



CONTACT: Anne Gentry, Executive Director
Alpena Downtown Development Authority
124 E. Chisholm St. Alpena, MI 49707
989-356-6422 | anneg@alpena.mi.us

Shannon Smolinski, Harbormaster
City of Alpena Marina
989-354-1733 | shannons@alpena.mi.us

FIRST MURAL OF FRESH WAVES 2022 COMPLETED BY ARTIST KAYLE PEAKE AT MARINA BUILDING

7/13/2022 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALPENa, MI – The Alpena Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and City of Alpena are excited to announce the completion of the first mural as part of this year’s Fresh Waves project. The mural was completed this week by Saginaw based artist Kayla Peake at the Marina Building located at 400 E. Chisholm St., adding to the vibrant public art scene in Downtown Alpena.

Over the last year, the City of Alpena has been investing in and improving the marina, which is in the DDA district and only a few minutes walk from the heart of downtown. In the last few months, two new businesses have also opened in the Marina Building where the mural was painted, All Marine Storage, a full marine repair shop and boat parts supplier, and Cochon Gourmet Market of Alpena, a gourmet grocer with meats, cheeses, snacks, and more.

“The Harbor Advisory Committee and I are excited about the addition of Kayla’s artwork to the Alpena Marina,” said Harbormaster Shannon Smolinski. “This project is a big step forward in the rehabilitation of the marina building and the overall revitalization of the entire marina.”

The DDA reviewed artist applications earlier this year and selected artist Kayla Peake based on her experience painting large scale murals, unique style of artwork, and the design submitted that captured Alpena’s character, including the Little Red lighthouse.

“I am an artist because art is the purest form of connection and I feel incomplete if I’m not creating. Michigan is so full of natural beauty, our anthropogenic dwellings should complement this beauty, not detract from it,” said muralist Kayla Peake in her artist statement.

“My style of art is inspired by Mid-Twentieth Century design, American traditional tattoos, and the natural beauty of our wonderful state. I came across the Fresh Waves project on Facebook and was excited to see a community based project promoting public street art. I have participated in similar events in Saginaw and Columbus, and thought the communal support and celebration of art and artists was magical. Northern Michigan in the summer has been my place of reprieve for my entire life and has given me so much joy and so many memories. Participating in the Fresh Waves event [has allowed me] to give back to the region that has made me who I am.”

Visitors are encouraged to stop by the Marina Building to see, enjoy, and take a photo with the new mural. For additional information about the Fresh Waves Project, please reach out the DDA Office at 989-356-6422 or visit <https://www.downtownalpenami.com/fresh-waves-mural-project.html>