in an upcoming solo exhibition at Haw Contemporary in June, and the H&R Block flat file exhibit this summer. Find out more about Amy by visiting her www.amykligman.com.

Art in the Loop: KC Plays marks the fifth year for the Art in the Loop Project and the third year for KC Streetcar involvement. Art in the Loop runs from May through September. For more information about Art in the Loop, the artists and performance schedule visit www.artintheloop.com, www.facebook.com/artintheloop, or twitter.com/ArtintheLoop.

For Art in the Loop inquiries, please contact Ann Holliday with Art in the Loop/Downtown Council at 816.979.1072 (direct) or by email at ann@downtownkc.org. For KC Streetcar inquiries, contact Donna Mandelbaum with the KC Streetcar Authority at 816.627.2526 (office), 816.877.3219 (cell) or by email at dmandelbaum@kcstreetcar.org. The KC Streetcar is also online at www.kcstreetcar.org and on Twitter (@kcstreetcar), Facebook (@kcstreetcar) and Instagram.

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