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## Beloved mural in downtown Lawrence demolished on Friday

Written by [Tabatha Mills](#)

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After a yearlong effort to save it, on Friday, demolition crews knocked down the beloved Pollinators mural in downtown Lawrence.

"We discovered in the process how much it's meant to people here. It's a hard day for me," said Susan Earle, Curator at Spencer Museum of Art.

The 1,300 square foot community art piece served as the background of the Lawrence Farmers Market for more than a decade. Commissioned by Spencer Museum of Art in 2007, the mural celebrates African-American artists with ties to Kansas. Famous artist depicted on the work include Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Brooks, Gordon Parks, Oscar Micheaux, Hattie McDaniel, Coleman Hawkins and Aaron Douglas.

Previous building owners, community artists and those who simply appreciated the beauty of the piece for the last 11 years came out to watch it fall.

"It's sad, but in a way it's a relief. We can move on to the recreation of the mural on the new building," said Dave Lowenstein, lead community artist behind the mural.

First Management purchased the property with plans to build a multi-story mixed use building on the site. The mural could not be preserved or incorporated into the new project. Instead, a 600 square foot blank canvas was designed for the building so that the mural could be replicated. Although a difference in size and not the original work, many are glad to know the area will continue to be home to public art.

"Not exactly the same, but bringing people together to imagine a new design around the same theme of the pollinators," Lowenstein said.

Lowenstein said he will have small pieces of the mural for people to pick up as keepsakes available at his workshop in East Lawrence. For more information, click [here](#).



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