

**The New American Arts Festival Mural by Ebonè Fullbright
Photo Exhibition by Amy Forestieri, Rory Shelton and Ebonè Fullbright**

September 10 - December 15, 2022

**Unveiling of the exhibition at 5 pm on Sat, 9/10, at the 'House of Friendship',
9641 E 16th Ave. Aurora**

**Additional photo exhibition at the Historic 'Centennial House', 1671 Galena st. Aurora
& at the MLK Jr. Library, 9898 E Colfax Ave. Aurora**

We are thrilled to present Visual Art for the second edition in a brilliant Mural and photo exhibition that will be open to the public at certain times throughout the festival duration and beyond. These presentations, depict our theme that is a reflection of our beautiful diversity.

About our Artists'

Rory Shelton

I grew up in Texas, in a poor neighborhood. In my late teens, I discovered cameras and took to it, like a fish to the waters. I was drawn to portraits, candid moments of people, when their beauty and stories are caught off-guard. I wanted to be a film camera operator but was told it wasn't a realistic idea, so I began cooking. I greatly enjoyed the process and it became my creative outlet.

Nearly a decade passed and though I was a king in my kitchen, I hadn't learned to express myself outside of it. Life stagnated and my mental health declined. Everything seemed bleak and meaningless. Then one day at the edge of a precipice, it dawned upon me that I was the block preventing me from finding my joy. With that, I rediscovered my passion for photography.

The ability to capture and share these candid moments mean more to me than simply documenting something that happened somewhere. It means that, even though I may not open my mouth, I am speaking. We don't need words to communicate. Or to understand each other.

More information about Rory and his works:

<https://www.instagram.com/rjs.portraits/>